

Ans'd Oct 28

H.M.C.Tactical Training Centre
c/o Fleet Mail Officer
St. John's , Newfoundland
October 21st 1943

Dear Mr. Raddall,

If you do not recall my name, as that of an officer in the "Markland" in 1936-37, you may remember that I was one of the famous (?) triumvirate who, in 1940, took the first Canadian built corvettes to the United Kingdom. The other two were, of course, Lieutenant Commander MacDonald and Lieutenant Commander Copelin.

About two months ago, I completed reading your wholly delightful "His Majesty's Yankees". It was my intention to write you then of my appreciation, but, no doubt through laziness, the intention remained as such until a recent meeting with Lieut. Commander MacDonald.

As a rank layman, I must make my comments in all humility, but must say that your vivid and fascinating portrayal of the life, spirit and events of those stirring days quite captured my admiration.

It may interest you to know that the Doctor Harris, of Pictou, mentioned in your book was my great-great-grand uncle, who, with his elder brother Matthew, was one of the first settlers in Pictou. These two "rebel" sympathizers would no doubt have been considerably troubled had they known that one of their descendants was to become a Commander in His Majesty's Navy. It was (I think) one of Dr. Harris's sons who was christened George Washington Harris, but very discreetly used only the initial W. throughout his life and even created the impression that W. stood for William! Dr. Harris's lineal descendants have been Sheriffs of Pictou since it's formation as a County, the present incumbent, William H. Harris, being, I believe, the fifth in line.

Another point of personal interest concerned the Deslondes family, whose descendants, in Montreal, are among my best friends. The name itself, however, appears to be extinct.

I hope I have not bored you with all this, and trust you will again accept my congratulations, and my assurance that I am looking forward with great pleasure to "more of the same".

*Very sincerely yours,
Roland Harris*

Commander RCNR