

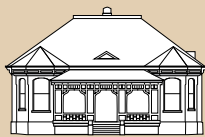


# Headway

CFB ESQUIMALT NAVAL & MILITARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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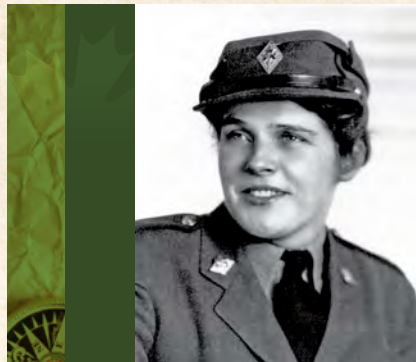


*CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum is located at Naden on Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, in the city of Victoria, which is situated on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, province of British Columbia, Canada.*

*The museum's goal is to collect, preserve, interpret and display the history and heritage of the naval presence on Canada's West Coast and of the military on Southern Vancouver Island.*

[www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org)

## Honoured Women



**Service in the Canadian Women's Army Corps cost Evelyn Connor her life. Private Connor, of Esquimalt, BC, is one of approximately 25 CWACs who died as a result of accident, injury or disease while on active duty. Private Connor was just 24 when she was struck and killed by a bus during the London blackout. She had only been overseas for 14 months.**



**Maude Elizabeth Steane was one of an adventurous group of women from Canada who trained as radio operators and then went to sea with the Norwegian Merchant Navy, the only Allied merchant fleet that at that time permitted women to serve aboard ships in that role. She lost her life while working as a wireless operator aboard the S.S. Viggo Hansteen.**

In recent months, we have been able to assist Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) by providing them with photos of two women who are memorialized on our website.

In May, and again in June, Priscilla Giroux, Commemoration Learning Officer for VAC, was in contact with me to request images of Evelyn Cecilia Connor and Maude Elizabeth Steane. Both Evelyn Connor and Maude Steane are commemorated in articles on the museum's site, and VAC is also recognizing their individual contributions by including them in the Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM). The CVWM is a registry to honour and remember the sacrifices of the more than 118,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who, since Confederation, have given their lives serving in uniform. VAC did not have pictures of either woman to include in its online war memorial, but knew, from looking at our website, that we might be able to help. Of course we were very glad to assist, and to be part of efforts to acknowledge their lives, and their loss.

To find out more about Evelyn Connor, see the article at the following link:

<http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/archives/articles/paving-the-way/cwac>

To learn more about Maude Steane and other women merchant mariners, see this link to our site:

<http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/archives/articles/unsung-women/merchant-marine-women>

~ Clare Sharpe, Museum Exhibit Designer/  
 Webmaster/Volunteer Coordinator



# THE MUSEUM *Team*

## Museum Team

Debbie Towell – Curator  
Joseph Lenarcik – Assistant Curator  
Clare Sharpe – Museum Exhibit Designer/Webmaster/  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Tatiana Robinson – Archival Assistant  
Selena Gillespie – Special Projects  
Sarah Taylor – Special Contracts & Services  
Myles Beaman-Dodd & Erin Spence – Summer students  
Francois Bouchard – Workshop staff



## Our Active Volunteers

Cecil Baker	Clarence Lockyer
Don Bendall	Brian McGregor-Foxcroft
Valerie Chatten	Florence McGregor-Foxcroft
Dave Churchill	Paul O'Reilly
Jeremy Clunn	Tom Pound
Janet Kay Curley	Zoila B. Proud
Chris Fraser	Greg Sharpe
Dave Freeman	Don Thomas
Michael Harrison	Norm Truswell
Bob Hewitt	Ed Widenmaier
Gerry Kennedy	

## *Erin Spence*

I am a Political Science major and History minor entering my third year at the University of Victoria. In my chosen program, I am currently studying comparative politics and the impacts of electoral systems upon corruption and voter participation. I am also deeply interested in the history of the Second World War, with a focus on the Pacific Theatre and the Second Sino-Japanese War. Thanks to the generosity of the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum, I hope to enrich my knowledge of Canadian military history through this Co-op term, particularly in the area of Canadian peacekeeping and the Korean War. In my spare time, I enjoy swimming, reading, and painting watercolours. I'm looking forward to giving you a tour of the museum in the future.

## *Myles Beaman-Dodd*

Hello, my Name is Myles Beaman-Dodd, and I have the pleasure of working as a tour guide and programmer this summer at the Naval and Military Museum, along with my friend Erin Spence. My interests in archeology and the social history of our region brought me to study at the University of Victoria, where I am currently finishing a bachelor's degree in Geography and Anthropology. As a long-time resident of Victoria, this coast and its past holds a special place in my heart, and it's a joy to help bring the region's proud naval and military history to life for visitors. Between digging through archives of old photos and stories, and exploring the museum with guests, it sometimes seems my job is all play and no work.



## To Our Readers

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*Thank You!*  
*Merci!*

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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Victoria BC V9A 7N2

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Email Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

## We Are All Connected



AT OUR "MODEST" MUSEUM, one of the most important roles that we play is connecting with our community. This includes our naval and military family but also the community at large. We can make that connection in a number of ways – one of them through our growing archives.

When we have a visitor, whether it is physical or virtual (such as email inquiries), we are often posed a question that involves more than just a quick reply. Often times, in depth research is required. Now, what was once like going on an extended deployment for staff and volunteers by physically combing through our collection, has become a quick trip to a computer.

How have we achieved this miracle cure? Over the past number of years, the museum has undertaken, bit by bit, to have our collection digitized. We are focusing on photographs but we are also transcribing ship's histories, commissioning booklets and

in future, service records\* of important individuals. To further extend our reach, we have created a network within the museum which connects our central archives computer with 4 other computers. Now we no longer have to get in line to conduct research. We can access the images and files already digitized from any computer connected to the archives. This has not only sped up and streamlined the research process, but has also served to widen the visibility



**Capt(N) Frank Llewellyn Houghton on the bridge of HMCS Warrior**

of our collection and assisted in the identification of previously unknown or even mislabelled images. When sharing these images on our Facebook page or Twitter feed, we get almost instantaneous feedback from our global community.

Additionally, we are better able to meet the demands of our community right here on the Base as well as the local one outside of the gate. Many times, visitors are seeking images of past ships that they or a family member served on, or perhaps they wish to learn about the history of the former inhabitants of our Base. By gathering this information and making it more accessible to all, we are better able to fulfill our role as good neighbours and members of the community – after all, whether you work on this Base or have never set foot within its boundaries, we are all affected by the Navy and Army's presence in Victoria and Canada at large.

~ Debbie Towell, Museum Curator

\*Service records are only available to non-family members after the individual has been deceased by at least 25 years.

# DISCOVERER of HMCS Athabaskan Wreck Visits Museum



John Stubbs is pictured at the centre of this photo from 1942.

In October 2002, French marine historian Jacques Ouchakoff found the wreck of HMCS Athabaskan off the Brittany coast, near Ile de Batz, France. On 22 June 2017, Jacques Ouchakoff visited our museum, accompanied by Royal Roads professor Dr. Geoffrey Bird, who is making a documentary on the connections between Victoria/Colwood and HMCS Athabaskan. These connections include the fact that John Stubbs attended Brentwood College. Another local connection is through John Stubbs Memorial School in Colwood, which is named in his honour. The naval memorial at Royal Roads includes the name of SLt Robert Annett, who perished when the destroyer HMCS Athabaskan was sunk in the English Channel on 29 April, 1944. SLt(E) Robert Ivan Loucks Annett was the most junior officer on the ship. He was last seen alive by Lt(N) William Clark, who shared a Carley float with him. They both left the float to try to reach the rescuing ship HMCS Haida, then realized they couldn't make it and turned back to the Carley float. When Clark managed to grab on to a broken cork net that floated nearby, he turned around and realized his companion had disappeared. Both Robert Annett and John Stubbs are buried in Plouescat Communal Cemetery in Brittany. There are also other family connections to the crew of G07 Athabaskan. Dr. Bird's documentary will be added to the university's War Heritage

Research Initiative, (<http://warheritage.royalroads.ca>) that houses the 'War Memories across Canada' video stories. This museum and archives provided assistance last year for that project. Dr. Bird and M. Ouchakoff had heard we had a John Stubbs exhibit and they were hoping there were artifacts or photos related to HMCS Athabaskan from the museum collection that they could use for this documentary. I made them copies of all the photos we had of John Stubbs and HMCS Athabaskan and showed them the framed honours board about Stubbs that is featured in the museum's Delamere conference room. Anyone who has a family connection to G07 Athabaskan and photos they wish to share is encouraged to please contact Professor Geoff Bird at [Geoff.2bird@royalroads.ca](mailto:Geoff.2bird@royalroads.ca).

The subject of Dr. Bird's research request, John Hamilton Stubbs, was born in Kaslo, B.C. but his family later moved to Victoria, where he completed his education and applied to join the Royal Canadian Navy. Stubbs was commanding officer of HMCS Assiniboine when it captured German submarine U210 in June 1941. He was also commanding officer of HMCS Athabaskan when it was torpedoed in the English Channel by German torpedo boat T-24 at 0415 hours on 29 April, 1944. LCdr Stubbs died in action after declining rescue by HMCS Haida, opting instead to remain in the sea looking for other crew members from his ship.

~ Joseph Lenarcik, Assistant Curator



# It's a Date...



**Q:** *When is an historic date not an historic date?*

**A:** *When it's not accurate.*

*This is something that was reinforced for me recently while researching the closure of the former military convalescent hospital at Naden.*

THE ESQUIMALT MILITARY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL operated in the buildings that now house our museum. According to signage in the Museum Square, the hospital opened in 1915 “to treat the wounded, shell shocked and tubercular servicemen and rehabilitate them for their return to civilian life.” Our signage gives the year of the hospital closing as 1919. So does another document long considered a reliable resource, a “History of Naden 1922-1965”, which was compiled by a group of officers in 1967. In that publication, it's stated: “In 1919, the doors of the hospital were ... closed and the remaining inmates transferred to other centres of treatment.” As it turns out, that's not correct. In fact it's out by years, as I discovered after digging deeper.

My research was prompted by an article shared with us by Bruce Davies, the Curator of Craigdarroch Castle, also at one time a convalescent hospital for military patients. Bruce did extensive research for his paper about

“Craigdarroch Military Hospital: A Canadian War Story.” On page 44 of that document he notes that “in Victoria, the Department of Soldiers Civil Reestablishment was operating only Craigdarroch and Esquimalt Military Hospitals by the end of 1920.” When I read this, and read elsewhere in Bruce's article that Esquimalt Military Hospital likely closed its doors for good sometime in 1921, I began to seriously doubt our own signage and sources.

Which is why it seemed necessary to find out precisely when the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital did shut down. Discovering the answer to that question took several visits to the University of Victoria's McPherson library, which has microfilm copies of *The Victoria Daily Times* available for viewing. Combing through these records for the newspaper from the early 1920s, it was interesting to see what a lot of coverage the Navy's activities in Victoria and Esquimalt attracted in those days. For example, the Knights of Columbus put on a boxing tournament at the Crystal Theatre in Spring 1921

for the entertainment of the men of the visiting Canadian Naval Squadron. “We asked them what they would like and they said boxing, so we gave them boxing,” an official of the K. of C. is quoted as saying. In other local news, the Ladies Guild for sailors was busy entertaining visiting ‘Tars’ (slang for seamen) at Sunday teas. The Esquimalt branch of the Guild reported having been “very busy since the arrival of HMCS Squadron in this port, 340 men having registered at the Sailors' Club, while 500 beds and shakedown have been provided”. Leaving me to wonder what ‘shakedowns’ involved.

It was also hard not to get distracted by news items like the snippet dated Friday 08 April, 1921, describing a mass deportation from the US of what we would now call illegal aliens. The more things change, the more they really do seem to stay the same...

After a lot of back and forth going through *The Victoria Daily Times* for late 1920 and into early 1921, I struck gold. In the 29 March issue from 1921 was the following headline:

*Continued on page 6*



## It's a Date... Continued from page 5

**"TO CLOSE ESQUIMALT HOSPITAL END OF THIS WEEK"**

*But Ottawa is Asked to Provide Other Accommodation to Prevent Patients Going to Other Local Hospitals or to Mainland.*

(For the full text of this article, see page 7).

From there, it only took a little more searching to come across the follow-up article from *The Victoria Daily Times* that gives the precise date of the hospital closing – Saturday 02 April 1921.

(For the full text of this article, see below).

I later cross-checked this date with coverage from *The Daily Colonist Newspaper* collection, which is available online.

You might ask "why does it even matter when the convalescent hospital closed its doors?" After all, it's more than a century ago. Obviously, getting to the truth of such things really doesn't matter, to many people. But it matters to us, as museum staff who work to present

the history of these buildings and their various uses over time. And in a bigger picture way, it also matters, because dates are important to history. To quote one historian, "history without dates/locations is like math without numbers or physics without units." Dates – the right dates – are important to history, because they help chronologically show cause and effect relationships between events.

~ Clare Sharpe, Museum Exhibit Designer/  
Webmaster/Volunteer Coordinator



**Patients and staff of the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital on the ward that formerly occupied Naden Building 39, now home to the Base Museum's Army exhibits and displays.**

## PATIENTS REMOVED FROM ESQUIMALT

*Victoria Daily Times,  
02 April, 1921*

### Military Hospital Closed Down Despite Widespread Protests

Terminating a long period of usefulness, Esquimalt Military Hospital to-day ceases to serve as a retreat for convalescing veterans of the Great War. Fifteen men have already been sent to Vancouver, and about forty are being transferred to the Jubilee Hospital to-day and some half dozen to St. Joseph's.

Quite a number of other patients have been discharged and have left for their homes in various parts of Vancouver Island. They will be treated as out-patients and will come to Victoria for occasional treatment, which will probably be

given them at the Jubilee Hospital.

It is stated that nearly every man who was sent to Vancouver was a single man who had joined up on the mainland, and it is therefore asserted that there will be no complaint from them regarding their transfer, but in connection with the men who are being transferred to the Jubilee Hospital it is another matter, and it is with distinct reluctance that the change is contemplated.

About sixty men, all returned veterans, formed the staff at the Esquimalt institution, and of these fifty-two are being discharged from the service of

the S.C.R. [Editor's note: S.C.R. here stands for 'Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment']. It therefore means that the closing of the hospital does away with the entire staff. It is likely that a very few of the attendants will be given employment at the Jubilee Hospital.

The hospital has been closed by the Federal authorities despite the widespread protests made against the removal of the men, at least until some satisfactory arrangements had been made for housing them elsewhere in the city.



# TO CLOSE ESQUIMALT HOSPITAL END OF THIS WEEK

## But Ottawa is Asked to Provide Other Accommodation to Prevent Patients Going to Other Local Hospitals or to Mainland

Esquimalt Military Hospital will be closed at the end of this week on account of the commencement of blasting on the Skinner Cover drydock site, Major A.P. Proctor, Medical Superintendent of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, told representatives of returned soldiers and public organizations at a meeting in the Hospital buildings this morning.

As a result of the vigorous protests and representations laid before him, however, Major Proctor promised to telegraph to the Ottawa authorities immediately to explain to them the strongly unfavorable attitude of the people of Victoria towards the proposed transfer of some Esquimalt Hospital patients to Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver. Major Proctor will inform Ottawa that the citizens of this city, while fearing that the closing of Esquimalt Hospital is inevitable, desire that other premises be provided for the patients so that they will not have to be taken to the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital or the St. Joseph's Hospital, or transferred to the mainland.

### Alternative Proposals

It was suggested to Major Proctor that temporary accommodation be provided at the city's former Dupont residence in Stadacona Park, at Craigdarroch Castle or in the old Drill Hall and that a permanent hospital might be built on a free site to be provided by the city at Elk Lake.

### Must Evacuate Hospital

Major Proctor told the patients and representatives of public organizations at the commencement of this morning's interview that the S.C.R. Department had been informed late last week that in ten days Esquimalt Hospital would not be safe for patients on account of blasting operations to be started on the dock site near by. It was impossible for the Department to carry on the hospital, under such conditions, he explained, and injury

or death to patients resulting from blasting would never be forgiven the authorities in charge. It was planned to accommodate as many of the patients as possible locally, he stated, and to move the remainder to Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver. It would be possible to accommodate from forty to forty-five patients at the Jubilee Hospital and it was hoped that by considering each case individually that a minimum of hardship would be caused by the transfer of others. It was hoped that few, if any, patients who were residents of Victoria would be moved.

### Opinion of Patients

Major Brooke, of the G.W.V.A., laid before Major Proctor a petition signed by over seventy patients of the Esquimalt Hospital protesting against being transferred to the mainland. The petition expressed surprise that no steps had been taken to formulate a policy which would prevent such a transfer, and the hope that the patients would be given a fair and square deal which would prevent friction in the future.

Major Proctor reiterated that it was planned to keep as many of the Vancouver Island men as possible at Esquimalt and to transfer only mainland men.

It was suggested to Major Proctor that the old Drill Hall might be fitted up as a hospital, and it was stated that, according to complaints of returned men conditions in the Jubilee Hospital were not satisfactory. These returned men, it was stated, had complained of bad food, bad management and other things as well.

"The name of the Jubilee Hospital is too distasteful to the men," Major Brooks declared. "Its name stinks in their nostrils, so to speak."

It was pointed out also that if convalescent men were moved to the Mainland they would lose touch with the industrial world of the Island, where they had learned their trades, and thus their re-establishment in

civilian life would be made longer and more difficult.

Major Proctor explained that if the patients were transferred to the Jubilee Hospital the staff of the Esquimalt Hospital would go with them.

### Must Ask Soon

James H. Beatty, president of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that he had been advised that no heavy blasting would be started on the dock site for six months, but Major Proctor said that he had been clearly informed by H.M. Scott of Lyle & Sons, the contractors, that blasting would commence in ten days. He was sorry that the authorities had not been informed months ago that blasting was to be started. If this information had been available then it was possible that Craigdarroch Hospital might have been kept in operation.

Ex-President Stone, of the G.W.V.A., replied that the authorities had known that blasting was to start on the dock site, and he produced correspondence to prove this contention. Many returned men, he said, had come to Victoria from other parts of Canada to be treated and had brought their families with them. "Is it fair that they should be moved now that their relatives have settled here?" he demanded. "There are sufficient patients on this Island to be taken care of on the Mainland," he added.

"It would be a calamity to transfer these men," J.L. Beckwith, ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce asserted and he stated that the residence in Stadacona Park could be fitted up to accommodate some forty men.

### City's Attitude

"If, as I think we are safe in assuming, there are three military hospitals in the Maritime Provinces, there should be two in British Columbia," Acting Mayor A.E. Todd affirmed. "Vancouver Island contributes more in taxation than

Nova Scotia, and on a basis of population this contribution is much greater. On a basis of the recruiting carried on the Island this contribution is greater still. I do not think that either the Jubilee or the St. Joseph's Hospital are desirable for the returning of men. The citizens of Victoria will be willing to provide a free site for a hospital, free of taxes also and unequalled in Canada, at Elk Lake. During the war a piece of property was set aside for this purpose and the offer is still open. The returned men would remain in the care of the Dominion Government, and should not be mixed up in civilian hospitals."

"I shall be only too glad to forward your representations to Ottawa," Major Proctor assured the meeting. "I sympathize with your case and with the feeling of the patients. It is gratifying to hear the tributes of the patients to the medical and nursing staffs. I will make these representations and ask the Department, if possible, to meet them."

"What is more important, the life of one man or the drydock?" one of the patients demanded. "Why not keep the dock back for a little while?"

### Telegrams to Authorities

With Major Proctor's communications to Ottawa will go telegrams from the City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Officers Association and other local organizations. Hon. S.F. Tolmie, Federal Minister of Agriculture, will be asked to use his influence to see that no patients are transferred to the Mainland.

Among those who were present at this morning's conference were: Col. Winsby, President of the G.W.V.A.; Frank Elsworth, Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Fleming, Chairman of the Victoria and district branch of the Red Cross Society, and Dr. Pearce, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

## Write us...

We welcome your questions and comments with regard to any of the articles we have featured in this or past issues of *Headway*.

Please write to the museum at:

**CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum**  
**P.O. Box 17000 Stn. Forces**  
**Victoria B.C. V9A 7N2**

Or email:

[curator@navalandmilitarymuseum.org](mailto:curator@navalandmilitarymuseum.org)

## CFB Esquimalt

NAVAL & MILITARY MUSEUM

### Statutory holiday closures

BC Day:

Monday 07 August 2017

Labour Day:

Monday 04 September 2017

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Monday through Sunday until close of business on Sunday 20 August 2017:

**10.00am - 3.30pm**

(Closed statutory holidays)

### SUGGESTED DONATION

Adults	\$2
Family of Four:	\$5
Children, Youth & Seniors	\$1

### FOR INFORMATION

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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
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# DONATION FORM

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*CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum issues tax receipts under Section 118.1 of the Income Tax Act. A tax receipt received as part of a donation to Her Majesty can be claimed as an income tax deduction to a maximum of 100 per cent of the donor's net income. An official receipt for tax purposes will be issued automatically for all gifts of \$10.00 and over.*

## Bequest to CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum



The CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military museum has recently received a very generous bequest from the late Henry Lloyd Clarkson, in the amount of \$10,000. The funds have been earmarked for permanent exhibits.

Henry Lloyd Clarkson was born 28 May 1931, in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, and died 18 March 2017. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in June 1949 as a Naval Storesman, and later received his Commission from a PINS to a Stores Officer. He served in the RCN for 28 years, in HMC Ships Antigonish, Ste. Therese, Labrador, Magnificent, Columbia, in various Fleet Establishments and at National Defence headquarters. In his civilian career post RCN, he worked for 10 years with the province of British Columbia in Municipal Affairs.

We are immensely grateful for this support for the museum and its activities.

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