

HMCS VENTURE SIGNAL

December 2024

Greetings of the Season Shipmates and our Ladies.

Comments received from our November Eleventh Signal indicated that several items and photographs about the Legacy Project, the Dedication of the Cairn, and the Venture Association Donation to the RCSCEF were felt to have been missed.

Apologies. Please do know that there is a limit to large megabyte photographs and if they can be sent to our webmaster Darryl Harden ('65) in smaller kilobyte format then we can perhaps use them. Also, some photos are simply too blurred or unfocused to be acceptable.

The other problem is just how much we can print and send. Who would have thought that a 'stood down' organization would still have so much to talk about? - And all to the greater good!

Wilf Lund ('61) has put forward an offer to create a submissions page which would include material that the electrons disallow, and he will endeavour to place such postings on our HMCS Venture web site.

Wilf's report on this November 11th ceremonies at HMCS Venture are included herein.

The lack of publish space was a personal disappointment as it precluded a launch announcement of the book SIGNAL DELTA by the Canadian Naval Air Remembers (CANAR) Team of Grant Smith (Class '62), Jack McGee ('60), David Cramton ('59), John Orr (RMC) and myself ('66).

The book was published through the Shearwater Aviation Museum by Curator Christine Hines, and officially launched at a ceremony aboard HMCS Sackville. The Postal Strike was no help as we had hoped to have orders sent out before Xmas...

On the subject of Sackville, a committal of Keith Nesbit's ashes from her deck is also included in the pages of this Signal.

Best wishes for the New Year of these interesting times that we now live in.

2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Yours aye, Allan

Photo below - 'The Toast' by our members attending the Legacy Carin unveiling.



Legacy Cairn - Veterans Affairs Canada

Matt Durnford ('65) - the man behind our Cairn advises the following:

Colin Darlington, Cdr RCN (ret'd), reached out to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to determine whether the HMCS VENTURE (1954-1968) cairn was eligible to be included in the Canadian Military Memorials Database (CMMD). The CMMD is a repository of monuments located in communities across Canada and is managed by VAC.

Colin is a director of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, RUSI(NS). When a memorial is updated or is not listed in the CMMD, RUSI recommends a submission. Colin provided the required Cairn information and forwarded it to VAC.

Although VAC was working from a backlog they indicated their satisfaction with the submission. The new listing on the VAC(CMMD) data base is now a very official preservation of our legacy.

Colin's initiative and efforts on our behalf are greatly appreciated. Bravo Zulu!

This latest Memorial addition can be viewed through the following electronic link:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/12822>

RUSI(VI) - Vancouver Island Branch

The recent announcement that the CAF is considering replacing the official march of the RCN, *Heart of Oak*, with something more inclusive, modern and less colonial has generated a lot of back and forth discussion. Tradition is important and RUSI-VI member, Ian Gray, forwarded a House of Commons petition, to ask the Minister of National Defence to leave *Heart of Oak* as the RCN official march. This petition is sponsored by Dane Lloyd, Conservative Party MP (Sturgeon River - Parkland AB). You can find it here:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-5266>.

In addition, at the link below, is an excellent Youtube video of HMCS Quadra performing the Flag Ceremony at Expo 86. A most impressive performance by these young cadets, almost 40 years ago. They not only march extremely well, but 'sing' *O' Canada*, *God Save the Queen*, and also *Heart of Oak*- while marching! A Very Impressive Performance!

<https://youtu.be/YS0qrI4ID3w?t=2407>.

Scott Usborne, President RUSI-VI

Perhaps we Venturites could suggest:

Float the Tune; Ditch the Lyrics...

A simple solution and easy way to avoid controversy! After all, there are no words to the RCAF March-past.

Keith Nesbit - Committal of Ashes HMCS Sackville

Further to Richard Duffield ('62) notes of the 11 November Signal are photos from the committal of Keith Nesbit's ashes.

Among those observing the committal was his granddaughter Fiona who is in her 3rd year at RMC and will be graduating as an Infantry Officer. She is on the left of this first photo.



Also in attendance on the deck of HMCS Sackville was Don Uhrich ('57) and Bonnie with Joan Nesbit.



As Old Friends Pass Away

The following Google video link is submitted by Don Uhrich. The song was composed and is sung by his son John. The inspiration for the song was the passing of Charles (Irish) Robinson ('57), a family friend, on 17 January 2022. Cut & Paste to Google:

[John Uhrich – As Old Friends Pass Away](#)



Listing of Executive and Class Reps

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*NB: Class Reps are members of the Executive



This past Eleventh of November at HMCS Venture

Commander David Sleen, CO of today's Venture invited former Classes to join his ship's company for the 2024 Remembrance Day ceremony.

Our Historian, Captain Wilf Lund, OMM, CD, PhD, RCN (Retired) was asked to give the address:

"My remarks were based on Nelson's dictum that 'Duty was the great business of a naval officer and takes precedence above all personal considerations no matter how painfully'. And I explained that sacrifice was an unintended consequence of duty which led to a discussion of our Venture fallen. Then I described the circumstances of the deaths of Al Allree and Ross Hawkes both Classmates of mine, Class of 61. They were simply doing their duty and their sacrifices are woven into the history of Venture and need to be embraced, owned, by succeeding generations of Ventures.

It seemed to go over well as I received positive feedback from both old and contemporary Ventures. Of course the important point was that in his address Cdr Darren Sleen committed Venture to an annual ceremony on Nov 11."

Wilf: Further to my last, the ceremony was a resounding success. We had over 30 old Ventures show up and 80 officers on parade. I told Darren Sleen a copy of "Signal Delta" would be on the way. From it bio-sketches of the Venture 13 will be placed on the Venture website.

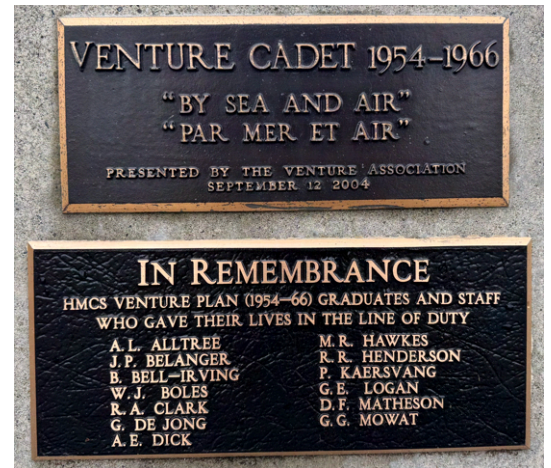
Cheers, Wilf

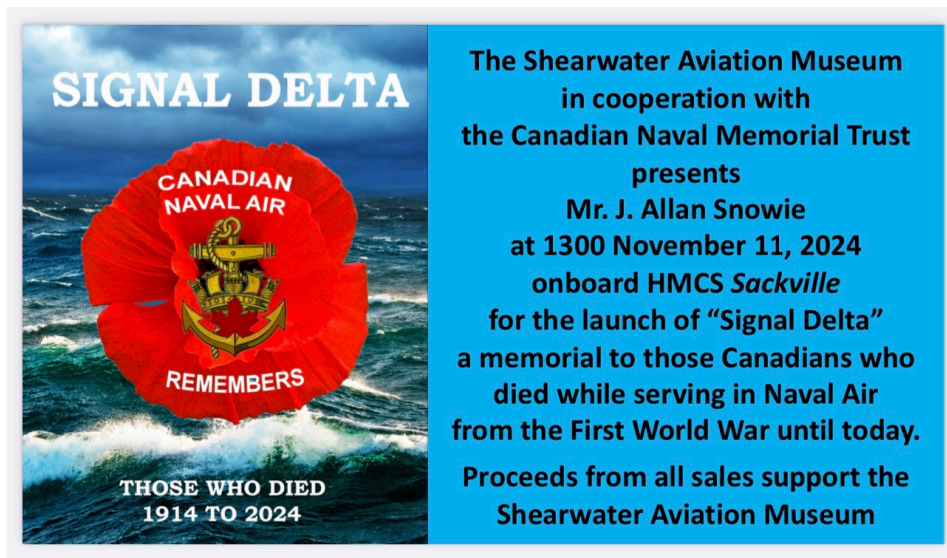
(Please know that a copy of Signal Delta has been hand delivered to the office of CDR Sleen. Editor)



Wilf at the podium.

Venture Ceremony snapshots.





Signal Delta Book Launch

In 2021 a Canadian Naval Air Remembers (CANAR) project was established to honour Canada's naval aviation personnel lost in service during war and peace.

"Signal Delta" is the funding resource for a permanent Memorial that will be displayed at the Shearwater Aviation Museum.

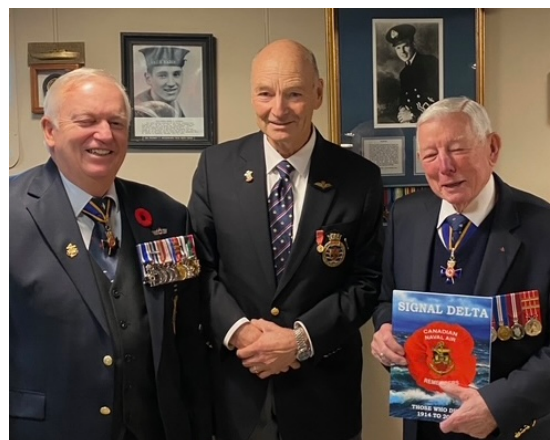
The title has a significant naval air adoption. Delta - the term for a holding pattern and Signal - an order to proceed. We list our dead as being 'In The Delta'. Signal Delta is the synonym for such loss.

Three Hundred & Ninety-Three (393) are our loss numbers to date. All are mentioned in this book with a short narrative and if possible, a photo.

The Memorial is a work in progress, and can be supported by purchase of the book or by tax receipt donation to the Shearwater Aviation Museum.

(Pardon the overuse of your editor's visage. A cut & remove didn't work).

Aboard Sackville with Vice-Admiral 'Dusty' Miller and retired Lt.General Larry Ashley. Larry, a former Sea King pilot kindly wrote the Foreword for Signal Delta.



More informally, in an Uxbridge pub with Grant Smith ('62), the man who started the Signal Delta memorial project.



Officer Cadet Joseph Pierre Armand BELANGER – Cornwall ON



Born 2 Jun 1943 Ottawa ON.
HMCS Venture Class of 1964
Died 12 May 1964. Age 20.
RIP Cornwall ON.



RCAF Station Rivers, Manitoba, Expediter aircraft crashed while practicing landings and takeoffs. Both Instructor and Student Belanger perished when the aircraft plunged and burned just after a takeoff. A Cadet mutual trainee survived the crash.

Sub Lieutenant Allan Leonard ALLTREE – Vancouver, BC



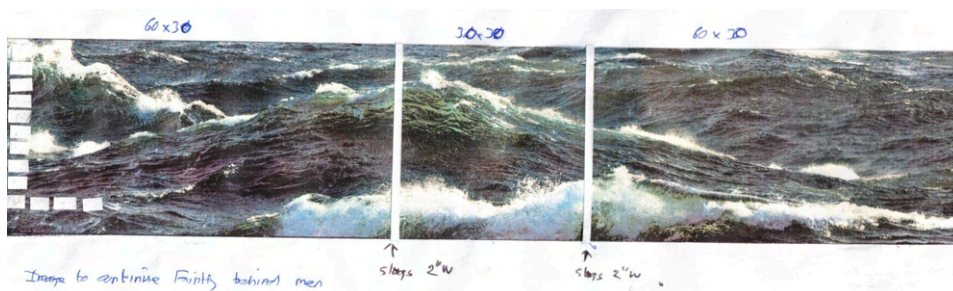
U.S. Coast Guard Commendation Medal.
Born 21 Oct 1940, Burnwood, Australia.
HMCS Venture Class of 1961.
Shearwater, Helicopter training 1963.
Died in Service 22 Dec 1964. Age 24
Creamated and ashes spread on the sea.



On loan to the US Coast Guard Station, San Francisco, killed on a rescue mission during California floods. Co-pilot Altree and three crew had already served ten people but crashed in bad weather and poor visibility into rising terrain whilst attempting to land a further four flood victims. All on board died.

Our thirteen lost Venture aviators are all in the Signal Delta book. Shown above is the information on Joseph Belanger and Al Alltree.

The planned memorial for the Shearwater Museum will be mounted on the second floor of the Hangar. Viewed from the deck it will look like a huge wave.



Observed up close one will see our 393 lost naval air personnel. Each individual will have a small plaque telling their story. Six First World War airmen are shown in a rough example on the right.

