



THE NEWSLETTER

Of The UNTD Association of Upper Canada



SPRING EDITION

MARCH 1999

EDITOR Robert Williamson

ISSN 1480 - 0470

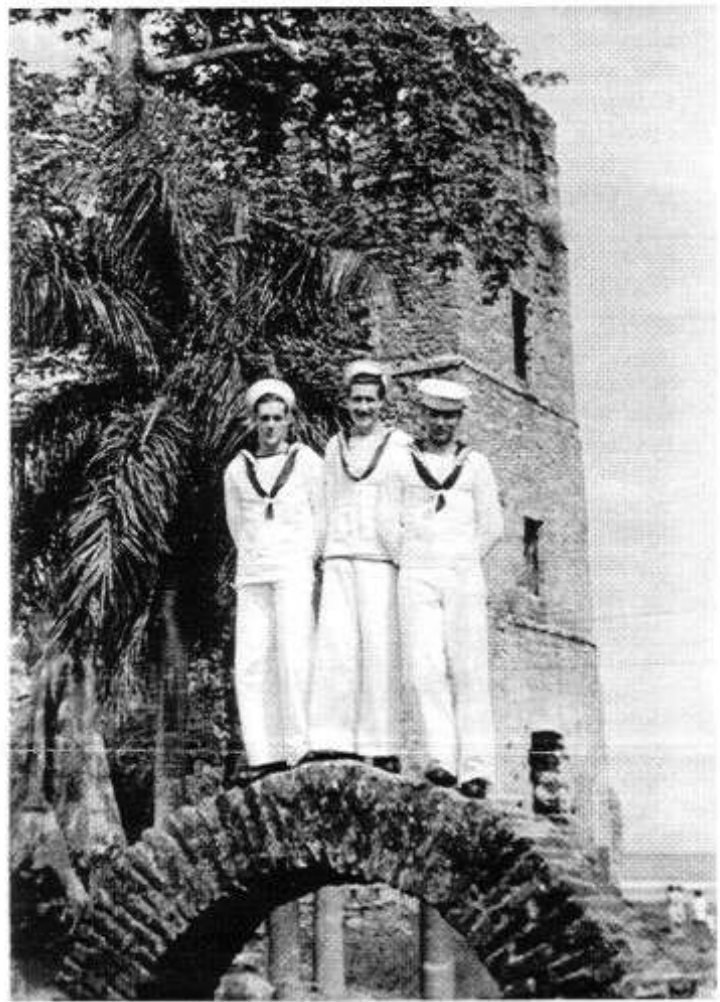


Photo credits: Bob Morris

UNT DREAM CRUISE REACHES PANAMA CITY

June 6, 1948

Above Bob Morris of Hamilton feeds a Llama while (right), John Bandy, Allan Squires and Marion Magus pose in front of stone ruins of Old Panama overlooking the Pacific Ocean. DON'S DIARY of the Polio Cruise in HMCS Athabaskan continues on page 5 of this issue.

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10TH ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

A decade ago several former UNTDs, inspired by the successful 1985 UNTD Reunion Dinners held in Hamilton, Halifax and Victoria, got together in Toronto and under the leadership of Richard Baker formed the UNTD Association of Upper Canada. This year the organization celebrated its 10th anniversary at the annual reunion dinner held on Saturday, November 21 in the refurbished wardroom of HMCS York. Guest speaker was none other than nationally acclaimed editor, defence critic and historian, Captain(N) Peter C. Newman. As a UNTD cadet at HMCS York in 1948, Peter became the editor of the UNTD Magazine, a venture that set him on the path to greatness. Now the author of several books, including, *The Company of Adventurers* and most recently, *The Titans* (How the Canadian Establishment seized power), he lives with his wife, Elvy in Granthams Landing, B.C.

Peter spoke casually about his days as a UNTD cadet, career experiences, famous people and his books, inserting a number of humorous incidents. The most memorable was at Pearl Harbour. As a Commander on liaison duty in Hawaii, he made a courtesy call on the Admiral (CINC PAC). They got on well, and the admiral in typical generous American fashion, sent Peter on a tour of the harbour in the Admiral's barge. While viewing the wreck of the USS Arizona, Peter was surprised to see elements of the Pacific Fleet entering harbour and steaming towards him. He was even more surprised when each ship piped a salute. Somewhat sheepishly but with conviction, Cdr Newman, RCN(R), former UNTD, stood in the admiral's barge and took the salute for CINC PAC.

Among the notable attenders at the dinner were Cdr. Herbie Little who expressed his gratitude to the group for continuing a great tradition. Representing the founding father of the UNTD, Cdr. Baker, was his daughter, Ruth (Baker) Wright and her husband Gordon, a former UNTD Officer. Mr. Vice on the right, representing the third generation of the Baker UNTD family was their son Alex, a founding member of our organization and now president. Gil Hutton

COMMEMORATIVE NAVAL RESERVE STAMP LAUNCHED

At the UNTiDy Reunion Mess Dinner, the Executive Officer of HMCS York, LCdr. Murakami, announced that on November 8, 1998, at Remembrance Day Parades across the country, the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp for the Naval Reserve was launched. The 45 cent stamps are being sold in pairs, one of the WWII corvette, HMCS Sackville, Canada's Naval Memorial in Halifax and the other, HMCS Shawinigan, one of the new Kingston-class MCDVs. This marks the first time that commissioned Canadian naval warships have been featured on our postage stamps and consequently it makes them quite a collector's item. The Sackville stamp was unveiled aboard the corvette, while the Shawinigan stamp was unveiled aboard the MCDV in Trois Rivieres, Quebec, both on November 4, 1998.

Unfortunately with the increase in postal rates at the end of the year, these 45 cent stamps were only on sale for a few months, and not many people were aware of their availability. The stamps are very attractive and have drawn a lot of attention, perhaps because of their limited distribution. When used on Christmas Card mailings, it was found that they drew more appreciation than the christmas cards. These stamps are no longer available at postal outlets but sheets of them or only a pair, if you wish, can be obtained from Canada Post in Ottawa at cost, by calling 1 800 565-4362. For \$1.20, collectors can also obtain first day covers containing the twin stamps cancelled by a ship's wheel emblem. In the lower left corner of the cover is the image of a signalman with his lamp. On the back is a short history of the Naval Reserve.

It is interesting to note that most 75th Anniversary accounts of the contribution made by the Naval Reserve to this country do not include the formation of the UNTD. The navy never has fully appreciated what an outstanding idea they had in this naval officer training program. (See the following story on UNTD recruiting.)

Editor

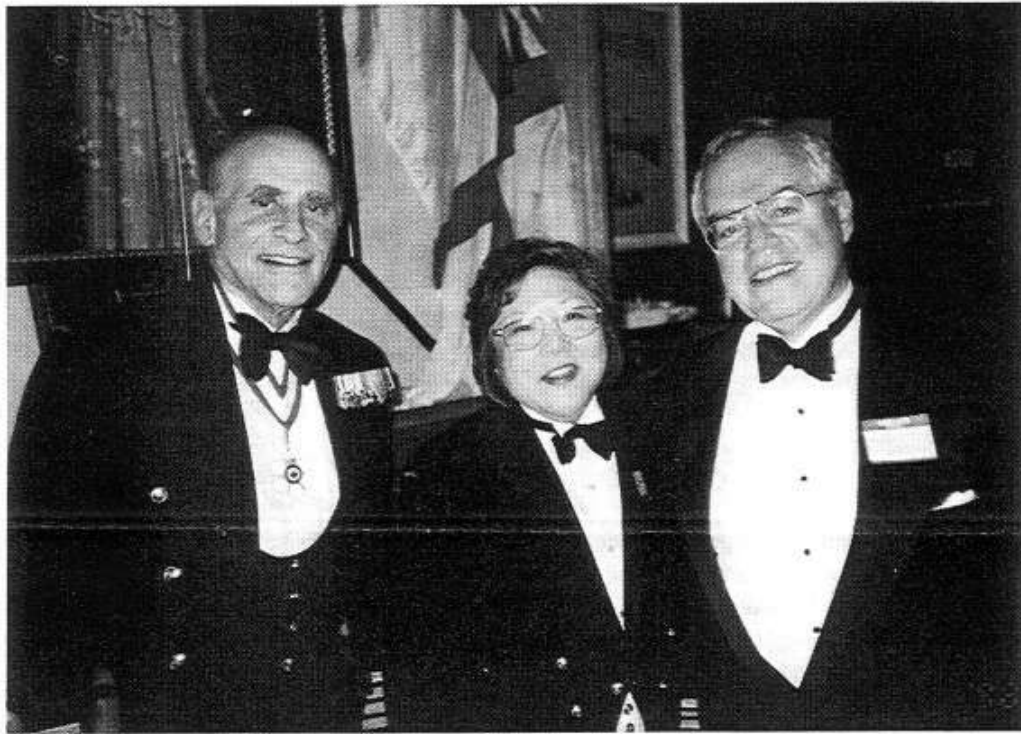
10TH ANNUAL UNTD REUNION DINNER

Photos by R. Williamson

The 10th Annual UNTD Reunion Dinner guest speaker, Captain (N) Peter Newman, entertains the sixty dinner guests with some nostalgic navy humour. Head table guests joining in the fun l. to r. are: Marla (Baker), Gil Hutton, Elvy Newman, Richard Baker, and Ruth (Baker) Wright, daughter of Commander Jack Baker, founding father of the UNTD program.



Our host at HMCS York for the Reunion dinner was Executive Officer LCdr Donna Murakami flanked here by Captain Newman and founding member of the UNTD Association of Upper Canada, Richard Baker.



LCdr. Murakami announced the recent launch of the Naval Reserve Commemorative stamp shown below.

Photography - Marvin Moore; Canadian Royal Memorial Trust; Department of National Defence; National Archives of Canada / Photographie - Marvin Moore; Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne; Ministère de la Défense nationale; Archives nationales du Canada



UNTD RECRUITING, A 55 YEAR HISTORY.

The following article was prepared for publication in the NOAC's Starshells newsletter.

When it comes to maintaining a strong naval reserve, we must apply that old adage, know your history or you are bound to repeat your mistakes. It would appear, as a nation, we haven't learned much from our history of trying to recruit officers for the naval reserve. During the early years of WWII the navy had no reserve officer training program and found itself desperately short of officers. Today, many naval reserve units, NRUs, in Canada have upward of a dozen or more empty officer billets. This does not give credence to the naval reserve motto of "Ready Aye Ready".

The University Naval Training Division, UNTD, was created in 1942 as a wartime pilot project at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. The brain child of university professor, A.W. "Jack" Baker, it was intended to be an important recruiting arm of the navy in our nation's universities. Under the auspices of LCdr. McFetrick, the Commanding Officer of the local NRU, HMCS Star, the OAC program proved successful. With the blessing of Captain Brock, Commanding Officer Reserve Divisions, UNTD training spread to every university in Canada, with a recruiting and training officer established on every campus. For the first time the navy, in an ever expanding technological world, had its foot in the door of the country's brain trusts. It wasn't long before the officer billets of our NRUs and some regular force positions were being filled by graduates of this program. Between 1943 and 1968, some six thousand university students passed through the UNTD program. Then in the fullness of time, commanding officers of most NRUs were the product of UNTD training.

Unfortunately sweeping changes were brought about in 1968 when Defence Minister Hellyer introduced the Canadian Forces Reorganization Act. Like so many other navy institutions, the UNTD disappeared as an identifiable officer training plan. The position of Staff Officer UNTD was eliminated and recruiting offices on every university

campus across the country were closed. That vital link with the country's university students was lost.

A very modified officer training program with greatly reduced numbers replaced the UNTD. Given the convoluted title of Naval Reserve Officer University Training Program, NROUTP, it didn't take long for this awkward designation to become NROC, Naval Reserve Officer Cadet. It applied to both men and women and they wore the universal green uniform of the Canadian Forces. All Naval Reserve Commanding officers found that because of low recruiting quotas, the supply of NROCs did not meet the demand and because there was no longer a direct connection with universities, recruiting of NROCs came from within the unit, ie. the naval divisions were feeding upon themselves. To prevent this, recruiting policies have changed to inhibit the recruiting of NROCs from the ranks of NCMs or non commissioned members. All of this has come at a time when NRUs have taken on the added responsibilities of manning the new MCDVs, Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels.

It seems that the end product of Hellyer's legacy is that there is now a serious shortage of naval reserve officers as well as NCMs. Naval divisions, having retired the last of the original UNTDs a few years ago, and unable to sustain their own officer ranks, are having to recycle commanding officers and parachute in regular force officers to command NRUs. Recruiting officers are now looking for a way to re-establish recruiting ties with universities. Without a wartime setting, as in 1942, that is unlikely to happen. Perhaps the best solution now is to recruit a surplus of NCMs to make allowances for those who remuster as officer cadets, "if" they enter university. With existing tight budgets and severe quota restrictions, that too is unlikely to happen. Thus the growing lack of naval reserve officers will continue in a tight downward spiral. As has proven to be the case with so many of Mr. Hellyer's changes to the Canadian Forces, the elimination of the original concept of the UNTD 1943 - 1968, has had consequences harmful both in the short and long terms.

Editor

DON'S DIARY

Part II

May 23, Sunday, 1948: We are located somewhere off the east coast of Florida. It has been three days since we last saw land which makes us real salty. When you look out on the featureless horizon, it is no wonder that the sailors in Columbus' day thought the world was flat.

We were supposed to have Sunday Divisions this morning, everyone mustered with their best spit and polish for hymns and prayers but it rained so hard it was cancelled. The weather has become very squally with terrible downpours followed by sudden sunny clear periods. On deck there is always a good breeze, but the air is very humid and in the mess it is extremely hot and sticky. We had ice cream for dinner but it melted before it could be eaten.

We sighted land late today - San Salvadore, the first land that Columbus saw when he landed in the West Indies. Tomorrow we will arrive in Guantanamo Bay and maybe get to play a little baseball.

May 24, Monday, 1948: After a routine breakfast of bacon and eggs (there was no cereal because all the fresh milk is gone), we started our first classes. There will be five subjects and today we took ASDIC (anti submarine detecting), until noon. After lunch we were assigned duties handling lines and fenders for entering harbour. Guantanamo Bay is a new U.S. naval base with an airfield and radio station. The land looks volcanic with a thin growth of small tropical vegetation, but there are no mountains around here. It is very hot and humid. I have consumed lots of water and feel like I have lost several pounds. We all have to take salt tablets. I didn't get ashore as my watch was on duty, so I used the time to fold and shorten my pant legs by three inches. In the navy you have to be your own tailor.

May 25, Tuesday, 1948: Up at 0530 for P.T. on the jetty. After running a mile my legs were so stiff I could hardly move. Spent the rest of the morning cleaning for Captain's rounds. After lunch, Vern

Trevel and I went ashore to the PX where they have everything from souvenirs to house furnishings. The tropical scenery is lovely with oleanders, hibiscus, cacti and palm trees everywhere.

We went to the sports complex to play tennis but found that we did not have the right kind of shoes so we went swimming instead and played three games of pool. Indulged in ice cream sundaes and cokes all day from the soda bar.

May 26, Wednesday, 1948: Up early again, this time for boat pulling. We went ashore in the afternoon for more ice cream and bought a dozen post cards. After I got finished writing them, I found that the post office was closed. A couple of chaps have come down with sun stroke and another with pneumonia. With the air blowers pumping fresh air into the mess continuously it can be draughty and hard to avoid a chill early in the morning.

May 27, Thursday, 1948: This turned out to be a busy day. I was assigned to a stores party at 0900 and we went by truck to a huge refrigerated warehouse. Native workers loaded carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, one ton of spuds, ice cream, cabbages and so on. When we got back to the ship we had to unload all that food into the ship's food lockers and refrigerators. It was a very hot job. In the afternoon the ship moved to the oil jetty and then we cleaned and dressed the quarterdeck for an officer's cocktail party. After supper we had to scrub out our mess because an oil line had leaked during fuelling. After the party, the quarterdeck had to be cleaned up and then we were roused out of bed to loosen all the awnings after a heavy rain.

May 28, Friday, 1948: Mustered at 0400 for leaving harbour. While stowing hawsers and fenders I lost my cap overboard in a driving rain, but managed to fish it out of the water. We anchored in Montego Bay, Jamaica at 1900 but it was getting too dark to see anything.

May 29, Saturday, 1948: Slept on the foc'sle last night where there was a bit of a breeze to relieve the stifling heat. Woke up at dawn to see many colourful native fishing boats on the bay where there was nary a ripple on the water. The shore line

looked very pleasing with bathing beaches, large hotels and plenty of palm trees. But a closer look when we went ashore gave a different view of paradise. The streets were lined with broken down shops and houses. The mix of donkey manure on the pavement and the open sewers made a permeating stench. There seemed to be an abundance of tailor shops and liquor stores. We only stopped at the farmer's market where we bought some coconuts, pineapples, bananas and limes.

May 30, Sunday, 1948: We got out of some work this morning by going to church ashore. It was a nice clean church, the hymns were sung with gusto and there were plenty of "Praise the Lords".

When we got back to the ship there were dozens of native boys around the ship diving for pennies or selling their sister's favours. They were dancing and singing in their small boats or hanging on the anchor chain.

May 31, Monday, 1948: We were assigned as boat's crew today. I acted as stern sheetman on No. 1 cutter which took liberty men ashore. Swartz was coxswain and Warren Brittain was bowman. We had a busy day from noon until midnight. At 2000 we had to go and rescue the other cutter as it had run afoul of a fishing net.

The highlight of the day was the arrival of fresh bread. Spread with plenty of jam and peanut butter, it was the greatest treat that we had in several days.

June 1, Tuesday, 1948: I got my journal back from the instructor today and was told that it was disjointed and poorly written. I still have not figured out the style that he is looking for. One chap from Dalhousie wrote a caustic report on the decrepit state of the Canadian Navy. That was definitely the wrong approach.

There is a banana boat loading in the bay near our ship. The natives row out with a huge long boat piled high with bunches of green bananas which are passed up a long line of loaders to the deck of the ship.

June 2, Wednesday, 1948: At 0800 we slipped anchor and sailed out of Montego Bay as the rain began to fall again. We

saw scores of flying fish skimming just above the water like hummingbirds for a hundred yards or more.

In the afternoon our watch rigged a swimming pool on the deck and everyone splashed about. It was full of salt water and very hard on the eyes. Tonight I go on watch from 2000 to midnight and again I will miss the movie. They have shown four different movies at least three times and I haven't seen one of them yet.

June 4, Friday, 1948: Today we passed through the Panama Canal. The ship entered the huge Miraflores Locks after breakfast. We were pulled along by little steam engines which ran on rails on either side of the canal. The water rose and carried us to the next set of triple locks called Pedro Miguel which boosted us 85 feet to Gatun Lake. Wearing bathing suits we washed down the ship's super structure with the lake's fresh water. Then we traversed the lowering locks and cleared the canal at 1600.

We steamed to jetty 16 at Balboa and went ashore at 1800. A ten cent bus ride took us to Panama City, an attractive community with expensive shops selling merchandise made of alligator skin, ivory, mahogany and leather. Banana splits were an outrageous price - 50 cents.

June 5, Saturday, 1948: We were on duty today and had to unload and store supplies: a ton of potatoes, a dozen crates of oranges and watermelons. We dropped a watermelon and had to eat it. We also snaffled several oranges. We watched everyone returning from leave, loaded with souvenirs and telling wild stories about the night clubs in Panama City.

June 6, Sunday, 1948: After lunch, Verne, Warren Brittain and I went ashore to visit the ruins of old Panama. The old city was built on an impressive site overlooking the Pacific with waves crashing on reefs and rolling up the sandy beaches. The pirate, Henry Morgan ravaged and burned this city 300 years ago for the millions in gold which the Spaniards stole from the Incas. Huge trees were growing through the stone walls and we were spit upon by a scrawny Llamas grazing in the ruins.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR
1999 and BEYOND

Plan to attend these colourful events and take advantage of the opportunities to meet old friends and reminisce. Mark these dates on your calendar and don't let them pass you by.

UNTidy SUPER SPRING FLING ON THE WATERFRONT

AT HMCS YORK & THE PIER

Toronto's Fabulous Waterfront Museum

Saturday May 14, 1999. 1700-2100

Wives, Friends and Significant Others are Welcome

FEATURING

DINNER AND RUM TASTING, REMEMBER THE "TOT"

And

A TOUR OF THE NEW WATERFRONT MUSEUM

See Insert for Details

UNTidy AUTUMN WEEPERS & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WARDROOM HMCS YORK

Thursday Sept. 16, 1700 for 1800

FEATURING

LIGHT SUPPER, INTERESTING SPEAKER & NAVAL VIDEOS

ANNUAL UNTidy REUNION MESS DINNER

"DINE THE LADIES"

WARDROOM HMCS YORK

Saturday Nov. 20, 1830 FOR 1930

FEATURING

A Guest Speaker and Lots of Fun

THE NATIONAL UNTD 2000 REUNION

VICTORIA (ROYAL ROADS) , B.C.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 - SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2000

For additional information and related tour packages see insert for details

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I was very excited to receive copies of Bob Morris' long lost pictures of the 1948 UNTD cruise. They roused old memories of yesteryear and proved that I really did have hair at one time. My sincere thanks to you for your work in keeping the UNTD memories alive. My wife points out that she rescued my original UNTD diary notes (DON'S DIARY) from oblivion on one historic occasion. Thank goodness for those among us with a sense of history.

Don Gillies,
1229 Saturna Drive,
Parksville, B.C.
V9P 2T5

Dear Editor,
Just a note to say how much I enjoyed the UNTD Reunion Dinner on November 21, 1998 and to express the hope that you'll ask me to attend the West Coast version in 2000. Please put me down as one of your subscribers.

Peter C. Newman,
P.O. Box 46,
Granthams Landing, B.C.
V0N 1X0

OBITUARY

Cdr. John Carpenter, BSA, MSA, CD, Ontario Agricultural College faculty, Microbiology, December 10, 1998. He became the second Commanding Officer of the Guelph UNTD in 1947, preceded by Cdr. McCrostie and succeeded by Cdr. Richard Ellis. He served in the RCN 1943-45. His widow, Ruth lives at 61 Lyon Ave., Guelph, ON. N1H 5C7.

Lt. Bob Morris

SPINDRIFT UNTiDy TALES

A must for every UNTD alumni. Reserve your copy by sending \$15.00 + \$2.50 mailing, payable to R. Williamson (See below)

UNTD NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published twice a year by the UNTD Assoc. of Upper Canada. Send Letters, anecdotes, suggestions to: Newsletter Editor: Cdr Robert Williamson, 1 Clonmore Ave. Hamilton, Ont. L9A 4R2.