

ON THE MAIN STREET

Jan. 11/67



A visitor to Lindsay walked in to the office of the Town Clerk and Treasurer Bud Bates, happened to glance up at the large brass ornament and asked: "What in the world is that?"

The unusual object happened to be the bell from the Corvette Lindsay. This brief conversation led to an interview with Mrs. E. Neil Gregory, formerly Miss Ada Greaves, ex-Reeve and at one time the first Lady Warden of Victoria County, who was Chairman of the Corvette Committee of the Lindsay Town Council and in this respect was largely responsible for the campaign which led to the fitting and furnishing of this comparatively small but very necessary part of the Canadian Navy in the Second World War.

Chairman Greaves was ably assisted by Aldermen H. McFadden, L. T. Braunton and A. E. Hick. Besides a substantial financial grant towards equipping the Corvette, the Council also set aside \$440 for sweaters and socks for 85 members of the crew.

Following an appeal to various organizations it appears that the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire took the first step and under the leadership of Mrs. Fulton Vrooman, Regent. Form 11A of the Lindsay Collegiate, headed by Miss Norma Adams made a contribution of \$17 following a generous donation

by the teacher. Many gifts were received from former residents at the time including one from Mrs. (Dr.) M. E. Gorman, then of Kingston; books, games and magazines were received from Mrs. C. Squier, G. C. Telford, Mrs. J. Lake, John Ray and Mrs. H. Irvine; contributions were made by Kawartha Chapter I.O.D.E. Sewing group, Miss Ethel Reid, Business Girls' Club, Lindsay Women's Institute. Margaret and John Greaves held a movie show in their home to raise money; games from Zellers Limited; Mrs. T. A. Stinson donated a sweater, helmet, gloves and other woolen articles and also brought in a contribution of \$5 from her Navy son. Aileen and Billy Patterson, children of Flying Officer Ray Patterson, brought twelve handkerchiefs; Mrs. F. McBrine's bridge club and other bridge clubs contributed; a donation from Graham's Bakery; books, games etc. from Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Eade, Miss Stanley and Mrs. L. R. Knight; other donations from Miss Amy Flinn, R.N., New York, formerly of Lindsay; \$54.38 received from the I.O.D.E. Tea held at the home of Mrs. R. M. Chapman; Cameron Red Cross sent \$10.

A Crest of Lindsay made by R. S. Laker, Lindsay and Fenelon Falls artist, was presented to the Corvette Commander by Peggy Bryant of the Lady Hughes Chapter I.O.D.E.

A complimentary dinner

was held for Lt. G. A. V. Thomson RCNVR, Officer Commanding H.M.C.S. "Lindsay". Guests included Bruce McNevin, M.P. and Mrs. McNevin, Mayor Charles Lamb and Aldermen Richard Butler, Herb. McFadden, Charles Ferguson, Bert Hick, Ed Oke, Hilton Manley, Herb. Elliott, Les Braunton, Newton Smale, John Baker, Geo. Donaldson (Treas.), Stan Pitts, and wives as well as Aldermen Ada Greaves and W. R. Allely Clerk.

The appeal on the H.M.C.S. Corvette Lindsay received generous response with the result that the vessel was recognized as being one of the best equipped of all Canadian Corvettes.

A large delegation of Lindsay officials and representative citizens attended the launching and christening of Corvette Lindsay at the shipyards in Midland, when Mrs. Charles Lamb, wife of Mayor Lamb, broke the traditional bottle of champagne on the bow of the vessel. Several days later the commissioned Corvette with the Commander and crew of 86 fine young seamen slipped quietly out of the harbour and through the waters on its way as a fighting ship and part of the Canadian

Navy reaching the ocean on the Halifax shores.

The Corvette came in contact with the enemy submarines and the crew served gallantly surviving several strategic skirmishes and encounters. Citizens of Lindsay and Victoria County continued to show their interest and loyalty by forwarding a gift from time to time especially during the Christmas season and children in the schools of the entire county took an active part in this connection.

Following the termination of the war, the ship's bell, scroll, crest and white ensign of the RCN Corvette HMCS Lindsay was officially presented to Mayor Chas. Lamb and the citizens of Lindsay. The ceremony took place in the Library Park and was in charge of Ald. Ada Greaves, chairman of the Corvette committee during the Second World War.

It is interesting to note that the Corvette Lindsay was on "D-Day" on escort duty in the English Channel, duties which they continued for another six months. Rev. P. C. Reed of Lindsay, chaplain of the Sir Sam Hughes Branch of the Canadian Legion, dedicated the bell, plaque and scroll.

Thus was completed another historical chapter in connection with the Town of Lindsay and no doubt from now on visitors to the Town Hall will look upon the Corvette Lindsay bell with a great deal more interest