

## JOHN ZAMBORY

John Zambory was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta where he joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an Ordinary Seaman Stoker Branch in June, 1955. He recalls joining other new recruits on the long 4 day train trip to take the 18 week New Entry training at HMCS CORNWALLIS, and that they took the ferry from Saint John, N.B. across the Bay of Fundy to Digby, N.S. where they were taken by vehicles to the training base. After finishing their New Entry training (in Rainbow Division) they took the old Dominion Atlantic train up to Halifax and thence by the Intercontinental out to HMCS NADEN for further training as a Stoker since he was an -E rating (Esquimalt ratings came from West of Port Arthur, Ont. while -H ratings came from East of there and went to Halifax). He served on HMCS ATHABASKAN, HMCS MARGAREE and HMCS OSHAWA - the latter was used extensively for research work and was frequently operating out of Prince Rupert B.C. John relates that when all his buddies were away on enjoyable trips to such places as Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, etc, etc. that he was languishing in such exotic locales as the Gulf of Alaska and the Queen Charlottes - not a happy time for him.

John was a Stoker for 3 yrs before putting in for and successfully passing a Clearance Diver (Ships) course at HMCS NADEN on 14 Mar 58, followed by qualifying as a Clearance Diver Trade Group One on 26 June 59. After his CD course John was required to go to sea for 6 months because he came from the Engine Room Branch, and was duly drafted to HMCS MARGAREE to get the experience. He recalls that one evening the ship had anchored just off Comox, B.C. after completing some war game exercises when he and two other Divers considered they should mend their straight and narrow ways by doing some dastardly deed to one of the nearby ships - HMCS FRASER, wherein were located other diving buddies of theirs. This being the last night in the area, a scheme was hatched to make a silent surface swim over the 200 yards to her and see what subterfuge could be employed to redden the faces of their comrade-in-arms aboard Fraser. In due time (2300) the devious plot was thought through, wet suits were donned and faces blackened, and they went over the side by Jacobs Ladder carrying 2 new pails and some lengths of strong cord. Holding the buckets just clear of the water they stealthily stroked their silent way across the black water until they neared the ship. The three member "attack team" swam silently alongside until they reached one of the cutters tied up to the boom for the night. Although watched over by Fraser's Duty Quartermaster they were able to attach the 2 pails to the underside of a cutter, using the cord they had brought along, in such a fashion that they were undetectable, which would prove to be a most effective sea anchor. The Divers stealthily eased back to the side of Margaree, which they reboarded safely since their Quartermaster was also acting as a lookout for the Officer of the Day. Although Fraser's cutter was not used that night, upon being driven to the davits next morning, the coxswain complained that it was acting in a most peculiar manner! When it was hoisted clear of the water, lo and behold, it was discovered that 2 nice shiny unmarked pails were adhering to its underside. All of John's buddies on Fraser figured that John must have had something to do with this, however they had no way of knowing for sure - or of proving it - until some time later when, over a few ales, he admitted to the dirty deed, and they all had a few hearty chuckles about it.

John stated they trained in the old dry suit with Divers underwear, however if any of the Divers wished they could use the new wetsuit, but they had to buy their own! He remembers that Frank Bayfield-Davis once asked him to find out if one of the "Clammy Death" suits had 3 leaks in it, and when he came to the surface after the dive (and very cold to boot) informed Frank that there were about 18 leaks, Frank told him to go down and make sure, which he did even though he was frozen solid it seemed. The original Golden Hawks Aerobatic Team once visited the Pacific National Ex and one of the Pilots consented to going down with Standard Dress on. When he got to the bottom he took 6 steps, turned around and came right back up saying "You guys are nuts, you're all going to kill yourselves" and took off never to be seen again. John remembers also when he was diving that he was enclosed by a huge amount of squid which vividly comes to his mind since his hands burned for three days after his encounter with them. A few of the Divers he knows were Ernie Madden, Paddy Dutton, Ron MacKenzie, Red Larsen, Chuck Greengrass and Ivan "Bud" Sherlock. John was a letter carrier for 20 years after getting out of the Navy in 1960, did a further 10 years at an inside Postal job, he expects to retire for good in 1994, then go to the 1994 Divers Reunion in Ottawa, where he wishes to visit the Museums, specially the Canadian War Museum, which he has never seen. He enjoys barbecuing in his back yard and looks forward to some model railroad building. John resides at 9820 Athens Road S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2J 1B9 Phone (403) 252-1058.