

CSVV Vignette # 2

Mailed August 19, 2021

Through the course of our research on the Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph project, we sometimes come across interesting facts about our war dead. I will share these periodically.

DIEPPE

On 19 August of every year, Canadians remember the Dieppe raid in 1942. It turns out three Canadians serving in the RCNVR died during those raids. Others were wounded or became Prisoners of War. Follow the link for a Canadian Naval perspective of the DIEPPE raids - including first hand accounts by surviving RCNVR officers and an incredible poem by Lieutenant McRae, RCNVR, who spent the rest of the war as a PoW

[RCNVR contribution at DIEPPE - 18/19 Aug 1942](#)

Three young men serving with the RCNVR did not survive the Allies first attempt at Combined Operations. They were:

Sub-Lieutenant Clifford Davidson Wallace, originally from Montreal was an engineering student at McGill University when he enlisted at the Montreal Division RCNVR on 21 Mar 1941. He was killed when a German convoy happened to spot the DIEPPE-bound Landing Crafts transiting towards DIEPPE. He was hit by a shell and died instantly. He is buried in Dunkirk town cemetery. He was 22 years old.

Able Seaman Robert Ansley Cavanagh, originally from Carp, Ontario was working as a messenger for the Civil Service of Canada when he enlisted at the Ottawa Division RCNVR on 25 Nov 1940. He was killed instantly when his landing craft was shelled after landing their soldiers. He is buried in the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery. He was 19 years old.

Ordinary Seaman Joseph Alphonsus McKenna, originally from Pownal, Prince Edward Island was working on the family farm when he enlisted at the Charlottetown Division RCNVR on 15 May 1941. He was killed while manning his tommy-gun as his landing craft retreated with survivors rescued from the beach. He took a round to the chest, said, "Sir, I am afraid I am hit", then spun around and fell dead. He is buried in the New Haven cemetery, UK. He was 19 years old.

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Feel free to share this email with those in your network. You can find more info about the Citizen Sailor Virtual Cenotaph project at <https://unttd.org/>

Join our Crew

If the life/career of one of these sailors seems interesting to you, please join our research crew by emailing this address. There is a simple template to follow and through your effort you will bring a story of sacrifice to future generations of Naval Reservists and Canadians.

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