

SASKATCHEWAN BLUES



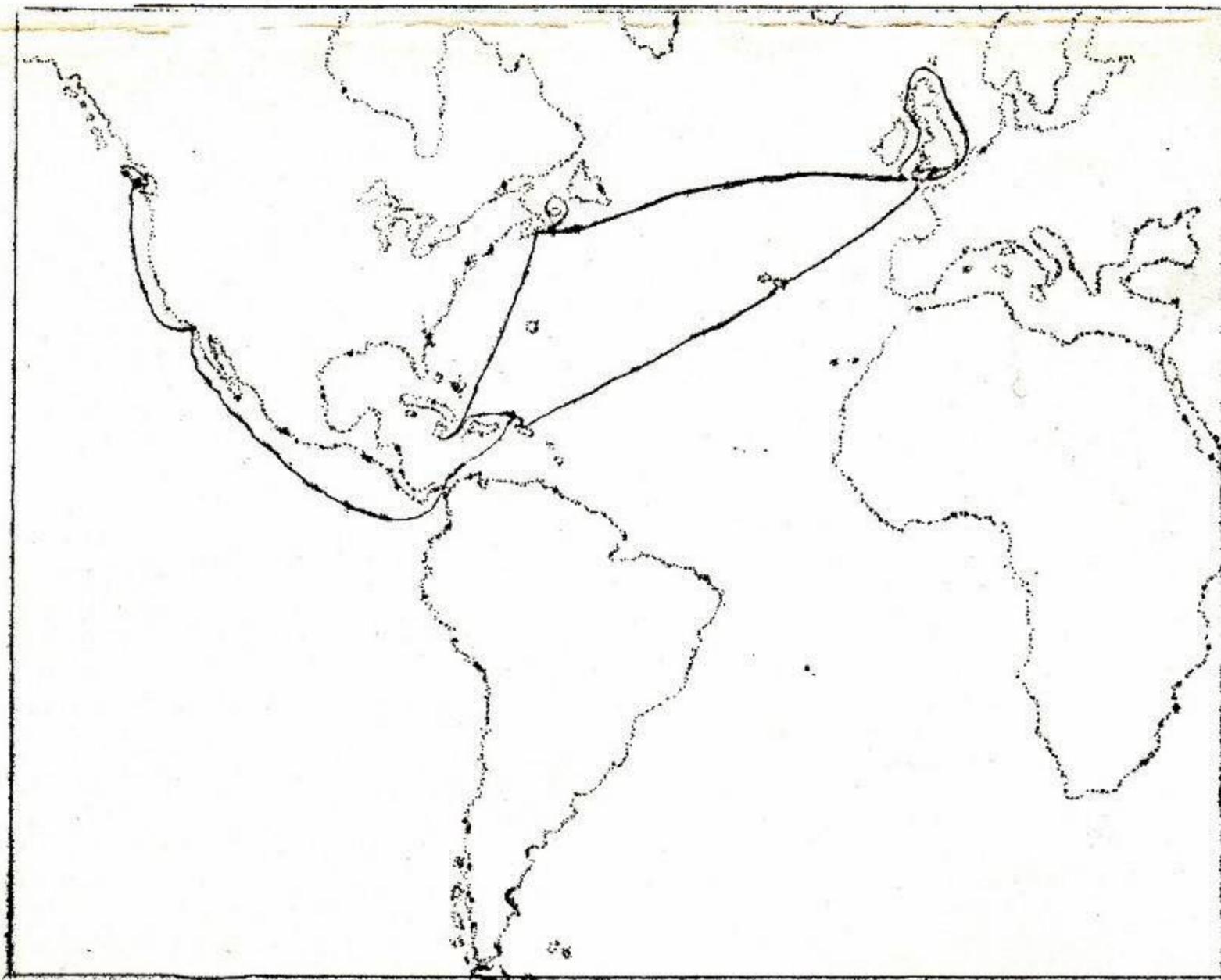
THIS RECORD OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE SHIP'S COMPANY OF H.M.C.S. SASKATCHEWAN IS PRESENTED AS A MEMENTO OF HER 1963 CRUISE TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC - APRIL 16TH THROUGH 29TH NOVEMBER.

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS SHIP'S COMPANY WILL EVER AGAIN BE TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE, THEREFORE, IT IS HOPED THAT THESE MODEST ATTEMPTS WILL BRING AT LEAST A FEW MEMORIES BACK IN LATER YEARS.

PORTS OF CALL

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.	HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.
BALBOA, CANAL ZONE.	PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND.
PANAMA CANAL.	PORTLAND, ENGLAND.
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.	ROSYTH, SCOTLAND.
HAITI PATROL.	PONTA DELGADA, AZORES IS.
KINGSTON, JAMAICA.	MANZANILLO, MEXICO.

TOTAL MILES STEAMED ----- 33,029.1



SASKATCHEWAN BLUES

PART ONE (SANJUAN)

THE MAILMAN HOLDS OUR MAIL BACK,
THE PAYBOB HOLDS OUR PAY,
THE CAPTAIN STOPS OUR SHORE LEAVE,
AND THE DRESS IS 13-A.

BUT SAILORS, DON'T BE WEEPIN',
'CAUSE IT SOON WILL ALL BE O'ER,
THERE'S ONLY SEVEN MONTHS TO GO,
JUST THINK, IT COULD BE MORE.

A WARDROOM FILLED WITH WOMEN,
AND THE C.P.O.'S AT PLAY,
DOES A SAILOR'S HEART MUCH GOOD,
WHILE WAITING FOR PAYDAY.

NOW MAYBE WHEN WE MAKE OUR WAY
TO HALIFAX-----EGAD,
WE MAY GET OVERNIGHT LEAVE,
IF WE'RE REAL GOOD TO 'DAD'.

SO KEEP YOUR HEADS UPLIFTED,
LET A TEARDROP NEVER DRIP,
FOR THINGS WILL SOON BE BETTER
ON OUR SPARKLING LITTLE SHIP.

PART TWO (SAN JUAN)

WELL, WE MADE IT UP TO PAYDAY,
AND WE'RE FEELING BETTER NOW,
WE'VE EVEN GOT 2-A'S FOR DRESS
SOMEONE SHOULD TAKE A BOW.

A FEW MORE DAYS AND WE'LL BE GONE,
FROM SAN JUAN'S LOVELY SHORE,
A LONG, LONG STRETCH AT SEA AHEAD
WHICH I FOR ONE, ABHOR.

THE SEA WILL SOON MUCH GREENER BE
THEN DIRTY GREENISH BROWN,
AND THIS WILL SERVE TO INDICATE
WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE THAT TOWN.

FOR HALIFAX----EXCUSE THE TERM,
IT'S NOT THE BEST OF PORTS,
THERE JUST AREN'T ANY PALM TREES
OR NO DELUXE RESORTS.

BUT, WE WILL PERSEVERE, MY FRIENDS,
NO SENSE TO FALTER NOW,
CONSIDER ONLY, IF YOU WILL,
THE MILES BENEATH OUR BOW.

PART THREE (HAITI)

A TIME HAS COME, O COMRADES,
TO THROW OUR TOYS ASIDE,
FOR SOON WE MAY BE WITNESSING
MORE THAN JUST TURNS OF TIDE.

WITNESSING? I ERR, IT SEEMS,
FOR THIS IS NOT THE CASE,
APPARENTLY WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE,
TO LOOK THEM IN THE FACE.

NOW, HAITI, FEW OF US HAS SEEN
AND NEVER THOUGHT WE MIGHT,
BUT SOME OF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS GROUP
MAY SEE IT THROUGH GUNSIGHTS.

THE FOLKS AT HOME, APPARENTLY,
ARE NOT INFORMED AS YET,
BUT REST ASSURED, THEY'LL HEAR OF IT
AND DROP THEIR DRAWERS, I'LL BET.

ALSO, THE BLOKES WE CAME TO SAVE,
MAY NOT KNOW WE ARE HERE,
AND THIS CREATES A PROBLEM
FOR BOTH OF US, I FEAR,

FOR IF THEY DON'T KNOW THEY ARE SAVED,
AND NEED NOT FEAR THE MOB,
THEY MAY ALL COMMIT SUICIDE
AND WE WILL LOSE OUR JOB.

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PART FOUR (ENROUTE HALIFAX)

FROM SAN JUAN 'CROSS TO HAITI,
TO GUANTANAMO BAY,
FROM KINGSTON THROUGH THE BAHAMAS,
WE SAIL UPON OUR WAY.

WE'VE SET OUR COURSE FOR HALIFAX,
THAT DEMON/DEVIL'S LAIR,
THERE'S NO WAY TO AVOID IT, BOYS,
BUT HELL, IT ISN'T FAIR.

TO TAKE WE PURE-BRED WESTERN LADS
AWAY FROM KITH AND KIN,
AND CAST US TO THE GAPING MAW,
OF EVIL-MORTAL SIN.

I KNOW WE ALL WILL DO OUR BEST
TO KEEP OUR HEARTS SO PURE,
AS WE HAVE DONE SO FAR THIS TRIP
AVOIDING EVERY LURE.

IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT IT WILL NOT
BE HARD TO SURPASS ALL,
THAT SAIL AROUND THESE ROCK-STREWN
SHORES,
BECAUSE,WELL AFTER ALL.

WE COME FROM WHERE THE GODS HAVE DONE
THE WONDERS OF THEIR PLAN,
TO VISITATE THE OTHER SIDE,
THE GOD-FORSAKEN LAND.

WHERE SEAS ARE NOT FOR SAILING ON
FOR NEITHER MAN OR BEAST,
OH, HOW I PRAY TO SEE THAT DAY,
WHEN WE DEPART THE EAST.

OF COURSE, WE REALLY MUST PRETEND
TO SEEM TO "LIKE IT" HERE,
OR CANFLAGLANT MAY LET HIS WRATH
FALL HARD UPON OUR REAR.

AND CANAVHED WHO SEEMED SO FAR
FROM B.C.'S BALMY SHORE,
IS NOW WITHIN PEA-SHOOTIN' RANGE,
OF OUR COMMAND'S AFT DOOR.

BUT, HARBOUR NEVER FEAR MY LADS,
FOR AS THE 'S' RATES SAY,-
"WE'RE ONLY ON LOAN TO YOU, DAD,
SO LET US HAVE OUR WAY."

PART FIVE (HALIFAX)

SORRY FOR THE WAIT, MY FRIENDS,
BUT I MUST TRULY SAY,
THAT I'M NOT MUCH IMPRESSED BY ALL
THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE LAST MAY.

WE SAILED INTO THIS HIDEOUS PLACE
OF RUSTY SHIPS AND MEN,
AND SOON, WE HOPE, (IF ALL GOES WELL)
WE MAY SAIL OUT AGAIN.

AWAY FROM WORKUPS, TRIALS AND SUCH,
OUT THERE UPON THE FOAM,
AND AFTER GOING 'EUROPESIDE',
WE'LL WEND OUR WAY TO HOME.

NOW, SPEAKING OF THE WORKUP BOYS,
WHO DRIVE US OUT OF MIND,
WHERE ELSE BUT HERE IN HALIFAX,
WOULD WE SO EASILY FIND.

A GROUP OF UNDERSTANDING SOULS
WHO CARE NOT FOR THEIR JOBS,
BUT ONLY FOR THE COMFORT
OF OUR OFFICERS AND SLOBS.

ACTION STATIONS, THERE'S NO SWEAT,
TO BRING US TO OUR TOES,
OUR DIBS WORK FAST AND FURIOUSLY
OUR GUNS ARE ON THE NOSE.

THERE'S ONE SMALL THING THAT
WORRIES THOUGH,
IT REALLY SHOULD BE SAID,
HOW MANY BOATS-CREWS WILL BE KILLED
WHEN SLIPPED FROM DAVIT-HEADS?

I HEARD A BUZZ, ALSO TODAY,
THAT SEEMS QUITE SOUND TO ME,
S MESS IS GOING "AAA",
I THINK I'LL WAIT AND SEE.

WELL, LEAVE IS FAST UPON US NOW
AND SOON A FEW WILL FLY,
TO SEE THEIR LOVED ONES FAR OUT WEST
AND RETURN BY AND BY.

FOR THOSE OF US WHO STAY BEHIND
TO HACK 'ER TILL THE END,
PLEASE DON'T SHED TEARS, BUT DRINK
A BEER,
TO YOUR DOWN-EASTBOUND FRIENDS.

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PART SIX (HALIFAX)

TO KIPPERLAND AND BACK WE SAILED
WITHOUT TOO MUCH ADO.
EXCEPT FOR PLUMBER BLOCKS AND THINGS
TO HAMPER CATWALK'S CREW.

SCRUMPY WAS A GAS FOR SOME,
BUT DARK ALE HARD TO TAKE,
AND NOW WE'VE LEFT THE NAAFI CLUB
BENEATH OUR BOILING WAKE.

OUR BOYS RETURNED FROM LEAVE AGAIN
ALL RESTED UP TO MEET,
THE ORGANIZED CONFUSION
OF EXERCISES--SWEET.

AH YES, WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND
THESE SUNNY SUMMER DAYS
THAN DIPPING IN AND OUT OF
EVERY ONE OF 'SCOTIA'S BAYS.

THE SUBS AND PLANES AND FUNNY GAMES
THEY PLAY ARE REALLY FUN,
AND IF WE EVER FIND THAT SUB
WE'LL HAVE HER ON THE RUN.

BUT SOON 'TIS BACK TO SLACKERS,
OUR FINAL GLIMPSE - THANK GOD.
BEFORE WE PUT OUR BOWS TO SEA,
AND LEAVE THE EASTERN SOD.

PART SEVEN (ENROUTE ENGLAND)

THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY,
A SHORTER ONE BY FAR,
WHEN TRAVELLING BY SHIP AT SEA,
TO GET FROM HERE TO THAR.

FOR WE ARE HEADING HOME, THEY SAY,
BUT YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE,
WE'RE STEERING IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION FROM B.C.

AT LEAST, THANK GOD, OF HALIFAX, NO
WE'VE TAKEN OUR LAST LEAVE.
BE SURE THERE AREN'T AMONG US
TOO MANY MEN WHO GRIEVE.

IT WAS A RATHER DIFFERENT PLACE
TO SAY THE VERY LEAST,
BUT FOR A PERMANENT ABODE
ITS FIT FOR MAN NOR BEAST.

THE NEXT TIME WE SEE CANADA,
ONE HUNDRED DAYS TO DATE,
WE'LL GAZE UPON THE GLASSY CALM
OF JUAN DE FUCA STRAITS.

BUT UNTIL THEN WE HAVE A JOB,
TO SHOW OURSELVES WITH PRIDE,
WE'LL DO THIS NEXT BIG EXERCISE,
WITHOUT A BREAK IN STRIDE.

AS LONG AS SENSE OF HUMOUR HOLDS
AND NO LONG-FACES LAG,
WE'VE ALMOST GOT IT BEAT, ME LADS,
WE'VE GOT IT BY THE BAG.

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PART EIGHT (PORTSMOUTH)

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY,
HOW SLOWLY DO THE MONTHS ROLL BY.
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER DONE,
AFTER OCTOBER THERE'S BUT ONE.

WE'VE COME SO FAR AND SEEN SO MUCH,
SO DISTANT IS THE LOVED ONES TOUCH.
BUT, LETS NOT FALTER, SLIP, OR FAIL,
FOR WE WILL SOON SET HOMEWARD SAIL.

PORTSMOUTH, WE WONT SOON FORGET,
PLACES SEEN AND PEOPLE MET,
THE NAAFI AND THE SCRUMPY RUN,
REMEMBERED, WHEN OUR CRUISIN'S DONE.

ROAST BEEF IS ON THE ROSTER TOO,
OF THINGS 'BOUT WHICH TO SING THE BLUES,
AND ALWAYS WHEN YOU MENTION 'SHOW'
WHO COULD FORGET OLD "DR. NO."

COMMUNICATORS TOOK THE SPORTS
TABLOID WITH ONLY MILD RETORTS,
BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF TROPHIES STILL
FOR OTHER TEAMS WHO HAVE THE WILL.

SHORTLY NOW WILL COME THE TIME
TO SEND OUR 'PICK' TO NEXT-IN-LINE,
ASSINIBOINE WILL TAKE OUR BEAT
WITH STANDARDS THAT WEST-COASTERS
MEET.

SO, TILL WE SET UPON OUR WAY,
TOWARDS THAT PLACE NEAR PARRY BAY.
LETS ALL KEEP HUMOUR THROUGH THE DAY,
AND FILL THE NIGHTS WITH GOOD,
CLEAN PLAY.

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PART NINE (ENROUTE SCOTLAND)

HERE WE ARE AT SEA AGAIN,
(WHO SAID SHE WOULDN'T FLOAT?)
WE'RE LIVING MORE LIKE SAILORS NOW,
ABOARD OUR LITTLE BOAT.

THE SEA, THEY SAY, MAY SOON BECOME,
AN AWFUL PLACE TO BE,
BUT ONLY 40 DAYS FROM NOW,
THE WEST COAST WE SHALL SEE.

SEVEN DAYS OF EXERCISE
WITH MATELOTS OF ALL SORTS,
WILL PASS THE TIME AWAY QUITE FAST,
WHILE SEARCHING FOR THE "SNORTS".

WE'VE LEFT OLD POMPEY FAR BEHIND
NO MORE TO GRACE HER PUBS,
AND FOR AWHILE WE'LL HAVE TO DO
WITH GOOD OLD PUSSEY BUBS.

AFTER A WEEK AT SEA, WE'LL GO
TO ONE OF SCOTLANDS PORTS,
TOO BAD WE'RE NOT ALL LOUGHRANS,
OR SCOTTY J. MCCOURTS.

BUT LETS LUST HOPE THAT BOILER HOLDS
PAST PANAMA AT LEAST,
SO WE WON'T HAVE TO SPEND MORE TIME
IN THE GOD-FORSAKEN EAST.

NOW, PLANE-GUARD FOR THE BONNIE
IS SOMETHING NOT FORESEEN,
INSTEAD OF CALM AT ANCHOR,
WE'RE TOSSING ON THE GREEN.

BUT, WITH OUR WESTERN BLOOD AFLOW
THERE'S NOUGHT THAT HOLDS US BACK,
"SECOND TO NONE" WILL STICK IT OUT,
UPON HER APPOINTED TRACK.

PART TEN (ENROUTE SAN JUAN)

ROCK AND ROLL IN MOST FOLKS LIVES
IS MUSIC OF A KIND,
BUT TO A MATELOT FAR AT SEA,
THAT'S NOT WHAT COMES TO MIND.

THE TOSS OF DECK-PLATES 'NEATH YOUR FEET
AND DECKS AWASH WITH SEA,
ARE PART OF WHAT WE UNDERTOOK,
SO OPENMINDEDLY.

WHEN FIRST WE SIGNED THAT DOTTED LINE
AND PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TRUE,
IT SEEMED TO BE QUITE COMFORTABLE
OUT SAILING ON THE BLUE.

BUT NOW OUR COURSE BEHOOVES US
TO CROSS A HEAVY SWELL,
BEAM-ON AND ROLLING STEEPLY
FOR DAYS, A SORT OF HELL.

"IT SOON WILL BE MUCH SMOOTHER"
THEY TELL US EVERY DAY,
BUT YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW IT,
AS WE BOUNCE ALONG OUR WAY.

TWENTY-SIX MORE DAYS TO GO,
TWENTY-TWO AT SEA,
ONE IN PUERTO RICO,
AND THREE IN OLD SAN D.

THIS IS NOT REALLY VERY LONG
TO PINE AWAY IN GRIEF,
AND WE CAN ALWAYS BE ~~CONS~~SOLED
BY MORE AND MORE ROAST BEEF.

BRANCH TRANSFER SEEMS TO BE THE THING,
THATS STRUCK OUR MOTLEY CREW,
ALL THE KIDS ARE FOLLOWING
THE EXAMPLE OF NADEAU.

PART ELEVEN AND FINAL (ENROUTE SAN DIEGO)

HOT DAYS AT SEA, A SAILOR'S DREAM,
OUR COURSE T'WARDS HOME WE TRACE,
ELEVEN DAYS TILL WE RESUME,
OUR ONLY PROPER PLACE.

SAN JUAN WAS NICE TO SEE AGAIN,
THE CARRIBEAN TOO,
AND PANAMA A RAINY END
TO CANFLAGLANT'S TABOO.

WE HAD A "THREE-BADGE" BANYAN,
(SHIP'S CONCERT- IF YOU WILL)
THE TALENT QUITE SURPRISING,
A PRODUCT OF OUR SKILL.

AND WAY ABOVE THE SHOW-BIZ SCENE,
OUR FATE AT HIS COMMAND,
OUR NAVIGATOR DODGED THE RAIN,
HE TOO, DESERVES A HAND.

SO NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SAY,
BUT "LET'S GET HOME" TO REST
OUR WEARY HEADS, LIKE BABIES,
ON B.C.'S WELCOMING BREAST.

IT'S BEEN A LONG AND TRYING TRIP
AND NOW IT'S O'ER AND DONE,
FOR PARTING WORDS, I'LL SIMPLY SAY,
"WELL DONE" TO EVERYONE.
