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~~August 2004~~
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THE
UNIVERSITY NAVAL TRAINING
DIVISIONS

NAVAL HISTORICAL SECTION,
NAVAL HEADQUARTERS,
OTTAWA, ONT.



THE UNIVERSITY NAVAL TRAINING DIVISIONS

Although the Canadian Officers' Training Corps (COTC) has been on Canadian campuses since 1912, the University Naval Training Divisions¹ did not make their tentative debut until thirty years later. This long delay in taking what now seems such an obvious step needs an explanation which will be found in the political and financial circumstances of the Canadian forces during that period.

The Royal Canadian Navy was established when Royal Assent was granted to the Naval Service Act on 4 May, 1910. It had hardly done more than set up the Royal Naval College of Canada at Halifax, for the training of officers, and acquire two training cruisers² from the Royal Navy, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government fell and was replaced by Mr. Robert Borden's administration. The new Prime Minister believed that in the face of the fast rise of German naval power, Canada could not provide an effective fleet in time, and should be content with providing funds for strengthening the British fleet.³

During the Great War, 1914-1919, the RCN did not expand greatly and found little difficulty in obtaining suitable men, many with sea-going experience, to provide the necessary temporary officers. During the twenty-year interlude, 1919-1939, the RCN was first severely reduced, then allowed slowly to expand. So much was it reduced that the naval college was closed. At the same time HMC Ships *Aurora* (cruiser), *CH-14* and *CH-15* (submarines) were paid off leaving Canada with a war fleet of two destroyers and four minesweeping trawlers. This reduction allowed for the establishing, on the heavily cut naval budget, of the naval reserves,⁴ and it was as an element of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) that the UNTD was constituted when it finally appeared.

During the re-armament period of the later thirties, the fleet expanded, so that at the outbreak of war in September, 1939, Canada had six destroyers, an old trawler minesweeper, four new minesweepers, a motor vessel and a training schooner, with another destroyer fitting out in a British dockyard. The personnel on 23 September (the nearest date for which figures are available) numbered: RCN 1990; Royal Canadian Naval Reserve 145; RCNVR 756, a total of 2891.⁵ All cadets entered since the closing of the naval college had been trained in the Royal Navy, including a small number drawn from the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario. RCNVR officers were selected by the Commanding Officers of Reserve Divisions and, following acceptance by Naval Service Headquarters, were given such training as could be managed during their vacations.

The growth of the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War was enormous. A total of 99,688 additional men entered the Service by 15 August 1945, and providing the 6,621 officers⁶ required for this force was a major undertaking of which part of the solution was provided by the UNTD.

With the background sketched in, it is now advisable to explain some terminology before going on to the main theme. The word "division" has already been used in two of its special naval meanings and should be explained before the landsman gets too deep into this paper.

The earliest naval meaning is probably "a part of a ship's company under the charge of a 'divisional officer' for administrative purposes and for work under certain circumstances. At the full daily parade of the ship's company the hands are mustered by divisions (such as forecastle men or engine room department), hence the parade is called 'divisions'".

The Royal Navy was divided into "port divisions" for many years with their respective manning depots at Portsmouth, Devonport and Chatham, and a ship would be entirely manned from one or other of them. The Royal Canadian Navy is in three port divisions, Halifax, Esquimalt and Gloucester. When the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was set up in Britain in 1903, it was also organized in divisions, named for the cities or rivers where they were located.

When the RCNVR was established in 1923, however, it was in companies and half companies, but in 1935 these units were renamed divisions, and in 1941, unlike their British counterparts, they were given names and commissioned as ships, but they are still called naval divisions. The Senior Officer in Command of the RCNVR establishments during the Second World War bore the title of Commanding Officer, Reserve Divisions (CORD), and had his headquarters in Toronto. In 1953 (after a lapse of eight years) the command was reestablished as Commanding Officer, Naval Divisions (COND), with headquarters at HMCS *Patriot* located adjacent to HMCS *Star*, the Hamilton Division.

These usages (besides others of no direct concern in this story) were all established before 19 June 1943 when Naval Order 2854 introduced a new one. The order read, in part:

"2. They [the units] will be known as University Naval Training Divisions of the university to which attached, short title UNTD."

While on the subject of terminology, it would be well to consider the reserve force of which the UNTD is a part. The first modern naval reserve appeared in Canada in 1914 as the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve. It was disbanded at the end of the Great War, but in 1923 the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (RCNR), consisting of professional seamen, and the

Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR), consisting of landsmen with nautical interests, were raised – the latter being the “wavy navy” of the Second World War. In 1946 these two forces were combined to form the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) with the short title RCN(R), and in 1961 the name was changed to Royal Canadian Naval Reserve or RCNR. UNTD personnel have successively been members of the RCNVR, the RCN(R) and RCNR.

It was not for want of thought or planning that the UNT Divisions were established no sooner. In 1938, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, an apparently unimportant meeting took place. HMCS *Saguenay* arrived on 22 January and, when the Custos Rotulorum of the Parish of St. James went aboard to return the Captain's call, he took with him a Canadian who was spending his holidays there, Professor A. W. Baker of the Ontario Agricultural College. On the quarter-deck he met Commander E. Reginald Brock, RCNVR, aboard for the winter cruise and for naval training.⁷

Early in the war, Professor Baker became involved in civilian war work in and around Guelph, Ontario. Already a member of the Canadian Navy League for some years he helped establish there the Sea Cadet Corps “*Ajax*” and was an agent for the recruiting organization based on the Hamilton Division of the RCNVR.

Meanwhile, Commander Brock, who was Commanding Officer of the Montreal Division, was when war broke out appointed Director of Reserve Divisions at Headquarters and promoted Captain on 1 January 1942. Professor Baker's duties brought him to Ottawa occasionally and he made a point of calling on Captain Brock. On more than one occasion they discussed the possibility of establishing a naval counterpart to the COTC and made formal submissions to higher authority proposing such a step, but none was approved.

In 1942, however, the climate changed. In May the RCAF began establishing training units in the universities and the regulations stipulated that their graduates must serve with the Air Force.⁸ At the same time the Army was considering a similar regulation for the COTC, so it seemed that the Navy would have small chance of recruiting university graduates if it did not follow suit.⁹ In August, Captain Brock visited Professor Baker at Guelph and together they called on Dr. G. I. Christie, President of the Ontario Agricultural College. They laid before him a proposal for an experimental naval training unit on his campus constituted by Captain Brock on his own authority. The men were to be entered on “divisional strength”¹⁰ at HMCS *Star*, and their call to active service was deferred to the end of the academic year; meanwhile they were to be given training one or two evenings a week. The President, and later the O.A.C. Military Studies Committee, both agreed, and recruiting began as soon as the fall term started.¹¹

The course of instruction had to be improvised on the spot, but a model was ready to hand. The training was outlined thus:

“While in training at the college, they will be instructed in squad and rifle drill, seamanship, signalling and pilotage, and, if possible, lightly touching on navigation. The course, in other words, will, as nearly as possible, in view of the time at our disposal, be patterned after, in condensed form, the officers’ course at HMCS *Kings*.”¹²

Kings being the main establishment for training officers of the RCNVR, occupying the buildings of the University of King’s College, Halifax.

Eight students entered the RCNVR on these terms, one in each of the first three years of their course and five in the fourth year, all but the freshman having to transfer from the COTC. Training was given partly at HMCS *Star* in Hamilton and partly in the building used by the “*Ajax*” Corps in Guelph.

By December this programme was going ahead satisfactorily and Captain Brock¹³ suggested to Professor Baker that another proposal for a university naval training plan should be submitted to headquarters. In response the professor wrote the memorandum, *University Naval Training*, reprinted as the Appendix to this paper.¹⁴ Briefly it set forth the situation described already, and the outlines of the organization and syllabus that were to be followed, with minor adjustments, until the end of hostilities.

With surprising despatch, considering the far-reaching effects of the plan, it was adopted by the Naval Board, and on 16 January the Naval Secretary wrote to Professor Baker offering him a commission as a Lieutenant (Special Branch), RCNVR.¹⁵ Another letter ten days later, addressed to the Commanding Officer, Reserve Divisions, at Toronto, informed him that Professor Baker’s memorandum had been approved, authorized him to recruit an officer to run the scheme in the rank of Lieutenant-Commander (SB), RCNVR, and indicated that Professor Baker was the man for the job.¹⁶ CORD’s report dated 15 February¹⁷ said that the professor had been enrolled on the first of the month and had “already visited a number of universities in this area [apparently Southern Ontario], and arrangements [were] being made for him to visit the western universities in the near future”.

Meanwhile the administrative mill in Ottawa was grinding slowly and in June an Order in Council¹⁸ was issued, followed by a Naval Order¹⁹ which began: “It is approved to form Naval Training Units in Universities in Canada in cities where there are RCNVR Divisions.”

The UNTD, as it existed from 1943 to 1945, did not much resemble its modern representative. The men entered as Ordinary Seamen or Stokers Second Class on the divisional strength of the various RCNVR divisions, and were dressed as seamen. Training continued during the academic year as originally prescribed for the experimental UNTD at Guelph, (see above)

but a change came in the summer vacation. Since the whole purpose of the UNTD was to encourage and enable university graduates to enter the navy, students were not called for active service until they graduated except for short courses of training. These lasted two weeks and took place as soon as possible after the term ended so that the students could go on to summer jobs.

Navies being the first and most completely mechanized of fighting services, have been requiring more and better trained technical personnel ever since steam went to sea. By the Second World War, a large variety of technicians was in demand, the latest being experts in electronics – a name that was hardly known at that time. To give the technical people among the UNTD ratings a head start in their training, they were permitted to volunteer to spend their entire vacation on active service and return to the campus in the fall. They were given a concentrated course in naval schools, HMCS *St. Hyacinthe* for the radio experts and the Mechanical Training Establishment, part of HMCS *Stadacona* at Halifax, for others. Naturally many of these students had to earn a considerable amount of money during the summer to be able to continue at university, and therefore to compete with the wages offered by war industries hungry for men, the navy rated these technicians as Electrical or Engine room Artificers, Fourth Class, for pay only – they were still dressed, housed and otherwise treated as Stokers.

On completion of their two weeks of general and four of technical training, these men were available for draft to sea-going ships. Theoretically they could have been sent aboard any of HM or HMC Ships that happened to be in Halifax and that required their services, but it seems that few served beyond the North Atlantic area and that most went to ships in the Western Local Escort Force on the "Triangle Run" – working with coastal and transatlantic convoys between New York, St. John's and Halifax.²⁰

Towards the end of the vacation period, they would be landed, given passage to Halifax if necessary and then drafted to their home divisions in time for the fall term. This scheme gave the UNTD a recruiting appeal that the other services could not match. It also helped to hold men chafing against the regulations that required them to complete their technical courses and who might deliberately fail their examinations. A recruiting officer could be sentenced to jail for knowingly enrolling a science student without a release from the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel (WBTP).²¹

There is at least one case on record of a student in engineering physics who entered the RCNVR as a probationary Sub-Lieutenant in the Executive Branch without revealing his course of study. He completed his junior year and was called for active service, but the affair came to the notice of the WBTP. He was allowed to resign his commission and re-enter

the RCNVR as a Stoker II in the UNTD. He was at *Stadacona* as a stoker the day his letter of resignation was mailed to Headquarters (7 July, 1943) and was aboard HMCS *Kamsack*, corvette, from 20 August to 16 September.²² During this time the ship escorted a west-bound Atlantic convoy, ON-197, from Halifax to New York, an east-bounder, HX-255, from there to St. John's, Newfoundland, and returned to Halifax with ON-200. On 14 September she assisted HMS *Caldwell*, destroyer, in a submarine hunt²³ – quite a respectable if brief tour of active service for a student on vacation!

Selection boards were convened annually at each university town, and UNTD ratings who did not intend to return the following year (whether graduating or not) appeared before it and might be selected as officer candidates.²⁴ If successful, they joined the stream of direct-entry officer candidates and took the new entry course at HMCS *Cornwallis* before appearing before a final selection board.²⁵ Because there was no difference in treatment between ex-UNTD officer candidates and the others, it is not now possible to find out how many wartime RCNVR officers came into the Service through the UNTD.

Lieutenant-Commander Baker's first job was to visit universities throughout Canada in cities where Reserve Divisions already existed to arrange for setting up UNT Divisions. The first visited was the University of Toronto, because it was closest to CORD's headquarters, and indeed, Captain Brock accompanied Baker on this visit to see the "form" and to present the naval point of view. However, as Baker had been active in the National Conference of Canadian Universities for years and knew most senior administrative officers of Canadian universities personally, he was able to appreciate their needs and attitudes. The meeting was successfully concluded within the day, and Baker went on by himself to complete the arrangements with the other universities, not taking more than a day for each. Counting O.A.C., he set up UNT Divisions in sixteen universities and colleges in 1943, and fourteen were in operation before the end of the academic year in May.²⁶ The others started recruiting in the fall.

When COND²⁷ was asked by Headquarters in June 1945 for his plans for the future of the UNTD, he forecast little change in its constitution. For the period of hostilities against Japan, requiring 37,000 men in the navy, and while the universities were requiring of the fit male students two years of Service training, he assumed that volunteers would come forward in no greater numbers than could be accepted. He went on:

"For peacetime, it is recommended that the UNTD be an integral part of the RCN Division to which attached and that the complement of the UNTD be part of the complement allotted to the RCN Division, and that the training of the UNTD be carried out in exactly the same manner as the RCN Division, with the following exception: that when a member of the UNTD completes his course at the University, either by withdrawing from the

University or graduating from the University, he go before an Officers' Selection Board composed of the Commanding Officer of the Division, the Executive Officer and one other officer, nominated by the Commanding Officer, which would be an Executive Officer, if for the Executive Branch or Supply and Secretariat Officer, if for the Supply Branch, etc.

"It is felt that the importance of contact with the Universities cannot be overemphasized.... It is considered even if the UNTD formed the majority of the membership of a Division, that it would be fully justified."²⁸

However, V-J Day was not five weeks off, a fact of which the naval planners had no warning, so the run-down to the peace-time organization had to begin with the autumn term of 1945. Since no detailed planning was possible, the UNT Divisions carried on as before, but with the repeal of the regulations making service training in the universities compulsory,²⁹ there were many requests for discharge.

The summer of 1946 was a low period in UNTD history. No formal training syllabus was issued³⁰ and there were complaints from many of the men that the First Lieutenants of some ships considered them merely as unskilled labour to be employed on scrubbing, scraping and painting for their full two weeks of sea-time. This resulted, naturally, in further discharges.³¹

However, this was just a temporary lapse after the rigours of war, and the cure was at hand. Captain Baker was to return to civil life and his career with the Ontario Agricultural College. His relief, Commander (SB) C. Herbert Little, RCN(R), was appointed to Naval Headquarters on 11 June and, after a fortnight during which Baker showed him the ropes, he took over the helm as Staff Officer, University Naval Training Divisions, to the Director of Naval Reserves.³² If Baker and Brock are responsible for the starting of the UNT Divisions, the credit for their post-war survival and reorganization belongs to Little.

He, naturally, had to deal with the complaints that began to flow into Headquarters, both those that came through naval channels and those from the universities. The latter provoked a request from the Chairman of the National Conference of Canadian Universities Committee on Military Studies, for a statement on UNTD policy. The answer, approved by the Naval Board read:

"The Naval Service of Canada consider [sic] the University Naval Training Division as an officer's Training Programme of four years duration, designed to produce officers for the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve), Active and Retired Lists. This programme is considered to be a continuing function of the Naval Service.

“Training will be carried out ashore in H.M.C. Shore Establishments, including Naval Divisions, and in HMC Ships, making the best possible use of all existing facilities.

“The maximum strength of UNTD is to be 1800.”³³

Meanwhile, after taking over from Baker, Little set to work to organize the training for the 1946-47 academic year. The instructions were issued to the naval divisions on 10 September – in good time for the fall term.³⁴

A student could now be entered in one of four branches, and be rated Ordinary Seaman, Stoker Second Class, Probationary Sick Berth Attendant or Probationary Writer. Before the end of his second academic year he was to appear before a selection board composed of the Commanding Officer of the Naval Division and two other officers, one being of the branch he wished to join. Unsuccessful applicants might appear before the board again the following year. The successful ones were designated Officer Candidates, received the pay of an Acting Sub-Lieutenant and wore a plain white cap band in place of the normal cap ribbon worn by men dressed as seamen.³⁵

The training specified included sixty hours of drill and lectures during each academic year, a minimum of two weeks with the Fleet each summer and one full summer of voluntary service. Brief syllabi were laid down for courses in various schools³⁶ and Reserve Training Commanders were appointed to the depots on both coasts.³⁷ After graduation from the university and successful completion of the UNTD programme, the officer candidate was eligible for a commission in the RCNR.

A number of war veterans entered the UNT Divisions in 1946. Most were former RCNVR ratings, but all arms were represented including a former Flying Officer, RCAF, decorated with the DFC,³⁸ a former Lance Corporal of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps³⁹ and a former Petty Officer of the Royal Navy.⁴⁰ They were allowed to appear before the selection board in their first year.

In the summer of 1947, ships were detailed for UNTD training for the first time, and cruise programmes were laid out in advance. On the east coast HMC Ships *Haida*, *New Liskeard* and *Portage* made five sorties of two weeks duration each, visiting ports in Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces, with a single call at St. George's, Bermuda, on the first cruise which *New Liskeard* made alone.⁴¹ HMCS *Warrior*, aircraft carrier, also had some UNTD ratings embarked for training.⁴² The west coast programme involved HMC Ships *Ontario*, cruiser, and *Antigonish*, frigate, in three independent cruises each.⁴³ This, with the barracks accommodation ashore, still left fifty men without a place to sling their hammocks, so arrangements were made with the Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station, for forty of them to take their training in his flagship, HMS *Sheffield*.⁴⁴ The other ten had to take their chances of sleeping on the deck or having billets made available by men requesting discharge from the UNTD.

Another crisis in accommodation arose in 1949 after HMCS *Magnificent* took ground off Port Mouton, Nova Scotia, on 4 June and had to spend most of the summer under repair. HMCS *Iroquois* was rushed into commission with a crew consisting largely of cadets and with the Training Officer from *Magnificent* in command.⁴⁵ Even so, it was necessary to send eighty-eight cadets to Camp Major, a Royal Canadian Sea Cadet establishment on Herman's Island, near Lunenburg, for the latter half of July.⁴⁶

The 1948 training season was similar, with men still dressed as seamen and the training syllabus still rather sketchy. The officers concerned, especially the Reserve Training Commanders, had by then a good appreciation of the programme and its potentialities. Their reports contained many recommendations for improvements in the scheme, the most important being a complete change in the status of the personnel of the UNT Divisions. They should, was the submission, be promoted to the rank of Cadet, RCNR, and dressed and accommodated as befits subordinate officers.⁴⁷ An additional argument in favour of the change being that their opposite numbers in the Army and Air Force had always been so treated.

The *UNTD Instructions - 1948*, issued 9 September, 1948, adopted the suggestions. They stated in part:

"2. The following major changes should be noted particularly:

"(a) The institution of the rank 'Cadet RCN(R)' and the abolition of the status 'Officer Candidate UNTD'

"(b) The holding of Selection Boards in the first academic year instead of the second for men entered in September 1948 and thereafter.

"(c) The necessity for two summer vacation periods of Required Training instead of one.

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"7. (a) All UNTD men wear Naval Class II uniform (men dressed as seamen).

"(b) All UNTD men advanced to Cadets shall be dressed as such. (i.e., No. 5a - battle dress with white Cadet twist)."⁴⁸

These uniforms had not been manufactured in Canada before⁴⁹ and would take some time to make, so in the meanwhile the cadets had to wear their "matlow's rig".

The holding of the boards in the first year was in order to select the cadets at an earlier stage so that unsuitable men would not be filling summer training billets that might otherwise be more profitably occupied. This also allowed for two full summers of naval training as cadets which were now seen to be necessary if the cadets were to qualify properly as Reserve officers.⁵⁰

The new conditions of service had their desired effect, not only in stimulating recruiting (although the numbers entering the UNTD had increased at an almost constant rate since 1942) but also in causing the stream of complaints to dry up, though this may have been due, to a great extent, to the ever increasing efficiency in the training organization at the coasts. In any case the numbers entering hit their peak in 1949 a figure of 1060.⁵¹

A study made on the progress of this class shows that 450 of them passed the selection board and were promoted to Cadet. Of these, 85 dropped out during the following summer training period (leaving 365) and, because of academic failures, only 330 presented themselves for training in the fall of 1950. The following summer 283 of them survived to take training, and 270 next college year. Six per cent failed to pass the final selection board, leaving 256 to be commissioned in 1952.⁵²

With large numbers of cadets coming forward for summer training, the instructional staffs became more critical of the quality of the material and in the summer of 1950 the word "passenger" began to appear in their reports, referring to cadets who were "along for the ride" - accepting the pay without any real interest in becoming naval officers, even on the Retired List.⁵³

Other officers complained that there was no uniform standard of training among the Divisions, and demanded more severe "weeding" among the cadets,⁵⁴ although a reduction from 1060 to 450 before the summer training season began seems ruthless enough. In any case, the numbers saturated the facilities for training, and the Naval Board decided that the total complement of cadets must be reduced to 1050.⁵⁵ The numbers entering the UNTD began to fall as fast as they had risen: 662 in 1950 and 574 in 1951.

Just at that time came a suggestion from the University of Western Ontario, to reinstate the wartime requirement for all fit male undergraduates to take training with one or other of the Services. Western was even prepared to do it alone if the other universities did not wish to fall in with the plan, but the Services could not provide the staff for training such numbers, nor the accommodation during the summer period.⁵⁶

At about the same time, however, flying training was made available to the UNTD, pilot candidates taking courses with the RCAF at Trenton, Ontario, and observers at HMCS *Shearwater*.⁵⁷ Two full summers of flying training were required in addition to the common first summer training.

Up to the summer of 1950, the ships used for UNTD sea training were fitted out in the usual way for war-craft of their respective types and classes with no special instructional facilities provided. Most were "River" Class frigates whose bridges, while commodious enough for the normal work carried out there, could accommodate at the most only two cadets as

Second and Third Officers of the Watch. When thirty or forty cadets were embarked, a turn on watch did not come around often enough to be of much practical use in navigation instruction. So, for the summer of 1950, the twin Oerlikon gun mountings were removed from the bridge wings to make room for additional chart tables and gyro repeaters for use of the cadets.⁵⁸

The following spring the facilities were increased by the construction of a chart house on the after gun-deck of each of the training frigates with a compass platform above.⁵⁹ Since their conversion to "Prestonian" Class, the seven frigates of the Fourth Canadian Escort Squadron have all had a similar deck-house.⁶⁰

The introduction of the Regular Officer Training Plan in 1952, has had a great effect on the subsequent history of the UNTD. The plan embraced cadets of all three Services at the three Canadian Services Colleges⁶¹ and at universities throughout the country. It is really a system of scholarships under which the Department of National Defence pays the tuition fees, provides the necessary text books for the cadets and gives them the pay of their rank. In return the cadets must serve a minimum of three years in the regular force after being commissioned.⁶²

This plan increased the numbers entering the regular force as cadets which affected the UNTD when it came to providing for summer training, because the same facilities had to accommodate all naval cadets. Since the maximum number that can be trained is little more than 1000 and the regular force has priority for billets in the training establishment, the UNTD must be content with what remains and the numbers entering have not again approached their peak of 1949. The 1953 entry was 256 cadets and the 1954 was 486. Since then the annual entry has remained between those figures.⁶³

A change in the regulations came in 1956 allowing cadets to be promoted to the rank of Acting Sub-Lieutenant after their third summer. This was so that students could show some visible mark of progress in the Service for, in some courses such as medicine, they might remain cadets up to seven years. Confirmation in rank does not come until graduation.⁶⁴

The UNT Divisions have been under considerable criticism, especially by officers of senior ward-room rank who were not in direct contact with the cadets or the RCNR at large, but who were in a position to observe the effort expended in cadet training. They have always deplored the small numbers entering the regular force through the UNTD and many consider that a large RCN entry is the only justification for its continued existence.

The situation became acute in 1957 when a proposal was put forward to give only one year of UNTD training after which the cadets were to transfer to the ROTP or be released.⁶⁵ This would have at one stroke reduced the UNTD to its wartime role as an officer recruiting scheme for active service, and reduced its recruiting appeal to almost nothing. However, although some reduction was made, its character remained unchanged.

Another statistical analysis, this time covering a four-year period, showed a rather better performance than the 1949 class alone. Between 1953 and 1957 there had been 2248 entries and 1690 of the men had been selected for promotion to Cadet – a loss of about 25%. Of that number, 1075 were commissioned for a further loss of 27%. Of the graduating officers 107 (10%) received commissions in the RCN, 616 (57%) in the Active List of the RCNR and 352 (33%) in the Retired List.⁶⁶

Eventually, the complements of the UNT Divisions were slightly reduced, the most significant change being the withdrawal of the resident staff officers from all tenders. In all divisions but one, the responsibility for the UNTD staff work was transferred to the Staff Officer (Administration), but in those where the authorized annual intake quota was over thirty, a Staff Officer (Training) was appointed to assist him, not only with UNTD, but with all training in the division. In most cases, he could also call on Reserve officers to bear a hand in the work at the rate of one officer to twenty cadets.

The exception was HMCS *Brunswicker*, the Saint John Division, whose only UNTD tender was at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, ninety miles away. There the Staff Officer (Training) was stationed on the campus and could not share in the administration of the division, nor could he expect as much direct support from it as would be possible in other tenders.

At this time the Divisions and their respective tenders were:

HMCS *Cabot*, St. John's,
Newfoundland,

HMCS *Queen Charlotte*,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.,

HMCS *Scotian*,
Halifax, N.S.,

HMCS *Brunswicker*,
Saint John, N.B.,

HMCS *Montcalm*,
Quebec, Que.,

HMCS *Donnacona*,
Montreal, Que.,

HMCS *Carleton*,
Ottawa, Ont.,

Memorial University.

Prince of Wales College and
St. Dunstan's University.

Halifax Universities and
Colleges, St. Francis Xavier
University, Mount Allison
University,⁶⁷ Acadia University.
University of New Brunswick.

Laval University.

McGill University,
University of Montreal.

University of Ottawa and St.
Patrick's College, Carleton
University. (now one tender
termed "Ottawa Universities
and Colleges".)

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| HMCS <i>Cataragui</i> , Kingston, Ont., | Queen's University. |
| HMCS <i>York</i> , Toronto, Ont., | University of Toronto. |
| HMCS <i>Star</i> , Hamilton, Ont., | McMaster University, Ontario Agricultural College. |
| HMCS <i>Prevost</i> , London, Ont., | University of Western Ontario. |
| HMCS <i>Hunter</i> , Windsor, Ont., | Assumption University. |
| HMCS <i>Chippawa</i> , Winnipeg, Man., | University of Manitoba. |
| HMCS <i>Unicorn</i> , Saskatoon, Sask., | University of Saskatchewan. |
| HMCS <i>Nonsuch</i> , Edmonton, Alta., | University of Alberta. |
| HMCS <i>Discovery</i> , Vancouver, B.C., | University of British Columbia. |
| HMCS <i>Malahat</i> , Victoria, B.C., | Victoria College. ⁶⁸ |

In addition there have been short lived UNT Divisions at the Lakehead Technical Institute, attached to HMCS *Griffon*, Port Arthur, Ontario (1950-1953),⁶⁹ and at Campion and Luther Colleges, attached to HMCS *Queen*, Regina, Saskatchewan (1949-1951).⁷⁰ It has also been the practice of UNT Divisions to accept cadets from colleges and universities near at hand even though not directly affiliated. The nominal lists of Assumption University UNTD even show names of a few students of Detroit University.⁷¹ They are presumably Canadians, because even though there is a special oath provided,⁷² Americans put their citizenship in peril if they enter the RCNR.

Another tightening up of the UNTD scheme resulted in the undertaking that new entries must give, beginning in the fall of 1957, that if they should live close enough to a Reserve Division after being commissioned, they would serve at least three years on the Active List.⁷³ This was one way of discouraging the "passengers" who were not interested in a future in the Naval Reserve.

A further economy, required in 1958 by the new government's reduction of the defence budget, resulted in the shortening or cancellation of some cadets' and sub-lieutenants' summer training. Indeed, complaints reached the Minister of National Defence⁷⁴ that some students were told that instead of eighteen weeks of Naval Training and Special Duty, they would have only the minimum fourteen-day period, and that they were informed only about two weeks before their training was to begin. The directive was in fact issued by the Commanding Officer, Naval Divisions, by message on 2 May.⁷⁵ It specified that no first or second year cadet would receive more than the fourteen weeks "Required Training" and that no third year cadet or sub-lieutenant still at university (who were usually allowed to put in the whole vacation) would receive more than the mandatory two weeks. It appeared that the instructions from Headquarters had been misinterpreted and that funds for fourteen weeks training for the third year cadets and

sub-lieutenants would be available.⁷⁶ Fourteen weeks had been decided upon as the length of the Required Training because the variation of university vacation dates made it impossible to demand more, but eighteen was usually allowed.

After the post-war reorganization, training courses developed slowly and steadily in a process of gradual adaptation to the needs of the Service – the first scheme was good, but naturally refinements were found necessary as time went on. In the summers of 1947 and 1948, personnel were assigned to one coast or the other on a geographical basis. Generally men from Winnipeg and western divisions went to Esquimalt for training, and those from Windsor, Ontario, and eastwards to Halifax. By this arrangement, about 700 should go to the east coast and 300 to the west, but Halifax could not accommodate so many, so they were divided equally. Two hundred men requesting a draft to Esquimalt were allowed to go from Eastern divisions.⁷⁷

In 1953, with the first of the ROTP cadets coming forward for summer training, a new distribution was adopted. All first year ROTP went to the west coast, while the UNTD first year went to the east. The second and third year UNTD Executive Branch cadets were on both coasts, since a large part of their training was afloat; the Supply Branch cadets were based on their school at HMCS *Naden*⁷⁸ and the Electrical and Engineering Branch cadets on their respective schools at HMCS *Stadacona*.⁷⁹ This arrangement has been in force, with modifications, ever since, the chief change being that the base for the east coast training has been HMCS *Cornwallis* since the summer of 1960.⁸⁰

At the same time cadets were admitted to more branches: Ordnance Cadets appeared in 1950 and Constructors in 1954 – in both cases the first members transferred from the Engineering Branch. Flying training and the proliferation of branches ended with the adaptation of the UNTD to the "General List" concept – the first branch of the RCNR to make the change. This came about in 1959 and resulted in the training for the first two years being the same for all cadets. In their third summer they were allowed to begin their sub-specialization, whereby they became Engineers or Supply Officers and so on – but common training was now more important than ever since almost any officer might be expected to stand a watch on the bridge or in the engine room.⁸¹

The history of the UNTD has no logical conclusion because its development is continuing from day to day. Unfortunately there are no exact records of its personnel or performance as distinct from the rest of the navy. Perhaps this is a good sign, because it shows that the UNTD is an integral part of the Service. All that can be said in summing up is that the graduates are now reaching positions of seniority where their influence

will be felt and it will be in the future that the greatest effects will be seen. Already a Reserve Division is commanded by an Officer who entered through the ranks of his own UNTD, the Commanding Officer of a UNTD tender is the son of one of the original Commanding Officers of a UNTD, indeed it seems that half the active officers of the Reserve Divisions nowadays are graduates of the scheme. However, a more notable milestone will be reached in September 1963 when for the first time an officer who entered the regular force from the UNTD will assume the "brass hat" of a Commander.

APPENDIX

The memorandum on which the UNTD scheme was based, submitted by Professor A. W. Baker to the Commanding Officer, Reserve Divisions, and forwarded to Naval Service Headquarters in December 1942. Its covering letters have not come to light.

UNIVERSITY NAVAL TRAINING

When training for the armed services at the universities was confined to army training in the Canadian Officers' Training Corps, large numbers of college men entered the Navy either through direct selection as officers or as ratings. These men transferred from the COTC as did men who entered the Air Force. The establishment of the University Air Training Plan by the RCAF has altered greatly conditions with respect to enlistment in the Navy by university students or those newly graduated.

Students in universities are required to take military training during their college courses. Under present conditions students must of necessity affiliate with the Army or Air Force units. Not only because men tend to stay with the service in which they have been training but since affiliation with an Air Force unit means enlistment in the Air Force without possibility of transfer to another service and since it is quite possible also that the Army may now restrict opportunities of transfer from the COTC, it follows that the flow of college men into the Navy under present conditions may practically cease.

To prevent the above condition developing, it is recommended that Naval Training Units be established at the universities and colleges under a University Naval Training plan. It is suggested that such a Plan would secure large numbers of good men who will otherwise enter the Army or Air Force. Not only will this provide a large pool of possible officer material but those who continue as ratings will prove, in general, to be good men.

It should be pointed out that nearly all the larger universities and colleges with large COTC units are in cities in which Naval Reserve Divisions are situated. This makes immediate direction of the programme and instruction much easier. In most cases instructors would need to devote only part of their time to the training of university units, the rest of their time being free for divisional duties.

With respect to the expense involved in the operation of such a plan, it should be borne in mind that the major expense of kitting ratings and bounty pay is already being taken care of for medically fit university

students by the Army or the Air Force. The plan would not prove an added expense to the country in this respect.

Finally, such a Naval Training Plan could be continued in the universities after the war just as has been the case with the COTC in peace time. A large pool of keen reserve material could thus be built up and maintained.

With the foregoing in mind, the following suggestions with respect to the establishment of a Naval Training Plan for Canadian universities are offered:

UNIVERSITY NAVAL TRAINING PLAN

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Training Units</i> | (1) Naval Training Units to be established in universities and colleges where COTC and/or University Air Training Units are established. |
| <i>Enlistment</i> | (2) Members of these units to be given medical examinations and attested in the Navy and attached to the Area Reserve Division either on Divisional Strength or as members of a special unit as the authorities may decide. |
| <i>Exemption</i> | (3) The time of exemption from active service call, subject of course to the exigencies of the service, should be extended beyond the present period of one academic year to meet the conditions now in effect with respect to Army and Air Force Units. |
| <i>Direction of Training</i> | (4) Direction of training and maintenance of the units should be under the Commanding Officers of the Area Reserve Divisions. |
| <i>Instructing Officers</i> | (5) Instructing Officers should be attached to the staffs of Area Reserve Divisions. In most cases only part of their time would be required for instruction of these units. |
| <i>Faculty Representative</i> | (6) Consideration should be given to the appointment of a member of each university faculty in an honorary capacity to act as Naval Representative at the university to assist the Area Commanding Officer and Instructing Officer with respect to local problems which may arise within the particular institution. |

*Director of
University
Training Plan*

(7) The organization and maintenance of operation of the plan, formation of units and direction of the plan in relation to university activities should be under one familiar with university organization and procedure. The full time of such a man would probably be required.

Rating

(8) Members of University Naval Training Units should be enlisted as Ordinary Seamen.

Alternative Rating

(9) Where good men fail to pass a medical examination in certain respects, they might be enlisted in another field if they so desire. For example, a man failing in colour vision might be enlisted as Wireless Telegraphist.

Active Service Call

(10) At the end of his college course or sooner if the man so decides, he would be called for active service.

Character of Training

(11) The training given to members of the University Units should be an abridged Officers' Training Course.

*Opportunities for
Commissions*

(12) Opportunities for commissions for members of University Naval Training Units would presumably depend upon the selection procedure in effect at the time. If boards for direct selection were in operation, members with a satisfactory record in the course could appear before these boards upon recommendation of the Area Commanding Officer. If no direct selection was in effect, members with a satisfactory record could be marked by the Area Commanding Officer as potential cadet officer material before proceeding for further training on active service. Progress in such subsequent training could be observed as possible officer material. *Note:* All ratings in University Training Units should have the necessary academic background for officers.
Those who are not selected, sooner or later, as officers would continue on active service as ratings.

*Call or Discharge
for Unsatisfactory
Record*

(13) Members of University Training Units who fail to secure satisfactory university standing or whose record of attendance at parades or otherwise is not satisfactory should be called for active service or discharged. Such action is in accord with the present agreement between the universities and the Departments of National Defence.

Camps or Cruises

(14) If possible, two week camps or shorter cruises on Naval Training Vessels should be arranged in the spring for members of the University Units. It is suggested that Sea Cadet Camp facilities might be used for this purpose at the end of the academic year and before Sea Cadets' Camps are operating.

Respectfully submitted.
[Signed: A. W. Baker]

Ontario Agricultural College,
Guelph, Ontario.

NOTES

- 1 Referred to throughout the rest of this paper as UNTD or UNT Divisions according to the context. If the use of initials seems tiresome to the non-Service reader, the repetition of long titles would be even more so.
- 2 HMC Ships *Niobe*, stationed at Halifax, and *Rainbow*, at Esquimalt.
- 3 For an extensive study of these transactions, see *The Naval Service of Canada*, by G. N. Tucker (Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1952) vol. 1, chapters 6-9.
- 4 *Ibid.*, vol. 1, chapter 15
- 5 *Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 7
- 6 *Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 275.
- 7 Except as otherwise indicated, the source of information on the proceedings leading up to the passage of PC 68/4453 on 1 June 1943 is based on an interview with Captain A. W. Baker, RCNR (Ret'd), 16 October, 1963.
- 8 PC 2983, 13 May, 1942 (NS 103-2-1, vol. 3).
- 9 Memorandum, not dated or addressed but submitted by Professor Baker to CORD in December 1942 (copy on CORD 6-1-6A). See Appendix
- 10 "In an emergency the Governor in Council may order and direct that the Naval Volunteer Force, or any such part thereof as may be deemed necessary, shall be called into active service..." (*Naval Service Act*, 1910, section 31, reprinted in Tucker, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, Appendix V). The part of a reserve division not called into active service was known as its "divisional strength" during the Second World War.
- 11 Memorandum, CO to Recruiting Officer, HMCS *Star*, 23 September 1942 (CORD 6-1-6A).
- 12 *Ibid.*
- 13 On 1 December he had become Commanding Officer, Reserve Divisions (CORD), with headquarters in Toronto. (Naval Order 2540, 6 February, 1943).
- 14 The original of this document, which should be in Headquarters files, is not to be found. It was apparently on NS 21-1-30 which was destroyed about 1949. Luckily a signed carbon copy exists on CORD 6-1-6A held in NRC, Sydney, N.S. It was received in Naval Headquarters by 31 December (NS 103-2-1, Vol. 3, dated 31 December, 1942).
- 15 NS 103-2-1.
- 16 *Ibid.* It appears that Professor Baker was very busy and had not found the time to answer the first letter. The higher rank offered in the second would appear to be the result of re-consideration of his academic status and the importance of the post he was to take up.
- 17 RD 6-1-6, copy on NS 103-2-1, original on NS 21-1-30 destroyed. He was in fact entered on divisional strength on 28 January and called for active service on 1 February. (COND 0-3760.)
- 18 PC 68/4453 dated 1 June, 1943. This order was inexpertly drafted and the Judge Advocate of the Fleet advised that it be superseded (NS 4900-186, vol. 1, dated 22 November, 1944). The process took so long that it was not until 30 April 1946 that PC 156/1700 passed to amend the faulty order and PC 85/748 of 8 February, 1944 which was a minor amendment. The new regulations for the future government of the RCNR were nearly ready at this time, and the new order was required only to protect officers who had acted in good faith within the intent, but outside the provisions, of the faulty order. There was no suggestion of malfeasance.
- 19 Naval Order 2854, 19 June, 1943.

- 20 NS-0-26245, NS-0-28228 and Captain Baker's information.
- 21 PC 246 of 19 January, 1943: National Selective Service Regulations.
- 22 NS-0-28228.
- 23 HMCS *Kamsack's* operational record cards.
- 24 *Instructions for the University Naval Training Divisions, Canadian Naval Service, 1944, Art. 28, 32.*
- 25 Naval Order 2611 of 13 March, 1943, Naval Order 2666 of 3 April, 1943, Naval Order 3317 of 15 January, 1944. The last is a consolidation and revision of 24 earlier Naval Orders on officer selection and promotion including the first two cited.
- 26 Besides Ontario Agricultural College, UNT Divisions were set up in Dalhousie, Laval, McGill, McMaster, Mount Allison and Queen's Universities, the Universities of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ottawa, Saskatchewan, Toronto, Western Ontario and Montreal, and Nova Scotia Technical College.
- 27 The title was changed to Commanding Officer, Naval Divisions, 1 August, 1944. (Naval Order 3851, 12 August, 1944).
- 28 COND to Secretary of the Naval Board, 7 July, 1945. (NS 4900-186, vol. 2).
- 29 By PC 1166 of 31 March, 1947.
- 30 NS 4900-186, vol. 3, dated 16 September, 1946.
- 31 *Donnacona* to Naval Secretary, 29 October, 1946, and enclosure (NS 4900-186, vol. 3).
- 32 COND-O-42230. Commander Little served during the war with a temporary commission in the RCNVR. He was transferred to the RCN(R) on its formation, was demobilized on 30 September, 1947 and placed on Special Naval Duty the following day. On 3 June, 1948, he was transferred to the RCN as Instructor Commander. On 14 April, 1952 he relinquished the position on being appointed to sea and he retired on 11 December, 1958 having received the Canadian Forces Decoration.
- 33 Naval Board Minute 213-4, 16 April, 1947 (NS 1700-186, vol. 1).
- 34 *Instructions for the University Naval Training Divisions, Naval Service, 1946* (copy on NS 1700-186, vol. 1).
- 35 GO 75.03, approved 20 June, 1946, effective 29 May (NS 6300-186). This badge of the officer candidate was common to the Royal Navy and the British Army at least from the Great War, 1914-1919, and has been worn by the COTC since about that time. During the Second World War it was worn by CW Candidates from the Fleet in the Canadian Service. Ex-UNTD men of that period, treated as direct entry officer candidates, did not wear it.
- 36 NS 4900-186, vol. 3, *passim*.
- 37 *Ibid.*, 10 January, 1947.
- 38 Photograph F-4911 and NS-V-95935.
- 39 NS-U-1200.
- 40 NS-O-13129—the author of this paper.
- 41 COAC 091931Z April, 1947 (NS 1700-186, vol. 1).
- 42 NS 4900-186 dated 8 April, 1947.
- 43 NS 4900-186, vol. 3, dated 26 April, 1947.
- 44 Naval Board Minute 212-1, 9 April, 1947 (NS 4900-186, vol. 3).
- 45 Information from Commander C. H. Little, RCN (Ret'd).
- 46 NS 4900-186, vol. 5, *passim*.
- 47 Reports of: RTO, HMCS *Antigonish*, 22 May, 1947; RTO, HMCS *Uganda*, 26 June, 1947; RTO, HMCS *Malahat*, 29 September, 1947; RTO, HMCS *Malahat*, 20 October, 1947; SOUT to DNR, 24 June, 1948. (All NS 4900-186, vol. 5.)
- 48 NS 4900-186, vol. 2.

- 49 The post war Canadian naval battle dress differs from the war-time issue and from the contemporary army pattern in not being made to hook at the neck, and from RN battle dress in having hidden buttons.
- 50 It was not possible to make three summers mandatory since many undergraduates spend only three years in the university and others are required to work in industry related to their courses. Arrangements were made for Engineering and Electrical Branch cadets to count their naval training towards this requirement, but the universities insisted that part must be in civilian plants. (NS 4900-186, *passim*.)
- 51 NS 1700-186 PERS (N) "S", dated 30 January, 1963.
- 52 NS 1700-186 PERS (N) "L", dated 7 March, 1953.
- 53 HMCS *La Hulloise* to Flag Officer Atlantic Coast, 5 October, 1950, (NS 4900-186, vol. 7).
- 54 HMCS *Swansea* to Flag Officer Atlantic Coast, 11 August, 1950, *ibid*.
- 55 NS 4900-186, vol. 8, dated 2 May, 1951.
- 56 NS 4900-186, vol. 8, *passim*.
- 57 Royal Canadian Naval Air Station, Dartmouth, N.S. (NS 4900-186, vol. 7, dated 7 April, 1951).
- 58 NS 4900-186, vol. 6, *passim*. See also photograph DNS-3237.
- 59 Report of Proceedings HMCS *La Hulloise*, 2 April, 1951, and photographs CR-74 *La Hulloise*, HS-14507 *Swansea*, E-15226 *Beacon Hill*, E-24261 *Antigonish*.
- 60 *Jane's Fighting Ships, 1962-63*. HMC Ships *Antigonish*, *Beacon Hill*, *Jonquiere*, *New Glasgow*, *Ste Therese*, *Stettler*, *Sussexvale*.
- 61 Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario; Royal Roads, Esquimalt, B.C.; Collège Royal Militaire de St. Jean, St. Jean, Québec.
- 62 Royal Military College of Canada, *Calendar, 1956-1957*, Kingston, Canadian Services College, 1956.
- 63 NS 1700-186 PERS (N) "S", dated 30 January, 1963.
- 64 NS 4900-186, vols. 13, 14, *passim*.
- 65 NS 4900-186, vol. 14, dated 6 September 1957, DNT to Chairman, JSUCC.
- 66 NS 4900-186, vol. 14, dated 6 September 1957, DNT to CNP.
- 67 The Mount Allison UNTD was later transferred to HMCS *Brunswicker's* books.
- 68 NS 4900-186, vol. 15, dated 28 February, 1958.
- 69 NDPA 1880-170/42, dated 23 October, 1962, (NS 1700-186).
- 70 NDRA 1880-170/43, no date, (NS 1700-186).
- 71 Form NR.5C dated 15 November, 1954 (NS 4900-186, vol. 12).
- 72 QRCN 6.04(2).
- 73 CANAVHED to CANFLAGDIV 261744Z, September, 1957 (NS 4900-186, vol. 14).
- 74 NS 4900-186, vol. 15, dated 15 and 22 May, 1958 and CANFLAGLANT'S 142007Z, May, 1958, *ibid*.
- 75 CANCOND'S 022026Z (NS 4900-186, vol. 15).
- 76 CANAVHED'S 141419Z, May, 1958 (NS 4900-186, vol. 15).
- 77 NS 4900-186, vol. 4, dated 15 December, 1947.
- 78 Now at HMCS *Hochelega*, Montreal.
- 79 NS 4900-186, vol. 10, dated 6 February, 1953.
- 80 FOAC to Naval Secretary, 8 July, 1959 (NS 4900-186, vol. 16).
- 81 NS 4900-186, vol. 16, dated 1 December, 1958.