



THE NEWSLETTER

Of The U.N.T.D. Association of Canada



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SUB-LT. ROWLAND MARSHALL

Naval Cadet New Officer

Rowland C. Marshall
Assumption Graduate

FORMER UNTD CADET SERVED IN BATTLE OF ATLANTIC

Rowland Marshall is one of the few remaining World War II veterans who saw service in the Battle of the Atlantic and then came home to join the UNTD.

Cover Story Inside.

COVER STORY

The cover of our Spring Newsletter for 2007 showed HMCS HUNTER's UNTD Class of 1947. Seated in the front row along with Richard Rohmer (later Major General) and Tom Smith (later Rear Admiral) was Rowland Marshall. From that cover story we have been able to piece together the extraordinary reminiscences of another former UNTD cadet.
Editor

Rowland C. Marshall joined the RCNVR in 1944 at HMCS Hunter in Windsor, ON. He was sent to Cornwallis for basic training. Travelling by train and ferry to Digby, he remembers that the first thing he did when he saw the Annapolis Basin was to feel the salt water. His initial sea training was in HMCS Saguenay where he learned to sling a hammock and stand anchor watches. He actually got to participate in what became a sub-calibre gun shoot with the ship's 4.7-inch guns and fire depth charges with a thrower.

At the completion of his new entry training, he recalls that his class switched from white caps to blue ones and no longer was required to double everywhere. Drafted to Stadacona, he began the seaman torpedoman course. He was billeted in E Block with an excellent view of the Dockyard, naval vessels and merchant ships gathering for convoys in Bedford Basin.

His next draft was to the frigate HMCS St. Pierre. He was sent with her to Bermuda for work-ups. While on lookout during night exercises in those tropical waters he noted a lot of pinpoints of light through his binoculars. Later he learned that the Defence Department was experimenting with a cloaking system of lighting.

When the ship sailed for the Azores he had two life threatening experiences. A heater in the drying room exploded sending hot steam and shrapnel through the heads and washroom. He was thrown across the messdeck and several people were badly injured. Everyone thought the ship had been torpedoed. The next day while inserting a cartridge in a quarterdeck depth charge thrower, he was caught by a large swell that had come inboard. It washed over him and nearly carried him overboard.

HMCS St. Pierre was assigned to Escort Group (EG9) for additional anti-submarine training in Ireland. Just prior to a northern convoy tasking the ship received the Victory in Europe message, "Splice the Mainbrace". Some personnel took a train into Londonderry to join the celebrations there. After the excitement was over, EG9 was sent north to intercept a convoy of 15 German submarines and their support ships off Norway. EG9 accepted their surrender and escorted them to Lock Eribol in northern Scotland.

St. Pierre returned to Halifax and then to Lauzon, Quebec for a Pacific Ocean War upgrade. The inferior twin Oerlikon guns were replaced by Bofors guns to beef up the ship's defense against Kamikaze attacks. Ventilation fans were

enlarged to deal with subtropical heat. However, Japan surrendered before Rowland's ship reached the Pacific. It was decommissioned in Sydney NS and he was sent back to Hunter for release.

Rowland registered for the DVA Education Program and joined the UNTD 1947 – 49 as a Seaman Stoker. He did his UNTD sea training in the Algerine sweepers, HMCS New Liskeard and Portage as well as frigates, Swansea and Antigonish. While in Swansea he recalls that the ship was laid over on her side for several hours during a hurricane in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. As a Cadet Captain in his third year at the Reserve Training Establishment (RTE) in Esquimalt, one of his tasks every morning was to search for cadets who tried to avoid the pre-breakfast fitness run. On one occasion after the accommodation block had been cleared, he caught cadets dropping out of the ceiling on the second floor onto their top bunks.

Commissioned in 1949, he transferred to the RCN and joined HMCS Ontario in 1951 for Junior Officer Training. The ship transited the Panama Canal to Halifax where she hosted Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh for a coastal tour. During a brief conversation with the Princess in the wardroom, Rowland asked her how she was enjoying her accommodations. She responded, "It's like sleeping in a washing machine". The following year Rowland was on board HMCS Magnificent in the Mediterranean where he met more Royalty. This time it was Lord and Lady Mountbatten at a reception in Malta. Rowland recalls, he and Tom Smith enjoyed driving the ship's motor launches for VIP transfers from ship to shore.

In 1953, Rowland was on junior officer courses in the Portsmouth area: Gunnery, TAS, and Navigation. He and his wife were able to attend the Coronation in London and the Fleet Review off Portsmouth.

He returned to university 1959-61 to study Philosophy at UBC & Ottawa. In so doing, he transferred to the RCNR in 1960. There followed a teaching position at Saint Mary's University in Halifax and he joined HMCS Scotian where he was in charge of junior officer training. Promoted to the rank of Commander in 1970, he was in command of Scotian 1976-77 when the unit won the Silver Destroyer for the Most Proficient Naval Division in Canada. As CO of Scotian, he again had the opportunity to meet the Queen at a reception on the Royal Yacht in Halifax harbour.

He was transferred to the Supplementary Reserve 1980-92, participating in Naval Control of Shipping Exercises at the Maritime Warfare School and HMCS Scotian until his CRA (Compulsory Retirement Age) release in 1992.

Rowland retired from Saint Mary's University the following year. He lives on the Eastern Shore at Seaforth, Head of Chezzetcook, forty kilometers east of Halifax. Like many former UNTDs he can now reminisce about a life full of adventure and accomplishment.

REMEMBERING THE CAPE BRETON

An UNTiDy's West Coast Boondoggle

By Bob Wootton

As an Acting Sub Lieutenant, my "sea time" posting in the summer of 1960 was Assistant Deck Officer and 2nd OOW aboard HMCS CAPE BRETON, based at the Colwood jetty in Esquimalt. Built in Canada as a cargo ship for the Royal Navy in 1944 and launched as HMS FLAMBOROUGH HEAD, she was transferred to the RCN in Halifax and renamed in 1953. CAPE BRETON initially had workshops installed for the training of technical personnel in Halifax. The vessel was later designated a "Fleet Maintenance Escort Vessel" for the West Coast. My friend Bob Duncombe was one of five lucky third year UNTD Cadets who helped bring her to Esquimalt via the Panama Canal in the summer of 1958.



RCN Photo #33746

My familiarization tour of the ship included a visit to the foundry, and here I learned to pour a sand casting. I was provided with some scrap aluminum from HMCS CRESCENT. I melted it down and then poured a casting of CAPE BRETON's ship's badge which, I still have.

Between lengthy stints tied up alongside, the ship's itinerary did include an interesting "Task Force", cruising up Vancouver Island's West Coast to the Queen Charlotte Islands and a voyage to Prince Rupert, returning to Esquimalt through the coastal islands via Principe Channel, a rare opportunity.

While employed at the Fleet School a summer earlier, I had "acquired" a copy of BRCN---"A Correspondence Course in Celestial Navigation" and now I made use of it, persuading the Nav O to allow me to use the sextant, while out in the middle of Queen Charlotte Sound. Armed with the appropriate volume of HO 214, a star globe, and the right chart for the latitude, I managed to work up a 'sun-run-sun' and several star sights. When plotted, I had several nice cocked hats as our estimated ship's positions. Following the book's instructions carefully, I managed to render a "J" point. For my efforts, I received an excellent report at the end of my posting. Obviously the CO had been

impressed with my efforts in celestial navigation!

We had joined a task force to facilitate an exercise of some DDE destroyers with a USN submarine. Our principal task was to re-supply a DDE while at anchor in Rennel Sound, Moresby Island. The DDE secured alongside the CAPE BRETON while a tanker CNV DUNDURN secured alongside the DDE. A fuel hose was passed while members of the DDE's supply department came on board "the CAPE", seeking to replenish ships stores such as soap, tools and toilet paper!

Our Captain had allowed several privately owned boats belonging to Officers and CPOs to be carried on board. Also many of us had brought along our fishing gear and with high hopes participated in a fishing derby. The winner was a CPO who managed to snag a 90 lb. Halibut. Despite much trolling, I had to make do with a 3 lb. Coho Salmon. I stored it in the ship's freezer and on return to port, presented it to my uncle. This gesture won me an invitation to the lovely family home in Oak Bay for one of Auntie's lovely dinners, where of course, we dined on the salmon!

Having also learned that deer were "Open Season" on Moresby Island I brought on board, my dad's 12 gauge shotgun with a supply of "deer slugs". On several afternoons I had a crew member ferry me ashore and then trekked up and down the hillsides. I saw lots of droppings but not a single deer. However I managed to spot two geese as they were slowly circling down to investigate a swamp. Never having ever fired a shotgun before, I quickly replaced the 2 slugs in the barrel with cartridges filled with bird shot, took aim, and fired. The birds very nonchalantly continued their descent. Obviously they were far out of range!



UNTD CADET Bob Wootton

On one occasion, as junior officer of our fishing party, it was my task to bring our small launch to the ship's side staircase to allow the senior officers to alight, then return the craft to the Quarter boom and secure it to a lanyard. I had not climbed a rope since the prep course for "TRAMID 57".

Here suddenly I was faced with the prospect of having to do so. I tended even then, to be on the heavy side. Needless to say, it became a challenge for me to have to shimmy up the lanyard and onto the boom.

After about ten attempts, I had gathered quite an audience, Over a dozen of the ship's company now lined the railings, urging me on, cheering whenever it looked like I was about to succeed. This exercise went on for a good twenty minutes. Finally, red faced, I managed to haul myself up and on to the boom, amid a tremendous cheer from the onlookers which appeared to be almost half the ship's company. What a relief that was!

In Prince Rupert, "the CAPE" anchored offshore, a cable or two from the naval base HMCS CHATHAM. In the evening, our ship's officers were invited to a Wardroom Reception in CHATHAM. As the Assistant Deck Officer I volunteered to take the group ashore in the ship's Landing Craft (LCU). I had learned to drive a LCU while training at Little Creek, Virginia in TRAMID 57.

I secured the LCU at CHATHAM's dock which, was at the foot of a long staircase. As a precaution, I had drawn a flashlight from ship's stores, anticipating our return later in the evening after dark at low tide. This was no ordinary flashlight but a powerful spotlight valued at \$50 or more. After a super party, I guided our ships officers down the steps with the beam, then ferried them back to the ship. At the end of the exercise, the flashlight had vanished.

For days afterwards the XO hounded me for the flashlight which, of course, I could not produce. I imagined it had been "rabbited" by someone taking advantage of a neophyte reservist. This bugged me for the rest of my time aboard the CAPE BRETON as I always felt the XO thought I had stolen it.

In all other respects, CAPE BRETON was a great posting, lasting from May till September - four beautiful summer months boondoggling on the West Coast! Sadly the ship now rests on the bottom of Georgia Strait off Nanaimo. She was sent to the bottom on October 20, 2001 to become one of the world's largest artificial reefs and dive centres, when local officials detonated cutting charges in her bilge.



Photo courtesy Buccaneer Inn, Nanaimo, BC.

UNTiDy BECAME AN ARMY GENERAL

I read the excellent article on the history of the UNTD entitled "**An Incomparable Experience**" in STAR SHELL Volume VII, Number 26, Spring 2004. The article emphasizes the number of naval officers, particularly of flag rank, that were produced by the UNTD training system.

It does not however, mention that the UNTD also provided officers for the Canadian Army. I was a member of the UNTD from 1952 to 1954 at HMCS SCOTIAN. Then the Navy found out that I was colour blind and so I transferred to the Canadian Army and served for 38 years before retiring as a colonel. Beside myself, one other former UNTD that should be mentioned is Lieutenant-General Jim Fox who was one of the finest officers ever to serve in the Canadian Army.

Colonel Harky Smith (Retired) Smith.AHC@forces.gc.ca

90 -DAY WONDERS

In the anecdotal history of the UNTD entitled, "SPINDRIFT, UNTiDy Tales of Officer Cadets" it states that prior to 1943, when the UNTD program was initiated across Canada, there was no training program for naval reserve officers. In a Naval Heritage article about Canada's Naval Colleges, STAR SHELL Vol. VII, # 43, Summer 2008, Robert Montgomery of NOAC Calgary, has clarified the record as follows.

"In 1940, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) acquired Hatley Park west of the city of Victoria, from the Dunsmuir Estate for the sum of \$75,000. In 1941 and early 1942, this site was commissioned as Royal Roads and commenced the training of the first of five classes of 100 **temporary acting probationary sub-lieutenants of the RCNVR.**" A similar training scheme was activated in HMCS Kings in Halifax.

The classes were of three-month duration and hence the candidates were known as **90-day wonders**. Derek Johnston (NOABC) recalls attending the second class of 125 candidates at Royal Roads from May to August 1941. The program was phased out when Royal Roads officially opened on October 21, 1942 (Trafalgar Day) as a Royal Canadian Naval College.

Hence the UNTD, created as a RCNVR program for training naval reserve officers in 1943, was preceded by the five classes of 90-day wonders trained at Royal Roads between 1941- 2.

Editor

65th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
November 2008

To mark the 65th Anniversary of the founding of the UNTD program, we gathered in the combined messes at HMCS Star in Hamilton, where it all began. Robert Black, UNTD '43 Guelph, an original, was our guest of honour.



Also present was CMDR Jennifer J Bennett, OMM, CD, Commanding Officer Naval Reserve, whom we made an honorary life member of the UNTD Association, and who provided us with a concise summary of the state of the Naval Reserve today.

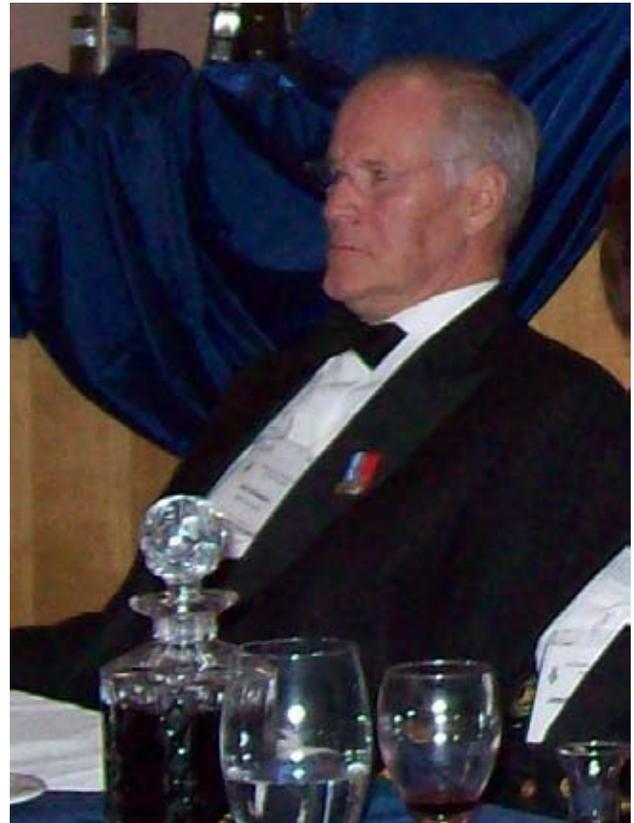


Other guests included: the Hon. Bill Graham, UNTD and former Minister of National Defence; LCDR Dana Baars, CD, CO HMCS Star; LCDR Glenna Swing, CD, former CO HMCS Star; and LCDR Pierre Taillon, the last C.O. UNTD at HMCS Donnacona in Montreal. At least one of the 65 people present had served in each year from 1943 to 1968. And they had come from a variety of places in the triangle formed by Windsor, Montreal, and Ottawa.

Before and after the dinner, videos of cadet training during the mid-50s were provided by W. Grant Thompson of Ottawa, and of UNTDs at Queens by Chris Varley, archivist at HMCS Catarauqui. They certainly prompted much spinning of yarns, and nostalgia.

Thanks particularly to the staff at STAR, particularly PO Roberts, facility manager, the Admiral Inn in Hamilton who provided a break on rates for attendees, the fine meal provided by LIUNA Station Banquet Centre, and the specially labelled wines from the Mountain Road Wine Company in Beamsville. It was an enjoyable and memorable evening, in spite of the terrible weather

Submitted by SLT. The Reverend Canon Wm. Thomas, RCNR (Ret'd) President, UNTD Association of Canada.



The Hon. Bill Graham, UNTD and former Minister of National Defence guards the mess dinner port decanter.

Photos by Jette Thomas

QUEEN'S UNTD 65TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

UNTDs ON PARADE – THEN AND NOW

Back **then** in the fall of 1952 John Chance Queen's Arts'49, Commanding Officer of HMCS CATARAQUI, lead this large contingent of UNTD cadets (on the right) through the streets of Kingston on a church parade. He now lives in Oakville but unfortunately due to the recent death of his wife, he was unable to attend the reunion in May celebrating the formation of the UNTD training program sixty-five years ago in 1943.

Now former Queen's University Naval Training Division cadets (shown below) gathered in Kingston to participate in reunion activities that included another parade. On Sunday May 4, 2008, these UNTiDies participated in the annual parade and service of commemoration at Kingston's Naval Memorial for the Battle of Atlantic Sunday. Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Jock Allan Sc'55 Queen's UNTD took the salute during the march past and laid a wreath of remembrance on behalf of all UNTDs who participated in the anniversary program.



More than 100 people registered for the reunion. Almost every year of the training program, which lasted from 1943 to 1968, was represented. There was Francis MacLachlan, Sc'49 from the earliest years, Dr. Chris Rogers, Arts'69 from the last years as well as David Dodge Arts'65, the new Chancellor at Queen's University. Can you identify any of your UNTD friends in the assembled marchers? There is Gordon Sedgwick, Bob Duncombe, John Deadman, Ron Paquin, Doug Hain, Iain Munro, David Field, John Bate and David McLay to name a few.

For more photos and information go on-line www.alumnireview.queensu.ca and visit ReviewPlus, the Queen's Review supplement, Issue # 3, 2008.

Photo's courtesy Queen's Alumni Review



EVENTS FOR 2009

NOAC / UNTD PROGRAM, NORTH VANCOUVER MAY 27 – MAY 31

CONFERENCE HOTEL

The conference will be hosted by NOABC, celebrating its 90th anniversary at the Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver.

Lonsdale Quay Hotel Rates

Standard: \$129.00 Single / \$139.00 Double + tax

Junior Suite: \$159.00 Single / \$169.00 Double + tax

Executive: \$189.00 Single / \$199.00 Double + tax

A block booking has been made under **Naval Officers Association of Canada** and Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-836-6111 or e-mailing sales@lonsdalequayhotel.com

DELEGATES PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 27

1700-1900 – Registration

1800-1930 – Meet & Greet Waterfront Lounge

1930-2130 – Optional Dinner Anatoli Souvlaki

Thursday, May 28

0700-0900 – Breakfast Meeting - National Exec.

0900-1600 – National Board of Directors Meeting

0900-1100 and 1300-1700 – Registration

1830-2030 – Reception aboard HMCS Calgary

Friday, May 29

0830-1100 – Registration

0830-1130 – Seminar at BCIT Marine Campus

1200-1700 – Buffet Lunch and Afternoon Sail aboard HMCS Calgary

1800-1830 – UNTD Meeting Waterfront Lounge

1830-2100 – Cocktails & Dinner Tantras Restaurant

Saturday, May 30

0900-1200 – Sixty-Fourth Annual General Meeting

1800 – National President's Formal Reception and Dinner

Sunday, May 31

0930-1030 – National Board of Directors' Meeting

1030-1100 – Church Parade at Sailors' Memorial

1100 – Up Spirits and Sandwich Lunch at BCIT Marine Campus Seamanship Room

PARTNERS' PROGRAM

Optional activities may be selected during registration.

DINE YOUR SWEETHEARTS November 21

This annual mess dinner will be held at its usual time on **Saturday November 21, 2009**. The intended venue will be the wardroom at HMCS York. Other details are in the planning stage. **Reserve this date on your social calendar** for what should be an outstanding evening of fun and camaraderie.

OLD OARS OTTAWA SEMINAR

The old oars are planning a seminar on Parliament Hill this year to review the documentaries produced by Breakout Education. Guest Speakers could include, Honourary Lieutenant Colonel Poy, husband of Senator Vivienne Poy and brother of Adrienne Clarkson, and possibly Rick Hillyer. Stay tuned.

UNTD WEEPERS

Andy Shaw is looking into a possible Weepers at HMCS York and a large screen viewing of "**NO COUNTRY FOR YOUNG MEN**". This outstanding TV production of great relevance to UNTDs (see following story) was shown on an information channel this winter. Unfortunately, very few people have access to that channel. Naturally there has been much interest in viewing this program. The UNTD Association will make every effort to make a public screening possible for our Association members.

EVENTS FOR 2010

A McMASTER UNTD REUNION

Aubrey Millard UNTD '60 McMaster would like to hear from former McMaster UNTDs who would like to hold a reunion in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend at the university and the 50th Anniversary of Year '60 Grads. He is thinking of a cocktail party in the former Gunroom of University Hall. He would also like to liaison with HMCS STAR's 100th Anniversary of the RCN Committee to have a UNTD function as part of their program.

Aubrey can be reached on his boat at the Royal Jamaica Yacht Club - Email veledaiv@aol.com

NOAC AGM PROGRAM for HALIFAX 2010

Plans are well underway for the big event in Halifax. Details will be published in the next newsletter.

UNTDs PLAY A ROLE IN A PREEMINENT DVD DOCUMENTARY

What we have always known about our UNTD training experience has been filmed in a noteworthy, made-for-TV documentary about university military training entitled,

NO COUNTRY FOR YOUNG MEN

In the fall edition, September 2007, of this newsletter, it was reported how the UNTD Association had been called upon to assist the Breakout Education Network in their **7-Year Project** to re-connect the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with the Canadian public.

Their first production "Citizen Soldier" looked at the role

of the Reserve forces in our country. Now, in their second documentary, they look at the relationship between the CAF and universities by revisiting the memories of Canada's lost tradition of university military training. The overall theme is to show how that valuable association developed leadership, loyalty and citizenship on campus for the future leaders of business, industry and politics.

Every UNTiDy will want a copy of this outstanding DVD. It will beautifully reinforce your pride in yourself and what we all accomplished as a result of our UNTD service.

The documentary shows through training clips and interviews how members of the university officer training programs UOTP (navy UNTD, army COTC and air force URTP) contributed to developing future leaders who played a part in building a better country.

You will be greatly impressed by the comments of the distinctive list of former UOTPs that were interviewed. It includes for the UNTD, author and journalist Peter Newman, former Member of Parliament and Senator Bill Rompkey, and Director of Stratford Theatre John Wood. Representing the COTC is General Lewis MacKenzie Commander of UN Peace Keeping Forces, Colonel the Hon. John Fraser former Speaker of the House of Commons, Lt. General (Ret'd) Charles Belzile, Business Executive Peter Cameron and Robert Spencer former CO of University of Toronto COTC. Former MP Ed Broadbent Leader of the NDP Party was one of the representatives who spoke on behalf of the URTP.

This DVD makes an excellent companion piece for "UNTiDy Tales" and UNTD Newsletters. When your grandchildren ask you what you did in the navy, you'll be able to show them what a rich experience we all had and how it contributed to making a better Canadian society.

To order a copy of this magnificent DVD for \$19.99, call (416) 923-1105 or email orders@breakout-ed.net.

For more information about Breakout and its products, visit the Internet www.sevenyearproject.com

NEW NAVAL BOOK
By Fraser McKee

You all will no doubt be fascinated that my 7th book is now published - "Three Princes Armed", again co-authored with Capt. Bob Darlington

It tells the complete history of the CNR's Prince ships, Prince David, Prince Henry and Prince Robert. Built in 1929/30 for the BC triangle run between Vancouver, Victoria & Seattle but mostly employed in cruising, they were taken up by the Navy in 1939 as Armed Merchant Cruisers. Converted in 1943, David & Henry were Landing Ships Infantry on D-Day. Robert was an A/A cruiser. Sold at war's end, Henry became Empire Parkeston for trooping

duties, while David and Robert went to Greek interests. Robert finally ended up in Italian hands.

The book, in semi-soft cover, tells their whole history, from their enthusiastic promotion in 1929 by the CN's President, Sir Henry Thornton, until the last was scrapped in 1962. There are numerous photos throughout. Research was based on DND's Directorate of History, NAC files, and my interviews with most of their C.O.'s and even pre-war sailors. It is self-published by Bob Darlington. It will not be available in stores as their required discount is too much.

It is available by return mail, on receipt of \$25 in Canada, \$30 to the U.S.A., and \$35 to any overseas address. Cheques or money orders to: Fraser McKee, Ste. 2104, 1320 Islington Ave., Toronto, ON, M9A 5C6.

I'll even sign the copy, if you ask!!

HUNOUR IN UNIFORM

A senior officer was interviewed on the radio recently. As part of a public relations activity, a Boy Scout Troop was invited to his military headquarters. This is his reply to a female broadcaster who interviewed him concerning guns and children. Regardless of how you feel about gun laws you have to recognize this as one of the best comeback lines of all time!

Female Interviewer: "So, General, what things are you going to teach these boys when they visit your base?"

General: "We're going to teach them climbing, canoeing, archery and shooting."

Female Interviewer: "Shooting! That's a bit irresponsible, isn't it?"

General: "I don't see why. They'll be properly supervised on the rifle range."

Female Interviewer: "Don't you admit that this is a terribly dangerous activity to be teaching children?"

General: "I don't see how. We will be teaching them proper rifle discipline before they even touch a firearm."

Female Interviewer: "But you're equipping them to become violent killers!"

General: "Well, Ma'am, you're equipped to be a prostitute, but you're not one, are you?"

The UNTD Association of Canada publishes this Newsletter twice a year. Send letters, anecdotes, or suggestions to Newsletter Editor: Robert Williamson, 1 Clonmore Ave., Hamilton, ON. L9A 4R2; Ph (905) 383-6084 or e-mail williamson@mountaincable.net
Visit the UNTD web site [HTTP:WWW.UNTD.ORG](http://WWW.UNTD.ORG)

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