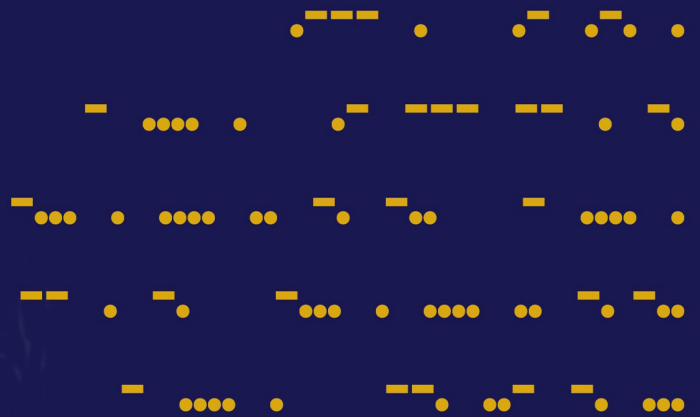


A WREN at War

Female Codebreakers of
the Royal Canadian Navy



A Wren at War



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A Wren at War



Activity #1 - Sifting Through the Evidence, Primary Document Analysis - Student Worksheet

Examining primary documents can be a challenge if you have never examined them before. A Primary Source refers to a document that reflects the first hand life experience of the person in question. They are very important for historians to learn about the past but are not always clear in what they mean. Primary document analysis requires **interpretation**. We need to figure out what this particular source is trying to say to us.

When first looking at the document, you want to try to identify what kind of document it is; such as certificates, letters, poems, photographs, newspaper articles, etc and try to discover as much information about the person as possible. Look for dates, places, people's names, events to build a biographical sketch of the person's life.

This file tells the story of Isabel McDonald, a member of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS, or Wrens) during World War II. Your task is to find out as much as you can about her and her service. The following questions have been prepared to provide you with an idea of what researchers look for. Answer them and you will have an idea of what Wren McDonald's service was like.

Length: 1-2 class periods

Primary Document Analysis

When engaging with a primary document it is important to remember a number of key questions:

1. What kind of document is it?

- a. Is it a letter?
- b. Is it a photograph?
- c. Is it a certificate?
- d. Is it a newspaper article?
- e. Is it an essay?
- f. Is it a government document?

2. What are its parts?

- a. Is there an author?
- b. Is there a date?
- c. Are there locations mentioned?
- d. Who is mentioned within the document?

3. Time to Analyze

- a. What is it talking about?
- b. Can you summarize in your own words the content in the document?
- c. Can you explain why it was written?
- d. What is the historical context? Or What was happening at that time in history?



Assignment: For this exercise, choose two documents from your folder and perform an analysis of those documents using the questions above.

| Primary Document Name | What Kind of Document? | Name the Parts | Analysis |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

Now that you understand how to interpret a primary document, use this knowledge to answer the Research Questions about Isabel McDonald's service using all the documents in your folder.

Assignment: Along with the other members of your group, look through and examine the Primary Source Documents & Materials in this file. Read the following questions, and answer them accordingly. Be sure to note the source of your answers.

Fill Out Your Answers in this Table

| Question | Answer | Source |
|--|--------|--------|
| Who was Wren McDonald (Official Number, Rate, Given Names) | | |
| What did she look like? (physical description) | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| When was she born? | | |
| Where was she from? | | |
| How old was Wren McDonald when she enlisted? | | |
| Was she employed prior to enlistment? If so, what did she do? | | |
| When did she officially enlist in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (ie Date of Attestation)? What else did she have to do on this particular date? | | |
| When and where did she serve her country? (dates, places, locations) Be Specific | | |
| When and where did Wren McDonald request to go on leave? | | |
| What kind of leave did she request? A Long Weekend or a Short weekend | | |
| What was the daily rate of pay for Probationary Wrens? Could this amount increase? If so, for what reason? | | |
| What was she instructed to bring with her when she reported for training? | | |
| On which date did her pay begin? | | |
| When and where was she required to report for training as a Probationary Wren? | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| On which date did she complete her Telegraphist Examination? | | |
| On what topics was she tested? What was the required grade? What grade did she receive? | | |
| What special qualification did she earn? | | |
| Why was her Certificate of Service so important? | | |
| What was the purpose of St Hyacinthe (what kind of training did they provide?) | | |
| Examine nominal list of the Wrens who served at Gordon Head Special Wireless Telegraphy (W/T) station. How many Wrens came from each province? Make a chart. How many Wrens came from Kingston ON (include names and addresses). | | |
| According to Wren McDonald's Basic Training Notes, what does the salute signify? | | |
| What is Morale and why is it important to the military? | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Which areas of the ship are referred to as the following a) Brain, b) Eye, c) Ears, d) Heart, e) Arteries, f) Fists | | |
| What are the four branches of the Royal Canadian Navy? | | |
| In her personal log, Wren McDonald uses the phrase "Make and Mend". What does she mean by this? | | |
| According to her Basic Training notes, there are 3 branches (or types) of Communication in the Navy. What are they? Give examples of each. | | |
| What is the daily scale of rations per Wren (including weekly specialty items)? | | |
| How much did it cost to feed a Wren per day? | | |
| List the traditional Naval toasts for each day of the week? | | |
| Did Wren McDonald serve on the high seas? | | |
| Upon Discharge and demobilization did she receive a | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| rehabilitation grant? If so, how much did she receive? | | |
| When and where was Wren McDonald officially discharged (provide date and location)? | | |
| Who designed Jenny the Wren Statue? | | |
| Where was the statue erected and when was it unveiled? | | |

A Wren at War



Activity #2: Dits and Dahs! Learning Morse Code - Student Handout

For this activity you will be given the opportunity to compare two forms of Morse code; International/Standard Morse code used by the Allies in World War II and Wabun (Kana) code used by the Japanese. You will listen to clip(s) of Morse code and decipher provided message(s), then you will decode the message below using the Morse alphabet and finally you will get to send your own Morse messages using flashlights.

LEARN MORSE CODE IN ONE MINUTE!

This is a code listening tool.

Place your pencil where it says **START** and listen to Morse code.

Move down and to the right every time you hear a **DIT** (a dot).

Move down and to the left every time you hear a **DAH** (a dash).

Here's an example:

You hear **DAH DIT DIT**, which is a **dash** then **dot** then **dot**.

You start at **START** and hear a **DAH** then move **DOWN** and **LEFT** to the **T** and then you hear a **DIT** so you move down and **RIGHT** to the **N** and then you hear another **DIT** so you move **DOWN** and **RIGHT** again and land on the **D**.

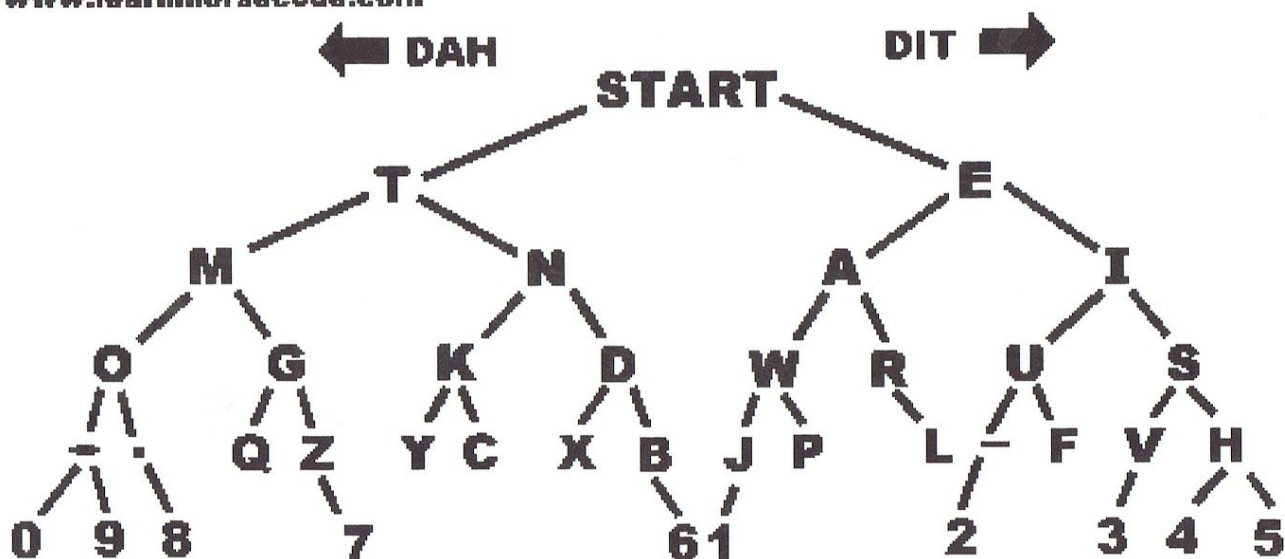
You then write down the letter **D** on your code copy paper and jump back to **START** waiting for your next letter.

The key to learning the code is hearing it and comprehending it while you hear it. The only way to get there is to practice 10 minutes a day.

Listen to code tapes or computer practice code while tracing out this chart and you will find yourself writing down the letters in no time at all without the aid of the chart.

The chart brings repetition together with recognition, which you don't get from any other type of code practice aid.

www.learnmorsecode.com



Can You Decode the Morse Message?

Follow the Morse Code Alphabet to decipher the message

The slashes indicate a break between the letters and the start and finish of a word

/ - / / . /

/ -- / . / ... / ... / .- / --. / . /

/ -- / ..- / ... / - /

/ --. / . / - /

/ - / / .- / -- / ..- / --. / /

A Wren at War



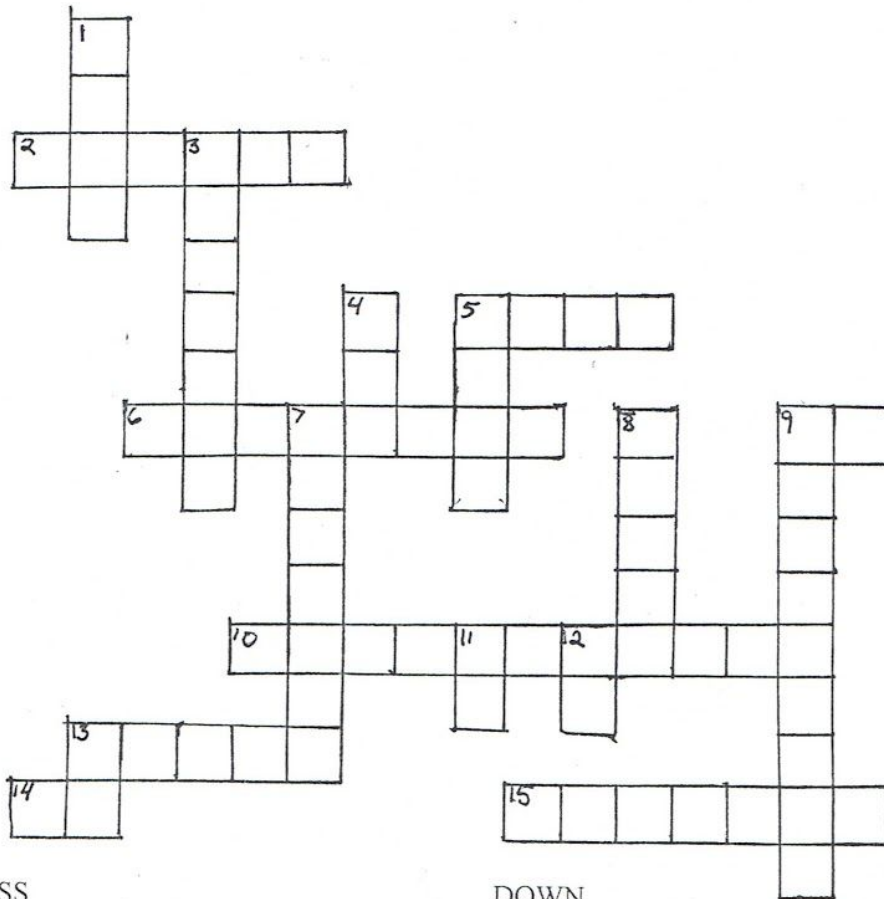
Activity #3 - Talking the Talk: War Time Vocabulary - Student Worksheet

| Word | Noun/ Verb | Definition |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| D/F | | |
| Rate | | |
| Rank | | |
| Draft | | |
| Appoint | | |
| Grog | | |
| Victual | | |
| S.O. | | |
| W/T(K) | | |
| Katakana | | |
| Destroyer | | |
| Minesweeper | | |
| Cruiser | | |
| Convoy | | |
| Leave | | |
| C.O. | | |
| E.O. | | |
| D.O. | | |



Crossword Activity

Talking the Talk: World War Vocabulary



ACROSS

- 2 A group, as of ships or motor vehicles, traveling together with a protective escort or for safety or convenience
 5 A naval rank that is not conferred by commission or warrant
 6 Form of Japanese syllabic writing
 9 Directional Finding
 10 A ship equipped for detecting, destroying, removing, or neutralizing explosive marine mines
 13 To conscript for military service
 14 Commanding Officer
 15 One of a class of fast warships of medium tonnage with a long cruising radius and less armor and firepower than a battleship

DOWN

- 1 Alcoholic liquor
 3 To supply with food
 4 Wireless Telegraphist (Kana)
 5 A naval rank that is conferred by commission or warrant
 7 To name officially, refers to the reassignment of an officer
 8 "Vacation" time
 9 A small, fast, highly maneuverable warship armed with guns, torpedoes, depth charges, and guided missiles
 11 Special Operations
 12 Executive Officer
 13 Divisional Officer

A Wren at War



Annex A - Primary Documents

(excluding *Wren McDonald's Basic Training Instructions and Class Notes*)



A Wren at War



WOMEN'S ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL SERVICE

CERTIFICATE OF THE SERVICE OF

WNV 8
25M-8-43 (1698)
N.S. 815-25-8

NAME McDONALD, Isobel May OFFICIAL No. W-4133

Date of Birth 26 August, 1925 Nearest known Relative or Friend
(To be noted in pencil)
Place of Birth North Bay, Ontario
Religious Denomination United Church Relationship Mother
Home Address North Bay, Ontario Name Mrs. Edna M. McDonald
Occupation prior to Enlistment School Teacher Address 88 Jane St.
North Bay
Ontario

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY

| Height | | Colour of | | | Scars, Marks, etc. |
|--------|-------|--------------|------|------------|------------------------------|
| Ft. | Ins. | Hair | Eyes | Complexion | |
| 5 | 6 1/2 | Medium Brown | Blue | Fair | Mole on lower lid of rt. eye |

Date of Attestation 10 September, 1943
Date of commencement of pay 31 January, 1944

| Establishment | Substantive Rate | Non-Substantive Rate | From | To | Cause of Discharge |
|--|------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| H.M.C.S. Conestoga | Prob. Wren | | 31 Jan '44 | 29 Feb '44 | |
| " " | Wren | Gen. Duty | 1 Mar '44 | 16 Mar '44 | |
| H.M.C.S. St. Hyacinthe | " " | " " | 17 Mar '44 | 19 Oct '44 | |
| " " | Wren Tel. | S.O. (W) | 20 Oct '44 | 20 Oct '44 | |
| H.M.C.S. GUYENEX | " " | " " | 21 Oct '44 | 31 Oct '45 | |
| Wren | " " | " " | 1 Nov '45 | 22 Nov '45 | |
| Y.P.R. | " " | " " | 23 Nov '45 | 12 Dec '45 | Demobilized |
| Discharged to shore & demobilized to date 12 Dec '45 | | | | | |
| Authority: "Criminal" R.C. 60080 21 Mar '45 | | | | | |
| Rehabilitation Grant Paid | | | | | |
| Has 17 1/2 Service on the High Seas | | | | | |
| #10000 P.C.G. Paid | | | | | |



ASSESSMENT OF CHARACTER AND EFFICIENCY.—To be made by both the Commanding Officer of the Establishment and the W.R.C.N.S. Unit Officer in accordance with K.R. & A.I. Arts. 605 and 607.

[illegible]

MEDALS, DECORATIONS, ETC.

[illegible][illegible]

Cause of Discharge from Service.

Signature of Rating on Discharge



Department of National Defence

Naval Service

W.R.C.N.S. Recruiting Office,
120 Wellington St. W.,
Toronto, Ontario.

1st September 1943

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

N.S. YW-1-M.

Dear Madam:

With reference to your application for entry into the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, a letter went forward to you dated 24th August, 1943 advising you that we had written Naval Service Headquarters for your relevant papers.

These papers have been received and you are requested to report at this office, 120 Wellington Street, West, for an interview and medical examination on Friday, 10th September at 8:30 a.m.

If this date should be unsuitable for you, kindly advise us as soon as possible.

Enclosed is a travel warrant from North Bay to Toronto.

Kindly bring with you your birth certificate.

Yours very truly,

Marion Baxter

.....
(Marion Baxter)
Sub. Lieut. W.R.C.N.S.
Recruiting Officer.

Miss Isabel McDonald,
88 Jane Street,
North Bay, Ontario.

MB/pep
Encl. 1

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
NAVAL SERVICE

Prob. Wren Isabel May McDonald,
88 Jane Street,
NORTH BAY, Ontario.

H.M.C.S. "YORK"
Automotive Building,
Exhibition Grounds,
Toronto, Ontario.
10th January, 1944.

YW - 7

MEMORANDUM:

You are instructed to report to R.C.N.V.R. Barracks at the above address on Wednesday, 2nd Feb. 1944 for medical recheck and travelling instructions.

2. Subject to satisfactory medical recheck, you will be required to report for training as Probationary Wren Wireless Telegraphist (S.Q.) on Thursday, 3rd February 1944 to the Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. "CONESTOGA", Galt, Ontario.

3. The daily rate of pay for Probationary Wrens is \$1.05. After basic training, pay will be increased to \$1.10 per day. Upon completion of any extension training which may be necessary, Wrens may be given additional proficiency pay in the selected category in accordance with Canadian Wren Regulations.

4. Date of commencement of pay will be 31st January 1944.

5. You will probably be required to stay in the Training Depot for one month. Upon completion of your training, you must be prepared to proceed direct from the Depot to the Establishment to which you will be drafted.

6. Uniform will be issued as soon as possible. No underclothing is provided, as a grant of \$15.00 is given in lieu, at the end of basic training. You should bring with you serviceable underclothing and enough civilian clothes to last you for one week. The following list is for your guidance:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 coat (preferably a raincoat) | 1 pr. bedroom slippers |
| 1 suit and dress or 2 dresses | 1 dressing gown |
| 2 nightdresses or pyjamas | 1 hat |
| 2 prs. bloomers, closed at the knee | Toilet requisites and soap |
| 1 pr. low-heeled walking shoes | Clothes pins |
| Shoe cleaning kit (black and white) | Name tapes |
| Drinking glass (preferably plastic) | Collar studs |
| Sewing Kit | |
| Money Belt | |

(Bathing Costumes may be brought. Other sportswear is issued at the Training Establishment for use in Physical Training.)

Only TWO suitcases are permitted, one of which should be reserved for the uniform issued at the Training Depot.

Jewellery is not to be brought to the Training Establishment other than watches, identification bracelets, tie pins and cuff links, if desired.

7. Large supplies of plain clothes, mascots, pictures, etc. are a nuisance as Wrens have to move quickly and often and should not be burdened with possessions.

8. You are required to bring your civilian Ration Book.

9. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO REPORT AT WRONS RECRUITING OFFICE, 120 WELLINGTON ST. WEST (COR. OF YORK ST.) IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL IN TORONTO ON TUESDAY A.M. 1st FEBRUARY. YOU WILL THEN REPORT TO CHRISTIE ST. HOSPITAL FOR X-RAY RECHECK AS X-RAYS ARE ONLY VALID FOR 3 MONTHS. IF OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION IS REQ'D ADVISE US IMMEDIATELY, AT 120 WELLINGTON ST. W., TORONTO. Commanding Officer R.C.N.V.R. Division.

10. PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED TRAVEL WARRANT AND X-RAY CHIT.

M. S. Baxter Lieut
WRONS

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
NAVAL SERVICE

H.M.C.S. "YORK"
Automotive Building
Exhibition Park
Toronto, Ontario

REGISTERED MAIL

31st December 1945

FILE: ND TO W.4133

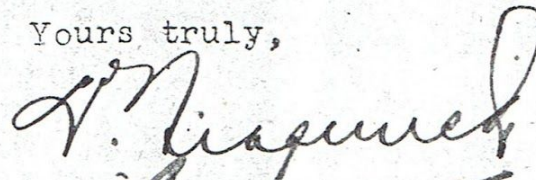
Miss Isobel McDonald,
88 Jane Street,
North Bay, Ontario.

Dear ~~Sir~~: MADAM

With reference to your discharge from the Naval
Service, enclosed herewith your

Certificate of Service,
Wireless History Sheet.

Yours truly,



(G. H. McCrimmon)
Commander, R.C.N.V.R.
COMMANDING OFFICER

ENCL.

H.M.C.S. "YORK"
Automotive Building - Exhibition Grounds

INSTRUCTIONS TO RATINGS DISCHARGED FROM H.M.C.S. "YORK"

Your Certificate of Service, with discharge endorsed thereon, is your discharge paper from the Naval Service. It is essential therefore, that great care be taken of this document, as it will undoubtedly be required by you in the future when seeking employment. Certificate of Service should never pass out of your possession.

2. You are warned that any alterations or erasures to Certificate of Service (Naval Discharge Certificate) constitutes a Criminal Offence punishable by law.

3. Application for permanent National Registration Card is to be made to the Chief Registrar for Canada, Department of National Defence, Ottawa. However, a temporary Registration Card may be obtained from any Post Office by proving discharge from Naval Service by presenting Certificate of Service.

4. A civilian Ration Book will be issued you on presenting Certificate of Service to your local Ration Administration Office, Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

5. Ratings honourably discharged from the Naval Service are permitted to wear their Naval uniform for a period of thirty days from date of discharge only, which period will be evidenced by a certificate issued from Discharge Office, H.M.C.S. "YORK", showing expiration date.

6. Discharged ratings are permitted to wear Naval Uniforms while attending Memorial Service Celebrations, Service Funerals, and functions commemorating events in past wars provided they first obtain permission to do so from the Naval Establishment nearest their home.

7. In event of residential address given at time of discharge, being changed, Naval Service Headquarters should be advised so that General Service Button, Medals, etc., (if entitled) may be forwarded to you when available.

COLLINGWOOD

REQUEST FORM

Number Ship's Book W 152-W-4133

Mess G Watch.....Duty.....

Name McDONALD ISABEL

Rating P/WREN Badges.....

Conduct.....Leave.....

REQUEST:— TO SEE THE EXECUTIVE
OFFICER THROUGH THE
DIVISIONAL OFFICER RE:
PERMISSION TO LEAVE PORT
FROM 1300 SATURDAY, 11 MARCH
1944, TO 2300 SUNDAY, 12 MARCH
1944.

ADDRESS WHILST ON LEAVE:—
MISS SHIRLEY CRAIG,
8177 AMERICAN AVE,
DETROIT, MICH.

C.N.S. 2421
506M-7-43 (1039)
H.Q. 815-9-2421



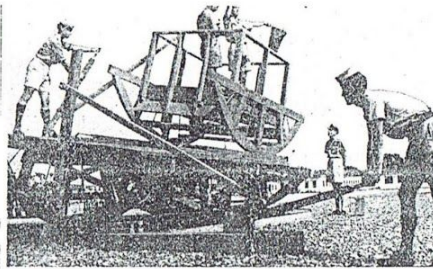
Lt. Cmdr. W. B. MacLean,
Toronto, is headmaster.



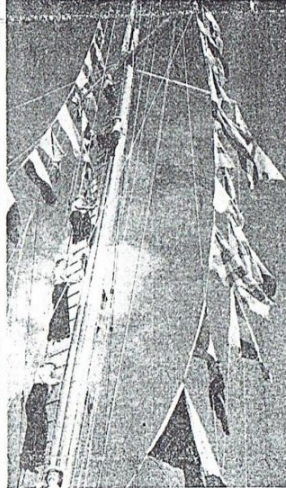
P.O. J. C. Johnston,
Toronto, is petty officer at alert
shore patrol.



CPO. Ernest Alinder,
Vancouver, with Toronto Signal School
Orchestra, conducts band.



This queer contraption is officially known as the "rolling bridge," but ratings at HMCS St. Hyacinthe, former army camp at St. Hyacinthe, Que., now one of the world's biggest signal schools, call it the "rocking horse." Its function is to train signalmen in sending semaphore messages steadily despite pitching and rolling of ship.



Wrens wearing bell-bottomed trousers swarm up railings of mast. From top: Nancy Lee and Rosalind Rindesky, both of Westmount; Pat Smith, Oakville; Margaret Fashen, Toronto; Margaret MacLay, Vancouver; Alice Entwistle, London.

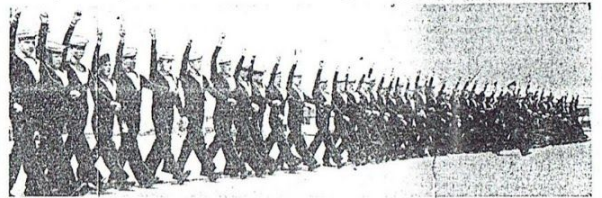


Capt. A. F. McGregor,
in command of signal school,
joined Canadian Navy in 1911.

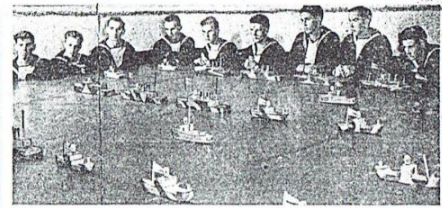


Lieut. Jeanne Dunlop,
Toronto, is unit officer in charge
of all Wrens.

Army Camp Transformed Into Big Navy Signal School



Here each rating represents a ship in a flotilla or squadron and upraised right hand indicates that the "admiral" has hoisted a flag indicating a turn and that the signal is understood.



At huge table with its models of merchant ships and escort vessels, young signalmen learn how to route messages through a convoy. Mounted on each model is a light, flashed in "blinker" code by a key below edge of table.

The Globe and Mail

The PRESTON REPORTER

14 The Evening Reporter, Tuesday, October 10, 1972

Jenny The Wren Is Unveiled At Queen's Square Location

By ROY FRANCIS
Reporter-Staff Writer

Jenny the Wren — the "last" in a long line of naval service girls — returned to Galt on Sunday and she will stand, in slim and slender bronze, gazing across Queen's Square for many years. Jenny, the statue, has finally come home to her full honors.

During the last war, between 1942-45, over 15,000 young women from across Canada poured into Galt for their basic training at HMCS "Conestoga" (first HMCS Bytown), then fanned out again to do their utmost for their nation. This past weekend, nearly 600 of those proud vets of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service unveiled the statue.

Created by Toronto sculptress Frances Gage, who was herself a Wren (WRCNS), serving here, the five-foot green bronze statue was cast in Britain, arrived here a few days ago. A host of top civic, Wren and naval dignitaries attended the unveiling at 2 p.m. this past Sunday. Miss Gage and well-known Isabel Macneill, OC, OBE, CM, the longtime commander of "Conestoga" performed the actual unveiling.

Sunlight, with cool breezes, marked the unveiling, attended by over 3,000 naval bandmen, SW Naval vets, Wrens and the public. As the cloth slipped away, a delighted "oh" spread through the crowd. As Mrs. Adelaide Sinclair, OC, OBE, LLD, WRCNS director from Ottawa, stated, "Jenny today reminds us all of the way we looked then."

RIOTOUS WEEKEND

The unveiling marked the end of a riotous, happy weekend for the Wrens, who flocked to Galt for the celebrations. They were at various motels, hotels, with friends, then attended a gala dinner-dance at the Duncan McIntosh Centre on Saturday

night. Earlier Sunday, busloads of them visited Grand View school (once known as Conestoga).

At 1:30 p.m. Sunday, a parade led by the Royal Naval Cadet Corps Band, from the HMCS "Wasp" to Kitchener, moved to the square from the Legion.

Prior to the service at the south side of the library, where Jenny stands, Miss Anne Schreiber, Galt, placed a wreath at the Galt cenotaph for the ex-members of the WRCNS, while department of veterans affairs district director S. E. Atkinson placed one on behalf of the government.

As the majority of the crowd waited, 100 yards away, the cenotaph contingent stood at attention, then the Last Post, two-minute silence and Reveille were played. It was a moving moment. Then came the statue dedication, carried out by Dr. T. T. Faichney, who had been the Wrens' padre.

Present on a raised dais were Misses Macneill, Gage and Mrs. Sinclair, also MP Max Saltzman, Mr. Atkinson, Royal Canadian Naval Association president T. Bradley, Mayor Gordon Rouse, Dr. Faichney, also Cmdr. F. R. Berchem (HMCS York commander) and A-Cmdr. P. J. Lee (HMCS Star commander). Several other high-ranking RCN officers were also watching the event.

WRENS OF TODAY

At either side of Jenny were smart, five-member color guards of today's Wrens, clad in blue, white and black. In front was a score of wartime Wrens in grey and blue, with white-blue fairs. There was also a contingent of the SW Naval Veterans' Association on parade.

"I give you words of welcome, as you celebrate today," stated Rev. Faichney, after delivering the solemn Naval Prayer. "You are our dear girls of 30 years ago. I am pleased to see as you were, that you are keeping that young and youthful outlook as when at Conestoga."

The doubting Thomases did not prevail — and we did erect this statue in Galt, where it should be," said Mrs. Sinclair, as she spoke outdoors to the crowd. "This is a memorable day." She noted the idea for Jenny had grown from a reunion decision at Victoria, B.C., a year ago.

"Many would not have believed the hundreds who turned out this weekend. It all made us feel younger," she added, noting the 300 at the Saturday banquet, the over 600 who had come to Galt for the event.

"Jenny has a home here in

Galt, where all our Wrens endured basic training — but where they also gained great kindness and hospitality as lonely young girls away from home," said Mrs. Sinclair.

She spoke of the "invasion" of assorted females into Galt in 1942, then for the next three years. She added recollections, one example, the kind Galt families who allowed girls to come and wash their hair, as the Conestoga water was "too hard." "Today as we all come back, we find the hospitality and kindness here is just the same."

COMMENDS MAYOR

"I cannot commend too highly the co-operation of Mayor Rouse, his council, others in the parks board, who made this area available to us," she stated, amid applause. She also commended Galt area ex-Wrens Mrs. James Flavelle, Anne Schreiber, Ethel Leadbetter, Elizabeth Wells, who had worked as a local committee to organize the reunion and unveiling.

"And I must thank the Little Theatre group, who did perform so marvellously at the dinner, with their nostalgic 'Jenny, Come Back Where You Belong'." she added. "On behalf of all the Wrens, I ask Mayor Rouse to accept a vote of thanks from us and this statue — which commemorates one of the richest experiences of our lives."

Then, amid applause, Miss Macneill and Miss Gage went on to unveil the statue, a brilliant and heart-warming piece of work.

Said Miss Macneill, in her familiar, clipped tones, "I recall a day nearly 30 years ago, when the first draft left Galt to go to their tasks. It is so appropriate that this place was selected as the last resting place — for the last Wren." David Barrie went on to chime the majestic Central Church bells and the unveiling was carried out.

"I am very happy you returned to Galt, happy I was able to work with your committee," said Mayor Rouse. "Your contribution in character, quality and service as Wrens, and bestowed on our nation was great."

CITY PRIVILEGED

"We reaped the benefits of your dedication, now we do again as you keep that service alive with Jenny," said the mayor. "The statue symbolizes one of the great roles played in war by women. We in Galt were privileged to serve as your training area."

"I am pleased to accept this statue on behalf of Galt — and to grant to you all the freedom of the city," stated Mayor Rouse. "We hope you may see fit to return here for your next reunion."

With some amusement, director Atkinson noted the Wrens on parade carried their "self-inflicted" wounds from the night before. This drew a wave of laughter. In more serious vein, he then brought the best regards of the DVA minister, the government, mentioned many of those including Wren Lil Rowe, who had worked in Toronto and here for the statue.

"The department gave her the first training as a sculptor — the money was well spent," said Mr. Atkinson, thanking Miss Gage for her work. "And, it is fitting this takes place on Thanksgiving, as many citizens should reflect on what they should be thankful for." He spoke of freedom, rights, rejection of hunger and oppression. "These did not just happen as God chose, your forefathers and mothers (as the Wrens) gave of themselves in sacrifice, without reservation, to gain them."

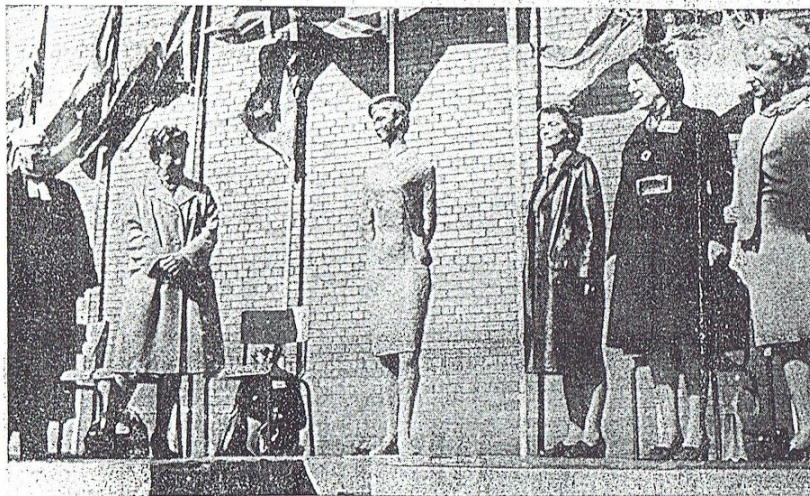
"You all as Wrens made a sacrifice when you joined The Silent Service," said Mr. Atkinson, drawing a widespread chuckle from the crowd. He also urged that the Wrens develop an official history. "If you do not, the knowledge of your contribution will die with your generation."

TRACES HISTORY

Mr. Atkinson then traced the story of the Wrens, starting in October, 1942, when the first ones were mobilized for training. He spoke of Miss Macneill, the "first woman" in the Canadian navy to command a "ship," even if it was on land. And he gave a long list of jobs that Wrens had performed in wartime, sometimes in battle zones, for their country.

He reminded them of the words of Princess Alice, when she visited Wrens in Galt many years ago. "I urge you, who serve to continue to serve, after the war, as citizens. There is this need for initiative among women as leaders, they will be needed in our country."

"You were the cream of young Canadian women, you were crowned with glory during the war," said Dr. Faichney, after Miss Macneill delivered the Scripture lesson, as she often did during the war at Conestoga. "In many ways, the impact of Jenny Wren on our country was the impact of Miss Macneill herself," he stated.



DR. T. T. FAICHNEY, ISABEL MACNEILL, JENNY WREN, FRANCES GAGE, LIL ROWE AND MARGARET JOHNSTON AT UNVEILING



CROWDS OF WRENS, CITIZENS WATCH CEREMONIES

Three buildings off Hespeler Road served as the training base for Canada's Wrens during the Second World War. The base was the country's only land-commissioned naval vessel.

By RIC AMENT
Staff Writer



The past revisited

Women of the navy will never forget Galt training 'ship'

Though it is landlocked hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean and has never fired a shot in anger, a former Canadian warship still stands proudly in the centre of Cambridge.

The red brick buildings located behind the Waterloo regional police detachment office on Hespeler Road comprise the only land-commissioned naval vessel in Canada — the HMCS Conestoga.

Known as the "stunt frigate", the

Conestoga is currently home to Youth With A Mission, but is remembered by thousands of women as the ship upon which they had their basic training for the Wrens (Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service) during the Second World War.

This weekend memories of the Conestoga will be revived when some 1,000 Wrens gather here tomorrow for their ninth reunion. Twenty-five bus loads of Wrens are scheduled to arrive at the Armoury on Ainslie Street

at 10:30 a.m. A parade to the statue of Wrens attending from Britain and the affectionately known as "Denny" (U.S. Navy member) will follow.

Library commemorating the Wrens member who was trained aboard the Conestoga — Wrens, will follow.

"They're coming back here to see the place where they were trained in the former new themselves," said local resident.

Daisy Flavell, 64, a former Wren, then transferred to the former naval bases in Canada and overseas.

reber, 64, is organizing the parade. They performed the duties that they would normally have carried.

Following an ecumenical service at the station, the Wrens will move to view. Their jobs included working as cooks, communicators, sick bay attendants, mail sorters and drivers.

made by former Commander Isabel MacNeill, the only woman to command a Canadian warship in 1942.

The reunion began Thursday at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto with buses throughout Canada during the

war.

Miss Schreiber was among the 100 Wrens who were transferred overseas during the war. She worked in Glasgow, Scotland and London, England as a driver of vehicles varying from 1,500-weight Bedford transport trucks to garbage trucks and staff cars. On one occasion, she drove Princess Margaret and the future Queen Elizabeth to Glasgow.

"We drove an average of 500 miles a day," she said, "mostly within a 20-mile radius."

As an ambulance driver in London, MacNeill, the only woman to command a Canadian warship in 1942, and destruction left in the aftermath of German bombings.

"You always heard them (bombs) before they hit, and you used to run," she recalls.

Before serving the war effort, the Wrens endured strict training on the HMCS Conestoga in Galt.

Mrs. Flavell, then 23, and Miss Schreiber, then 21, can still recall the lectures they received on naval history, the navy's rules and regulations and the constant drills and parades.

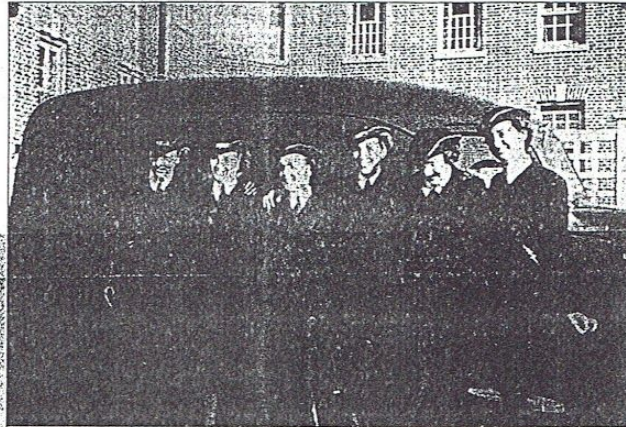
"It was very arduous and strict discipline, learning the traditions of the navy," said Mrs. Flavell. "It was excellent discipline. It taught us for life, it taught us respect."

Why did they join?

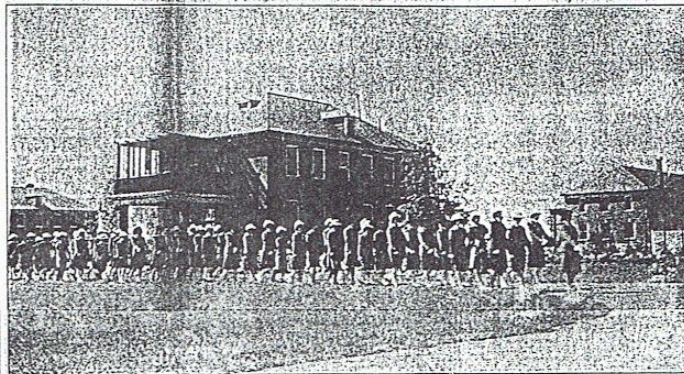
"Your friends were going and you felt you should do something for your country," said Miss Schreiber.



A Wren standing beside a buoy bearing the ship's name.



Anna Schreiber, second from left, hamming it up with friends.



Drills were part of the strict training on the Galt base.



Nominal List

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| E.J. ADAMSON | 345 YALE AVE WINNIPEG MAN |
| * J.H. ALEXANDER | 929 WELLINGTON ST LONDON ONT |
| L.E. ARMSTRONG | 210 NORTH NORAH ST FORT WILLIAM ONT |
| M.J. ARNOLD | 81 WESTERN AVE OTTAWA ONT |
| * M.L. ASHTON | SOMME SASKATCHEWAN <i>420 Arlington St Winnipeg</i> |
| A.C. BAKER | MONTREAL QUE. |
| M. BERRYMAN | SALISBURY WEST COUNTY N.B. |
| PL BROCK | 157 WILLINGTON CRESCENT WINNIPEG MAN |
| J.C. BRADSHAW | YARMOUTH N.S. |
| A.B. BULL | 589 STRADBROOKE AVE MAN |
| J.J. CALVERT | DORCHESTER ONT |
| S.L. CARLING | 114 ACACIA RD ROCKLIFF E OTTAWA ONT |
| M.J. CARR | 230 MERTON ST TORONTO ONT |
| * E.J. CHANTLER | 34 BENSON AVE TORONTO ONT |
| S. CHAPMAN | 30 HOWARD ST TORONTO ONT |
| J.M. DHEATLEY | 83 NEWTON AVE HAMILTON ONT |
| * M.G. CRUIKSHANK | WINGHAM ONT |
| D.B. COOKMAN | 235 WEST BROCK ST FORT WILLIAM ONT |
| M.S. DION | 2 FOURTH AVE OTTAWA ONT. |
| B. DREW BROOK | 119 CRESCENT RD TORONTO ONT |
| M.A. CUNNINGHAM | WILLINGTON ST BOWMANVILLE ONT |
| * M.A. DRISCOLL | ARTHUR ONT |
| E.M. EATON | 41 9th ST SHAWINIGAN FALLS QUE |
| F.C. FABAS | 643 CHAMPAGNEUR AVE OUTREMONT MON QUE |
| A.B. FOSTER | 66 GLENGOWAN AVE TORONTO ONT. |
| * I.G. FOWDS | HASTINGS ONT |
| F.M. GAGE | 471 ATHOL ST EAST OSHAWA ONT |
| E.H. GARSIDE | 2967 WEST 42ND AVE VANCOUVER B.C. |
| A.F. GEDDES | BOX 1572 PICTON ONT |
| * B.M. GRANT (MRS K.C. CORBETT) | 115 GORE ST KINGSTON ONT |
| P.E. GROOM | 1205 FORT ST APT 36 MONTREAL QUE |
| H. HAMILTON | 303 ALBERT ST KINGSTON ONT |
| R.H. HAMILTON | 631 KINGS ST WEST KITCHENER ONT |
| M.E. HIGHAM | ASSINIBOIA SASKATCHEWAN |
| H.V. HUES | SERANS SASKATCHEWAN |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| E.F. HUSTLER (MRS) | 11149 91st AVE EDMONTON ALTA |
| E. IRVINE | 6609 GARNIER ST. MONTREAL QUE |
| G.M. JARDINE | WINNIPG |
| D.N. JEFFERSON | STE. 33 RITZ APARTMENTS WINNIPEG MAN |
| N.E. KINGSTON | 324 LAURIER AVE QUEBEC P.Q. |
| J. KINNIN | 233 ^{1/2} LILLIAN ST. WINDSOR ONT. |
| M.E. LENNOX | 2110 EAST 27th AVE VANCOUVER B.C. |
| S.J. LEWIS | PORTNEUF P.Q. |
| P. LESSER | 76 CREMAZIE ST. XXXXXXXXXX QUEBEC P.Q. |
| S.J. LEY | 159 COOK ST VICTORIA B.C. |
| F.M. MILLER (GAGE) | 3762 WEST 24th AVE VANCOUVER B.C. |
| S.J. LEGGETT | LACHUTE MILLS LACHUTE QUEBEC. |
| J.N. MACARIO | 3315 RIDGEWOOD RD. MONTREAL 25 ^{Ave} apt 6 |
| J.M. MACKAY | ROTHESAY NEW BRUNSWICK |
| A.S. MARTIN | 154 HIGHLAND AVE MONTCLAIR N.J. U.S.A. |
| J.A. MAUBACK | 308 DRIVEWAY OTTAWA ONTARIO. |
| I. MC DONALD | 88 JANE STREET NORTH BAY ONTARIO. |
| J.B. MC FARREN | 22 BINSARTH RD. TORONTO ONTARIO. |
| S. MC KEOWN | 734 UPPER BELMONT WESTMOUNT QUE. |
| V.A. MILLER | XXXXXX R.F.D. NEWINGTON ONTARIO. |
| B.A. MORRISON | 415 2nd AVE BESSERER ST. OTTAWA ONT. |
| D. MORRISON | 6287 2nd AVE ROSEMOUNT MONTREAL QUE. |
| M. NIXON | 2963 HAIG AVE LONGUE POINTE MONT REAL |
| R. OLIVE | 194 BREEZEHILL AVE. OTTAWA ONT. |
| A. PLUNKETT | 5 KILLARNEY RD. TORONTO ONTARIO. |
| J.M. RAMSDEN | 86 MARLOWE CRESCENT OTTAWA ONT. |
| M.E. REILLEY | 120 EASTON BE MONTREAL WEST QUE. |
| D.E. ROBERTSON | 47 GOLFDALE RD. TORONTO ONT. HU 8436 |
| MA. ARUSSELL | 143 AGNES ST. OSHAWA ONT. |
| J.M. RUSSELL | 126 LEWIS AVE WESTMOUNT QUE. |
| A. RUTHERFORD | LAWSON SASKATCHEWAN |
| E.J. RUTTER | 14401 90th ABE EDMONTON ALTA |
| M.J. SEMENCHUCK | GUDWORTH SASKATCHEWAN |
| M.J. SIFTON | 5295 MCKENNA AVE MONTREAL QUE. |
| M.S. SMITH | 26 GLEN ELM AVE TORONTO ONTARIO. |
| R. STEVENS | MEDICINE HAT ALTA. |
| M.I. STEWART | 2162 SHERBROOKE ST. WEST MONTREAL. |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| E.A. SUPCLIFFE | 233 4th AVE OTTAWA ONT |
| A. TREMLAYNE | 2 REGAL RD TORONTO ONT — <i>Douglas</i> |
| N.M. WALKER | 6450 MC CLEERY ST VANCOUVER B C |
| D.V. WALSH | 188 FULTON AVE TORONTO ONT |
| C. WALL ACE | 234 FOREST HILL RD TORONTO ONT |
| M. WARD | 150 SANFORD AVE ST. LAMBERT QUE |
| M. WEAVER | 213 FRANK ST OTTAWA ONT |
| M.J. WEBB | BOX 173 BIRTLE MAN |
| M.M. WEBB | 721-2 ROCKLIFFE BLVD TORONTO ONT |
| M. WEDGE | CHAPLEAU ONT |
| J. WELD | 131 GLEN ROSE AVE TORONTO ONT |
| F.M.D. WILLIAMS | 4719 BELMONT AVE VANCOUVER B C |
| ^ N.C. WHITEHEAD | 27 ROSEDALE RD TORONTO ONT |
| ^ B. WOODCOCK | 129 BALMORAL AVE TORONTO ONT. |
| J.L. WRIGHT | 75 VICTORIA AVE BELLEVILLE ONT |

S. 2036
N.S. 815-9-2036

STATION CARD

Royal Canadian Naval Barracks

STUDY ALL NOTICES.

This Card is to be Returned to
Regulating Office Prior to Draft.

All men are to make themselves
thoroughly acquainted with
Barrack Standing Orders.

Pay Strict Attention to
Customs Regulations.

Loss of This Card Entails Stoppage
of Leave for at least 24 Hours.

Ship's Office
S.B. No.

(BLOCK LETTERS)

Mc DONALD

Surname

ISABEL

Christian Names

Rating

Non-Sub. *WREN TELEGRAPHIST(SO)*

Captain's Office

O.N.

W-4133

Mess.

G

Locker

Division

Religion

UNITED

G.T. or U.A.

N.A.

Last Ship

ST. HYACINTHE

Usual

Signature

Address

Telephone No.

Isabel May Mc Donald

(S) 85
1246H

d—May, 1938.)

To be kept attached to the Service Certificate until final discharge from the Service

WIRELESS HISTORY SHEET

ORIGINAL

McDONALD Isabel

I. EXAMINATION RECORD

No. W-4133

To be filled up according to the result obtained after examination

| Nature of Examination | | Technical | | Theory | School | Procedure and Organization | | Coding | | V/S Paper | Flashing | Sema-phore | Buzzer | | Passed or Failed | Ship or Establishment where examined | Initials of Examining Officer |
|--|--|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Paper | Practical | | | Paper | Practical | Paper | Practical | | | | Trans-mitting | Re-civing | | | |
| FOR T.O. (W/T) (PROVISIONAL) | % Required % Obtained % Obtained | — | 80 | — | — | — | 80 | — | 80 | — | 85 | 86 | 85 | 95 | — | — | — |
| FOR T.O. (W/T) (FINAL) | % Required % Obtained % Obtained | — | 80 | — | — | — | 80 | — | 80 | — | 85 | 86 | 85 | 95 | — | — | — |
| FOR W/T 3 State whether after a qualifying course | % Required % Obtained % Obtained | 75 | 80 | * | * | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 75 | 85 | 86 | 85 | 95 | — | — | — |
| FOR W/T 2 | % Required % Obtained % Obtained | 75 | 80 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 75 | 85 | 86 | 85 | 95 | — | — | — |
| FOR W/T 1 | % Required % Obtained % Obtained | 75 | 85 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 85 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 85 | 86 | 90 | 95 | — | — | — |

* Insert either (a) the examination marks obtained during the qualifying course, or (b) the marks obtained after a separate School course, these being initialled by the Schoolmaster.

II. DATE OF GRANTING OF NON-SUBSTANTIVE RATE

| | Date | Initials of Captain | Rate | Date | Initials of Captain | Rate | Date | Initials of Captain | Rate | Date | Initials of Captain |
|-----|------|---------------------|-------|------|---------------------|-------|------|---------------------|-------|------|---------------------|
| 1.) | | | W/T 3 | | | W/T 2 | | | W/T 1 | | |

S. 1246H
T.S. 93

III. BOYS EXAMINATIONS

(I) ON PASSING OUT OF TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT

| Date | | Paper | Oral | School | Procedure Practical | Buzzer | | Passed or Failed | Training Establishment | Initials of Examining Officer |
|------|------------|-------|------|--------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Trans- mitting | Receiving | | | |
| | % Required | 75 | 65 | 40 | 75 | 80 | 85 | — | — | — |
| | % Obtained | | | | | | | | | |

(II) FOR ACCELERATED ADVANCEMENT TO ORDINARY TELEGRAPHIST

| Date | | | Technical Practical | Procedure Practical | Coding Practical | Buzzer | | Passed or Failed | Ship or Establishment where examined | Initials of Examining Officer |
|------|------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Trans- mitting | Receiving | | | |
| | % Required | | Good Ability | 65 | 70 | 85 | 95 | — | — | |
| | % Obtained | | | | | | | | | |
| | % Obtained | | | | | | | | | |

IV. EXAMINATION FOR ORDINARY TELEGRAPHIST (S.S.)

| Date | | Technical Practical | School | Procedure | | Coding Practical | V/S Paper | Flash- ing | Sema- phore | Buzzer | | Passed or Failed | Initials of Examining Officer |
|------|------------|------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------|-------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | *Paper | Pract | | | | | Trans- | Recg. | | |
| | % Required | 65 | 50 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 75 | 85 | 86 | 85 | 90 | — | — |
| | % Obtained | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | % Obtained | | | | | | | | | | | | |

V. TRAINING CLASS CERTIFICATE

No Ordinary Telegraphist is eligible for advancement to the rating of Telegraphist until this Certificate has been obtained.
Ordinary Telegraphists (S.S.) are not required to undergo the Training Class in V/S or Electricity and Mag. unless they have failed to obtain the requisite percentages in the V/S Paper and School in Section IV.

| Date of Completion | Subject | % Required | % Obtained | Passed or Failed | Ship or Establishment where examined | Initials of Examining Officer |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Seamanship | 75 | | | | |
| | Field Training | 70 | | | | |
| | V/S | 75 | | | | |
| | Electricity & Mag. | 50 | | | | |

V. EXAMINATION FOR TELEGRAPHIST

| DATE | TYPING | | THEORY | SPEC. FOREIGN PROC & ORGAN. | TECH NICAL | BRITISH PROCEDURE | BUZZER | | PASSED OR FAILED | Sig. of EXAM. OFF. |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | MOSE | PLAIN | | | | | RECEIVING | INTER. FOREIGN | | |
| Reg. | 85 | 90 | 60 | 90 | 70 | 75 | 90 | 95 | | |
| 20 Oct '44. | 96 | 97 | 87 | 97 | 84 | 88 | 99 | 96 | P. | AMIN |

VII. EXAMINATION FOR WARRANT TELEGRAPHIST

| Date | Rating | | Technical | | Theory | School | Procedure and Organization | | Coding | | V/S | Flash- ing | Sema- phore | Buzzer | | Elec- tricity (even Course) | | Passed or Failed | Initials of Examining Officer |
|------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----|------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Paper | Pract. | | | Paper | Pract. | Paper | Pract. | | | | Trans- mit- ting | Receiv- ing | | | | |
| | | % Required | 75 | 85 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 85 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 85 | 80 | 90 | 95 | 75 | | — | — |
| | | % Obtained | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VIII. RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

To be filled in on discharge from a Ship or Establishment

| DATE | DESCRIPTION OF TRANSMITTING APPARATUS (NOTE:—Name and Type Numbers) | DESCRIPTION OF RECEIVING APPARATUS (of Service Apparatus not required.) | NATURE OF DUTIES PERFORMED | INITIALS OF CAPTAIN |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------|
| EXAMPLE:—For a June, 1929 to August, 1930 | Leading Telegraphist in a Battleship. (High and low power low frequency Valve. High and low power high frequency Valve. Low power Radio Telephony. | Multi Valve amplifiers and superheterodyne receivers. High speed (automatic) recep- tion. D/F. | General working and operating. Care of motors, batteries, etc. In charge of Watch—consisting of four receiving lines and three transmitters. Handling and disposing of all traffic. | |
| Sept 45 | | Superhet. receivers D/F | general operating " | DNB |

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-SUBSTANTIVE RATES

To be filled in as soon as the rating is eligible; considered deserving of a recommendation and Form S. 1303A has been rendered

| Date | Ship | Present Substantive and Non-Substantive Rate | For what Non-substantive rate recommended If highly recommended add "H" | Initials of | |
|------|------|--|--|----------------|---------|
| | | | | Signal Officer | Captain |
| | | | | | |

X. SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Only to be filled up when a rating is discharged from a Ship or Establishment or on completion of any special course, and it is desired to report on him for special knowledge or ability, not otherwise recorded, e.g., D/F Operator; Mechanical and Instructional ability, Fire Control or laboratory experience; care and maintenance of W/T installations, Alternators, Dynamos, Secondary Batteries; ability to take charge of W/T department; knowledge of a foreign language; typewriting. Efficiency as T.A.G., including Air Gunner or Bomb Aimer, where applicable, is to be included in this Section on each occasion of returning to General Service from the F.A.A.

| Date | Qualifications | Ship or Establishment | Initials of Captain |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sept 15 | Typewriting - Teletype - D/F | End on Head W/T | Dmb |

For Directions for completing this part of the Form, see Article 610, K.R. & A.I.

XI. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CERTIFICATE

(To be filled up on completion of a Vocational Training Course, other than a Correspondence Course)

Vocation.....

We certify that (name).....

(residence).....

has satisfied us that he possesses a*..... knowledge of the vocation mentioned, and we consider that †.....

Examiners.....

Business and Business Address.....

Date of Examination..... (Signed)..... President

..... 19..... Vocational Training

*Here insert qualification. †Special notation as applicable. ‡Vocational Training is optional. Committee‡

To be filled up by Ship or Establishment, from which rating is sent to Depot for final discharge

XII. SPECIAL REMARKS

Include power of command, intelligence, initiative, energy, and any qualification not otherwise recorded.....

XIII. TO BE FILLED IN ONLY ON FINAL DISCHARGE

His character during service was*..... *Very Good*

His general efficiency in carrying out his duties was*..... *Satisfactory*

His efficiency on discharge was assessed as*.....

*See Art. 610, K.R. & A.I., clauses 3 to 7

..... Captain

For Record of Experience see Section VIII, on p. 3.

2037/072

12 Dec 1945 Date