

WARTIME BACKGROUND

Annex A

substantial expansion of the merchant fleet after mid-1943, the improvements to and availability of survival gear, and the concurrent improvement in effectiveness of escort forces, meant lower losses.

- 9.03 The earlier Canadian victims numbered among the one in four. The Memorial Register of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission indicates that 1,059 Canadian Merchant Seamen and 203 Newfoundland Merchant Seamen, for a total of 1,262, have no known graves. The Commission states that: "A soldier who died at home while on leave, a sailor who died in a fire in St. John's or an airman who died of food poisoning were all recorded as 'war dead.'" For the Merchant Navy, only those whose "death was caused by increased war risk outside of Home Waters." were included in war casualties. Our MNPOWs had served under the Canadian flag and the flags of a dozen other allied nations. (Note that there are anomalies between the Transport and Commission counts).

10. By comparison, a DND Department of History compilation of 15 May 1973 indicates that, the 2,024 who were killed (1,533 in action, 1,446 with no known grave) in the Royal Canadian Navy came from a Naval strength of 92,880 (or 1 in 46). The 1,146 Canadian merchant seamen (Transport count), who were killed in action, came from a Merchant Navy strength of 12,000 (or 1 in 10.5).

10.01 The 1,146 merchant seamen were virtually ignored on Battle of the Atlantic Sunday until 1989. It was not until 11 November 1988 that one of their Silver Cross Mothers was honoured at the National Cenotaph. When the mother was taken to the Peace Tower she was shown her son's name in a borrowed copy of Memorial Register 23, Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He was among the one in four killed in the Battle of the Atlantic. Canada has no Book of Remembrance for them in the Peace Tower, and no