

[View this in your browser.](#)

Work on the CSVC project is proceeding at a greater rate of knots than is the refinement of the layout for these Vignettes. Please bear with us as we catch up.

One of the refinements will be an online repository of back issues so our growing list of subscribers can also catch up. This is the 3rd in the series.

CSVC Vignettes

from

The Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph Project

21-Sep-21

A periodic email sharing interesting facts about our war dead that emerge through the course of research for the [Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph Project](#).

SEPTEMBER's HEROES

Lieutenant George Findlay Duncan DSC, orphaned when his father died during WWI and his mother died during the 1918 Flu pandemic, was living in Westmount, Quebec working as an accountant for Riddell, Stead, Graham & Hutchison when he joined the Montreal Division of the RCNVR on 9 Jan 1940. He served in His Majesty's Motor Gun Boats for his entire career and received three honours for his service. In March 1942, he was Mentioned in Despatches "For leadership, coolness, and skill in action against the enemy". In Sep 1942, he was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross, "*For skill and bravery in action against enemy E-Boats while serving in H.M. Motor Gunboat.*". Lieutenant George Duncan had received permission to marry and was scheduled to return to Montreal on 4 Oct 1942 for his wedding. Unfortunately, he was killed by enemy action off the Dutch Coast on 2 October 1942. He was 26 years old. His body was never recovered; but the remaining crew from MGB 78 were captured and spent the rest of the war as Prisoners of War. In November 1945, Lieutenant George Findlay Duncan was posthumously Mentioned in Despatches for his "*Defence against enemy trawler on 2 October 1942*".

Surgeon Lieutenant George Ainslie Hendry, originally from Calgary, Alberta was working as a surgeon in Toronto when he enlisted at the Toronto Division RCNVR on 15 May 1941. Surgeon Lieutenant Hendry was serving in HMCS Ottawa when it was ambushed by U-boats in Sep 1942. A much-liked officer aboard HMCS Ottawa, Hendry was both the ship's surgeon and the ship's sports officer. He performed two major surgeries in his cabin on a seaman rescued from a merchant ship and had endured four sleepless nights when HMCS Ottawa was torpedoed by U-91 mid-Atlantic on 13 Sep 1942. Five officers, 108 crew, 6 Royal Navy seamen and 22 merchant seamen were lost in the attack, including Surgeon Lieutenant Hendry. He was 31 years old. Surgeon Lieutenant was Mentioned in Despatches, "*Whilst serving in one of HMC Destroyers (HMCS Ottawa) in the North Atlantic, the late Surgeon Lieutenant G.A. Hendry performed*

outstanding surgical work aboard his ship and displayed at all times the most commendable devotion to duty."

Chief Engine Room Artificer Halvor Vilhelm Liabo from Haugesund, Norway was working as the 2nd engineer in a Norwegian whaler when Norway surrendered to Germany on 10 June 1940. Chief ERA Liabo enlisted in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve in Halifax, NS on 22 Aug 1940. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his actions in Sep 1944 and Feb 1945 was serving in HMCS Saint John's, *"For services in destroying enemy submarines."* HMCS Saint John was involved in the sinking of U-247 off Cornwall, England on 1 Sep 1944, and the sinking of U-309 in the Moray Firth, Scotland on 16 Feb 1945". CERA Liabo died on 29 Mar 1945 after he fell overboard. His body was never recovered; he was 41 years old.

Sub-Lieutenant Michael Stuart Mills from Toronto, ON was working as an audit clerk for Price Waterhouse when he joined the Toronto Division RCNVR on 5 Jul 1940. After training with the Royal Navy, Sub-Lieutenant Mills was assigned to Motor Gun Boats. He was killed on 11 Sep 1941 while serving in MGB 67. For his actions he was Mentioned in Despatches, *"For courage and coolness in action against the enemy."* He is buried in the Dover (ST. JAMES'S) Cemetery in the UK. He was 23 years old.

Leading Seaman Carmen Ernest Stephenson from Montreal, QC was a silver polisher for Henry Birks when he joined the Montreal Division of the RCNVR on 16 Jan 1940. He was serving in HMCS St Croix when it was torpedoed by U-305 on 20 Sep 1943 in mid-Atlantic. St Croix's survivors were picked up by HMS Itchen, but the exact number of survivors is unknown because HMS Itchen was torpedoed and sunk two days later with only two survivors (one RN sailor and one Canadian sailor). Leading Seaman Stephenson received a Mention in Despatches (posthumous), *"At the time of the sinking of HMCS St. Croix, Leading Seaman Stephenson dove over the side of the motor launch and swam through heavy water to the side of another rating and brought him safely back to the boat, remaining at his position there, refusing a coat and clothing offered him until he passed away."* Leading Seaman Stephenson was 25 years old. He brother, Petty Officer Francis Woodrow Stephenson, RCN, also perished in the sinking of HMCS St Croix.

Share

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://untd.org/>

Join our Crew

If the life/career of one of these sailors seems interesting to you, please join our research crew by emailing the address below. 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.



The CSVC project can be reached through the UNTDA at:

CitizenSailorsVirtualCenotaph@UNTDA.org

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)