

From: [Duane Duff](#)

To: jerry.sigrist@eastlink.ca

Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 6:16 PM

Subject: HMCS Waskesiu

Royal Canadian Naval Association
Gerald W "Jerry" Sigrist
Executive Secretary/Correspondence
308-74 Aberdeen Road
Bridgewater, NS B4V 2S6

Dear Jerry:

In November 2008, we published the book *Waskesiu: Canada's First Frigate*. Besides information about the ship and its exploits, there are stories of eleven survivors whom I interviewed. It also has the story of a German prisoner-of-war from the submarine *U-257*, which the crew sank. The book is listed at www.duffpublishing.ca. Copies are located in the Canadian War Museum, in Ottawa, and various other libraries.

I am in the process of updating the book with stories from other shipmates whose stories I have since located. So far, I have twelve more, one of whom lives in Bridgewater and whom I interviewed a few days ago. A few of these are now deceased, two of which I had interviewed. The story of the last survivor of HMS *Tweed* is being prepared in England at this time to be included. This ship was in the company of HMCS *Waskesiu* when she was sunk by a torpedo from a German submarine. We are planning on publication near the end of 2010.

I am hoping that, through contacts within your organization, I can locate other survivors or the families of deceased crew members who can add to the stories of this book. If I can obtain names and contact information, I shall send out a basic questionnaire from which I shall form questions to ask in a recorded telephone interview.

In addition, I am compiling a book of personal stories of veterans of all branches of the service from 1939 to the present. I would like to obtain stories of members of your association who served during the Korean War and the peacekeeping missions. Among those with whom I have had recorded telephone interviews are Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden (Maritime Chief-of Staff), Commander David Benoit (DND Headquarters Staff), and Lieutenant-Commander Gina Connor (Judge Advocate General Staff). All have read and approved my manuscript of their stories. Captain Elizabeth Tremblay-Lewicki, (Public Affairs Officer, Media Liaison Office, and National Defence) is aware of my work and has helped me in making contacts. All four have given me permission to mention their names.

Any help which you and RCNA can give me will be appreciated.

Best regards,
Duane Duff
Surrey, BC
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