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A. A. ALVEY
WRONS
FILES

YOU
NAME
IT!

Vol. 1 No. 1.

December 1943

Ottawa

AND A MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU !

If you were able to ask every Wren in the All-Canadian ship's company of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service what single thing she looked forward to most---aside from annual leave---we believe her immediate reply would be "NEWS!"

Wrens get letters from home, and copies of the home town paper, but on top of that, they want news from shipmates, now scattered from coast to coast. They want to know what Wrens are doing in Halifax, Esquimalt, Sydney, Galt, Washington, Newfoundland and London, England.

The first days of any new venture live longest in our memories; the friendships formed during those first strange weeks at Conestoga will always be a very precious part of every Wren's service life. When Probies become full-fledged Wrens and try their wings on a draft to establishments thousands of miles apart, despite the promises to "write often" and spend leaves together, there is little time. New duties are engrossing; new friends appear.

It is because she realizes this, that Commander Sinclair, the Director of the W.R.C.N.S. suggested a little news sheet be written at headquarters and sent out to the Wrens in every establishment---did you know there are thirty-five of them now?--here and overseas. This is the first issue.

From now on it is up to you. This is YOUR paper, Wrens. Copy is piling in now for future issues, and we want you to have all the news you're looking for. Send in interesting items; appoint a Wren in your quarters to act as correspondent; let us know what you want. How often do you want it? How many copies do you need? It's up to you now. Let's hear from you in the next mail ---as soon as your Christmas shopping is done. We'll be looking forward to your notes.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR: COMMANDER ADELAIDE SINCLAIR

It is a great pleasure to send greetings to all members of the W.R.C.N.S. through this new venture. Each of you has her own work to do and as the service grows, it becomes more difficult to keep in touch with the larger picture.

In order that you may have news of your friends, that you may know of developments within the service and that you may have greater pride in its achievements, we are launching this new literary venture. If you like her she will probably remain afloat. Send the editor your comments on the cargo. Send her also some cargo for the next sailing.

December 1, 1943.

Adelaide Sinclair, D/W.R.C.N.S.

THE WRENS' FAREWELL TO CAPTAIN ISHERWOOD

Saturday night, September 18th, will long be remembered by every Wren in the service. On that night they said Godspeed to the Captain who had so ably guided their ship for the first 18 months. Each Wren had contributed to the farewell gift which was presented to her on that night.

The presentation was made in the fo'c'sle of Wallis ^House, Ottawa, where Chief P/O Woods, aided by her assistant chefs, had laid a sumptuous buffet supper table. When Captain Isherwood accompanied by Lieutenant-Commander Kellett arrived, they walked through a gangway of cheering Wrens to a little dais which was at the head of the table.

After supper, the one and only Chief Petty Officer Phyllis Sanderson, on behalf of the Wrens, made the presentation of a watch to Captain Isherwood. Much has been written about that night but it was felt that those Wrens across Canada who were not able to be present in person, would like to hear more details.

The watch presented by "Sandy" was exquisite in workmanship and design; a tiny affair of red gold set with diamonds.

Our Director, Commander Sinclair, fastened the gift on Captain Isherwood's wrist, and when she looked up at the sea of watching faces, there were tears in her eyes.

The following Monday, Captain Isherwood and Lieutenant-Commander Kellett set out on the first leg of their journey. A guard of honor, commanded by Lieutenant A.A. Alvey, lined the path through Union Station to the coach and the cheers of 300 Wrens signalled their arrival. Both came out on the platform of their coach and there were few dry eyes as the Wrens valiantly sang "Auld Lang Syne" when the train pulled out. Accompanying them as far as Montreal, where Sub-Lieutenant M. Hazlewood had arranged a party for them, were Lieutenant-Commander Doris Taylor, Lieutenant Graham and Sub-Lieutenant Margot Russell.

Here are the messages sent out by Captain Isherwood the day before she left Canada to return to her duties with the W.R.N.S. In our next issue, we hope to be able to give you a personal message from "Chief Officer Isherwood" from the United Kingdom.

CAPTAIN ISHERWOOD TO THE WRENS

Dear Wrens:

It is very difficult to find words to express my gratitude for the beautiful jewelled watch which you have given me as a leaving present. It is the loveliest watch I have ever seen, and I shall always cherish it and will never wear it without thinking of the W.R.C.N.S. and the happy time I spent with you. I realize that a great many of you were not able to see my present, but I am sure you will all be happy to know that "Sandy" was the one chosen to give it to me and you can imagine the charming speech she made on your behalf.

With all best wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

20th September 1943

Dorothy Isherwood

A MESSAGE TO THE CANADIAN WRENS

Before leaving Canada for England, I want to thank all officers, Petty Officers and Ratings of the W.R.C.N.S. for the loyal cooperation you have given me while I have had the privilege of serving as your Director. The months I have spent in Canada have been very happy ones for me; to watch a small service grow in numbers and wisdom and take its rightful place in the expansion of the Royal Canadian Navy, is an experience which I shall always cherish; to know that so many of you look upon me as a friend is something upon which no price can be set.

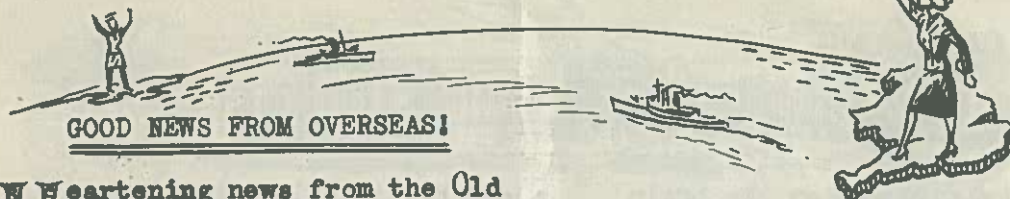
To what size this service will grow in the future, I cannot predict; I do know, however, that if you continue to give the same willing, eager and devoted service that you have given in the past, that there are no heights to which you cannot rise and that the Royal Canadian Navy will never cease to be proud of you.

You have, as your new Director, a most able and charming woman who will do her utmost to see that the service is developed as much as possible. Many of you have suffered hardships in the past which I hope will be remedied in the future; you have borne those hardships cheerfully and willingly and regarded them as the natural hazards of war---if you continue to meet all future hazards with the same fortitude, the W.R.C.N.S. is assured of a place in Canada's history.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all the very best of good fortune, to thank you on behalf of the W.R.N.S. Officers for the affection and loyalty you have given us and to assure you that we shall watch the progress of the W.R.C.N.S. with the greatest interest and pride.

(signed) Dorothy Isherwood.





GOOD NEWS FROM OVERSEAS!

Heartening news from the Old Country this month, when Canadian Wrens learned that Superintendent Carpenter had made a wonderful recovery from her illness. She is now doing full-time service as Superintendent of the Western Approaches---- the largest Wren command in England. Warmest congratulations and good wishes go out to her from every Wren in Canada.



LAST MINUTE NEWS FLASH!

Chief Officer Isherwood at HMCS Niobe for leave and disposal.

Chief Officer Samuel: Lent
"Cochrane" 11

A/First Officer Kellett:
"Eaglet" for duty in office of Superintendent Carpenter.

MORE COMING

Intrigued by the vivid reports from the Canadian Wrens overseas, another draft is soon to join them.

HELLO SHIPMATES----

(This is the first in a series of letters from the Wrens in England, telling of their experiences on the other side. Watch for the next one).

"Here we are, still is as much of a happy daze as when we left Ottawa and stumbled up the gangway amid clicking of cameras and whistling and cheering from the decks.

Thus our journey began. Life on board exceeded our expectations. We were able to enjoy the privileges of Junior Officers. Our cabins were on the main deck; we dined in the Officers' Mess; attended shows and took part in community singing in the Officers' Lounge.

The Old Land

Arriving in the Old Country, we had our first experience with English money when we sent cables home. We were greeted at "Niobe" with the general remark that they were glad to see us "But when are the others coming?" Flattering?

The British Wrens invited us to their hostels for supper and made us more than welcome. In the evening we saw some of the Scottish countryside of which we'd heard so much. At Niobe we had our first experience with black-out curtains and bath tubs large enough for five Wrens.



Between dozes on the train ride to London the next day we were able to see and appreciate the landscape which is quite different to anything we have seen at home. Arriving in London in the evening, we were greeted in a most friendly manner and our quarters are really SUPER!

Two to a cabin, basins with hot and cold water, a large clothes closet, chest of drawers and double-bunks. A certain amount of laundry is done free of charge each week and our suits are cleaned and pressed for next to nothing.

Dancing with Fleet Air Arm

Though we notice the absence of milk and fresh eggs, the meals are really very good and none of us can pretend that we are losing weight. The fo'c'sle is used for dances with the Fleet Air Arm Cadets as guests and for entertaining friends. Though the evening deadline is 2230 we find the hour late enough as shows start early over here. Two late leaves a week until 2315 are allowed.

Thanks to Sub-Lieutenant Mackie, tickets have been given us for shows from time to time. Among us, we have att-

ended Priestley's "They Came to a City," Shaw's "Heartbreak House" and Lillian Hellman's "Watch on the Rhine". During the intervals, one may be served with coffee and sandwiches for 1 s 6 d.

SOCIAL WHIRL

Service Clubs and canteens too have made us most welcome. We have been invited to teas, dances and parties at the Overseas League, the British Empire Rendezvous and various Canadian YMCA's. We attended services at Westminster Abbey the first Sunday we were here and on the anniversary of the Battle of Britain some of the girls caught a glimpse of the King and Queen in St. Paul's Cathedral. One Saturday afternoon while some of us were cheering at the international football game between England and Wales, others were tripping the light fantastic at a tea dance given by the Lord Mayor of London.

They Do Work, Though.

The office is very central and can be reached by tube or bus; our work is varied and interesting, the British Wrens are helpful and congenial. We are most fortunate in having Sub-Lieutenants Mackie and Lovatt as our officers---they are both
and.

CHEERIO!



UNDER YOUR HAT



The Admiral, Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Percy W. Nelles has a Wren driver now.

She's Motor Transport Wren Betty Allen, of Winnipeg, and was chosen for the honor because of her good record as a staff driver at Naval Service Headquarters. Nice going, Betty! We're proud of you.

There is no special Christmas leave this year but sailors and Wrens at HMCS Bytown have a real Christmas ship's concert, a whist drive, Christmas tree (complete with presents) and lots of service dances to look forward to. C.P.O. Woods has finished the Christmas cake, the pudding is on the way, and there'll be the customary big dinner on Christmas day with all the trimmings, served to ratings by Wren officers.



WEDDING BELLS

DUFRESNE-GONTHIER: Sub-Lieut. Mary Gonthier to Able Seaman Pat Dufresne R.C.N.V.R. in H.M.C. Dockyard Chapel at Halifax.

HEMPHILL-DUDDLES: Sub-Lieut. Constance Duddles to Lieut-Commander (E) J. Laird Hemphill, R.C.N.V.R. in Washington, D.C.

SMYTH-BRYANT: W.R.A. Wren Adline Bryant to Private Leslie Smyth, R.C.A.S.C. Wallis House Chapel Ottawa.

STROM-GORMAN: W.R.A. Wren Gorman to L.A.C. Strom, R.C.A.F. Chief Petty Officer Parry, H.M.C.S. Conestoga, married a Galt girl last month.

NO. 1 SHOWS US HOW!

Sub-Lieutenant Cross, one of the best loved officers in the Wrens is going about with her head in the clouds these days. She's in charge at No. 1 Station near Bytown and the Wrens out there---65 of them-- recently turned over \$200.00 to four good causes from their canteen profits. This is how they distributed it:

- Red Cross Prisoners of War-- \$75.00
- Sailors' Families..... 25.00
- Merchant Seamen's Fund.....50.00
- Outpost Station comforts.....50.00

Can any other Wrens beat that? We think their officer has a right to be good and proud!



Canadian Wrens went all-out in the Fifth Victory Loan this year and bought a total of bonds worth \$320,450. That meant an average purchase of \$100 for every Wren in the Service! At every establishment original quotas were smashed to bits and bond-sellers found their prospects waiting for them with fountain pens at the alert. That's the stuff!

Leading Wren Cassidy, of Bethany, Manitoba, was in charge of packing ditty bags at Wallis House, Ottawa, last month and 40 of the navy blue bags were sent to sailors thru her efforts. The Wrens save salvage and sell it during the year to raise funds; the canteen makes up the rest. That's being really Navy-minded!

First classes in plotting and photography finished recently at NSHQ. Wrens can now take a six weeks' course in these categories and are already winning a place in the formerly all-male sections. There were six Wrens in each of the training course.



FROM ACROSS THE BORDER

Canadian Joint Staff
2222 "S" Street S.W.
WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington Wrens were THRILLED to hear of the new Wren magazine! We hope our spot of news will arrive in time for the first issue and we're all so afraid of missing something in the way of Wren news that there'll be a real battle when the first copies arrive. Please send us lots!

This month brought advancement to Acting Leading Wrens for M.T. drivers Burns and Trees.

Wren Connolly is now home in Kirkland Lake on her annual leave.

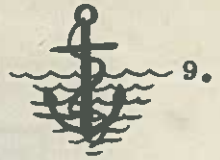
Wren Fisher is bound for New Brunswick this month on furlough.

The American Thanksgiving was a gala occasion here when the Wrens were guests of the Officers' Candidate School at Fort Washington and had a marvellous time.

This is all for now; we'll be on hand bright and early for the next edition. We're so anxious that you have something from us for your first issue that we're keeping it short. Here's all the best for Number One from the Wrens in Washington'.



H.M.C.S CONESTOGA



Just in case you've got the wrong version, one of the Wren officers at Conestoga contributes her story about a recent basketball game at the ship.

It seems that in one of their weaker moments, the officers agreed to play vs. ratings. It was a noble idea, but I must say we didn't expect the Wrens to start importing Edmonton Grads! All went well for the first two periods; the officers had the opposition (as well as themselves) so confused that they piled up a magnificent score. Then came the last period (we thought) and not wanting the Wrens to feel too badly, we allowed them to score the odd basket, always keeping the game well in hand, of course.

"It finished in a flurry of excitement with the score 14-13 in favor of the officers, who immediately gave three rousing cheers for the noble losers. Then the organizers of their team strolled over and said calmly 'Of course you realize there is still another period!'"

"Well, that was the end. The officers had plainly lost all interest in the thing, and to find the score at the end of this "extra" period was something like 27-18 in favor of the opposition was not in the least surprising! For the benefit of those unfortunate individuals who think that the only woman Commanding Officer in the RCN is going to allow any such skullduggery, they are hereby warned that this same team of officers (with any necessary replacements) is ready to take them on again forthwith!"

ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE AUTHOR OF THIS ARTICLE AND ANY MEMBER OF THE OFFICERS' TEAM IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL----- she says!

CHIEF'S GORN AWY !

Sandy has left Conestoga--- but not for good. The best Master-at-Arms of all crept quietly, but unwillingly-- off one morn at 0702 bound for an Eastern Canadian Port. M.A.A. Berry is filling her shoes at Galt, keeping every body happy for "Sandy"

BUT SHE'LL BE BACK!

As soon as she arrived at "Stad" Lieutenant Alvey bounced Chief into a bed in Sick Bay. Sandy hasn't had a holiday since the Wrens began in Canada and she certainly deserved it. We don't know if they chained her to the bunk, so she's probably up and around again by now, shouting "Come on, nip to it, Matilda!"



Visitors welcomed at HMCS York and CORD during the past two weeks have included Commander Sinclair, Lieut-Cdr. Macneill, Lieut. Mills, Lieut. Carruthers and Sub-Lieut. Jordan.

Wren Margaret Ramsay of Kelowna B.C. is home enjoying annual leave.

All Wren writers at CORD are deep in the mysteries of KR&AI Naval Orders, AFO'S and BR '49's. Lectures are held in the fo'c'sle at Holwood House and the objective is "Hooks for Everybody by February!"

Three Wrens at 142 Crescent Road heard of advancements last week. All in the Service since last January, they're Leading Wrens Peggy Beverley (M.T.) and Writers Aileen Ford and Muriel Constable.

A Pre-Christmas dance is being planned at Holwood House for December 9, to be followed by Christmas tree parties at both establishments. Present plans are to serve Christmas dinner at Holwood House for all Wrens who cannot get home, the officers waiting on the girls according to time-honored naval tradition. It will be a Merry Christmas!



Leading Wren Effie the Wrens at a ceremonial Lounge in the Union Station. for servicemen and women as

Clark, York, represented opening of the new Landseair The lounge has been provided they wait for train connections.

OPEN HOUSE

The new quarters at 142 Crescent Road, Rosedale, were fittingly opened Sunday afternoon, Nov. 28th, when Wrens attached to CORD entertained officers and their wives, and the Wrens from Holwood House. L/W's Constable and Beverley received the guests assisted by Wrens Watkins. Tea was served in the spacious fo'c'sle, a charming apartment which overlooks spacious grounds. Soft lights and music backdropped the tinkle of tea things and the hum of conversation as CORD's first "after-five" party settled down. Guests included Commander and Mrs. P.W. Earl; Lieut-Cdr. and Mrs. F.E. Grubbe; Lieut-Cdr. J.M.D. Duff-Wood; Pay-Lieut-Cdr. and Mrs. R.V. Underhill; Pay-Lieut-Cdr. and Mrs. George Razavet; Lieut. and Mrs. D.C. McIntosh; Lieut. and Mrs. F.J. Lovett of Ottawa; Lieut. D.G. Jamieson; Sub-Lieut. Don Fraser and Wren Sub-Lieutenants Dorothy Doyle, D.H. Grant, and Noreen Harper.

MORE FROM YORK

Holidayers from York this week include Hazel Kincaid of Ottawa and Marguerite Morrison of Stratford both home on leave. Wren Ruth Attwood of York is a patient in Sick Bay following an accident during a basketball game last week.

Three ratings accompanied the officers who conducted a recruiting week in Timmins, Ontario recently. Leading Writer Anita Plummer, of Saint John, N.B. and Wrens Joan Dickson, Vancouver and Nellie Illingworth, Stratford, both from Conestoga made the trip. The girls were interviewed over the air and entertained royally by the citizens of Timmins during their stay. The visit was a highly successful one, we understand.

Wren Edna Jones, of Ship's Office, York, and Wren G. Murray CORD, visited Kingston on Nov. 25 and 26 to represent the Wrens in a combined services quizz. Entertained at the Sergeants' Mess at Barriefield Military Camp, they were conducted through the various training schools there and were official visitors at HMCS Cataragui, Kingston on Friday afternoon.

Sub-Lieutenant S. A. Aves has arrived at HMCS York, posted temporarily on duties at CORD. She was a member of the first Kingsmill Class and has lately been on duty at HMCS Protector, Sydney, N.S. After four hours in Toronto she observed that already she missed the sea and the salty atmosphere of Sydney, but was looking forward to an interesting winter in Toronto just the same. We're happy to welcome Sub-Lieut. Aves to York.

Twenty Probie Wrens from Galt are expected in Toronto soon to take a Captain's Writer course. Chief Petty Officer Charles Angers, R.C.N., will be the instructor. During the approximately six weeks' course, the Wrens will be in residence at 142 Crescent.

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IT'S YOUR CONTEST WRENS!

Got any bright ideas for a name? This new paper needs one. As an incentive to your imaginative powers, the editor is offering a prize of \$5 for the best suggestion received during the next two weeks. We couldn't launch this new publication without a christening ceremony and there just didn't seem to be the right name handy. How about it?

Here are some of the ideas (not so bright) so far:
The Figurehead.

- The Siren.
 - The Watchkeeper.
 - Wrenews.
 - The Wren.
 - The Dinghy.
 - Stand By.
 - Mizzenmast.
 - Blueprint.
- And stuff like that.

Send your contributions to this contest, together with your bits of news, poems, or suggestions to Sub-Lieutenant Nancy Pyper, at Room 415, Laurent Building, 80 Elgin St. Ottawa.

Did you hear about the dear old lady who came up to a Wren in the station and said "My dear child, I'm so glad to see that you Salvation Army lassies are wearing new hats this year! Never mind---comes it now a new uniform--in the future.

