

Captain G. Hatton, OMM, CD, RCN (Ret'd)

PO Box 761

Niagara on the Lake

ON L0S 1J0

Gha.hatton@gmail.com

1 JAN 2026

Commanding Officer

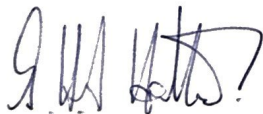
CMRCC GATINEAU

Dear LT(N)

Please find enclosed some of the administration and letters from HMCS GATINEAU DDE 236 which was decommissioned in 1996. I was the Executive Officer at the time and was tasked with contacting all the previous Commanding Officers. Our initial letter elicited several replies from former Captains, many of which included some very interesting stories from their time in Command. I thought the letters would be better kept in your archive files rather than in my basement which is being purged regularly.

Congratulations on keeping the name and memory of the great ship Gatineau alive and well, she was a wonderful ship.

Sincerely,





COMMANDING OFFICER
HMCS GATINEAU

Commander D.O. Thamer, CD
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

30 April 1996

Dear

Bob,

Thank you for your reply to my initial letter. I stated then the future of GATINEAU was cloudy and would probably be resolved by the Budget Speech. As in so many things, far from clearing the air on her future, the budget left more questions than answers to our fate. GATINEAU is to be placed into a state of reduced readiness available for reactivation within 180 days until her scheduled Paying Off date of December 1998. In this state the present crew will leave the ship and, if required, be reconstituted within the 180 day limit. Unfortunately, if the ship is not recalled there will be no crew to take her out of service. My intention is to conduct a "Pre" Paying Off service in late May 1996, while we still have the capacity to do so. Included with this letter is a schedule of events which we have planned for the occasion. It is my hope that as many former Commanding Officers as possible will be able to attend and embark for the final sailpast, as well as the Commanding Officer's Luncheon and the Ship's Company Dance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or my Executive Officer LCdr G.H.A. Hatton at 902-427-0550 Ext 2773 or 2775.

I have the honour to be,
the last Commanding Officer of HMCS GATINEAU

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D.O. Thamer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

COMMANDING OFFICERS - HMCS GATINEAU DDE 236

#	Name	From	To
1	Captain H.L. Quinn <i>Condr</i>	17-2-59	14-9-59
2	Captain F.B. Caldwell <i>Sir</i>	14-9-59	27-1-61
3	Lieutenant Commander R.A. Shmmin	27-1-61	24-5-61
4	Lieutenant Commander H.C. McCredy	24-5-61	24-8-61
5	Commander A.H. McDonald	24-8-61	21-8-62
6	Commander J.W. Roberts	21-8-62	28-4-64
7	Commander W.G. Kinsman <i>Sir CAP ✓</i>	28-4-64	11-8-65
8	Commander J.A. Fulton <i>Admiral Fulton</i>	11-8-65	8-9-66
9	Commander W.A. Hughes <i>Admiral H</i>	8-9-66	29-9-69

Ship paid-off and undergoing IRE conversion

10	Commander T.S. Murphy <i>Sir</i>	14-4-71	3-7-73
11	Lieutenant Commander J.C. Slade <i>Admiral Slade</i>	3-7-73	11-7-75
12	Commander L.G. Temple <i>Sir</i>	11-7-75	11-11-77
13	Commander J.B. MacKenzie <i>CAP ✓</i>	11-11-77	26-7-79
14	Commander C.D.E. Cronk <i>Captain Cronk</i>	26-7-79	11-6-81
15	Commander D.M. Robison	11-6-81	6-7-83
16	Commander T.C. Heath	6-7-83	1-8-85
17	Commander J.A. Keenlside <i>JJK ✓ CAP ✓</i>	1-8-85	21-4-87
18	Commander G.G. Jeffrey <i>Gug ✓ CAP ✓</i>	21-4-87	8-7-88
19	Commander A.D. Tanguay <i>Albe ✓ CAP ✓</i>	8-7-88	11-7-90
20	Commander R.H. Edwards <i>Bob ✓ CAP ✓</i>	11-7-90	6-7-92
21	Commander R.G. Allen <i>Cap. Allen</i>	6-7-92	7-1-94
22	Commander J.A. Westlake <i>John ✓ CAP ✓</i>	7-1-94	5-7-95
23	Commander D.O. Thamer <i>John ✓ CAP ✓</i>	5-7-95	

(Bold type face have been contacted and have replied)

HMCS GATINEAU - "PRE" PAYING OFF SCHEDULE

- May 23 Final Divisions A.M.
- Former Gatineau Commanding Officers Luncheon
- May 24 Final Sailpast and Dependant Day Sail
- May 25 Ship's Company Dance (Dartmouth Holiday Inn)



COMMANDING OFFICER
HMCS GATINEAU

Commander D.O. Thamer, CD
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

February 1996

Dear

"The time has come, the Admiral said, to speak of many things..." As a former Commanding Officer of GATINEAU I am sure you maintain a keen interest in the Navy and GATINEAU in particular. As you are already aware of the fiscal climate of the country and the relative age of 236, this letter is to update you on her current status and her probable future. While our Navy continues to upgrade and rationalize, GATINEAU, soon entering her 37th year of distinguished service, is becoming a more and more endangered species on the East Coast waterfront. Budget cuts, and sadly, the aging support infrastructure for the Y-100 steam plants gives the current Maritime Commander little choice but to "Pay Off" the old in order to support the new. At the time of writing the March budget has not been announced but there is much speculation on the purchase of new submarines. Little can be said other than, if the submarines are announced then GATINEAU and possibly her steam sisters will be struck from the Order of Battle.

In order to be prepared for the inevitable I would like to contact as many of the former CO's as possible to invite you to the Paying Off and associated services. The pension services have graciously offered to include this letter in one of their mailings to you, therefore, if I am to communicate with you further, you are requested to send your current mailing address to your old ship GATINEAU.

Finally, to let you know how we are doing, the recent ship's annual historical report states we have steamed over 800,000 Nautical Miles, or 1,500,000 Kilometers, or 40 times around the world! Boiler problems have been a significant concern in the last 3 months but are being set right as of January. 3 days after her 36th birthday GATINEAU was the Flagship for White forces of NATO EXERCISE STRONG RESOLVE in February 95 well above the Arctic Circle. Of particular interest was GATINEAU's role in the Turbot War, the ship was "cleared for action" and only 20 minutes prior to the Spanish Navy being sighted, a recall to within 200NM was ordered by the Canadian Government. There is indeed life in the old girl yet!

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or my Executive Officer LCdr G.H.A. Hatton at 902-427-0550 Ext 2773 or 2775.

I have the honour to be, (quite likely)
the last Commanding Officer of HMCS GATINEAU



HMCS

GATINEAU

HMCS GATINEAU

1959-1996: A BRIEF HISTORY

HMCS GATINEAU, commissioned on February 17th 1959, was laid down in April 1953 in Lauzon, Quebec. The second of four Restigouche Class Destroyer Escorts. GATINEAU was designed to carry a crew of 30 officers and 230 men and displaces 2900 tons within a 377 ft length. She is powered by two main steam turbines geared to twin shafts, with main engines rated at 30,000 shaft horsepower. For the first 10 years of her life GATINEAU served as a unit of the Fifth Canadian Destroyer Squadron in Halifax, N.S.

GATINEAU was designed primarily for anti-submarine warfare, and her sensors and weapons reflect this. In 1969, a mid-life conversion enhanced this capability. Over the next two years she was fitted with a towed Variable Depth Sonar and the Anti-Submarine Rocket. In addition, the ship is equipped with a single twin 3 inch 70 calibre radar controlled gun. These improvements necessitated major hull changes and resulted in the present configuration.

On 12 November, 1982, GATINEAU took the lead of her class, becoming the first West Coast ship to complete a Destroyer Life Extension Refit. This modernization process added new sensors and greatly enhanced her Command and Control Capability. As an "Improved Restigouche Escort" (IRE), GATINEAU served with the Second Canadian Destroyer Squadron, based in Esquimalt, BC from 1969 to 1987 when she once again returned to join the East Coast Fleet.

Serving on both coasts during her 35 years of active service, GATINEAU has participated in both local and national operations and has represented Canada as part of multi-national forces all over the world. While Canada and other nations have responded to dramatic shifts in the balance of international power and influence, GATINEAU has continued to fulfil her commitments with distinction due to the one quality which does not change - the competence of her ship's companies.

DDE 236

IN THIS SHIP
LIES POWER

Former Commanding Officers of HMCS GATINEAU

CMDRE (Ret'd) H.L. Quinn (Howard)
9805 2nd Street
Sidney, BC
V8L 4T9

CMDRE (Ret'd) F.B. Caldwell
2391 Rosewood Ave
Ottawa, ON
K2B 7L3

CDR (Ret'd) W.G. Kinsman (Bill)
1750 Gonzalez Ave.
Victoria BC
V8S 1T7

ADM (Ret'd) J.A. Fulton
PO BOX 444
Mahone Bay, NS
BOJ 2E0

RADM (Ret'd) W.A. Hughes (William)
501- 1033 Belmont Ave
Victoria BC
V8S 3T4

RADM (Ret'd) J.C. Slade
1085 Island View Dr.
Manotick ON
K4M 1J8

CDR (Ret'd) C.D.E. Cronk
A/COS FES (formation Executive secretary)
25 BelleRoyal Court
Dartmouth NS
B2V 2B4

CDR T.C. Heath
SHAPE (Supreme HQ Allied Powers in Europe)
Staff Casteau
CFPO 5048 Bellville ON
K0K 3R0

CDR J.A. Keenlside
HMCS PRESERVER
FMO Halifax
Halifax NS
B2K 3X0

CDR (Ret'd) G.G. Jeffrey
12 Susan Place
Dartmouth NS
B3A 3M3

CDR A.D. Tanguay (Albert)
Site 8D Box 38
Waverly NS
B0N 2S0

CDR R.H. Edwards
Dalhousie University
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

CAPT(N) R.G. Allen
Management, Command and Control Team
(MCCRT) MGen. GR. Pearkes Building
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON
K1A 0K2

CDR J.A. Westlake
CF Language School
NDHQ
Ottawa ON
K1A 0K2

CDR (Ret'd) L.G. Temple (Lee)
56 Tartan Drive
Nepean, ON
K2J 2V5

CDR (Ret'd) T.S. Murphy (Tom)
16 - 2200 Arbutus Cove Lane
Victoria, BC
V8N 6J9



From: RADM (Ret'd) J. C. Slade CMM, CD

1085 Island View Drive
Manotick, Ontario
K4M 1J8

28 February 1996

COMMANDING OFFICER

Commander D. O. Thamer, CD
Commanding Officer
HMCS Gatineau
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

MAR 5 1996

HMCS GATINEAU

Dear Commander Thamer,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 February. I was quite surprised when it arrived since not more than a few days ago I had wondered, probably out loud, what was happening to my old vessel. All good things must come to an end, and Gatineau's time must surely be upon us. Nonetheless, she has had one heck of a good run, and as you said, she still has lots of life and ability.

Please include me in the list for any information which you may distribute regarding functions associated with Gatineau's future, whether it be extended or short. Being more or less recently retired, I would be interested in visiting Halifax should paying off or similar ceremonies be planned.

In the meantime, all the best to you and all Gatineaus. Keep up the good work and the good name.

Yours aye,

Rear Admiral William A. Hughes, CD, RCN (Ret'd)

501 - 1033 Belmont Avenue

Victoria, B.C.

V8S 3T4

28th Feb.1996

Dear *Commander Thamer,*

Delighted to hear about my old friend Gatineau. I first saw her in 1958 when I was appointed as XO designate when she was under construction at Levis, Quebec. She then became strike bound and ice bound so I went as XO to Terra Nova instead who was building on the west coast.

I note that I have the honour of being the longest serving CO of Gatineau (3 years), including being the first Canadian destroyer to join SNFL.

I was aware of the imminent demise of the remaining "steamers" but even although they are certainly long in the tooth it is hard to say goodbye to an old friend.

Whether I can get to the decommissioning ceremony (if invited) will depend on the date. If Gatineau and Terra Nova decommission together, I can run back and forth from one to the other!!

Many thanks for your kind letter.

Yours truly,

William A Hughes

(Not the last but the longest CO).

P.S. I just remembered that my son, Roderick, also served aboard Gatineau as a Lieutenant. He is now XO designate of Ottawa.

COMM. [unclear]

MAR 5 1996

HMCS GATINEAU



National Defence

Défense nationale

National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de la Défense nationale
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Captain (N) R.G. Allen, CD
Management, Command and
Control Team (MCCRT)
MGen. G.R. Pearkes Building
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

28 February 1996

Dear *Or,*

Being from NDHQ, I do not have administrative assistance to type letters, nor much knowledge of the proper formats (such as this left justification), nor the fancy letterhead paper that you can boast. By the way, I bought that paper, and was rather proud of it. Still, please accept this humble effort as a reply to your kind letter of 19 February.

It is nice to be remembered now and then, but let me be clear about one thing. Not only would I be delighted to receive invitations to the ceremonies surrounding the retirement of our lady from the fleet, I would put out a contract on your life were I not included. My days in the good ship GATINEAU were without doubt the happiest and most professionally satisfying of my career. I have nothing but shining memories from a ship, and a ship's company, that did me, and the navy, and the nation, proud. Despite her "thirty something", she went places that some feared to tread, and did things that few could ever do as well. Oh by the way, we had one hell of a lot of fun in the process.

I will be languishing here in NDHQ until mid-summer, when I will be off to the West Coast, probably to MOG Two. I do not yet have a posting message, but anticipate moving sometime in July. Please spare no effort to assure that I am aware of details of GATINEAU's well-deserved but nevertheless sad departure. I would happily go to sea for the last sail past, attend the paying off ceremony, and even find occasion to hoist a glass in memory of good times. I am assured that the above mailing address, although quite new, will be recognized here in Ottawa.

I was pleased, though not surprised, to read that GATINEAU is still answering the call, but ending up north of the Arctic Circle in February is more than I would ask of most. I did follow with interest the ship's exploits during the recent unpleasantness with Spain. Our attaché in Madrid is a good friend, so we traded navy stories over gin and olives on his patio when I saw him last October. I have every

confidence that the ship will keep doing everything that we ask of her until her last alongside, and I have little doubt that she will be in fine form on that last day. Some might lament that they don't have a shiny new CPF to command, but you shouldn't. GATINEAU was a great ship, at least to me.

I look forward to further letters from you, but not to the news that they will convey. Oh well, I guess that we all have to go sometime. Please remember me to any GATINEAUs that have been around long enough to recognize my name. In my day, most of the Deck Department had been there for seven years already, so some of them may still be hanging on.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. O. Thamer".

Commander D.O. Thamer, CD
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

Po Box 444

Anahone Bay Ms

BOJ 250

27 Feb. 96

COMMANDING OFFICER

MAR 5 1996

HMCS GATINEAU

Dear Col. Thorne.

Thank you very much for your letter of 19 Feb. It was very nice to hear about Gatineau and her recent activities. I was not aware that your ship took part in the Turbot war. I am sure you all did well and hence the retreat of the Spanish!!

I am sure it is time to pay off Gatineau. 37 years is a long time to be in service. It says a great deal for our officer and men and women that she is still operating well after such a lengthy time. I would bet that when Gatineau was commissioned in 1959 nobody would have thought she would still be in commission 37 years later.

I would be very pleased to attend any paying off ceremonies for the ship. I am going to be away in early March and early May.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely,

Jr. Sullivan

56 Tartan Drive
Nepean, Ontario
K2J 2V5

(613) 825 1937 or
(613) 825 9212

6 March, 1996

Commanding Officer
HMCS GATINEAU
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

Dear Commander Thamer

How nice to hear from the present custodian of a ship near and dear to me. As the Navigator of Gatineau in the early sixties and as CO in the later seventies I have a soft spot for her even though I was a dedicated submariner.

My address and phone numbers are as noted above in response to your request. Since today is Federal Budget day your pre-planning may be prophetic, both being the sign of a good Naval Officer.

I'm still a member of the NOAVI and have their membership listing so I took the opportunity to check the latest listed addresses of some of the ex-COs who I know live out there.

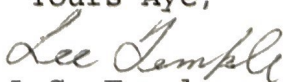
Captain H.L. Quinn (you listed K L. Quinn, I'm unsure
502-9805 Second St which is correct)
Sidney, BC
V8L 4T9

Commander W.G. Kinsman (My old CO)
1750 Gonzales Ave
Victoria, B.C.
V8S 1T7

Commander W. A. Hughes
501-1033 Belmont Ave
Victoria, BC
V8S 3T4

Lieutenant Commander J.C. Slade (From Ottawa Phone Book)
1085 Island View Drive
Manotick, Ont
K4M 1J8

I wish you and yours "Fair Wind and Following Seas".

Yours Aye,

L.G. Temple
Commander, Ret'd

COMMANDING OFFICER

MAR 19 1996

HMCS GATINEAU

2391 Rosewood Ave.,

Ottawa, Ont.,

16th March, 1996

Commander D.O. Thamer,

H.M.C.S. 'Catalineau'

Halifax, N.S.

Dear Commander Thamer,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 19th February and the news concerning an old ship of mine 'Catalineau'. It is sad to think she is coming to the end of her operational career but it has been an active one spanning 37 years. To the best of my knowledge she was never found wanting in the course of that busy lifetime. Even the 3"-70 gun problems of the early years were successfully resolved.

I am interested in knowing of the future plans for 'Catalineau'. I expect to be in Halifax 2nd-3rd June attending the annual RCAF meeting but I doubt there will be time for ship visiting.

I trust the ship's retirement will be honourable and dignified and not demeaning, as forming a breakwater as others have been utilized. In the intervening time, however, I extend to you and the 'Catalineaus' very best wishes for the future

COMMANDING OFFICER

MAR 29 1996

Yours faithfully,

B. Caldwell
B.B. Caldwell

HMCS CATALINEAU

Address - 2391 Rosewood Ave

Ottawa, Ont. K2B 7L3

tel. (613) 596-1711

16 - 2200 Arbutus Cove Lane
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J9
18 March '96

Dear Commander Thamer,

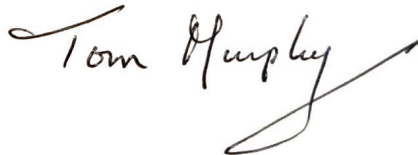
Thank you so much for your letter of 19 Feb. which arrived with my old timer's pay cheque. You brought back so many memories.

As the years slip by I realize how fortunate we were to have served our Country in the Navy. My happiest and most challenging years were spent in your fine ship.

I warn you that my wife (widow of Admiral Andy Collier) and I will be in Halifax visiting old shipmates early in May thus if you are alongside you may get a call from Tom Murphy.

Again VMT for your letter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

COMMANDING OFFICER

MAR 22 1996

HMCS ENTINEAU

Site 8D Box 38
Waverley, N.S.
BON 2S0
20 March, 1996

Commanding Officer
HMCS Gatineau

Dear Orv:

I was expecting some sort of correspondence from you; my spies tell me your OPI was looking for my address.

I'm glad to see that you are looking after my little yacht - she remains, as always, the hightlite of my naval career.

I would be most delighted to participate in any paying-of ceremonies you may be planning. As you no doubt know, I live in the local area, and have adopted a life of leisure.

Lots of water under the keel since the days of S/Lt Thamer in Huron! Take care and I hope you will be appointed to a second command following Gatineau.

sincerely;

Allent.

CDR TANGUAY.

1750 Gonzales Ave
Victoria, BC
V8S 1T7
14 April 1996
(604) 592-9130

Dear Commander Thamer,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April. I do indeed keep a keen interest in the Navy and I am the Chairman of the Maritime Affairs Committee of the NOAVI. I write letters and articles to the editors of our national and local papers in an endeavour to educate the public on the facts of life as they concern the Navy and its requirements.

I am aware that one of the arguments used in the UPHOLDER discussions involves paying off four of the old ships and I realized that the old GATINEAU was one whose time was up.

I received a call a while back, presumably from Pension Services, who wished to establish whether I was indeed the Kinsman who was an ex-CO of GATINEAU because you were preparing for some sort of re-union.,

I would be most interested in attending and look forward to hearing from you in due course when the sword of Damocles descends. I can also be reached by Fax at the above number.

In the meantime continue to enjoy your command.

Yours sincerely



W.G.Kinsman

CDR D.O.Thamer CD
Comanding Officer
HMCS GATINEAU
FMO Halifax



COMMANDING OFFICER
HMCS GATINEAU

DGU: 7500-2


2 May 1996

Commander
Maritime Forces, Atlantic
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR SERVICE AIR TRAVEL

Reference. CFAO 20-20 Annex A, Appendix 1

1. In accordance with the reference, Command approval is requested to fly Commodore and Mrs H.L. Quinn DSC, RCN (Retired), Commissioning Commanding Officer of HMCS GATINEAU, from Victoria to Halifax in the period 21-27 May 1996. Commodore Quinn is a very articulate and spry 87 year old who has expressed great interest in attending the Ceremonies associated with the reversion of GATINEAU to extended readiness. While GATINEAU is prepared to expend Ship's Funds to fly the Commodore and his wife to Halifax it is felt that the situation is worthy of the approval of Service Air in accordance with the CFAO.
2. Enclosed is a copy of Commodore Quinn's initial reply to our request for his address and particulars. As may be seen, and which has subsequently been confirmed in a telephone conversation, he is quite a fellow. His attendance at the Former CO's luncheon and the Daysail would be highly desirable. He has indicated that he now walks with a cane and probably would not do too well at the Ship's Company Dance!
3. Submitted for your consideration and support.


D.O. Thamer
Commander
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: 1

Maritime Forces Atlantic Headquarters
FMO Halifax, NS B3K 2X0

MARL: 7500-2 (N00 Comd)

03 May 1996

Commander
Maritime Command Headquarters
FMO Halifax, NS B3K 2X0

9607574
N00
7500-1

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR SERVICE AIR TRAVEL

- References: A. CFAO 20-20 Annex A, Appendix 1
- B. DGU: 7500-2 dated 2 May 1996 (enclosed)
- C. Letter from Commodore Quinn (enclosed)

1. In accordance with reference A, GATINEAU has requested approval to fly Commodore and Mrs H.L. Quinn DSC, RCN (Retired), Commissioning Commanding Officer of HMCS GATINEAU, from Victoria to Halifax in the period 21-27 May 1996. Commodore Quinn has expressed great interest in attending the ceremonies associated with the reversion of GATINEAU to extended readiness. While GATINEAU is prepared to expend Ship's Funds to fly the Commodore and his wife to Halifax it is felt that the situation is worthy of the approval of Service Air in accordance with the CFAO.

2. I consider that the attendance of Commodore Quinn and his wife at the ceremonies would be of great benefit to GATINEAU and the Navy. Original commanding officers are becoming a rare breed and their availability and attendance at such important functions will sadly decrease with time. GATINEAU's request for approval of Service Air is highly supported.

3. Submitted for your consideration and approval.

G.L. Garnett
G.L. Garnett
Rear-Admiral
Commander

Enclosures: 2

④ 11/P 13/5
Exec Sec.
Approved!

③ Comd MARLANT
pse see min ④
11/P 13/5

Comd
13/5

→ ⑤ GAT
APPROVED.
EA N00
13 MAY 96

Maritime Forces Atlantic Headquarters
FMO Halifax, NS B3K 2X0

MARL: 7500-2 (N00 Comd)

03 May 1996

Commander
Maritime Command Headquarters
FMO Halifax, NS B3K 2X0

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR SERVICE AIR TRAVEL

References: A. CFAO 20-20 Annex A, Appendix 1
B. DGU: 7500-2 dated 2 May 1996 (enclosed)
C. Letter from Commodore Quinn (enclosed)

1. In accordance with reference A, GATINEAU has requested approval to fly Commodore and Mrs H.L. Quinn DSC, RCN (Retired), Commissioning Commanding Officer of HMCS GATINEAU, from Victoria to Halifax in the period 21-27 May 1996. Commodore Quinn has expressed great interest in attending the ceremonies associated with the reversion of GATINEAU to extended readiness. While GATINEAU is prepared to expend Ship's Funds to fly the Commodore and his wife to Halifax it is felt that the situation is worthy of the approval of Service Air in accordance with the CFAO.

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3. Submitted for your consideration and approval.



G.L. Garnett
Rear-Admiral
Commander

Enclosures: 2

Commodore R. B. Calvert thanks the
Commanding Officer of HMCS 'Cathartes'
for his kind invitation to a luncheon
on board on 23rd May, 1996, but regrets
he is unable to attend due to other
commitments.

13 May, 1996.



National Defence

Défense nationale

National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de la Défense nationale
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

MCCRT - 5 South Tower

From Captain (N) R.G. Allen, CD

14 May 1996

Dear

Ann,

Many thanks for remembering to invite me to GATINEAU's unofficial paying off ceremony. It is certainly occurring much sooner than I had anticipated or hoped, but I imagine that your thoughts on the subject are exactly the same.

As it turns out, I will be in Halifax during that week anyway for the Multinational Naval Co-operation Symposium at the Warfare Centre and downtown trade centre. I have managed to adjust my planned schedule, at considerable personal danger from the man who is paying the bills, to permit me to attend several of your planned events. If the truth were known, I would have done almost anything to assure that I was there, but in the event did not even have to use the blackmail route that I was fully prepared for.

I will be at the symposium all day on Thursday the 23rd, but intend to sneak away for the former CO's luncheon in GATINEAU that is just too good an opportunity to pass up. Apparently, some of the foreign VIPs will be in the Dockyard anyway having lunch in some of the other ships. I will be in TWLs (or maybe salt and pepper) that morning, and will not have an opportunity to change. Is this rig acceptable? I will have to scoot away again no later than 13:50, but your XO assures me that the coffee and cake should be history by that point. If you could find me a ride back to the World Trade and Convention Centre, I would be most appreciative, but if this presents any problem at all, do not worry.

On the Friday, I am happy to report that I can join you for what could be the old girl's last day at sea. If your sailing time stays at 09:30, I will be aboard by no later than 09:00. Upon return to Dockyard at 15:00, I have to leave immediately for the airport. My timing is quite tight, so anything you could arrange in the way of a vehicle to the airport would be most helpful. I assume that I can dump my luggage in your cabin for the day.

I will be staying at the Citadel Inn from Tuesday noon on.

Again, thank you for the chance to join what will be, I am sure, an emotional milestone in the long and productive life of a great ship. I look forward to the opportunity to share the moment.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Thamer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being particularly large and stylized.

Commander D.O. Thamer, CD
Commanding Officer
HMCS GATINEAU
FMO Halifax, NS
B3K 2X0

Capt (Ret'd) Tom Murphy
16-2200 Arbutus Cove Lane
Victoria BC V8N 6J9
15 May '46

Dear Cdr Thamer,

Thank you very much for your letter of 30 April and the invitation for the "Luncheon On Board", 23 May.

I very much regret that I will be unable to attend. I will have a tear in my eye as your paying off date approaches.

All the best,

Tom Murphy

UNCLASSIFIED

01 01 271654Z MAY 96 RR UUUU

HMCS GATINEAU
COMMAROPSGRU ONE//CHAP//

UNCLAS


SIC Z2H

SUBJ: CHAPLAIN ATTENDANCE 23 MAY 96

VMT FATHER MACDONALD ATTENDANCE AT CEREMONIAL DIVISIONS 23 MAY 96.

PRESENCE ADDED FINAL TOUCH TO A SAD BUT NECESSARY OCCASION

G.H.A. HATTON LCDR XO


D.O. THAMER CDR CO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

01 02 281225Z MAY 96 RR RR UUUU

HMCS GATINEAU

423 (MH) SQN SHEARWATER

INFO MARLANTHQ HALIFAX//J31//

UNCLAS

SIC Z2H

SUBJ:HELO SHOPWINDOW 24 MAY 96

REF:GAT 161730Z MAY 96

1. GATINEAU COMPLETED HER FINAL SAILPAST AND DEPENDANTS DAY SAIL ON 24 MAY 96. 423 (MH) SQN WAS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A HELO TO DROP OFF TWO GAT DIVERS, CONDUCT WET HOIST DRILL, AND PERFORM A HELO SHOP WINDOW FOR GAT IN BEDFORD BASIN
2. AS USUAL YOUR CONDUCT OF THE TASKING WAS OUTSTANDING, DESPITE HAVING TO GO THROUGH SEVERAL AIRCRAFT TO GET A SERVICEABLE BIRD, THE END RESULT PROVIDED GAT WITH A MEMORABLE SHOW FOR ALL DEPENDANTS AND SHIPS COMPANY. FORMER CO VADM FULTON, CAPT(N) ALLEN AND CDR EDWARDS WERE EFFUSIVE IN THEIR PRAISE FOR YOUR PROFESSIONALISM AND FLAIR
3. YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS VERY EXCITING AND EMOTIONAL EVENT WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. FROM THE SECOND LAST SHIP WITH ZOOMIES IN A BOX LAUNCHER WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AND A GOOD SEAT AT THE MOVIE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

02

UUUU

4. BRAVO ZULU

GHA HATTON LCDR XO
[Handwritten Signature]
DO THAMER CDR CO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

01 01 271600Z MAY 96 RR UUUU

HMCS GATINEAU
COMMAROPSGRU ONE
COMMAROPSGRU FIVE
MAROPSGRU ONE
MAROPSGRU FIVE

UNCLAS

SIC Z2H

SUBJ:GATINEAU SAILPAST 24 MAY 96

1. VMT ALL YOUR KINDNESS DURING MY FINAL SAILPAST. YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS WAS MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL ONBOARD INCLUDING FORMER COS VADM FULTON, CAPT ALLEN, CDR EDWARDS
2. PROUD TO REPORT 26 KNOTS AT ONLY 210 REVS ENROUTE TO CHEBUCTO HEAD, PEDAL WAS NOT TO THE METAL, REGRET NOT ENOUGH FUEL FOR BERMUDA PASSEX
3. IN THIS SHIP LIES POWER (DORMANT)

GHA HATTON LCDR XO

DO THAMER CDR CO

UNCLASSIFIED

614901813
RAAUZYUW RXCAGXX1155 1491940-UUUU--RCEMPJS RCEOCEA.

ZNR UUUUU

R 281817Z MAY 96

FM HMCS TERRA NOVA

TO RCEMPJS/HMCS GATINEAU

INFO MAROPSGRU ONE

BT

UNCLAS

SIC BRO/IRE

SUBJ: GOODNIGHT GATINEAU

REF: YOUR GALLOPING GHOST XO FINAL 271400Z MAY 96

1. WMP TERRIBLE TER TO TRY GAT TIPPLE UNDER THE BIG TOP. BROTHER

IRE WE WILL MISS YOU AS YOU GO GENTLY INTO THE NIGHT

2. PERCY PROUDLY MARCHES ON

BT

55

BAU744 DELIVERED 1492145 984620

XO

UM53
PCR⁵⁹
DIST

MARLANT DIST

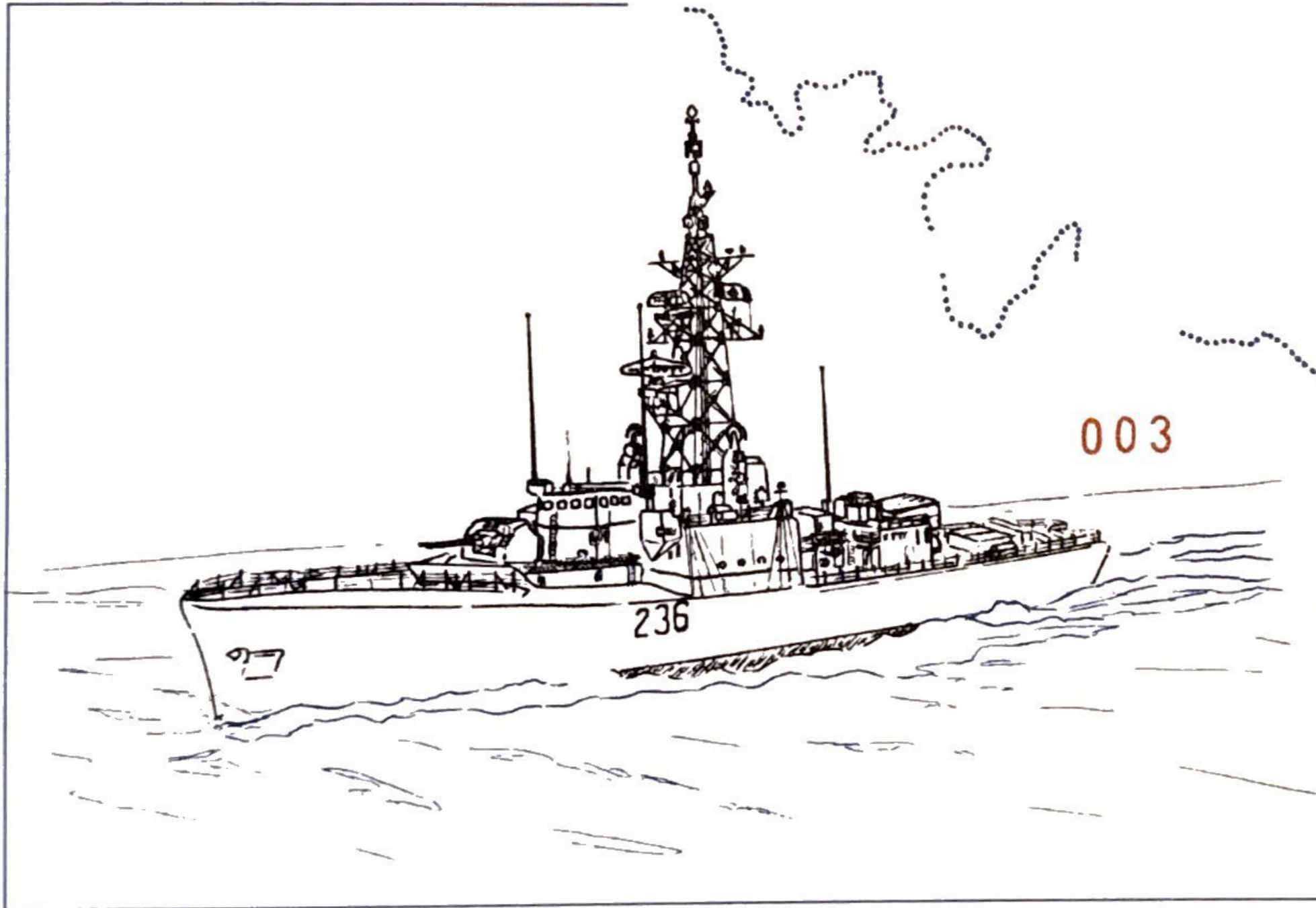
MARCOM DIST

OTHER

ACTION
INFO

1 HMCS GATINEAU
1 CANSEATRAINTLANT
1 COMMAROPSGRU ONE
1 HMCS ATHABASKAN
1 HMCS FREDERICTON
1 HMCS IROQUOIS
1 HMCS MONTREAL
1 HMCS TORONTO
1 HMCS VILLE DE QUEBEC

9



003

**HMCS
GATINEAU**
1959 - 1996





COMMANDING OFFICER, COMMANDER THAMER
24 May 96
DATE