



The JTCer

V.C. for Valour

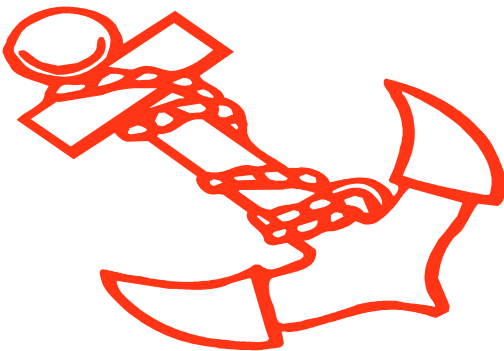
Vol. 1 Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of what is hoped to be many of the **JTCer**, the Alumni newsletter of the greatest sea cadet corps in Canada.

Since I spoke to many of you and promised that this newsletter was coming out, a lot happened. Mainly, I was elected President of the Navy League Manitoba Northwest Ontario Division. It has been a whirlwind since. Like a true JTCer, I called on my alumni friends to help out. Richard Hunt is now Vice-President of the Division and loving every minute of it!

When I came back to the fold after the reunion in 1995, it was with the intent of gathering the alumni. One thing led to another, I got involved with the Branch directly supporting the Corps, and although it remained on my mind, the time just was not there.

So, now it's all started and the foundation is there. If you have an article or news to share, that is a big help. Forward anything along to jtcvc@total.net If you want to get more involved, let us know – most jobs (including mine) are up for grabs.



Inaugural Meeting J.T.C.'s Alumni

Thursday September 15th, 2005
19:30 hours (7:30pm) in the
H.M.C.S. Chippawa's Wardroom

See you there...

Thomas Wetton

One of the fun duties as Editors is to visit the alumni. Mr. Thomas Wetton is one of our oldest alumni. Not only did we get plied full of tea, bread and stories, we also learned how to grow tomatoes (which really works).

A cadet in the late 30's, he later became the youngest NL officer (by special warrant) in the early 40's. As a full Lieutenant, he was placed in command of #3 Ships Company. JTC was so large then (well over 1500 cadets), it had to parade on three different evenings. The band was a large professional group, touring east to Ottawa giving concerts along the way with Band Master Cramp.

Camp was a different experience too. A real roughing it type of camp (PL gone wild), it was only two weeks in length. For many of the boys it was their first time away from home. If you couldn't stick it out, you had to go home and were subsequently kicked out of the Corps. During Mr. Wetton's first year of camp he contracted a really bad case of Poison Ivy, but stuck it out in true JTC spirit.

All these years, he maintained a scrapbook of his cadet experiences, which was a privilege to see.

Boys to Men

By Padre Gordon Shields

Did you know that boys too young to shave manned the mighty Royal Navy, which won the Battles of Trafalgar and Jutland? In the early days of sail, it was possible to enter the Navy as a Boy Seaman 2nd class at the age of 12; this was gradually increased to 15 years by the end of the 18th century. From 1790 right up until 1976 the “Andrew” (as the Royal Navy is affectionately known) actively recruited Boy Seamen.

For most boys it was a chance to escape the clutches of poverty; the courts sentenced many others so they could benefit from the discipline and training they would receive. All of them, after exposure to sadistic POs who pushed and bullied them, would have preferred the relative comfort of jail or the poorhouse.

Tens of thousands of young boys passed through the ranks of the Royal Navy, and if it had not been for their service the whole of the history of Great Britain would have had to be rewritten.

Captain Bligh (of the Mutiny fame) is reputed to have said, “The Royal Navy is not a humorous institution and insubordination is not laughing matter.”

The training certainly was not – and training ships rapidly looked like concentration camps. As one PO instructor told a new recruit, “It’s Remembrance Day, because it’s a day you will remember for the rest of your life.”

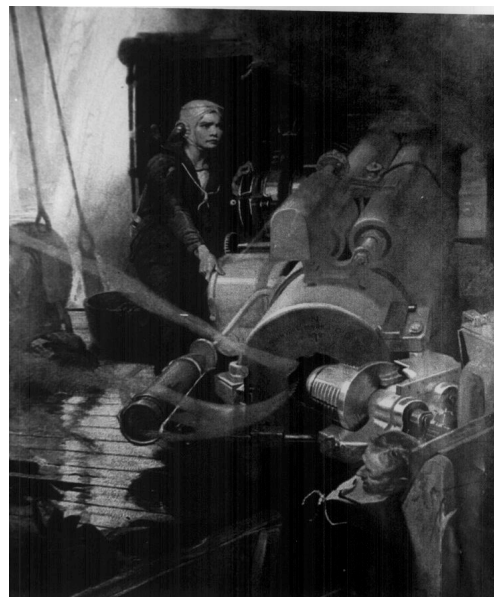
Imagine beginning the day by being rudely dragged out of bed at first light, breakfasting on cold greasy fried herring and greasy cocoa, then being forced to climb the swaying training mast several stories above the deck, your heart in your mouth while gripping with the inside of your legs to the short lightning conductors at the apex of the mast. Or imagine diving or jumping into the frigid ocean to practice swimming and, if you were a

non-swimmer, gasping for air while trying to stay afloat, and the instructors kept pushing you away from the edges with staves. While brutality was an accepted way of life, sometimes it went beyond the pale.

There are in Great Britain associations of ex-Boys who endured the training and became the best-disciplined sailors in the world. One individual, who went through HMS Ganges in 1947, recalled having a sore hand and severe vertigo (heights made him dizzy) but hearing his PO bellowing “You still have one good hand so start bloody climbing.” This individual was more afraid of the PO than of the mast, so he struggled up with his one good hand while gripping the rigging with his teeth, right up to the button. Like so many others he admits it made a man out of him like nothing else could.

-from the advertisement for
“Boy Seaman RN” by Tom Robson

Not only did so many endure and survive the training it was a life-saver because it made the plumb the depth of their very being and showed them of what they were capable. John Travers Cornwell V.C., who was 16 when he died, was the product of such training.



Who was your Commanding Officer?

Can't remember when you were in the Corps. Can you remember who your Commanding Officer was? Well here is a listing of all past Commanding Officers and their years of command to help you out.

LCDR H.B. Weston	1920-1924
LT. R. Phillipson	1924-1926
LCDR. J.R.K. Millen	1926-1935
LCDR. A.E. Tamkin	1935-1937
LCDR. W.J. Rooke	1937-1938
LCDR. T.W. Baird	1938-1943
LCDR. J.D. Killey	1943-1944
LCDR. J.R.K. Millen	1944-1946
LCDR. R. Gilbert	1946-1947
LCDR. T.W. Baird	1947-1949
LCDR. J. Meder	1949-1950
LCDR. G.D. Kuhn	1950-1951
LCDR. A.E. Payne	1951-1953
LCDR. T.R. Dancer	1953-1954
LCDR. S. Perkins	1954-1955
LCDR. A. Hodgson	1955-1961
LCDR. W.A. Somerville	1961-1964
LCDR. D. Wilkie	1964-1967
LCDR. R. Graham	1967-1970
LCDR. R. Weidenbacher	1970-1973
LCDR. A.T. McInnis	1973-1976
LCDR. J. Templeman	1976-1983
LCDR. L. Bilton	1983-1987
LCDR. G. Bruce	1987-1990
LT. D.G. Bullee	1990-1994
LCDR. N.D.C. Johnston	1994-1997
LCDR. J. Ruel	1997-1999
LCDR. D.G. Bullee	1999-2003
LCDR. S. Chadwick	2003-present

HMCS Quadra

Remember the summers and fun? Quadra has an Alumni association and website where you can relive the memories, view information and enter discussion board to share your stories. Check out their website for more information:

www.quadraalumni.ca

JTCer's in the news:

2004 was a busy year for some of our alumni.



George Bruce was awarded the highest award possible with the Navy League of Canada, the National Presidents award. Awarded to only one CIC officer nationally, George was recognized for his almost 40 years of service and dedication to the Navy League. Earlier that year, George was also awarded the Navy League's Distinguished Service Award.



John (Jack) Templeman was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba. Recognizing his many years of service to the youth of our Province. The dinner & award presentation was attended by a strong contingent of JTC's officers and alumni.

Keep in Touch?

We need your help in gathering up the alumni of JTC. If you have any contacts that did not receive this newsletter, please send their name and address (email as well) to: jtcvc@total.net and we will take care of the rest.

Although we endeavour to distribute this newsletter electronically, it is not always possible. If you do not have electronic mail, it is hoped you would contribute \$5/year to offset postage costs.

Editor: Lynn A Hawkeye
Asst. Editor: Padre Gordon Shields

Contact us at: jtcvc@total.net
366 Larche Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R2C 1A6
Phone: 204-224-3696