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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 4th in the series.

## CSVC Vignettes

from

# The Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph Project

16-Oct-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](#).**

### OCTOBER's HEROES

This month's RCNVR and RCNR heroes include two men who joined at DONNACONA & YORK and were awarded MiDs, and one PoW who joined at PREVOST who was wounded and captured during the Dieppe raids on 19 Aug 1942.

**Chief Petty Officer Augustus Eastman Lighthall - A-2404**, originally of Picton, Ontario was working as a Second Mate in SS *Waterton* (McKellar Steamships Limited) when he enlisted at the Montreal Division RCNVR on 6 July 1940 as an Able Seaman Royal Canadian Navy Reserve. After serving in shore establishments, CPO Lighthall joined HMCS *Alberni* in June 1942. He served in *Alberni* for the remainder of his career. CPO Lighthall perished in the sinking of HMCS *Alberni* on 21 August 1944; he was 39 years old.

**Mention in Despatches** awarded (posthumous), *"For courage and resourcefulness while picking up survivors under adverse weather conditions in the North Atlantic in October 1942, and again in the Mediterranean in February 1943. This rating, who lost his life at the time of the destruction of HMCS Alberni (21 Aug 1944), always showed a consistent devotion to duty and coolness in action. This was evident at the time of the destruction of a JU-88 in July, 1944. His conduct in action was always a credit to the service and an inspiration to the men serving under him."*

**Lieutenant Douglas Bond Symons, O-71610**, of Toronto, Ontario was a student-at-law working at Tilley, Thomson & Paminter, when he enlisted at the Toronto Division RCNVR on 12 Apr 1940 as an Acting Sub-Lieutenant. He was called "to the Bar" days before his departure to the UK for training with the Royal Navy. From Oct 1941 to Nov 1942, Sub-Lieutenant Symons was serving in HMS *Atherstone* employed in convoy defence and patrol in south-west approaches of the English Channel where his actions resulted in the awarding of a **Mention in Despatches**, *"For coolness and skill in action against enemy aircraft and enemy supply ships while serving in HMCS Atherstone"* Lieutenant Symons was killed on 23 Oct 1943 while serving

in HMS *Eclipse*. The ship hit a mine in the Aegean Sea and sunk within 5 minutes, taking 119 crew and 134 soldiers onboard to a watery grave. Lieutenant Symons was 27 years old.

**Leading Seaman Lloyd George Campbell, V-17138**, Originally of Hilton Beach, Ontario was living in London Ontario and working as a knitter at Holeproof Hosiery when he enlisted at the London Division RCNVR on 8 July 1940. Leading Seaman Campbell, a Landing Craft crew member was wounded and captured at Dieppe on 19 Aug 1942. He died as a **Prisoner of War** in Stalag 9C, Obermassfeld, Germany on 21 Oct 1942 after the amputation of his right leg and several subsequent surgeries. His final resting place is in the BERLIN 1939-1945 WAR CEMETERY. He was 21 years old.

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### 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](mailto:CitizenSailorsVirtualCenotaph@UNTDA.org)

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