

## **VALOUR CANADA EVENTS**

HAVE YOU HEARD? Tickets are now available for our Spring event: Beer in the Bunker - Beer Tasting and Pub Quiz Virtual Event on 20 May 2021 at 1900 MDT.

Tickets include: 4x 473 ml cans of Calgary brewed craft beer, a tasting glass & more!

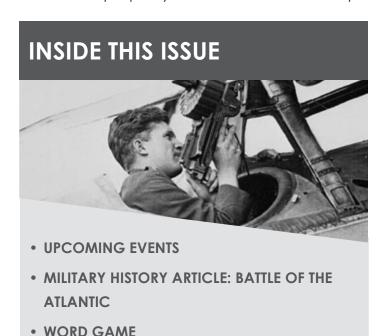
Don't wait to reserve your spot - get your tickets here!



\*\*Must be age of majority to participate. Please drink responsibly.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Help us reach our goal of 100 new members by purchasing an annual membership. For just \$50 per year - you can help provide high quality and engaging resources to educate young Canadians about the importance of our nation's military history. Join our cause here.

\*Memberships qualify for a charitable tax receipt.



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

ORGANIZATION UPDATES

# **BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC**



March, 1943: The technological cat-and-mouse race between the Royal Canadian Navy and the German Kriegsmarine's U-boats finally shifted in favour of the former. Often viewed as the turning point in the Battle of the Atlantic, the tide's turn actually began quite a bit earlier, with the late December sinking of U-356 by the destroyer HMCS St. Croix. Prior to this, the RCN experienced a "drought" that saw four months of no sinkings despite numerous wolfpacks faced by the convoys. This was odd, as the summer of 1942 saw numerous successes. What accounts for this drought?



HMCS St. Croix in early 1942 with the old SW1C radar atop her mast (Credit: uboat.net).

Key to the success of St. Croix and later sinkings was the equipping on RCN vessels of the new Type 271 centimetric radar. Broadcasting at a much higher frequency than previous "metric" radars, the Kriegsmarine had yet to recognize this new capability.

The reason why, Rob Fisher argues, the U-boats had been able to attack Allied convoys with

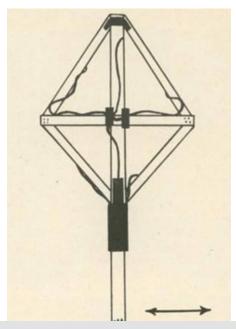


Diagram showing the simple FuMB 1 antenna made of wires wrapped around a wooden cross (Credit: uboataces.com).

near-impunity during the autumn of 1942 was that the U-boats had been equipped with a simple radar detector called the Funkmessbeobachtung 1, or FuMB 1. The FuMB 1 was able to warn U-boat officers when a radar was operating in the 1.25 and 2.5 metre wavelength range – the range used by RCN escorts' early SW1C and SW2C radars. A skilled user could even employ the FuMB 1 as a rudimentary passive radar, allowing him to determine the rough range and direction of the enemy's radar.

The FuMB 1, despite numerous reliability issues, posed such a threat to convoys that some RCN escorts even had to turn off their radars to avoid being detected.

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It is crucial to remember that the FuMB could detect a radar signal at roughly twice the range that the original radar could detect a return due to the energy degradation of the signal.

It was eventually realized by the Allies that the FuMB 1 could only detect signals in the above-mentioned wavelength range. The new Type 271, on the other hand, operated at 9.7 centimetres – well outside the FuMB 1's detection capabilities. Thus, escorts equipped with the Type 271, like HMCS St. Croix, were able to approach U-boats using their radar without warning the latter away.

As a result, the RCN saw a "boom", much like the summer of 1942, in their ability to prosecute U-boats from late December to March. After that, however, the "bust" returned, with very few sinkings once more. This time, though, it

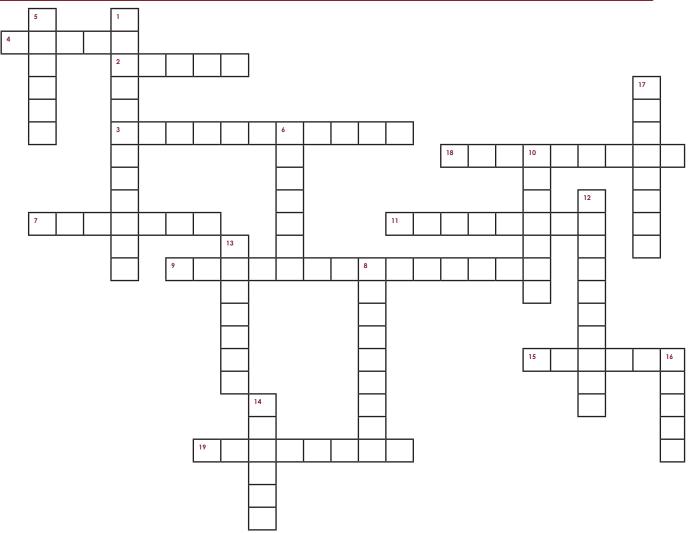


was not because the RCN escorts lacked the capability, but rather because operational changes reduced the chances that they would come into contact with marauding U-boats.

For more articles like this - please visit our online library.

\$50 (or ONE membership) allows three 000 \$50 students to attend Valour Canada's in-museum program. DO YOU KNOW \$500 (or TEN memberships) allows \$500 one class to attend Valour Canada's WHAT YOUR in-museum program. \$2000 (or FORTY memberships) allows the DONATION \$2000 development of one new lesson plan and activity module for our in-museum program. CAN DO? \$5000 (or ONE HUNDRED memberships) \$5000 allows the development of one new virtual reality module. VALOUR CANADA NEWSLETTER // MAY 2021 // PAGE 3





### **CROSSWORD CLUES**

COOM OND CLOSE
1. German Navy
2. Germany's Axis Ally
3. German U-boats sank Allied transport ships ir order to cut (2 words)
4. Radar and technologies helped the Allies locate U-boats.
5. Group of ships travelling together
6. The Battle of the Atlantic was the continuous battle of the Second World War.
7. Merchant Navy port
8. Smaller warships used for escorts
9. Convoys received aerial protection from the Royal Air Force (2 Words)
10. Anti-Ship weapon

11. The area of ocean inaccessible to aircraft became known as the (2 Words)
12. In May 1942, German U-boats entered the River and sank 21 ships. (2 Words)
13. U-boats sank the civilian ferry SS, killing 137.
14. Commander-in-Chief, Canadian Northwest Atlantic
15. Minesweeper Class
16. Canada had 6Class Destroyers in September 1939.
17. A group of U-boats (2 Words)
18. German Air Force
19. Arctic convoys on the " run" faced particular dangers, including fog and drift ice.

## **WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE**



#### **VALOUR CANADA - MEMBERSHIP FORM**

To fill out this form online, please visit our <u>website</u>.

\*Please return completed form with payment information to:
Valour Canada, 1820 24 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2T 0G6

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Province:	Postal Code:
Phone Number:	Email:
Membership Type (please che	ck ONE):
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Monthly recurring donation (withou	t membership) of \$ (please print)
Annual membership of \$50.00	
Annual membership of \$50.00	+ one-time donation of \$25.00 = \$75.00
Annual membership of \$50.00	+ one-time donation of \$50.00 = \$100.00
Annual membership of \$50.00	+ one-time donation of \$100.00 = \$150.00
Annual membership of \$50.00	+ one-time donation of \$ (please print)
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	s and memberships qualify for a charitable tax receipt.
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l	, authorize Valour Canada to charge my credit card (below) in th
amount of \$ as a one-time	amount, and/or \$ as a monthly amount.
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# VALOUR CANADA HISTORY AND HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP

**Purpose:** To support Canadian students in their post-secondary educational pursuits.

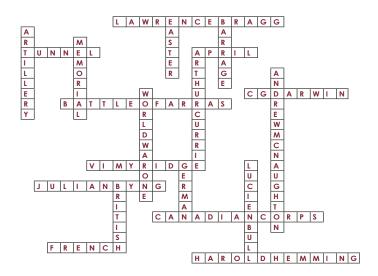
**Awards:** 1st Place = \$1,500

2nd Place = \$750

**Topic:** Visit a local Canadian war memorial or monument and analyze its historical context, significance, and current meaning. Finish with a brief discussion about the role of Canadian war memorials in the 21st century.

\*\*Submissions must include an introduction, an essay and a short YouTube-compatible video. For a FULL list of requirements, and to determine eligibility, please visit this page.

#### **APRIL 2020 CROSSWORD ANSWERS:**



#### **HAVE YOU HEARD?**

The Bomber Command Museum of Canada is hosting an online raffle. **Get your tickets** here!

#### QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS?

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments, questions or suggestions by emailing: **contact@valourcanda.ca**.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (click on the icons to the right) to stay up-to-date on more great resources!



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