

**UDELL, Frank Ernest Kane, Sub-Lieutenant - Mention in Despatches** - RCNVR / HMS Lulworth - Awarded as per **London Gazette** of 13 October 1942 (no Canada Gazette).

Lieutenant, RCNVR, when award announced.

**UDELL, Frank Ernest Kane**, 0-74670,

S/Lt(Temp) [18.8.41] RCNVR, **MID**~[13.10.42] Lt(Temp) [18.8.42]

Lt(Temp) [18.8.41] Demobilized [21.9.45]

"Displayed great resource and determination as Gunnery Control Officer during the surface action with an Italian Submarine. His orders were clear and his judgement accurate, and a considerable measure of the success of our gunnery was due to his direction."

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**UNDERHILL, Richard Walter, Acting Paymaster Captain - Officer - Order of the British Empire (OBE)** - RCNVR / Accountant Officer - Awarded as per **Canada Gazette** of 16 June 1945 and **London Gazette** of 14 June 1945.

Home: Victoria, British Columbia. Born in Vancouver in 1907.

His father was the first Medical Health Officer of the City of Vancouver.

He joined the RCNVR Supplementary Reserve on 24 February 1938 in Vancouver and was called up on 3 August 1940 as Paymaster Lieutenant for training.

Posted to the Vancouver Division RCNVR on 1 May 1941 as Accounting Officer.

To Naval HQ on 28 August 1942 on pay staff.

To HMCS York (Toronto) on 10 December 1942 as **Command Accounting Officer** for **Commander Reserve Divisions**.

Promoted to Paymaster LCdr (Acting Pay Cdr) on 1 January 1943 and Paymaster Commander on 1 January 1945.

To Naval HQ on 8 January 1945 as Director of Pay and Accounting and made Acting Captain (S).

Demobilized on 3 July 1946.

Rejoined at **HMCS Discovery (Naval Reserve)** on 13 December 1946.

To the retired list in late 1950.

Civilian career as chartered accountant, Senior Partner for BC in Peat Marwick Mitchell.

Was NOAC National President in 1951.

President of Vancouver Art Gallery and Chairman of Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Died on 10 November 1994, age 87, on Bowen Island, British Columbia.

**UNDERHILL, Richard Walter**, 0-74690,

RCNVR Vancouver, BC. Sup/Reserve [24.2.38] RCNVR,

Paym/Lt(Temp) [3.8.40]

RCNVR Div, Vancouver, (1.5.41-?) Paym/LCdr(Temp) [1.1.43] A/Paym/Cdr(Temp),

Cdr(S)(Temp) [1.1.45]

**OBE**~[16.6.45] A/Capt(S)(Temp) (WHA) [?]

Demob. [3.7.46] Capt(S) [1.1.46] RCN(R)

HMCS DISCOVERY Vancouver Naval Div, (13.12.46-?)

"This Officer, a Chartered Accountant by profession, joined the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1940, as a Lieutenant, at a time when Accountant Officers were urgently required. He has worked most assiduously and tirelessly to further the interests of the Service. His marked ability, initiative and zeal in instituting many methods for saving clerical labour and safe-guarding public interest have been invaluable."

**Medals of Paymaster Captain Richard Walter UNDERHILL, OBE, RCNVR:**

OBE - CVSM - 39/45 War Medal - EIR Coronation.



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**VAILLANCOURT, John Anthony Roland, Chief Petty Officer Steward (40420) - British Empire Medal (BEM) - RCN -**  
Awarded as per **Canada Gazette** of 5 January 1946 and **London Gazette** of 1 January 1946. Home: Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Served from 1935 to 1970, including **HMCS Saguenay, HMCS Skeena, HMS Peregrine, HMS Puncher, HMCS Warrior, HMCS Magnificent** and at Stadacona, Naval HQ, Donnacona.

He retired as a Lieutenant (S).

He was active in the Navy League, the **HMCS Sackville** restoration from 1982 to 1986 and the reunion.

He died on 2 January 1988, age 71, in Ottawa where he had just moved from Halifax.

**VAILLANCOURT, John Anthony Roland, 0-74792,**

CPO/Stwd, 40420, RCN, **BEM** [5.1.46]

A/Cd/Ct [1.10.50] RCN, HMCS MAGNIFICENT (21) CVL, (9.3.51-?)

"This Rating's exemplary conduct, cheerfulness, bearing and devotion to duty have been a continued inspiration to his subordinates. His energy and zeal to promote an efficient smooth-running organization have been of the highest order at all times."

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**VAN DE WIEL, Viola Gertrude, Nursing Sister (Mrs) - Associate of the Royal Red Cross (ARRC) - RCN (Temp) / RCN**  
Hospitals in Halifax and Sydney –

Awarded as per **Canada Gazette** of 15 June 1946 and **London Gazette** of 14 June 1946.

Home: Toronto, Ontario.

Her maiden name was Miss Viola Gertrude COPP.

"For outstanding service as a Nursing Sister in the Royal Canadian Navy Hospitals in Halifax and Sydney. In the organization of a highly efficient course of practical nursing for Sick Berth Staff, she has contributed a high degree of professional ability and superlative leadership."

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**VANDERHAEGAN, George Charles, Chief Petty Officer (3154) - Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) - RCN / HMCS Sioux** - Awarded as per **London Gazette** of 14 June 1945.

Born: 1919 on a farm outside Yorkton, Saskatchewan



He joined the RCN in April 1938 and trained at Naden.

He then joined HMCS Ottawa (Destroyer) and served until December 1940 (except for 3 months spent at Gunnery School in Halifax qualifying as a layer rating third class).

In December 1940 he went to HMS Drake at Plymouth for the LR2 course.

He then joined **HMCS Saguenay** in 1941 at Greenock, Scotland and was advanced to Leading Seaman. During his time in **Saguenay** the ship experienced a fierce storm that lasted seven days.

He then went to Stadacona for his LR1 course. He met **Miss Constance Kennedy** and **married her in June 1942.**

He joined **HMCS Assiniboine** and was advanced to Chief Petty Officer. He was Director Layer in **HMCS Assiniboine** when **U-210** was sunk on 06 August 1942. The action in which **HMCS Assiniboine** (River Class Destroyer - D118) sank **U-210** on 06 August 1942 in the North Atlantic while protecting Convoy SC-94 is described in Chapter 14 of "**The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-1945**".

In the early spring of 1943, he went back to Stadacona as an instructor in the Gunnery School.

He was in the advance guard which opened up the RCN training establishment HMCS Cornwallis at Deep Brook, Nova Scotia. He was in charge of the first class under instruction there.

In December 1943, he joined **HMCS Sioux** at Cowes in the Isle of Wight and became the ship's Coxswain. He saw service in **HMCS Sioux** on D-Day and for many days after. He was then on the Murmansk run which would give him the Arctic Star today. He received the **Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)** while serving in **HMCS Sioux**.

He finished his war service at Peregrine, Stadacona and Naden until July 1947 when he joined **HMCS Crescent** as Chief Boatswain's Mate.

In July 1948 he was drafted to Royal Roads to instruct cadets in seamanship.

He then joined **HMCS Crusader** when it was commissioned in April 1951.

This was his 6<sup>th</sup> destroyer that he served in.

He continued in the RCN post war and served in **HMCS Athabaskan** in Korea. He received the **British Empire Medal (BEM)** for his service on **HMCS Athabaskan**.

He died on 02 May 2008 in Victoria.

**VANDERHAEGAN, George Charles, 3154,**

CPO, RCN, **DSM**~[14.6.45]

HMCS ATHABASKAN(219) DD, CPO 2, **BEM**~[6.2.54]

"The KING has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday, to give orders for the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Medal and to approve the following awards for gallantry or outstanding service in the face of the enemy, or for zeal, patience and cheerfulness in dangerous waters, and for setting an example of wholehearted devotion to duty, upholding the high tradition of the Royal Navy."

Awarded **British Empire Medal (BEM)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 6 February 1954 as Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class for service in **HMCS Athabaskan (II)** in Korea.

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**VEINOT, Frank, Acting Chief Shipwright (V-25798) - British Empire Medal (BEM) - RCNVR / Steel Repairs to Sea-Going Ships - Awarded as per **Canada Gazette** of 16 June 1945 and **London Gazette** of 14 June 1945. Home: Halifax, Nova Scotia.**

**VEINOT, Frank, V-25798,**  
A/CPO/Shipw, RCNVR, **BEM**~[16.6.45]

"During the past two and a half years, this Rating has given valuable service in supervising the steel repairs to sea-going ships of all types, under difficult operating conditions, thus rendering considerable assistance to the maintenance of North Atlantic patrols. He has, throughout his period of service, displayed the utmost zeal and cheerfulness, and has consistently proven to be an example to his fellow workers."

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**VET, Jan, Chief Engine Room Artificer (M) (A-4266) - Mention in Despatches - RCNR - Awarded as per **Canada Gazette** of 9 January 1943 and **London Gazette** of 1 January 1943.**

**VET, Jan, 0-75140,**  
CPO/ERA(M) A-4266, RCNR, **MID**~[9.1.43]  
A/Wt(E)(Temp) [1.5.43] RCNR,  
HMCS BEAVERTON(W23) tug, stand by, (15.1.43-?)  
HMCS NORTON(W31) 462t tug, stand by (12.10.43-?)  
HMCS BEAVERTON(W23) tug, stand by, (15.1.43-?)  
HMCS BIRCHTON(W35) 462t, tug, stand by, (11.4.44-?)  
Demobilized [12.12.45]

"Chief Engine Room Artificer Vet, while serving at sea in charge of machinery in one of His Majesty's Canadian Yachts, displayed initiative and resourcefulness of a very high order in effecting engine repairs under very strenuous conditions."



Crew of the HMCS Beaverton

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**VINCENT, James Wesley, Yeoman of Signals (V-7601) - Mention in Despatches - RCNVR / HMCS Napanee - Awarded as per **Canada Gazette** of 6 January 1945 and **London Gazette** of 1 January 1945. Home: Toronto, Ontario.**

**HMCS Napanee** was a Flower Class Corvette (K118).

**VINCENT, James Wesley, V-7601,**  
Tmn, RCNVR, **MID**~[6.1.45]

"Throughout a total of thirty-two months service at sea during which period he was a survivor from **HMCS Charlottetown**, he has continually received excellent recommendations for good service and devotion to duty. His loyalty and zeal during his service in **HMCS Napanee** contributed in a high degree to the efficiency

of this department and he has been a fine example to the Ship's Company as a whole."

**HMCS Charlottetown** (Revised Flower Class Corvette - K244) was sunk by **U-517** on 11 September 1942 in the St. Lawrence River.

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**VIRTUE, Reid Howard, Acting Able Seaman (V-65076) - Mention in Despatches - RCNVR - Awarded as per Canada Gazette of 21 April 1945 and London Gazette of 20 March 1945. Home: Bowmanville, Ontario.**

**VIRTUE, Reid Howard, V-65076,**  
A/AB, RCNVR, MID~[21.4.45]

"For outstanding skill, courage and zeal in Anti-U-Boat operations while serving in **H.M. Canadian Ships Annan and Saint John.**" (London Gazette has **HMCS St. John**)

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**VLACHOS, Theodore Harry ('Ted'), Telegraphist (SO) (V-54941) - British Empire Medal (BEM) - RCNVR / Harbour Grace Special Wireless Telegraphy Station - Awarded as per Canada Gazette of 5 January 1946 and London Gazette of 1 January 1946.**

Home: Caledonia, Ontario.

While at high school in Caledonia, Ontario Ted was taught wireless by the Army. This training greatly assisted him after joining the Navy in 1942 at **HMCS Star** in Hamilton, Ontario and once transferred to Naval Head Quarters in Ottawa where they were learning to track German subs.

His course was 2 weeks behind and he was unable to go to the wireless station based in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland as scheduled. He was most fortunate because the ship taking the forces there was sunk by a German sub and 132 people were lost.

Ted went to the Gander Airport in Newfoundland to help keep track of the bombers going to England who were getting lost. They monitored subs in their spare time. He eventually was transferred to Harbour Grace and spent the next two years helping "catch and sink subs faster than the Germans could build them". This was a crucial posting that resulted in useful information being provided to the Navy and armed forces leading to the successful locating and destroying of numerous enemy submarines.

He returned home in the spring of 1945 to operate the family restaurant business for his ill father while he recuperated. The Germans surrendered in May 1945 followed by the Japanese and Ted was discharged. He returned to Newfoundland and married his sweetheart Grace Anita Parsons.





Ted had a long work history involving initially the restaurant and candy making business. He and his family including children Harry and Valerie moved to Guelph, Ontario where he operated a variety store. He moved on to have a successful sales career with Sears Canada and later managed a Home Hardware store in Brantford, Ontario. He retired in 1992 from Roots Home Hardware in Guelph. Ted and his wife relocated to the Niagara Falls, Ontario area where they still reside.

Ted is very proud of his two children. Valerie is an Office Manager living in Burlington, Ontario and Harry is a Business Consultant who resides with his wife Sheila in Peterborough, Ontario. Ted has one granddaughter Brooke who is a graduate of the Food and Hospitality Program at the University of Guelph.

Ted Vlachos remains a loyal Canadian who served his country with dedication, determination and honour. He sincerely appreciates the special recognition including the British Empire Medal bestowed upon him at the conclusion of the war.

**VLACHOS. Theodore Harry**, V-54941, Tele(SO), RCNVR, **BEM**~[5.1.46]

"This Rating, who was employed at the **Harbour Grace Special Wireless Telegraphy Station**, was a keen and conscientious operator, whose hard work greatly improved the Station's overall efficiency and served as a fine example for the less experienced operators. Through his outstanding efforts, Naval Service Headquarters was furnished with valuable information which helped keep track of the U-Boats and hasten the war to an end."

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**VODDEN, Edward George, Acting Petty Officer (V-71909) - Mention in Despatches - RCNVR - Awarded as per Canada Gazette of 6 January 1945 and London Gazette of 1 January 1945. Home: Chilliwack, British Columbia.**

**VODDEN, Edward George, V-71909,**  
A/PO, RCNVR, MID~[6.1.45]

"While serving for many months in His Majesty's Canadian Corvettes in the North Atlantic, he has constantly shown himself capable of carrying heavy responsibility, and by his zeal, enthusiasm and devotion to duty, he has set an inspiring example."

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**VON ZUBEN, Adolph, Steward (V-45167) - Mention in Despatches - RCNVR - Awarded as per London Gazette of 1 January 1945 (no Canada Gazette).**

Home: Toronto, Ontario.

**VON ZUBEN, Adolph, V-45167,**  
Stwd, RCNVR, MID~[1.1.45]

"For gallantry or outstanding service in the face of the enemy or for zeal, patience and cheerfulness in dangerous waters and for setting an example of wholehearted devotion to duty, upholding the high traditions of the Royal Canadian Navy." New Years List (Admiralty) A.F.O. 239/45.

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