

TRANSCRIPTIONS OF WREN ISABEL MCDONALD'S NOTES

(without diagrams)

Dividers represent actual page divisions in notes

P./WREN McDonald Isabel as of Feb 3/44

W-4133

H.M.C.S. Conestoga

Galt, Ont.

Responsibility remains with you when off duty as well as on duty

If there is no burn use an emetic. (give until you get results)

1tbs. of mustard powder in glass of water. 2tbs. of salt in luke warm water –
repeat every 5 minutes until you get results

Acting C.O.

Lieut. McDonald Naval Actions – March 9/44 P.M.

Portsmouth

Ackland

Scapa Flow

Devenport

Halifax

Chatham

Esquimalt

Oherness

Simons Bay Boston

Newport Hews

San Francisco

Sydney

Bombay

Russian & Free

French bases

Ascention

Bermuda

Battle of Atlantic – 3 Sept. 1939

Sinking of Athenia with loss of 1200 people

Control between Scapa Flow & Norway & North Sea or English Channel.

Oct. 14 1939 – penetration of Scapa Flow formed by Orkney Islands – in centre is
small inland sea – sinking of Royal Oak

Feb 4/44 19 Japanese ships sunk at Truk on Solomons were sunk
Soharnhorst sunk

Nov. 23 – off Iceland – armed merchant cruiser engaged German pocket battleship (bejeweled dowager sparing with lightweight champion)

Uraquay – Cruiser Exeter sighted Graf Spee

Ajax, Achilles – Altmark held prisoners from Graf Spee – transfer of these 209 prisoners to Br. Ship Cossack off Norway.

Aircraft carrier Glorious was sunk during invasion of Norway

Evacuation of Dunkirk

Maria nostrum (Mediterranean) – fight against French navy to gain some French ships.

Evacuation of Crete & Greece – some 16000 men saved but in doing so $\frac{3}{4}$ of fleet sunk or damaged.

Nov. 1940 – between Nwfld & Ireland convoy attacked

Fogerty Fagan in command of Jervis Bay stayed behind to save rest of Convoy.

May 1941 – Bismark 45000 tons – one of greatest warships


Hood & Prince of Wales – Hood sunk very few survivors – avenge the Hood –

Catalina flying boat sighted Bismark & finally sunk.

Pearl Harbour – rivaled Heligeland, Gibraltar as a harbour


Repulse & Prince of Wales – under Phillips were sunk

Terrific blow – Dutch left alone



Feb 15. History of Royal Canadian Navy

Has been one of struggle as they have never realized importance of the sea. Started through idealism of one man – imperialist – always we have depended on Royal Navy which guarded sea lanes for British Empire – 1867 Canada became a Dominion – not until 1900 did she become responsible for her own defense – Sir Wilfred Laurier – idea that dominion should contribute something to upkeep of Royal Navy – Laurier started ideas of Canada (1910) supporting a Canadian Navy & succeeded in have passed the Naval Act which started on May 4th 1910 the Canadian Navy – the dockyards at Halifax & Esquimalt – the reserve were transferred from Admiralty to Dominion of Canada – Provision made for Royal Navy to use these dockyards – after this first 2 ships purchased & arrived in Canada in fall of 1910 – 2 cruisers Niobe and Rainbow Borrowed from Admiralty Rear Admiral



Kingsmill who became technical advisor. England Canada & Australia sent representatives drew up London agreement in 1911. Terms of this still form basis upon which navy functions.

London Agreement

1. Naval functions of each dominion were to be controlled by their own gov't
2. Interchanging of personnel with Royal Navy
3. Senior Officer of a group of ships was to be senior officer present – not necessarily R.N. or R.A.N. R.C.N.
4. The ships at all 3 navies would wear white ensign.
5. Arrangement were to be made for dominion ships to take part in R.N. fleet exercises – practice exercises.
6. King's Regulations & Admiralty Instructions together with Naval Discipline Act were to become common to all.

After London agreement, party in office in Canada decided to add to navy – 3 cruisers & 6 destroyers, however General election & gov't

Changed & plans dropped & even the 2 existing cruisers were laid up. In 1911 there had been a Naval College est'd in Halifax (heads of our navy were in this first class) – boys trained as officers – 2 years course & then sent to sea as midship men with R.N. Rear Admiral Jones – present Chief of Naval Staff was among first 21 of those officers.

Vice – Chief - not appointed yet.

Commander – in – chief – Canadian North West Atlantic – Rear Admiral Murray
Commander of Pacific Coast – Rear Admiral Brodeur

Captain Grant – in charge of Royal Naval College at Rhodes – on (Esquimalt) Vancouver Island B.C. This Royal Canadian Naval College was moved after Halifax explosion in 1917 to Kingston & then to Esquimalt where it was closed in 1922. About 150 officers were turned out between 1911 – 1922. The Navy in meantime in spite of war scares between 1911 & 14 was at standstill & almost died

at birth so outbreak of war in 1914 found Navy in weak condition – 2 cruisers were placed at disposal of br. Gov't. There was an R.C.N.V.R. formed in 1914 which recruited & sent to the Navy some 5000 men – small ships for patrol & escort duty & a few minesweepers were purchased – there were also small coastal vessels – such as tugs & motor launches. Niobe & Rainbow did a good job but eventually had to be scrapped after Armistice officers & ratings of these ships returned to Canada & almost all disorganized in 1920 about 1000 in R.C.N. In 1910 Admiral Jellicoe was brought out to Canada to make survey of Naval requirements – recommended they spend \$10,000,000 a year on building & maintenance of navy – but famous catch word of disarmament was in air & no one wanted to spend money. United Kingdom gave cruiser Aurora

2 destroyers
& 2 submarines

Patricia

However even this gift didn't arouse much interest.

Cruiser & 2 submarines sold in 1922. The Navy after this consisted of 2 old destroyer & 3 or 4 minesweepers while personnel consisted of 356 officers & men – many seamen became discouraged. In 1922 Canadian Navy was at its lowest ebb – a few staunch men realized importance & through their perseverance we got through R.C.N.

Between 1922 & 28 stirring in another quarter. In 1923 the Merchant Marine formed themselves into R.C.N.R. – trained (followed sea in profession for several mos a year) took course in signaling, absorbing discipline & fighting ships – seamen who took training with Navy proper to learn to fight. The R.C.N.V.R. was formed after the last war same year men came from all occupations & took part time training in Naval training – had other careers but navy was for purpose of training in Canada – they kept up their interest in Navy.

In 1928 – 2 destroyers Patricia & _____ were scrapped & gave 2 others Vancouver & Champlain. The Royal Navy loaned Canada two others Vancouver and Champagne. In same year Canadian gov't ordered 2 new destroyers which arrived in 1931 – Skeena & Saguenay – now own 4 destroyers

1936 – 2 more destroyed – Saint Laurent & Fraser

1939 – 1 more destroyers – Assiniboine

Destroyers named after rivers

During all this time R.C.N.V.R. was supplying to man ships & to make country Navy conscious so that when war broke out the navy was on slight upswing –

progress terrific – not until after the war will we know numbers. At beginning of war – 1800 officers & men in R.C.N + 2000 in R.C.N.R. (merchant officers who formed themselves into this) & R.C.N.V.R. making total of 3800. Today between 70,000 & 75,000.

6 destroyers & 5 minesweepers at beginning of war today between 600 & 700 ships & just recently have acquired a couple of cruisers & before this Tribal Destroyer was largest ship

50% of convoying done by R.C.N. & magnificent job of submarine hunting 3 of largest ships have been Prince class as armed merchant Cruisers Prince Robert, David, Henry. Has taken perseverance to build up. Prince Robert is attached to fleet air arm..

Naval Service Act of 1910 – which marks birth of Canadian Navy.

London Agreement – K.R. & A.T. & Discipline Act became basis on which Royal Canadian Navy was set up & Canadian gov't was exclusively responsible for maintenance of her own navy

- increase in personnel & ships
- Niobe & Rainbow first ships

Discipline & Morale Embodying Naval Traditions

Discipline –

Willing prompt obedience to those in authority.

- Two kinds:
1. Civil – essentially selfish as it involves a conscious observance of superiors
 2. Military – essentially unselfish & commands instinctive obedience

Civil

Desire to maintain position, pay & privilege but Civil Discipline will not make you give up life unquestioningly

Military – instinct obedience of orders whatever they may be – not a human characteristic. Requires the effort of alacrity- involves physical discomfort, risk of injury & death. Obedience must be instantaneous & can only be made so by constant exercise in obedience. Must obey orders of superiors instantly, unquestioningly & where possible on the double. Person in authority has proven she is capable of doing so. By constant exercise obeying orders will become habitual – never take time to think – no conscious thought of consequence of disobedience.

These exercises must be maintained or habit will be lost.

Breach is punishable by law.

Punishment applicable to WRENS

1. Dismissal for His Majesty's Service
2. Disrating in rank
3. Stoppage of leave & deduction of pay – awarded if absent over leave or without leave – for every 3 hrs 1 days pay or 1 days stoppage of leave – after 36 hours its for every 6 hrs 1 days pay & stoppage of leave
4. Blast from executive officer also reprimand from Captain of ship

Deserters – over 7 days.

Case investigated – pay own way back & expenses of person sent to bring you in & C.O. will punish according to seriousness

Absent over leave – stoppage of leave and stoppage of pay

Morale

Should not be confused with discipline – is meant as state of individual and unit.

Founded on pride, tradition & custom of respect for & confidence in ability of superior officers & greatly influenced by conditions of service and contentment of personnel. Morale is essential component of military

discipline as together produce most consistent source of victory.

Morale is little use without discipline as instinct of self preservation or fear distorted reason may overcome and disgrace the best morale – invincible combination of discipline & morale.

Examples of discipline.

1. General bearing & conduct –
 - polite
 - quiet in behaviour
 - courteous to others
 - not loiter in streets
 - hair above collar
 - unobtrusive make up
 - no nail polish
 2. Respect shown by rating & junior officers to superior officers when on duty
 3. Alacrity with which orders are obeyed and the manner in which they are given
 4. Way WRENS salute – on every occasion
 5. Way stand aside & respect shown when officers pass
 - Disciplined ship is happy ship
 6. Manner in which routine orders are obeyed.
-

Traditions

1. Salute Quarter Deck – is super structure on upper deck at front end – must salute when stepping on a place of authority quarter deck 1 – place of authority on ship & salute is made as recognition of that authority.

2 also in respect of where Nelson fell

2. Salute colours

When colours hoisted at forenoon when hear bugler & if outdoors turn face main mast and salute & remain at salute until lowered until ensign is lowered & bugle sounded – also at night

3. Salute

Signals of mutual trust & respect between officers & WRENS

1890 – Admiralty authorized hand salute only

Where & When Salute

WRENS will salute all commissioned officers whether man or woman regardless of which service ARMY or Navy or what nationality.

in an organized party (from lecture) leading Wren salutes when still is blown by bugler for lowering of flag . unorganized party salutes (2 or 3 Wrens)

If you meet an office walking with another officer if you know one officer and she introduces you to another officer you recognize introduction by salute.

Salute when national anthem is played when wearing a hat – but if in doors stand smartly at attention – hold salute for entire playing of anthem.

At raising of colours.

If hands are full give officer a smart eyes right or eyes left & she will return by saluting.

Ratings say ma'm – man

Sir – woman

Refer to them as Lieut. Sub Lieut. Must be true understanding between officers

WRENS do not salute very often indoors

In olden times seat of authority was on quarter deck – crucifix used to hang there nowadays it is the bridge

when parades go by – salute or stand at attention only when captain goes by – if officers in charge.

Salutes on following occasions

When encountering any member of Royal family

“ “ Gov. General or her Excellency as representatives of King

Curtesy (sic) when meeting Royalty indoors.

Salute when encountering colours of Royal Navy or Regimental Colours.

If a group of uniformed people under 1 person without colours pass on parade remain at attention till passed – if carrying colours uncased salute colours as they pass and remain at attention until passed.

If there is a parade Marshall – salute Marshall.

If military funeral salute while encountering funeral procession salute body in hearse – remain at attention while passes.

If civilian funeral just salute on the march.

When going over side of any Canadian on His Majesty's ship – salute – and also when on quarter deck – when addressed or being addressed by a senior officer – salute

- salute prior to speaking and after leaving
- don't speak until spoken to.

if sub lieutenant & lieutenant commander are working together & captain comes around sub. Lieutenant salutes captain – really saluting King – uniform

- if WREN is walking with lieutenant.

Lecture – C.O.

Security

This is the safe guarding of naval information – necessary to be security conscious.

Grat Spc Bismark Seehornhorst.

Naval information is interested in collection at all world naval activities –

apparently unrelated details

Two ways of disseminating information

1. Consciously
2. Unconsciously

Consciously 1: by talking – costing lives – movement of ships, equipment & personnel must not be discussed

2: by talking on telephone

3: writing a letter

unrelated facts when put together can make a complete picture.

Unconscious very often ordinary unobtrusive people are spys – prevent spys from getting access to information – all material should be locked away in offices – waste paper basket – confidential material should be disposed in special baskets and specially supervised incinerator – never take material out of office or out of sight – after loss of precious material should report to naval intelligence and police – don't become careless.

Naval passes – are issued so authorized persons may have access to restricted areas. (enemy agents could have copies made) if passes are lost should be reported – pass should never be shown to an unauthorized persons

- guards, R.C.M.P. or Veterans Guard are only people who have the right

Morale – watch never to complain about service matters in public – entitled to a grouse or a moan but must be kept aboard ship.

Legitimate complaints can be made through proper channels – Hitler is most anxious to create dissention (Britain will fight to last Frenchman)

(Hitler's propaganda)

Rumour – buzzes – rumour mongering is bad for morale

- no place for gossip – wardroom attendants and transport drivers must forget anything they hear
- must not let a stranger draw yourself into discussion about your work – wiser to be dumb
- while in port do not talk about ships.

Public is not held responsible for gossip but service is – must not mention about survivors from ships.

- don't bother to correct any untrue naval statements
- if people persist in questioning report them

Security is a straight forward matter of common sense upon which navy depends

- mustn't spread (sic) or listen to rumours – don't repeat conversations – don't criticize navy in public – don't discuss with press without permission.
- If drafted – don't telephone write or wire mustn't talk about it.

Naval Security & Censorship - # 3318

- mail is not censored here
- not allowed cameras

Photography in dockyards ships or any place under control of Naval Service

- no pictures in on grounds of such

H.M.C.S Conestoga exempted

Saluting

1. Wrens will salute all officers
 2. Wrens in an unorganized party will _____
 3. If walking with an officer she will salute all officers senior to that officer – if walking with a lieut salute any officer senior to this
- Salute an instant before meeting & remain until well past officer
 - Going on or off over side of ship salute when addressed by an officer salute and on withdrawing salute
 - If an officer is in plain clothes and you recognize him as such salute
 - If standing on street when talking stand & face officer & salute – if sitting when he approaches – rise stand at attention and salute
 - Salute to foreign royalty & officers same as British
 - Salute cenotaph is examining it

Commanding Officer – here is called Captain of the ship even though only lieutenant – an officer with rank of captain is highest ranking officer to hold a single command but any officer lower than that rank may be captain of a ship. 2 ½ stripes of lieut. com. R.C.N.V.R. – wavy stripes – half stripe used to be straight

Ranks apply to commissioned officers

Rating applies to non-commissioned officer

If officer is moved you say appointed

If rating is moved you say drafted

Petty officer – crossed anchor surmounted by crown

Chief petty office artificers do not have anything on colour to denote rate

wreath's on color are non substantive

Substantive Badge indicates rate.

Ordinary Seaman no substantive rate

Able Seaman

Leading Seaman Foul Anchor

Petty Officer – crossed foul anchors surmounted by cross

Chief Petty Officer – 3 brass buttons on cuff indicate rank

Fourth officer R.C.N. – circular curl

Third officer R.C.N.V.R. – square curl

Second officer

First officer or mate

Ratings Quarter master – take turns at the wheel

Merchant Navy Officers Cap Badge

- circle ark red & _____
- stripes have interlinked executive curl

Don't salute Merchant Navy

- allowed to wear fore & aft & rounding (jacket & trousers) if they buy their own

Requests

For a rating to make representation to his superiors regarding his own welfare the system of requests and service manner of dealing with them has been established.

Every rating has the right to bring to his superior officer

To state on injustice to which he has been subjected

To ask for counsel in personal matters

To obtain leave from ship when entitled and when exigencies (sic) exist

To see that every man receives just attention to request he must personally make it and not have other spokesmen to do so.

Request men are stated through Divisional Officer to Executive Office Divisional Officer will attend when any of her WRENS are making Requests.

She is told when to fall in by Requestmen & Requests read by Master at Arms –

Requestmen makes two paces forward to Master at Arms and Salutes – Master at Arms reads out request & then asked questions – WREN stands at attention.

Officer states whether granted or not – WREN salutes again & turns & marches smartly out.

Executive Officer may give request depending on case – but many remand the case pending investigation (holding over until necessary information obtained)

WREN placed in Captain's Requestman if request not granted.

If any complaints to be brought before commanding officer it is to be done in this manner. It is an offence to write or publicize any such criticisms.

Request form must be filled out – obtained from Regulating Office & filled in completely.

- to see Executive Officer through Divisional officer re (a) Personal Matter or Casual Payment (an advance on a Ratings following month's pay only after 15th of month)
- only in exceptional cases

Prior to annual leave casuals are granted regardless of time of month – pay day last Friday in month – weekend leave per month

- (1) Special Leave – other than normal leave – compassionate leave which is granted only in exceptional cases – or extension (sic) on

weekends because of train times.

3. To see C.O. through E.O. through D.O. re personal manner – up to Executive officer to see if request warrants approval of Commanding Officer

If asking for long weekend – 48 hrs – wording – permission to leave port from 1800 Friday for , (date) January 1944 to 1030 Monday for January 1944

Short weekend – 36 hours permission to leave port from 1300 Saturday for 2 January 1944 to 2300 Sunday 3 January 1944

Form Neatly in ink – using BLOCK letters leaving sufficient space for officers signature. Address while on leave must be included. Ships book number, mess (G- general , watch (no watch) & name (surname first) rating, type of leave – to be filled in – included name of people with whom staying with phone number.

on request of 48 hrs or over – foot note should be made if ration books needed

- hotels do not warrant ration books
- notation should be made if boarder crossing letter needed (from C.O.) – but not granted unless American money must will be provided by American
- letter from someone in states saying that accommodation will be provided

WREN proceeding on leave must be in possession of leave ticket which is picked up at regulating officer must be kept on person at all times as might be asked to produce it by police, Navy, Army or Air Force

- identified by M.P. or S.P. arm bands are entitled to ask for leave ticket
- any WREN unable to produce it may be arrested and an official inquest ensue

out of port out of 10 mile radius – out of port same process as weekend leave

if late – signal Commanding Officer or Unit Officer in charge of WRENS stating why delayed and when she will report – also must secure chit from train conductor stating reason of delay & length of delay – same for bus or boat transportation

- she must telephone ship if neglects to do so will be defaulter or adrift

for training for Merchant Navy St Marquerite's Sea Training School – H'berts N.S.

- 17 weeks

Ass't Director – Lieut. Commander Mills from N.H.Q.

Lecture – Feb 18

R.C.N.R.	}	formed 1914
R.C.N.V.R.		

Recruited in Canada 9 went overseas and fought with R.C.N.

Returned again in 1925 on a more permanent basis

R.C.N.R composed of men of Merchant Marine who have made sea their life – most have worked for Canard line, C.P.R. or had ships of own – spend holidays or leave

i.e. Captain Brock (Toronto) – who is directly responsible only to N.S.H.Q – Ottawa

Cord Directs plans for recruiting – Lieut. Winnie from W.R.C.N.S responsible to him – recruiting officers across Canada – Winnie advises on recruiting policies & categories.

V.R. Division

1. Esquimalt – B.C.
2. H.M.C.S. Naden #2
3. H.M.C.S. Discovery – Vancouver
4. H.M.C.S. Nonsuch – Edmonton
5. H.M.C.S. Techumseh – Calgary
6. H.M.C.S. Unicorn – Saskatoon
7. H.M.C.S. Queen – Regina
8. H.M.C.S. Chippawa – Winnipeg
9. H.M.C.S. Griffon – Port Arthur
10. H.M.C.S. Hunter – Windsor
11. H.M.C.S. Prevost – London
12. H.M.C.S. Star – Hamilton
13. H.M.C.S. York – Toronto
14. H.M.C.S. Cataraqui – Kingston
15. H.M.C.S. Carleton – Ottawa
16. H.M.C.S. Donnacona – Montreal



- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| | H.M.C.S. Cartier – Montreal |
| R.C.N.V.R. Divisions | 17. H.M.C.S. Montcalm – Quebec |
| | 18. H.M.C.S. Brunswicker – St. John |
| | 19. H.M.C.S. Haligonian – Halifax |
| | 20. H.M.C.S. Queen Charlotte – Charlottetown |

2 R.C.N. Barracks

Naden I – Esquimalt

Deepbrook – Nova Scotia H.M.C.S. Cornwallis

(largest naval training base in British Empire S.A. – C.W.)

- Gunnery, Supply, Cooking courses for men at Deepbrook.

H.M.C. Signal School – St. Hyacinthe Quebec

- Naval Ratings & WRENS take communications there – visual sig – coding – W.T.

H.M.C.S. Conestoga

H.M.C.S. Givenchi – Esquimalt – operational base & depot ship (depot ship either sea going ship or a shore ____)

- depot ship provides supplies

H.M.C.S. Berard – Vancouver – re

Navy Air Force Army – all at Jericho beach work in close connection with each other

H.M.C.S. Naden III – comox – secretive

H.M.C.S. Chatham – Prince Rupert is an operational base – important during Alaskan campaign

H.M.C.S. Hocheloga – Montreal operational bases for St. Lawrence

H.M.C.S. Chaleur –

H.M.C.S. Captor – defense of St. John & local operations

H.M.C.S. Stadacona – another depot ship & important
naval & convoy base

- courses for convoy plotted there

H.M.C.S. Protector – Sydney N.S. – large operational base – can't be used all year round due to weather

H.M.C.S. Fort Ramsay – Gaspé Peninsula – isolated but important

H.M.C.S. Shelbourne – Shelbourne N.S. – refitting & operational base – only small ships as shallow harbour

H.M.C.S. Avalon – St. Johns Nwfld – convoy base

- works with American & Royal Navy

H.M.C.S. Byetown – Ottawa (is a naval establishment not an R.N. division) – all naval personnel working at headquarters are on books at Byetown officer's training school

H.M.C.S. Kings – outside of Halifax – all V.R.s get O.T.C. at Kings

by electric
telephone
range to Fire Control
clock

bearing to "
captain gives
orders to engine
radar & aside
to control
fire control
League of
Nations
dock sets
range &
bearing of
each gun

orders are
given from
bridge to
gun & guns
are fired

Bridge – Brain
Range Finder – Eye
Radar & Asdic – Ears
Control Room – Heart
Voice Pipes – Arteries
Guns, Depth Charges – Fists
Torpedoes

Radar

Highly developed radio beam for purpose of
detecting surface craft & air craft

- something must be devised to render
useless submarine A.S.D.I.C. – anti - submarine
detector invention committee.

Mines

2 bolts – 1 to metal
- 1 to detonator

bound to go off if removed
bolt attached to detonator

acoustic mine – set off by sound
magnetic mine – attracted by metal

27, 28, 29, - Sun. Mon. Tues – for Mar. 2



Feb. 22/44 How a ship is Manned in Action
Shaunessy

Every man has a particular station when "action stations called"

Admiralty Fire Control Clock


- Bearing green 30 – 30 * on starboard depth charge, torpedoes & guns manned. Meanwhile man sounds for submarine. Azdic – principle of radio operating through water crystal protrudes through bottom of ship near keel – in a casing which can be turned any direction – radio beam sent out from crystal electrically through crystal into water – high pitched sound through earphones – as long as peep peep continues through water – it is lost – but if it strikes U boat it is reflected back in double peeps – double sound. Azdic finger records place of sub – measured by cutting off & staying on & going overfield of submarine can be narrowed down to direction & also speed in which traveling – engine room & officers advised – drop a pattern of depth charges – usually 10 – depth charges dropped in shape of diamond & are set to explode at different depths.

& range finding to control guns.

Every bearing in control room & from gunnery fire to Admiralty Fire Control
Star shells fired in night to get bearing

Range & bearing continually kept – given to Fire

Control Clock – until enemy ship is straddled – shells land on either side of ship



Ranks of Officers

A. Four Branches

There are 4 branches of the Royal Canadian Navy

1. R.C.N. – Royal Canadian Navy (Permanent Force)
2. R.C.N.R. – Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (Professional seaman of Merchant Marine)
3. R.C.N.V.R. – Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (Volunteers from civilian life)
4. W.R.C.N.S. – Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service

B. Rank of Officers

The ranks of the officers of the Royal Canadian Navy are indicated by stripes of gold lace worn on each sleeve of jacket and on the shoulder straps of the great coat or the white uniform.

The R.C.N. Officers wear straight stripes of gold lace; R.C.N.R. interwoven gold lace and R.C.N.V.R. "wavy" gold lace and all have an accompanying curl about the lace.

W.R.C.N.S. Officers wear straight WREN blue stripes with square instead of a curl.

C. Ranks and Lace

March 9/44 Common Navy Terms Sub Lieut. Hon. Ewan

Bulkheads are wall that divide the ship into compartments

Ceiling – deckheads

Floor – deck

Companionway – stairway between decks or ladders

Haliard – rope used for hoisting or lowering flags

Small arms – bayonets, guns, pistols

Mess Room – from rank of lieutenant to commander

Warrant Officers use Warrant Officer Mess

Padre – Champlain

Adrift – drifting aimlessly – absent from place of duty

Aye aye – yes

Delay – means secure or cancel previous order

Hail – to call

Grog money – pay instead of rum ration Added to pay

Hard line money – extra pay to make

up for hard duties

Make & mend – spare time from regular duties

Clinker knocker – stocker

Regulating Petty Officer – Crusher

Daunty – Master at Arms

Jimmy the one – First Lieut

Pidgeon – Airman

Pusser – regulations manner

Sawbones – Doctor

Tiffy – sick berth attendant

Sparker – W.T.

Swinging the lead – avoiding duty without cause

Tell it to the marines.

Jiffies – Engine Room Artificers

Stone frigate – shore establishment

Banyan days – Monday, Wed, Fri – an outing of
pleasure

Old blue lights are gunners

Bot suen (Botswain) – father of the boat – older days refer to captain of ship

Burgee – small swallow tail pendant

To flake out – to take a rest

Funnel called Charlie Noble

Clean into dirty rigs – change into dirty clothes

Bangers – sausages

Burgo – porridge

Burnt offering – any meat

Figgy duff – rice pudding

Housh ma goush – stew

Plu – tea

Coxwain – person steering ship

Jack nasty face – cook

Derrick comes from name of hangman

Ditty bag – valuables of seamen

Dogwatch – really dock watch

2 dodwatchers 1600 – 1800

1800 – 2000

Dusty Jack – supply assistants

Fiddle – wooden ledge placed around tables

Son of a gun – women brought on deck bear guns brought on child birth

Hogger heads – heavy iron bars to use with pitch

- used when arguments arose

Naval Crown – composed of sails & bows of ships

- awarded as prize to winner of sports days

A scotchman – piece of wood or metal preventing undue wear & fear

A kid – a small tub

Traditions

Motto of Navy

Shame to be he who thinks evil originated when a lady lost her garter at a ball

Wet Christmas

Show a leg – when women allowed aboard – when R.P.O

Navy Senior Service – first organized fighting force in England

Dressing ships – for holidays & celebrations

Court Martial – 1 gun salute

Grog – water from watering down rum

1811 – breaking bow over a ship – lady performs

Starboard – from starboard – using rudder over right side of ship

Port – ships unloading cargo from left

McDonald I 27 Day of Feb. 1944 FROM 0630 TO 2300 AT H.M.C.S Conestoga

TIME	WEATHER	DEVIATION	
	VISIBILITY		
REMARKS			
0630	Misty, poor visibility	Missed our ceremonial inspection of the Sunday before when we had the band	Nice to be able to sleep in a little later Sundays
0700	Strong southwest wind		Breakfast – pancakes but no corn syrup
0800	Threatening to rain		Make & mend appreciated occasionally for odd jobs
0900			DINNER
1000			Went to Galt
1100			Sublieut
1200			TREAGOLD
1300			
1400			
1500			
1600	Still damp and wet		
1700			
1800			
1900			
2000			
2100			
2200			
2300			

OFFICER OF

THE DAY

REACTIONS

Sub. Lieut Morrison	Meals & letter writings & visiting Quiet day in morning was quite a change from regular routine but appreciated on Sundays Visit in Galt was a pleasant change The presence of the director of WRCNS especially during our Basic Training gave to our Navy Spirit
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McDonald I 28 Day of Feb. 1944 FROM 0630 TO 2300 AT H.M.C.S Conestoga

TIME	WEATHER VISIBILITY	DEVIATION	REMARKS
0630	No sun, dull		Got up had breakfast
0700			Work party – scrub
0800			gangway
0900		Took turns drilling	Drill in gymnasium –
1000		us	Lecture - N.S.H.Q. – sub
1100			lieut Morrison
1200			Drill in gym
1300			Dinner – kidney pie
1400		Warned of kit	- galley duty
1500		inspection which set	Muster in gym for
1600		everyone in a dither	ceremonial inspection by
1700		Everyone trying their	commander Sinclair
1800		best to be pusser –	Adress (sic) by Cmdr.
1900		Tension until Cmdr,	Sinclair
2000		passed me by	Work party – scrub
2100		without any	gangway
2200		complaints	Tea boat
2300			Supper
		Foc'stle party with	Work party – training
		D.O & N.S & sub	office
		lieut	Contcer – Sunday &
			shopping; washed up

OFFICER OF

THE DAY	REACTIONS
Sub. Lieut Keightley	Warned of kit inspection

McDonald I 29 Day of Feb. 1944 FROM 0630 TO 2300 AT H.M.C.S Conestoga

TIME	WEATHER VISIBILITY	DEVIATION
REMARKS		
0630		Got up
0700		Breakfast – French toast
0800	Dull	but no syrup
0900		Drill
1000	Brighter – sun coming	Lecture
1100	out	P.T.
1200		Dinner
1300	Colder – west wind	Drill – marching through
1400		snow with inspection -
1500	Colder west wind	human ploughs
1600		Lecture
1700		Movie
1800		
1900	No change	
2000		
2100		
2200		
2300		

OFFICER OF

THE DAY	REACTIONS
Sub. Lieut Benson	<p>Only co interesting lecture – arouses interest in our new category</p> <p>The gap between civilian life & Navy life is quite distinct but our different lectures on the Navy have given us some Navy spirit.</p> <p>Lectures have helped to give us a Naval background thus giving us a different attitude from civilian life.</p>

TIME	WEATHER VISIBILITY	DEVIATION
REMARKS		
		Naden I Esquimalt Cornwallis St. Hyacinthe – Conestoga – Berard – Givinchi – Naden III Comax Chatham – Prince Rupert Chaleur Hocheloga Newfoundland – Avalon Stadacona – Halifax Shelbourne- Captor – St. John's Byetown – Kings Niobe – overseas Protector – Sydney Fort Ramsay



Feb. 25/44

Necessity for Strict Discipline

Disciple – willing follower – opposed to regimentation

- respect and understanding for law and order

There must be real discipline – immediate obedience to orders whatever they may be – in taking oath of allegiance you swear to Navy Discipline – obedience will become mechanical

Men on shore taught to be alert and on time so that afloat it will be easy for them.

We have pledged to take some standards as laid down for the Navy – as WRENS are an integral part of Navy.

Road bulletin board for rules – especially when at new establishments

Chain of Command

Captain of Ship

Executive Officer

Ships Officer

C.P.O.

D.O.

Leading hands

(Chapter 12)

C.O. is delegated authority to award summary punishments – but he may delegate this to Ex. O. or D.O. – WREN unit officer can

Communications

D.S.O. Director of Signal Divisions

H.M.C

signal school Nerve centre of modern warfare
at St.

Hyacinthe Signal branch is one of the largest in the
Que. Navy – co-ordinated at HSQ at Ottawa under D.W.T.
3 Branches

1. V.S – Visual Signalling

- flags & pendants – semaphore (flags by hands) lamps & signal
projector (Aldis lamp and Morse lamp)

signal by bell (fog-horn, bell, horn)

heliograph (by casting reflections with mirror)

- good eyesight & memory

- meanings of flags & pendants continually changing

1. Naval Signal flags – 84 – considered secret and most of them have at least 3 meanings
- 2 kinds of 2. International flags as they are kind flags flown by Merchant ships
- American Naval Flags
- G.S.I Signal Bosn are instructors
General Signal Yoeman at signals
Instruction

Signal Lamps

Morse Code – large projector

Wireless Telegraphists call them Bow & Arrows

2. Wireless Telegraphists W/T

Quickest method of communication

- enemy can pick up message & also figure out location of sender
- wireless can sometimes be sent out 200 miles if weather is good

W/T Silence – broken only when an enemy ship is sighted by sending message may get help

3 ways of sending when at sea

1. Broadcast method – only thing wrong not sure others are picking up message & have good reception good if ships close to shore

2. "I" method (indirect method) – to send message from # 1 station to #2 station & then # 2 station sends it back again for checking

Direct Method – call sign

- every ship in Navy has its own call signal
- ship flies its own number K225
- same in W/T - & if it hears its call sign even when near enemy they must answer has to be used fairly often

used in Harbour Work

R/T – radio telepathy

3. L/T – Line Tele Communication

All normal methods that go on land

- direct submarine cable, telephone, telegraph, radio – C.N.R. or C.P.R. telegraph used – also teletype – (typewrite messages to each other)

- switchboard operators

- submarine cable direct connection between cable ships & England – cable ships lay cables or pick up cables

Coder & Ciphers

- they work with all types of signals
- important messages put into cipher usually

by the officers – Navy uses numeral coding & ciphering

WREN Operators – short S Course – short signal course various types of signal paper

Paper used for letters:

White – general & confidential

Pink – secret

White with red border or diagonal cross – most secret

Outfit Gratuity

2 vests

2 slips for summer uniform

2 prs blackpants closed at knees

2 prs pyjamas

*2 prs white pants – closed at knee – for summer wear

*2 girdles or garter belts

2 braziers

1 dressing gown

*9 white handkerchiefs

1 sewing kit

1 show cleaning outfit

1 hair brush & 1 comb

names stenciled: jacket skirts great coats caps

Supply & Central Stores

This is in ships office

Victualling, clothing & working material

-checking completing listing

all invoice's & bills passed through here & sent to N.S.H.Q. for payment

Cash Account

- controls direct official expenditure of ship
- each month an estimate is made – sent into Receiver General of Canada – money is drawn on as needed through month – pay, hospital.
- At end of month a complete account of expenditure is sent to C.O. then who approved sent to Director of Naval Pay Accounting

In case of ship sinking Accountant must get rid of any confidential books.

Taken from regulations C.N.P.O.N.O etc.

C.N.R. – chapter 14, 15, 16,

<u>Straight Pay</u>	A	B	C	Basic
Chief WREN	3.15	2.90	2.65	2.40
P.O WREN	2.50	2.25	2.00	1.75
Ldy WREN	2.10	1.85	1.60	1.35
WREN	1.95	1.70	1.45	1.20
(over 6 mos)				
WREN	1.85	1.60	1.35	1.10
P/WREN				1.05

After rating – perhaps to Captain's Writer in C O

Artificer & Artisans get A

Allowances

Outfitting

\$3 a quarter - \$1 a month – included in monthly pay

- personal outfit

For kitting

To be paid on completion of one year's service

when traveling on duty – meal tickets, berth & if not provided money is given
– subsistence allowance if you keep receipts

Quarters Mar. 3/44

Jeeps officers under training there white hats

Victualling comes under Quarters Office if WRENS have own quarters.

Victualling based on ration issue.

H.M.C.S. Protector Sydney N.S.

Scale of Rations

Sugar 3/14 oz extra rations to those on sea duty

Tea 3/16 oz

Coffee ¼ oz

Bacon 2 oz

Cocoa ½ oz

Milk ½ pt

Eggs 12 weekly – breakfast 2 eggs without bacon

Fruit juice 3 oz

Tomato juice twice weekly

Poultry twice weekly

Writers, cooks, stewards, supply assistance responsible for meals.

Cost for 1 WREN for meals 364

Menu planned by senior Rating or Senior Cooks – signed by Quarters Officer
for approval to M.O. Accountant Officer & Commanding Officer

WRENS & heading Hands	\$56 per years
Chiefs & P.O	\$ 60 “ ”

Leave Allowance

50 cents per day – payable in advance – to eat when on shore

Lodging & Provision Allowance

\$1.25 per day – where no service accommodation

On Discharge

Plain clothes - \$65 & 1 months pay

Rehabilitation Grant

Payable after 6 mos service

Dependence Allowance

Can apply for this through ships office

- WREN would have to a lot 65 days pay

Transportation on leave

1 traveling warrant a year – after 6 mos service pay 1/3 of ordinary fare.

Ourselves

A Bloody War

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Our Sweetheart & Wives

Sat

Absent Friends

Sunday

Quarters Officer Jack of all Trades – really an executive officer

Saguenay is at Cornwallis

Menus set up 3 weeks in advance

Different messes usually under, menu

Supplies come to victualling store & thence distributed to messes

Naval dockyards are supplied – carry everything for loading ships

Supply Assistants issue grog

Mess women to every 15 ratings

Officers pay into wordroom mess 50 cents a day if costs more than 50 cents a day
to victual officers they must pay difference

3 messes

Wardroom for Senior Off

“ “ Junior Off

“ “ Warrant Off

Profits of canteen often go to dances

Captain is not wordroom mess member & can only be there is invited – sits on
right hand of mess presidents

Toasts

Our Ships at Sea

Monday

Our Ships

Tuesday

CinCCNA Commander in chief Canadian Northwest Atlantic
C.O.P.C Commander Officer Pacific Court – Vancouver
N.M.C.S Naval Member Canadian joint staff – Washington
F.O.N.F – Flag officer Newfoundland – Newfoundland
S.C.F.O. – Senior Canadian Flag Officer – London Vice Admiral Nellis

Headquarters determines policies for other commands & delegated authority to give commands

Operational Bases

Tie up 2 lectures Communications & N.S.H.Q.

2 types of establishments

1. Training establishment
2. operational base – differs from former in following ways
 - 1: Closer to the war
 - 2: Work on watches – duty both day and night
 - 3: Working with men of the Navy
 - 4: Under 2 sets of rules
standing orders of Port WREN Block
 - 5: Also under different heads naval officer at work at quarter under Divisional O & under Unit Officer

Unit Officer is under command of Captain of Ship

If you were a defaulter you would come before Divisional Officer and also Unit Officer

Captain's Defaulter s if fault is more serious you would come before Commanding Officer or Captain of Ship

Work of Operational Base

Situated all over Canada & each looks after work of own district and each one reports back to N.S.H.Q.

Keeps track of shipping & ship movements

Plot courses of ships across Atlantic

- both enemy & friendly

Know all cargoes & routes taken

Look after all shipping both coming & going within their port & sends all information

to N.S.H.Q.

N.S.H.Q. knows where every ship is where all enemy submarines & ships are
Know what convoy is sailing & when what escort ships, know how many
ships & what carries

Know the routes & why

Know what ships are damaged & sunk

Example – Stadacona – Halifax

Roughly 3 parts – Dock yard

In operational Base Quarters

Base headquarters

Naval officer in charge of Port – NOIC Communications Chief Canadian
Northwest Atlantic in charge of whole base.

Different wharves – refueling wharf, loading dock, dry dock, repair shop –
degaussing gear (makes ships nonmagnetic) – supply department.

Dept in dockyard used for testing crew to see that they are faultless – Action
Room – huge room in centre is set up model corvette bridge – bridge can
swing around

skilful array of lights can produce any time of day.

All types of ships & submarines are modeled all around the room.

Testing a crew – officers on bridge lookout at stations, crew are below under the
bridge – all departments below are connected by voice pipes.

Place in dockyard for testing out escorts of a convoy ships must work together –
worked out at tactical tables

Crews must be housed in quarters – live in blocks – WRENS have own WREN
block (Vancouver joint service blocks)

Sick or wounded looked after in hospital – fully equipped – M.O. Nursing Sisters
S.B.A. Must be clothed & fed – clothing stores – victualling stores

Nerve Centre of Whole Base

Base H.Q.

Operations Room


Intelligence

Communication

Operation – keep track of enemy movement

Room –

- responsible of sailing on convoy from port time & escort & route.



Plotters here plot course right across Atlantic – must know where ships are & what doing – which ones sank & damaged & if damaged where ship is & what enemy ship attacked.

R.C.A.F. – works here too – work on all information together – THIS IS NOT FLEET AIR ARM

Intelligence Dept.

Responsible for getting information about enemy & this is passed on to Dept of Naval Information in Ottawa & in turn this info is sent back to base to be acted upon

Obtained by agent or intercepting messages
importance of not talking about work

Communications

Are Mouth & ears of ops base – tie together the whole base – coders teletype W/T
Send out messages as well as receive them.

