

The way I see it –

This memorial has to be more than a collection of words and pictures set in a frame. It must be a message of Life and Death, Prayer and Peace. A small page in the history book which we have written.

Each item tells a story or is symbolic in content relating to the story. When one reads it they must translate the unwritten message relating - as an artist translates a scene with brush and canvas. Here is how I would read it ---

1. Ships Crest - our coat of arms – Heraldic!
2. Motto – a statement to all who serve in any capacity in life.
3. The Ship – a ghost of the past, but very much alive in our minds.
4. Statement – Why we are presenting this and to whom. If we don't write this page of history – who will? This is now the focal point of our operations as a ships company.
5. Standing Orders – For the last man to have.
6. The flame of eternal life.
7. Crew Pictures – an illustration of man's mortality – a steadfast crew diminishing in number.
8. Quotations – proof positive of the longevity of prayer and praise to fallen warriors.
9. Stars (anchors) – symbolic of each deceased shipmate shining in the night sky.
10. Canada Flag and Naval Ensign – living symbols of our country and our service.

Fix your eyes on the greatness of your country as you have it before you day by day, fall in love with her, and when you feel her great, remember that her greatness was won by men with courage, with knowledge of their duty, and with a sense of honor in action, who, even if they failed in some venture, would not think of depriving the country of their powers but laid them at her feet as their fairest offering.

Paraphrased from Pericles to the Athenians in Thucydides – “The Peloponnesian Wars”

### **Currently being transposed to parchment**

Dear Ivan, Bob, Len, Jack and Ted.

As it so often happens after an event such as our meeting in Oakville, hindsight comes into play. I know it always happens to me. As a result I thought I'd put pen to paper to better express myself. First Off, I wish to apologize for allowing my enthusiasm and exuberance get out of hand. I'm sure some of my remarks were uncalled for.

To bring everyone to read off the same page – let me chronologize the events leading to our present position.

I got this fuzzy idea October 30<sup>th</sup> when in Lindsay. A week or so later it began to take form and I drew a bunch of diagrams with a letter of explanation to each of you. At that time I was talking of three steel panels. By November 29<sup>th</sup> at Len's place it had become oak. I had no material and we used pieces of cardboard and pictures off the wall (at Len's) to illustrate the concept. When asked about cost, I tossed off a number \$300 dollars with no good reason. The whole thing was still wrapped up in my mind. The idea did get across and everyone agreed I should pursue it. This, of course, fired me up and with your endorsement I started to really go into detail.

I began thinking of memorials in other places. What did they mean, how they got the message out and what were the pitfalls? To that end I went to sources for help. From the library I learned about other memorials – specifically those raised since WW2. I read an anthology of nautical prose, poems and articles – to get the feeling to be expressed. I spoke with artists and scholars on the subject. The scholar is a retired professor of a very wide experience. In his time he has held tenure as professor at McGill University for 10 years, Notre Dame University 10 years, University of Montana 6 years, as guest professor at Oxford in the U.K. for 3 years. He is a classic scholar, European, fluent in 9 languages and very articulate.

In deciding on the content, I had to consider how much I had to write and how little space there was available in which to put these writings. It also had to be done in such a form that the message – while written, would also give an underwritten message.

In other words it had to be a little “Churchillian”. Winston was a master of saying a great deal with a few well chosen words. It was the influence of “Churchillian” words that actually led me to reading up on memorials – hence- the research and findings of the Greek author Pericles – which led me to the findings, that his quote is on the HMCS Athabaskan memorial in France. It is also a quote that has been recognized and used more than John McCrae's. I went with it.

About mid-December the realization set in that while I thought it was a great idea, and you were with me on it, I had no idea if the Admiral Inn would go for it. To that end I started to prepare material, to take to Lindsay, to do a selling job.

I used every resource available to me. Two secretaries, in two separate offices, in the village started to produce various forms of proclamations – acclamations and other copy. Knowing that this material would be open to public scrutiny – it had to be perfect in syntax and grammar. It had to say a lot in a concise form. I prepared – assembled – and pondered.

Imagine my surprise at the results of this trip. Ted and I in a quiet moment after the results were known – looked at one another in disbelief. Now I was really fired up. I'm sure you can understand now why I behaved as I did in Oakville. As you know I returned from Lindsay on January 21<sup>st</sup> - but spent 5 days in hospital commencing January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Related to my excitement of the time, or not, I feel as good now, as ever. I have however tried to slow down - but would look forward to a more structured and effective meeting as soon as possible after Len and Jack return home from Holidays. The Admiral Inn is somewhat pumped up about the plan and has made an inquiry as to our progress. The second thing I will try to explain is costs. The third thing will be – what I'm doing about it.

I've already explained about the \$300 dollar remark at Len's place. I had no idea, no thought, nor did I make any effort to think costs. At this point I was only interested in selling You the concept (that was still locked up in my head). Proceeding to assemble material, having it produced, reproduced and altered – in December, I also went on a pricing trip with Jack to look at material (oak veneered ply). He found some excellent material which priced out at about \$88 dollars. With his talent to use – I had made available to me a woodworking shop where we could proceed.

I gathered my material – went to Lindsay – won the day and returned with another problem. While the hotel went for it in a big way they also requested that it be encased. I had to call on Jack to figure that one out. It has to be in blonde oak (to match the reception desk trim – since it is mounted so close). Jack produced a number in the area of \$375 total. So lets err on the side of safety, and say \$400 dollars. I had earlier sought two commercial outlets re-the framing of the items and the top one priced out at \$327.00

Because of the shape of the shield, set in a square frame, there would be space in the corners that would be redundant, if not put to use with some meaningful item(s). At this time a firm number on the electrical parts is not in hand – but I've seen nothing yet that would, in total, exceed \$50 dollars. We have not considered some minor hardware – stain or varnish – or whatever you use to finish this type of thing. That's beyond me. So – let's add up the numbers set out so far.

Display materials -	\$264
Woodwork -	\$400
Framing -	\$327
Hardware & Misc. -	\$50
Electrical -	<u>\$50</u>
Total	\$1091

Nothing near the \$300 – but as you can see – there were things that couldn't be counted on, such as the request of the hotel to encase it. Even at \$1091 it's not an insurmountable number. We'll do it in a breeze. The hotel is offering \$200, without being asked. I will go on record here in writing and commit myself for \$100 – So the project will be well funded. Finally – What I have done and what I am doing to pull all this together:

1. A newsletter to all hands, outlining the whole project and requesting a donation of \$25 dollars. There will be other news in the letter but this is by far the most comprehensive letter I have yet written. It's been re-written three times and it is still going to be 5-6 pages.
2. Sent a newsletter to the staff of the Admiral (64 people) outlining our project and intentions. On this subject, a few days after the meeting it was brought to light in a phone conversation by Jack that we have neglected to mention about thanking the townsfolk of Lindsay.

How stupid of me not to realize that. I had been focused on only one facet – the historical side of it. Well it's been corrected and already in the works.

There will be an official declaration of gratitude duly inscribed and I believe it will be both sincere and far reaching. I'm sure you will like it. But understand this – it is an extra piece of material and will cost a little more even if we drop one item because the items we already have are paid for. My next newsletter to the staff will touch on this gratitude and will tie in with the first newsletter. In it I say that while we've never met these kind people, and they have never met us, that we thank them. Only they know who they are. I point out that it was their (staff) grandparents and parents to whom we owe this debt of gratitude and would they please go back to them with this message. Not enough room in a letter to tell you all about it but I do finish by saying. "This memorial will be mounted in a public place – visible to all – 24 hrs a day. Strangers and travellers who see it, and read it, will go away with the knowledge that Lindsay has a heart, larger than the town itself." In the letter to the staff I use an analogy and a quote which I believe to be appropriate – When President John F. Kennedy said at his inaugural – "Don't ask what my country can do for me – ask – what can I do for my country." I'm sure Kennedy had never heard of Lindsay. The people of Lindsay were years ahead of him. What they did for HMCS Lindsay would have inspired even Kennedy. I tell them so.

I rest my case.

Jack Tice