

MANITOBA DIVISION THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

TERMINOLOGY, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & HISTORY



ABBREVIATIONS (CORPS LEVEL)

- CO - Commanding Officer (in command of Corps)
- XO - Executive Officer (2nd in command)
- TO - Training Officer (responsible for Cadet training plans)
- Coxswain - Coxswain or Corps Chief (most senior cadet)
- RPO - Regulating Petty Officer (second most senior cadet)
- RCSCC - Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps
- NLCC - Navy League Cadet Corps

ABBREVIATIONS (RCSU LEVEL)

- DND - Department of National Defence
- CAF - Canadian Armed Forces
- RCSU - Regional Cadet Support Unit
- ZTO - Zone Training Officer
- CIC - Cadet Instructors Cadre (Cadet officers)
- CI - Civilian Instructor

ABBREVIATIONS (CADET CAMP LEVEL)

- CTC - Cadet Training Centre
- RTU - Return to Unit (returned home from a CTC)
- Kye - Hot chocolate drink

TERMS (DIRECTIONS)

- Port - Left (red)
- Starboard - Right (green)
- Midships - Middle of ship (white)/straight ahead
- Aft - Rear of the ship
- Bow - Front of the ship
- Aloft - Above deck/overhead
- Below - Below deck

TERMS (SHIP PARTS)

- Bow - Front of the ship
- Stern - Rear of the ship
- Deck - Floor
- Bulkhead - Wall of the ship
- Cabin - Room in a ship
- Gangway - Hallway
- Head - Washroom
- Quarterdeck - Main ceremonial and reception area on board ship

TERMS (PARADE DECK)

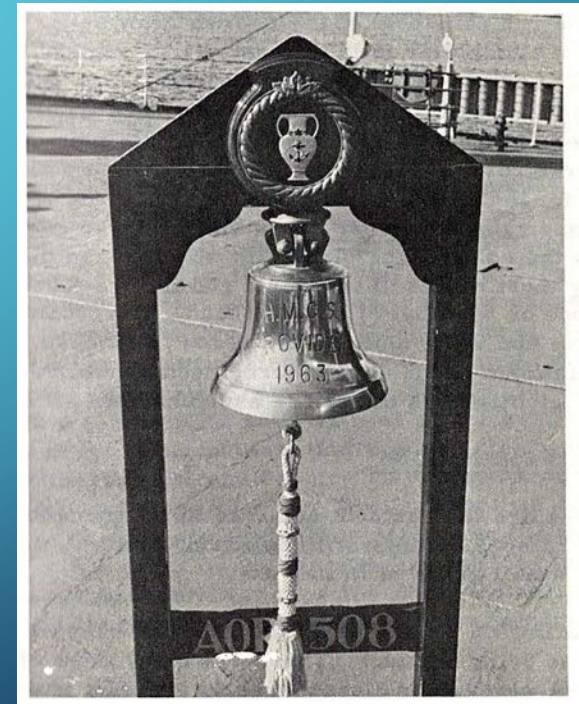
- Division - Group of Cadets (usually 30 Cadets or less)
- Company - Group of Divisions (usually 5 Divisions or less)
- Ship's Company - Corps' full compliment (usually 1 or more Companies)
- Divisional PO - Petty Officer in charge of the Division
- Company Commander - Chief Petty Officer in charge of the Company
- Coxswain - Chief Petty Officer in charge of the Ship's Company

TERMS (ORDERS & MISCELLANEOUS)

- Belay - Cancel the order (make fast, as in a line)
- Aye Aye - Order has been received
- Still - Stand at attention
- Carry On - Continue with what you were doing
- Scuttlebutt - Rumors
- Shipshape - Squared away/neat and tidy
- Stone Frigate - Land based building used by the Navy
- Stow - Put stuff away
- Ensign - Identifying flag flown to identify a ship as Canadian

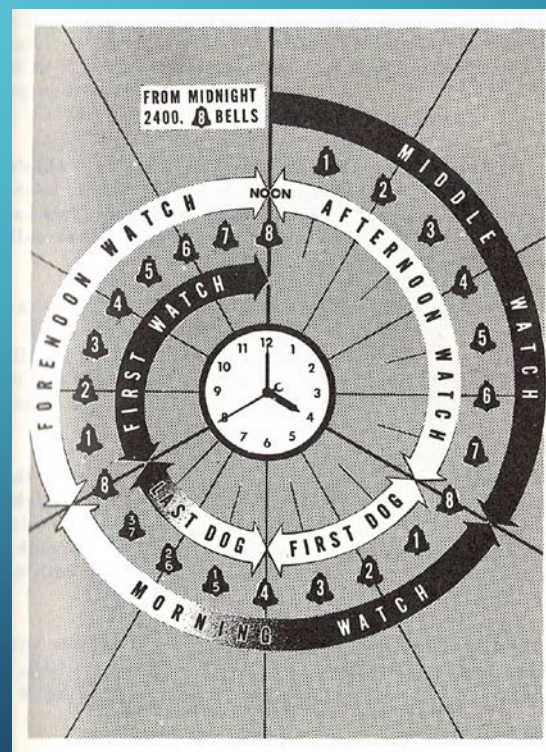
TRADITIONS (SHIP'S BELL & WATCHES)

- Every ship has a “Ship’s Bell”. The bell was traditionally used to mark time at sea and signify the start of a new watch.
- The bell is struck once for every half hour to a maximum of eight strikes.
- The bell is struck in groups of two strikes (ding-ding, ding-ding...)
- When the bell reached eight strikes, this is an indication of the end of one watch and the beginning of the new watch.
- The ship’s/Corps name is engraved on the front of the bell and the names of children baptized on the ship, or in some cases the names of the Corps’ commanding officer, are commonly engraved on the back.



TRADITIONS (SHIP'S BELL & WATCHES) CONT.

- 2359 - 0400 - Middle watch (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)
- 0400 - 0800 - Morning watch (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)
- 0800 - 1200 - Forenoon watch (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)
- 1200 - 1600 - Afternoon watch (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)
- 1600 - 1800 - First Dog watch (1,2,3,4)
- 1800 - 2000 - Last Dog watch (1,2,3,8)
- 2000 - 2359 - First watch (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)



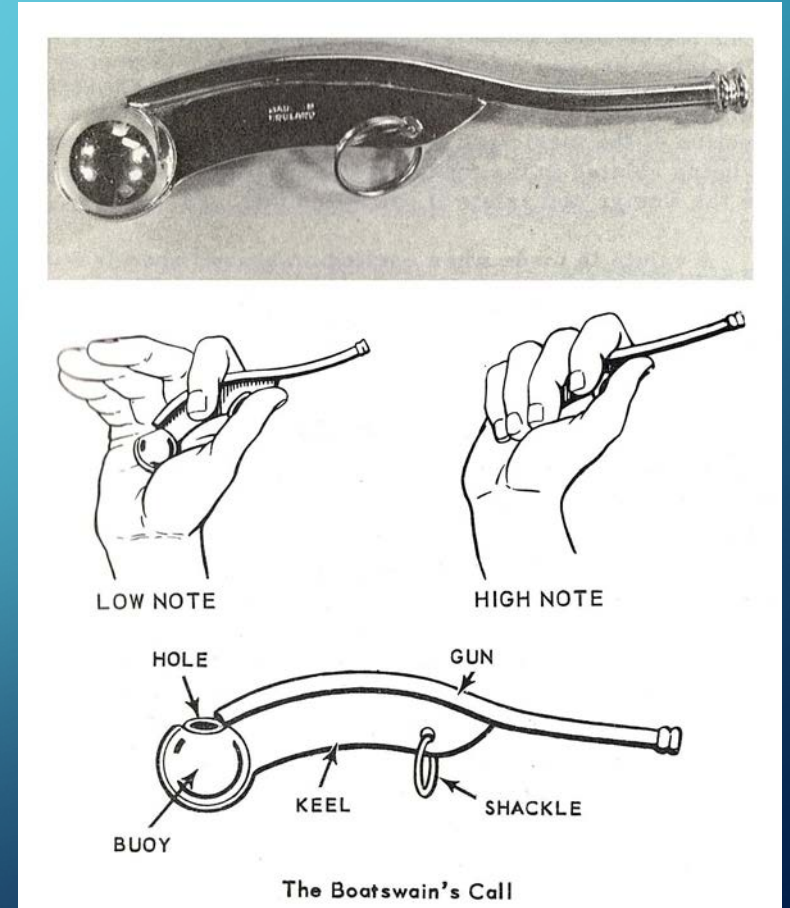
TRADITION (PHONETIC ALPHABET)

- The phonetic alphabet is used to identify the signal flags and over the radio to clearly identify letters of the alphabet.
- For many years communication between ships was done by groups of signal flags. Each flag was assigned a letter or number.
- When the Captain ordered “Make a signal: Golf - Hotel - Romeo - X-Ray”, it was much clearer in heavy weather and noise of the battle, than “Make a signal: G - H - R - X”.



TRADITIONS (BOATSWAIN CALL)

- The Boatswain Call has been used on British and Canadian ships for centuries to communicate orders aboard ship.
- Nowadays only a handful of pipes are used aboard ship, but in days gone by the call was used to communicate all sorts of orders.
- Traditionally, only 2 notes (low & high) and 3 tones (plain, warble & trill) are used to make pipes on HMC ships.



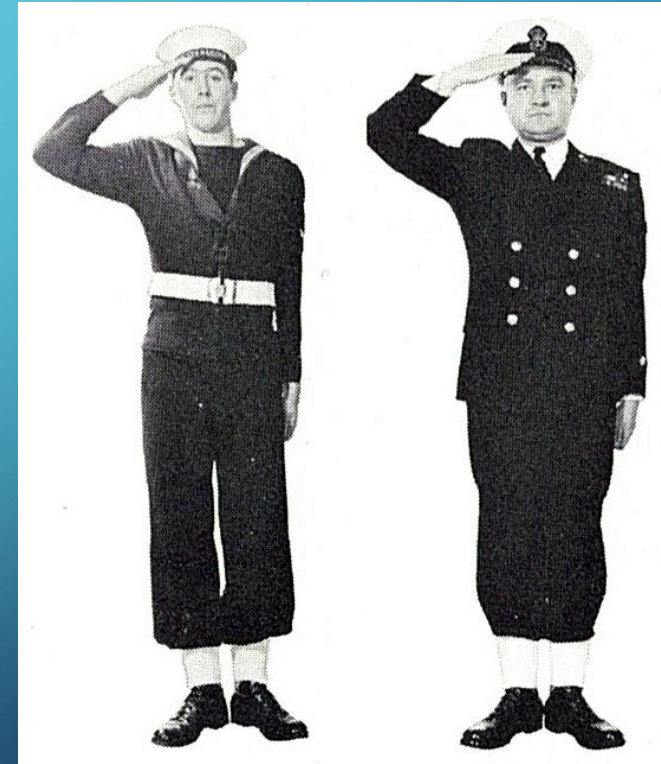
TRADITIONS (SALUTING THE QUARTERDECK)

- Traditionally the Quarterdeck was the seat of power (i.e. where the Captain commanded the ship) of the ship. Also, at harbor and in fair weather the ensign is flown from the Quarterdeck.
- For those reasons, it is British/Canadian Naval tradition for all members of the crew to salute the Quarterdeck when they board or depart the ship.



TRADITION (SALUTING OFFICERS)

- It is military tradition to salute a superior officer.
- This tradition dates back to the middle ages when knights would remove their helmets to show that they were friend not foe.
- In the 1800s it was traditional to raise your hat as a salute.
- Eventually just touching the brim of your hat with your thumb and fore finger was considered proper edict, then in 1890 Queen Victoria, appalled by the tar stained hands of properly turned out sailors, had the hand turned down to the salute we have today.



TRADITIONS (COLOURS & SUNSET)



- "Colours" and "Sunset" are British naval traditions (from the seventeenth-eighteenth century) where the ship's "colours" (Ensign) is raised at sunrise and lowered at sunset.
- Though the "Colours" ceremony would be held at 0800 or 0900 aboard ships, Cadets perform their ceremony in the evening, at the beginning of the parade night.
- The "Sunset" ceremony, again aboard ship is performed at sunset, but in the Cadet program we carry out the ceremony at the end of the parade night.

TRADITIONS (UNIFORM PARTS)

- Traditional parts of the Cadet's current uniform.
 - White top & cap tally (worn by RN since 1850s)
 - Gun shirt
 - Lanyard (hang seaman's knife at front of body)
 - Webbing (belt & gators)
 - Rank and trade badges



TRADITIONS (ELLIOT'S EYE)

- The Executive Curl, or Elliot's Eye, is the rounded braid above a naval officer's rank; commonly worn by navies following the British naval tradition.
- This tradition dates back centuries and has been worn by Canadian naval officers since inception in 1910 (except during unification 1968-2010).
- There are two competing stories on the origin of the curl. One is that it was named after Captain George Elliot who broke his arm and the loop from his braide made in a sling was the origin. The second is that it was named after Hon. William Elliot (member of the Board of the Admiralty) the developer of a method of putting a loop in hemp cable.



HISTORY (NAVY LEAGUE)



- The Navy League of Canada was established in 1895.
- Initially, groups of citizens, in cities around the British Empire, who were interested in maritime trade and naval defence.
- In Canada The Navy League advised the government on naval issues and assisted in the formation of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910.
- They also assisted mariners during the wars and established youth training programs to encourage youth toward a seafaring career.
- Currently, The Navy League of Canada is a partner in the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet program, runs the Navy League Cadets program and maritime affairs.
- See <https://navyleague.ca/about/our-history/>

HISTORY (CADETS)



- The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet program started in 1918 as the Boys Naval Brigade; becoming the Navy League Sea Cadet program in 1923 and the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet program in 1943, when King George VI gave his consent for the use of “Royal Canadian”.
- The Navy League Cadet program was established in 1948 by The Navy League of Canada.
- The Navy League Wrenette program was established in 1950 and was terminated in 1997 when the last Corps, NLWC Centennial, was closed down.

HISTORY (CADETS IN MANITOBA)



- The Navy League of Canada Winnipeg Branch was established in 1920.
- The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet program started in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1920 when the Winnipeg Boys Naval Brigade (eventually became RCSCC John Travers Cornwell VC) was established. There are currently seven Sea Cadet Corps.
- The Navy League Cadet program started in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1954 when NLCC JRK Millen was established. There are currently three Navy League Corps.
- The Navy League Wrenette program started in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1969 when NLWC Centennial was established. It was the last NLWC when it closed in 1997.