HISTORY OF
RCSCC AMPHION
BY
LCdr G. D. RIDDELL, CD

LCdr G. D. RIDDELL
COMMANDING OFFICER
1967 - 1977
PREFACE

Since 1960 I have been very fortunate in being associated with RCSCC Amphion and for the past ten years have had the privilege to be Commanding Officer. I feel it is fitting to put down on record a history of Amphion.

The achievements of Amphion have been outstanding! The Corps has received Provincial, National, and International Awards. Cadets from Amphion have been judged the Best in British Columbia. Amphion cadets have donated countless hours on community projects. Amphion cadets are a credit to the City of Nanaimo, to their parents - but more important - to themselves. Their story should be recorded.

This history is dedicated to all past and present officers, cadets, and members of the Nanaimo Navy League. Without your efforts in carrying out the aims of sea cadets there would be no history. WELL DONE!

These past sixteen years have been most rewarding. I have received more from cadets than I have given. I thank all who gave me the opportunity to serve. FEAR NONE!

To Mr. John Cass, who contributed greatly on the early history, I sincerely express my appreciation.

LCDR G. D. RIDDELL
"THE BEGINNING"

The first Nanaimo Branch of the Navy League of Canada was formed in March 1918. The first elected president was Nanaimo Mayor, Harold McKenzie.

A Naval Brigade for boys was formed. Solely the Nanaimo Navy League sponsored this Brigade. From the files of the Nanaimo Free Press it was reported that four boys from Nanaimo attended the first annual provincial camp. This camp was held in Victoria in 1920. This Navy League Branch and Naval Brigade went out of existence for some unknown reason.

In May 1926, a second Nanaimo Navy League Branch was organized and a Navy League Sea Cadet Corps was formed. The name Naval Brigade for Boys was changed to Navy League Sea Cadets at an earlier date. This Corps held weekly meetings in the Nanaimo High School Gymnasium. This second attempt to form a continuing Navy League Branch and Sea Cadet Corps also failed.

"SUCCESS"

A third attempt was made on June 8th, 1943, when Vancouver Island Navy League Officials met with a group of interested Nanaimo citizens in the hope of forming a continuing Navy League Branch. This attempt would be successful.

The meeting was held in Nanaimo City Hall with Mayor V. B. Harrison presiding. The visiting Navy League Officials addressed the meeting, provided information on establishing a Branch of the Navy League and requirements for sponsoring a sea cadet corps.

Following a discussion period, a motion was made by Mr. George Benwell to establish a Nanaimo Branch of the Navy League of Canada. This motion was seconded by Mr. Christopher Wright and was passed by the citizens of Nanaimo attending this meeting. The Nanaimo Navy League officials elected at this special meeting were:

Mr. Douglas Kirkbride   Chairman
Mr. Ross Cashman    Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jack Litch    Secretary
Mr. J. H. Eakin    Treasurer

Committee member’s chosen were:

Mr. S. Abrams    Dr. R. E. Foerster
Mr. L. Abrams    Mr. J. C. Dakin
Dr. L. Giovando    Mr. J. Tully
Mr. S. Saunders    Mr. G. Benwell

Advisory committee members were:

Capt. W. Y. Higgs    Dr. W. Plenderleith

In closing this special meeting the Mayor thanked the visiting Navy League officials for their assistance, pointed out that a seaport like Nanaimo should have a Navy League Branch, and hoped that this third effort would stick.
"FIRST REGULAR MEETING"

This meeting was held in the boardroom of the Civic Arena on June 16th, 1943. At this meeting the officers of the newly formed Nanaimo Branch of the Navy League of Canada discussed plans for the appearance of the Royal Canadian Navy orchestra at the Pygmy Pavilion on June 29th. The entire proceeds from this performance went to a fund being created for the establishment of a Nanaimo Sea Cadet Corps.

"MEMBERSHIP DRIVE"

The following articles appeared in the Nanaimo Free Press

November 22, 1943
Membership Drive to be conducted by Nanaimo Navy League. Part of the funds raised will be used to support local sea cadets.

December 2, 1943
Signing members at a rapid rate. The number of memberships purchased by the citizens of Nanaimo is evidencing the keenest interest in the work of the Navy League.

December 28, 1943
Navy League is still seeking members. D. Kirkbrid, Chairman, announced that the public is asked to support the drive.

January 28, 1944
Navy League is still anxious to sign members.

February 5, 1944
Navy League still appeals to Nanaimo citizens to take out one-dollar memberships and thus assist carrying on the work of training sea cadets.

RCSCC AMPHION
Nanaimo BC
On May 12, 1943, Commander Douglas Scott RCN, from HMCS Naden, met with Mr. Seymour Abrams, collector of customs, and Captain William York Higgs, for a discussion on the establishment of a sea cadet corps in Nanaimo. This meeting was held in Mr. S. Abrams office located in the old post office. At this meeting Captain W. Y. Higgs agreed to take an active part in the formation of a Nanaimo Sea Cadet Corps.

At the Inaugural Meeting of the Nanaimo Branch Navy League of Canada held on June 8th, Lt. W. H. Hothman, RCN, Director of Sea Cadets on the Pacific Coast, supplied details of DND participation in the event that a sea cadet corps was formed in Nanaimo.

Mr. J. B. (Jack) Litch, supervising high school principal, on July 2nd, stated that a school sea cadet corps in Nanaimo was definitely out unless existing regulations of the Department of Education were amended. The Honorable H.G.T. Perry, Minister of Education, announced on August 20th, that the council of public instruction authorized the establishment of sea cadets in high schools in the Province of British Columbia.

On August 26th, it was reported that Nanaimo was to have a corps of sea cadets. Difficulties in organizing the corps were smoothed away. Optional choice would be given to students in grades 10 to 12 to elect between air and sea cadets. This gave the Nanaimo high school students the opportunities of all three cadet movements.

At the Nanaimo School Board Meeting held on September 2nd, the Trustees gave approval for a sea cadet corps in conjunction with the Nanaimo High School.

On November 19, 1943, the Chairman Mr. D.J. Kirkbride announced the following item, which appeared in the Nanaimo Free Press.

"CONCENTRATION ON THE FORMATION OF A STRONG AND EFFICIENT SEA CADET CORPS HAS BEEN DECIDED UPON BY THE NANAIMO BRANCH OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA."
“A REALITY”

On February 5th, 1944, it was announced by the Nanaimo Navy League that all organizational arrangements had been completed and a NANAIMO ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADET CORPS\(^1\) WAS A REALITY. Major G. Yardley, District Sea Cadet coordinator and Director and Lt. R. V. Gillman, Divisional Officer from HMCS Malahat, met with the Nanaimo Navy League Committee to complete details.

The control and supervision of the cadet corps would be on a 50-50 basis between the Navy and the Navy League, each with their own particular responsibilities.

The objectives of the training would be aimed at preparing boys for useful Citizenship in all walks of Canadian life, with particular emphasis on developing character, self-discipline, and an appreciation of our Canadian Heritage.

“THE NAME”

Normally, sea cadet corps are named after famous ships or naval heroes. In May 1943 the name Amphion\(^2\) was suggested by Captain W. Y. Higgs in a conversation with Mr. S. Abrams, and was selected. This was appropriate as the HMS Amphion arrived in Esquimalt for a third commission on February 4th, 1901, the year that Captain Higgs was born. Approval from naval authorities to name the corps Amphion was requested and approval was received.

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\(^1\) The name Royal Canadian Sea Cadets was adopted in 1941, when recognition was given to Navy League Sea Cadets for their contribution to the war effort and made the official component of the Royal Canadian Navy

\(^2\) Seven ships have borne the name AMPHION. The Nanaimo Sea Cadet Corps is named after the fourth Amphion. This Amphion was built in 1883 and spent three commissions on Pacific Stations. (See Appendix A for a History of all HMS Amphions’).
The Nanaimo Sea Cadet Corps is named after the fourth Amphion, built in Pembroke in 1883. She was a 2nd class cruiser and spent three commissions on Mediterranean and Pacific Stations. See Appendix A for a History of all HMS Amphion.
The first Commanding Officer was William York Higgs, a well-known shipping master. Captain Higgs had agreed to be the Commanding Officer in May 1943. Douglas J. Kirkbride held a dual role as Executive and Supply Officer, and Dr. L. Giovando was Surgeon Lieutenant, T. E. Bennett an Assistant School Inspector, joined shortly after the Dr., as Paymaster, and later they where joined by C. F. Lloyd who was an Instructor.

Lt. W. Y. Higgs - First Commanding Officer (1944)
(Picture taken 1976)
“Quarters”

The Scout Hall, on Comox Road, was approved by naval authorities and would be used as temporary quarters until September 1944. The scouts generously offered the use of their hall when it was not being used.

“First Cadets”

On February 7th, 1944 boys between the ages of 12 and 17&1/2 were given the opportunity to enroll with the cadets at city schools. Those not attending school could register with W. Y. Higgs, Dr. I. Giovondo, or D. J. Kirkbride. It was reported that boys were joining at a rapid rate and the corps would start off with a healthy membership.

“First Annual Inspection”

On June 23, 1944, at the Scout Hall, with Seventy-eight (78) boys on parade the cadets were inspected by Lt. R. V. Gillman, Divisional Officer, and HMCS Malahat. Cadets were attired in civilian clothes, as their uniforms had not arrived. Lt. Gillman had inspected the cadets one month earlier and at this second inspection commended the cadets for their training progress. In July, the uniforms arrived and the cadets were kitted out.

“First Summer Camp”

Amphion cadets traveled via Princess Elaine to Camp Whytecliffe on Howe Sound, for a two-week seamanship-training period, Lt. W. Y. Higgs, Lt. D. J. Kirkbride and Lt. To E. Bennett accompanied cadets. At this summer training camp, and in future camps, cadets would put into practice the theory learned at the corps level.
ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADET SUMMER CAMP
MAINLAND DIVISION OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA
THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL SERVICE

NANAIMO CORPS OF SEA CADETS TO EMBARK FOR TRAINING CAMP

JULY 31, 1944

Training is eagerly anticipated and will feature sports like O. Sea Vic Palmer at Camp, Amphon should show up well.

Whytecliff camp commandant is Capt. B. Bush, R.C.N.V.R., of Vancouver. An official inspection by Rear Admiral V. C. Brodoux, C.B., R.C.N., will take place in the second week at camp.


The ship's accountant is Lt. T. E. Bennett, R.C.S. He is assistant school supervisor while out of uniform and is formerly of Albert, as paymaster, he is responsible for transportation and supply stores as well as any funds that may be required to meet expenses.

The ship's master is Capt. A. F. Nuttall, R.C.S. and well known local shipbuilding master the officers and men of Amphon will join the Corps from Victoria and Vancouver. Lt. Higgins, with over 20 years of sea experience to his credit, will provide some of the ablest facilities at camp.

Executive officers' duties fall to the youngest officer in Amphon, Lt. Doug Kirkbride, R.C.S., and well known musician, sportsman and busy worker. Lt. Kirkbride and his staff will handle all administrative duties of the Nanaimo Corps and the whole move of the Nanaimo Corps will be a treat to those waiting in charge.

Recreation facilities are ample. Plenty of swimming is afforded Cadets in the waters of Howe Sound. Inter-cadet competition in baseball, soccer and table tennis is great interest. The Canadian Legion War
Lt. W. Y. Higgs resigned as Commanding Officer in September 1944 due to business commitments and Lt. T. E. Bennett assumed command.

On April 7th, 1945 HMCS Nanaimo visited the City. Cadets boarded to tour the gun turrets, engine room, and bridge under guidance of the ship's crew. HMCS Nanaimo, K-101, was the first corvette in the Canadian Navy. At a later date, the Corps was fortunate in obtaining HMCS Nanaimo's ships bell after she was de-commissioned. This bell still hangs on the Quarterdeck and is used on parade nights.

Picture of the ships bell goes here.

From the Files of The Nanaimo Free Press

May 12, 1945

Norman Madsen of Haliburton Street, a 15-year-old lad, was instantly killed in his home when trying to investigate the inside of a bomb he thought was harmless. Will be awarded a sea cadet naval funeral. He was a member of the local sea cadet corps.
Cadets participated in their first May Day Parade in 1945.

Of note is that from 1945 to date the Corps has been in every May Day Parade held in Nanaimo.

MAY DAY PARADE 1945

At Amphion's Second Annual Inspection, Lt. Marshall RCNVR, Executive Officer of HMCS Malahat inspected the Corps. On his arrival he took the salute and inspected the honour guard. Lt. T. E. Bennett, Commanding Officer who was on deck for the general inspection, accompanied him. Lt. D. J. Kirkbride, Amphion's Executive Officer, carried out divisions. The full ship's company of Sixty-five (65) cadets and leading hands were then inspected. Lt. C. F. Lloyd, training officer, conducted the march past. Classes were then inspected and included: Squad drill, Semaphore, Rifle drill, Boat construction, and Bends and Hitches.

This Inspection was held at John Shaw High School, located at the corner of Selby and Franklyn Street. The Corps would continue to use rooms in the basement of this school as their headquarters until the summer of 1949.

Some cadets where able to attend summer camp at Whytecliffe and they were transported there by the corvette HMCS Nanaimo for two weeks of training. Lt. T. E. Bennett and Lt. D. J. Kirkbride accompanied the cadets. Local cadets in the news for their efforts at camp were: R. Kinnaird, R. Lindsay, R. Ball, B. Wellens, and G. Jenkinson.
In October 1945 T. E. Bennett resigned. Lt. V. G. Meakin became the Corps 3rd Commanding Officer.

Approval was received to increase the compliment of the Corps by 30 in November and a recruiting campaign was carried out during Navy Week. Advertising pointed out that the Corp's new Commanding Officer, Lt. V. G. Meakin, was the first officer attached to the Corps with naval experience. Commander V.G.Meakin RCNVR (R) had been in charge of the Coastal Defence Works in Halifax.
In November Cadets attended the Royal Navy Showboat performance held at the Nanaimo Army Camp in No.1 Drill Hall. This British Naval entertainment group was headed for the east to entertain servicemen. At this show the cadets sold tickets and were ushers, all proceeds went to the Nanaimo Navy League.

At Annual Inspection, May 1946, the Cadets were inspected by LCdr Gage RCNVR HMCS Malahat. Highlights of this third annual inspection were the presentation of first and second year good conduct badges to certain qualified cadets by the Corps Commanding Officer Lt. V. G. Meakin. Lt. Meakin also presented a gift from the Corps to Lt. D.J. Kirkbride, Executive Officer, in appreciation of his hard work. Lt. Kirkbride was leaving Nanaimo and sea cadets to attend college. Over 100 admiring mothers, fathers, and interested spectators were at this inspection.

In July, Cadet Berry G. was presented with a wristwatch for attaining the highest score in 22 shooting at the corps level. Dr. L. Giovando donated the watch and made the presentation. At the presentation Cadet Ball R. was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and Berry G. to Acting Gunner's Mate.

Cadets attended summer camp at HMCS Discovery, Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC. This was necessary, as the new summer training camp on Gambier Island, Camp Latona, was not completed on time due to unfavourable weather. Cadets were accompanied by Lt. C. F. Lloyd and Lt. W. Burnham. This camp was open to visitors on Sundays from 2:30 to 4:30.

Other articles of interest appeared in the Nanaimo Free Press in 1946.

**September 27, 1946**

Sea cadet range party to fall in at quarters on Saturday, September 28 at 1345. This range was located in the basement of John Shaw High School.

**October 25, 1946**

Sea cadets to muster at quarters on Sunday, October 27 at 1030 for church parade. Cadets marched to the Anglican Church to attend the morning service.

**November 12, 1946**

Local veterans, sailors from HMCS Uganda, sea cadets and other patriotic organizations marched to the cenotaph for the Remembrance Day Service.
Camp held at HMCS DISCOVERY - Stanley Park - Vancouver

(on left: Lt. W. Burnham
(on right: Lt. C. F. Lloyd)
In January 1947 - Lt. V.G. Meakin met with the city council and requested land at the mouth of the Millstream to erect quarters and a boathouse for sea cadets. This request was sent to committee for further study.

Sea cadets formed the Guard of Honour at the Crowning of the May Queen on the 23rd of May 1947. The ceremonies were held at the Central Sports Ground in the afternoon. This site is now Harbour Park Mall.

In the evening cadets formed another honour guard for the May Queen at the in the Civic Arena. Sailors from HMCS Antigonish attended these games and drummers from the newly-formed sea cadet bugle band gave the marching step naval party. PO G. Forsythe led the band.

On the 26th of May the Corps had another busy day. In the morning cadets went for a cruise aboard HMCS Antigonish, guests of Lcdr. J. Wolfendon.

In the evening the Corps Annual Inspection was held. Cadets were inspected by Captain J.C.I. Edwards, Commanding Officer, HMCS Naden. Also attending were Commander P. D. Budge and Lieutenant Commander K. E. Grant. Lt. C. F. Lloyd, Executive Officer, was in charge of the parade.

At this inspection the inspecting officer was very interested in the shooting demonstration. At evening quarters the inspecting officer addressed the cadets and also presented badges won by members of the ships company in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association competition. Receiving badges were CPO R.Ba11 and LIC D.Med1ey.

Cadets were transported to summer camp on August 4th aboard HMCS Antigonish. first midshipmen, R. Ball and G. Berry’ accompanied the cadets.

The highlight in 1948 was the inspection of the Corps by Admiral E. R. Mainguy O.B.E., R.C.N., Flag Officer Pacific.

On December 1st, 1948, Lt. V.G.Meakin resigned and Lt. G. Taylor was appointed Commanding Officer.
CROWNING OF MAY QUEEN 1947

Midshipmen G. Berry & R. Ball Crow
In May 1949, the Corps was inspected by Rear Admiral H. G. DeWolfe, O.B.E., R.C.N., Flag Officer Pacific Coast. Captain J.C.I. Edwards, Commanding Officer, HMCS Naden, and Lt. D. Tye, Area Officer Sea Cadets, were also in attendance. This inspection was held at John Shaw High School. Corps strength was thirty.

This was the last annual inspection held at John Shaw High School as the rooms that the cadets used as headquarters were repossessed by the school board for school purposes.

Of interest is that Crowsnest, the official magazine of the Royal Canadian Navy, featured Nanaimo's Sea Cadet Corps AMPHION in the September issue. On the front cover is a full-page picture of Rear Admiral DeWolfe going over some bends and hitches with Cadet Phillip Ney.

In July the Corps moved into temporary quarters at the Yacht Club.

CPO F. Palmer attended the International Camp at Choisi, Quebec, for advanced training in naval routine and small boat handling, in July. Cadets from Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Holland, and Norway, and from each of the eighty sea cadet corps in Canada participated.

Twenty cadets and Midshipman G. Berry attended summer training at Camp Latona in August. CPO F. Palmer was the rating in charge. At this camp cadets were awarded the efficiency pennant for their fine showing.

In August 1949, a hearty vote of thanks was given the corps by City Council after the cadets erected over 650 street signs in the Nanaimo district. This community project was started in March. The council also asked the cadets to suggest a new name for Ravine Street as it was now part of the arterial highway. AIC R. Helmsing submitted the name "Terminal Avenue" - and it was selected.

In September, a second attempt was made to form a bugle band. It was reported that the corps had a dozen bugles, six or seven drums, and the services of a competent instructl

In October cadets moved their headquarters from the Yacht Club to Branch 10 Royal Canadian Legion on Skinner Street.
Cadets on way to summer camp visit “The Vancouver Sun Newspaper Officer” 1949

Crowning of May Queen - 1949 - Civic Arena
In January 1950, cadets moved their headquarters from the Royal Canadian Legion on Skinner Street to the CPR Wharf onboard the M.V. Atrevida. Captain H.C.R. Davis kindly loaned the use of this vessel as temporary quarters and for training purposes.

At Annual Inspection, May 1950, the Corps was inspected by Commodore G. Miles, O.B.E., RCN, Commanding Officer HMCS Naden. LCDR G. Manson, Area Officer Sea Cadets was also present. There were one hundred cadets on parade. Enrollment consisted of 65 boys from Nanaimo and 35 boys from Chemainus. The 'March Past' was held on the CPR Wharf. The rest of the inspection was carried out during a routine cruise aboard the sea cadet headquarters ship Atrevida. Due to the nature of the evolutions and the size of the Atrevida it was impossible for parents or the general public to board the vessel.

At evening quarters Commodore Miles complimented the Corps for an excellent showing and also presented attendance prizes to PO J. Baker, and ordinary cadets J. Blades, R. Croteau, B. Stevens, and T. Tuck. On June 19, 1950, it was announced that “THE SITE AND BUILDINGS KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT LOCATED ON THE MILLSTREAM WERE ACQUIRED FROM THE B.C. POWER COMMISSION BY THE EXECUTIVE OF THE NANAIMO BRANCH NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA”. This was the first property owned by the Nanaimo Navy League and would be used as sea cadet headquarters after extensive renovation. At this time the Corps had the best attendance in Western Canada - an average of eighty-one (81) percent.

In July, twenty cadets were transported to Nanoose and boarded the cruiser HMCS Ontario for a day cruise. AIC H. Caillett, and Ordinary Cadets I. Klock, A. Klock, and S. Lassen were selected to spend one week aboard this cruiser for training.

PO A. Nicholson attended a six-week gunnery course at HMCS Cornwallis during the summer. The course included training in power of command, rifle drill, anti-aircraft firing, and squad drill. Also attending were cadets from the other eighty four sea cadet corps in Canada.
MAY DAY PARADE - 1950

Cadets Aboard HMCS Ontario - 1950
On December 1st, 1950, cadets moved into temporary quarters in the basement of the Presbyterian Church on Franklyn Street. The Millstream property was not ready for occupancy as the extensive repairs required to make the building suitable for sea cadet headquarters had not been completed.

In January 1951 Lt. G. Taylor resigned and Lt. R. Grubb was appointed Commanding Officer.

Rear Admiral W. B. Creary, O.B.E., RCN, Flag Officer Pacific inspected the cadets in May 1951. The inspection was held on the CPR Wharf. Corps strength consisted of thirty boys from Nanaimo and thirty boys from Chemainus. At this inspection, the cadets took Rear Admiral Creary for a cruise aboard the Atrevida. Seamanship skills learned as a cadet were put to good use.

**REAR ADMIRAL CREARY BOARDING ATREVIDA - 1951**

Rear Admiral Creary, PO R. Thompson, PO A. Nitholson, and A/C M. Priestly
CADETS MANN ATREVIDA - 1951

Left to Right: AC D. Taylor, Capt. Davis, Rear Admiral Creary

AC T. Bilton receiving “Attendance Prize” from Rear Admiral Creary. Lt. R. Grubb Commanding Officer 1951 – 1953 and SLt G. Forsythe
In June the corvette Sault Ste. Marie visited the City. All cadets toured the ship and twenty cadets were taken for a cruise to Victoria.

In August, seven cadets traveled to Midland Ontario for two weeks of training at Camp Princess Alice. Those attending were Logie D., Wilson A., Lambert 1., Rafter R., Shaw B., Taylor D., and Bilton J.

In May 1952, the cadets were inspected by Commander F.B. Caldwell C. D. The cadets from Nanaimo traveled to Chemainus for this inspection. On approval from Naval authorities and the National Navy League the cadets from Chemainus were given approval to form their own Corps, RCSCC Admiral Mainguy. To insure that this new corps got off to a good start, the Nanaimo Navy League agreed to have this inspection held in Chemainus. At a later date this corps moved to Duncan.

In July cadets were bussed to Comox for two weeks of training at HMCS Quadra. This was the first time that Amphion cadets went to this summer training camp. Cadets attending were: L. Green, D. Logie, L. Dawkin, J. Curran, A. Payne, R. Jeeyes, A. Wilson, R. Bell, A. Bell, D. Field, and R. Harriett.

After two years of hard work, the renovations to the power plant building were completed during the summer of 1952. In September cadets moved into their first permanent quarters.

In October cadets attended the commissioning dance for RCSCC Admiral Mainguy in Chemainus.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed in October to assist in raising funds for sea cadets. Mrs. W. R. Stannard was the first president.

In November the cadets assisted Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 10 on their Poppy Drive. This is a yearly event.

The R.C.N. Band from HMCS Naden visited the City of Nanaimo in November and played in the Capital Theatre. All funds raised were used to carry out the work of training sea cadets.

In May 1953 cadets assisted the Federal Government in surveying Departure Bay for the new Nanaimo Biological Station.
Cadets traveled to HMCS Naden to attend “Battle of Atlantic Sunday”. This would become an annual weekend event with all Vancouver Island Sea Cadet Corps participating in competitive sports, shooting, sailing, whaler pulling, and tug-of-war.

In June AC N. Stannard was selected as the corps outstanding cadet and presented with the Victor Meakin Shield but Mrs. Meakin. This trophy, the Corps first, was donated by the Ladies Auxiliary in memory of Commander V.G. Meakin RCNVR (R). This trophy would be awarded annually to the “Cadet of the Year”.

PRESENTATION OF VICTOR MEAKING SHIELD – JUNE 1953

From Left to Right: John Meaking – Son of Cdr. V.G. Meakin, Mrs. V.G. Meaking, Lt (N) G. Taylor – Commanding Officer 1949 – 1951, Mrs. W. Stannard – Ladies Auxiliary President, AC N. Stannard – Cadet of the Year - 1953

In September 1953 Lt(N) G. Black assumed command of Amphion

In 1953 it was also announced that RCSCC Amphion would receive their first national award. In competition against all sea cadet corps in Canada with under 100 cadets enrolled the corps has the best attendance and would receive “THE NATIONAL NAVY LEAGUE ATTENDANCE AWARD”.
At Annual Inspection 1954, the Cadets were inspected by Commander H. Jackson. The Inspection and March Past was held on Newcastle Avenue. After the March Past the Cadets proceeded to the Yacht Club and carried out sailing evolutions with their newly acquired whaler. The 1953 Attendance Award was also presented to the Corps at this inspection.

In September 1954, Lt G. Stevens was appointed Commanding Officer.

In October 1954, the cadets took an extensive course in fire-fighting and in first aid. Cadets were instructed by members fo the Nanaimo Fire Department.

The Cadets Annual Ball was held in December at Branch 10 Legion. At the ball Lyle Gallia was presented with the Victor Meakin Shield.

PRESENTATION OF MEAKIN SHIELD – 1954

Left to Right: H.C.R. Davis – Chairman of Nanaimo Navy League executive
   AC Lyle Gallia – Cadet of the Year
   Lt G. Stevens – Commanding Officer 1954 – 1955

In April the Corps was presented with a painting of the original HMS Amphion that the corps was named after. This picture was painted by and presented by J.W. Hardcastle, Nanimo’s nationally known artist.
The Nanaimo Branch of the Navy League of Canada sold the Millstream Property in 1955. A H-hut on Nanaimo Army Camp property was obtained and would be used as cadets headquarters. Many improvements have been made over the years and as of 1977 this H-hut is still the cadet quarters. This H-hut became the property of the Nanaimo Branch in 1975 under the leadership of Mrs. Eva Hein.

AMPHION QUARTERS –
NANAIMO ARMY CAMP
(Picture taken 1976)

In September 1955 Lt(N) E.L. Read assumed command of Amphion.

At Annual Inspection May 1956, the Corps was inspected by Commander C.H. Little C.D. RCN. This was the Corps first inspection at the Nanaimo Army Camp. Corps strength was 52. There were seven cadets in the Band and twelve cadets in the Guard. The ships company consisted of one division of nine cadets from Nanaimo, the other division had fifteen cadets from Brannan Lake School.

At this inspection AC E. Hall was presented with the Meakin Shield.

The highlights at the 1957 Annual Inspection were the presentation of two corps trophies to cadets for the first time. These trophies, the corps second and third were presented to the following cadets:
COMMANDER C.H. LITTLE  C.D., Inspecting AC J. Bell

LC M. Schlitz  Proficiency  Lionel Beaver-Potts
AC J. Bell  Marksmanship  Inkster and Robers

(Magistrate Lionel Beaver-Potts presented the trophies to these cadets.)

AWARD WINNERS – ANNUAL INSPECTION 1958

Left to Right:  AC R. Jones  Runner-up for Best Cadet
LC J. Bell  Best Marksman
AC E. Shelly  Proficiency
AC T. Totzke  Best Bandsman
LC M. Schlitz  Cadet of the Year
LC W. Robinson  Runner-up for Best Cadet

Best Cadet in the Band trophy was donated by Nash Hardware to the corps in 1958.

MAY DAY PARADE - 1958

KIWANIS PRESENTING GLOCKENSPIEL TO CORPS
At Annual Inspection – May 1958 – the cadets were inspected by Commodore(E) S.A. Miller C.D. Lcdr D.H. Tye C.D. was also present. Corps complement was seventy. After the inspection class demonstrations were given in shooting, navigation, seamanship, signals, diesel, first aid, and physical fitness.

In October the Nanaimo Kiwanis club presented a glockenspiel to the corps. During the year LC M. Schlitz visited Hong Kong while on a cruise aboard HMCS Margaree. D. Ross and M Cox cruised to Australia and New Zealand on HMCS Ontario.

At Annual Inspection 1959, the corps was presented with the area Officers Trophy for leading British Columbia Sea Cadets in Marksmanship. The presentation was made by Lcdr D.H. Tye.

At this inspection CPO J. Bell, Captain of the Shooting Team, was awarded the Corps shooting trophy for the third consecutive year.
In July the *ROYAL COUPLE* visited the city and the Band led the procession through the downtown area. The next day LC C. Hall, CPO J. Bell, and CPO M. Cox attended the Garden Party held for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Victoria. These cadets were selected to attend for their leadership and outstanding ability.

During the summer PO A. Cox traveled to Nova Scotia to attend the naval air course at HMCS Stadacona. LC R. Jones took an advanced course in communications at HMCS Cornwallis. LC T. Totzke attended the Band course at HMCS Quadra, LC E. Shelly spent the summer at HMCS Naden on the ordnance course.

In September 1959, Lt B. Curtis was appointed Commanding Officer.
In the sixties several events are noteworthy. The Nanaimo Navy League Ladies Auxiliary President, Mrs. Jenny Bell, presented the Drum Major’s Sash to the Corps.

At Annual Inspection May 1691, the cadets were inspected by Commander T.H. Crone. This Inspection was held at the drill hall in the Nanaimo Army Camp. Ninety Cadets were on parade. Highlights at this inspection were the presentation of four corps trophies to the cadets for the first time. These trophies, the corps fifth to eighth, were presented to the following cadets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Trophy</th>
<th>Donated by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OC B. Calverly</td>
<td>Best First Year Cadet</td>
<td>H.K. Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC O. Balaban</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Capt. H.C.R. Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC B. Donson</td>
<td>Best Cadet in the Ships Company</td>
<td>Capt. W. York-Higgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC B. Brown</td>
<td>Best Cadet in the Guard</td>
<td>Jim Bell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANNUAL INSPECITON
The Corps received the Branch 256 Trophy for being the best cadet unit in the Nanaimo May Day Parade in 1962. This was the first year that the trophy was ever presented.

At Annual Inspection 1962, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Major George R. Pearkes, VC, PC, CB, DSO, MC, inspected the Corps, it was a memorable occasion. The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Captain G.W. Padmore, Commanding Officer of HMCS Venture, and Lieutenant Commander W.W. Bowditch, Area Officer Sea Cadets.

Presented corps Trophies at this inspection were the following cadets:

PO1 R. Nepper  Meakin Shield
PO2 G. Ginter  Proficiency
PO2 W. Trembley  Marksmanship
AC D. Weaving  Best Cadet in the Band
OC J. Wilkinson  Best First Year Cadet
LC D. Norris  Attendance
AC M. Martin  Best Cadet in the Ships Company
PO2 G. Hastings  Best Cadet in the Guard

In later years more trophies have been donated and are presented yearly. They are presented for:

Special Achievement  Nanaimo Navy League
Top Division  Harbour Commission
Meritorious Service  F.M. Taylor
Recruiting  R.G. Beresford
At this Inspection, the Nanaimo Elks Club presented gauntlets to the Corps.