

H.M.S. KING GEORGE V - A CANADIAN CONNECTION

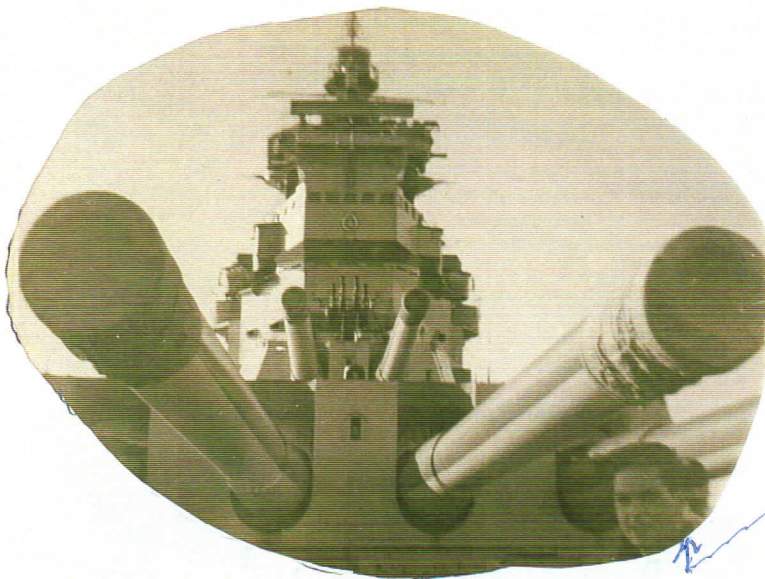


Early 1944-New Years Eve six R.C.N.V.R. engine room Artificers arrived on board K.G.V at Scapa Flow for engine room crew and turbine training plus all the sideline training like battle stations- damage control and fire fighting, a wonderful experience for twenty year olds, most of us had been on corvettes not much larger than K.G.V's life boats.

We went on a few bombarding runs along Norways coast where our fourteen inch guns would fire on the German battleships that were taking refuge in The Fiords.

My most memorable trip was from Scapa Flow to Gibraltar. At full speed, entering Harbour in the evening darkness, taking on food and fuel and some very important passengers, none other than SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, his daughter plus about forty of his staff, all set for a fast trip back up to Plymouth England.

We departed Gibraltar in the morning darkness heading at full speed north across the outer edge of The Bay of Biscay. In the afternoon we passed The Cruiser Glasgow and her Destroyer escort, they had been sent into The Bay of Biscay as a decoy. The HMS Glasgow had a hole in the STBD Bow, you could have driven a ten ton truck through it, all arrived back to U.K. safely.



FOOTNOTE: On completion of the KING GEORGE V. trip with Sir Winston Churchill, The Engine Room Branch was awarded The British Empire Medal (B.E.M.), it was presented to the C.I.E.R.A. (CHIEF ENGINE ROOM ARTICIFER). He is the only one allowed to wear it.

Douglas Giles C.D.

R.C.N.V.R.- R.C.N.