

Stanislas Déry (1912-2001)

While still a child, Stanislas Déry was introduced to the rudiments of navigation by his father, who had his own yacht. His interest in the sea increased over the years as he continued sailing with his father and worked at the St. Lawrence Biological Station. Even then, the young Stanislas was already dreaming of becoming a ship's captain.

This passion was given definite shape by his experience in the Canadian Navy. A few years after his release at the end of the war, Stanislas purchased a small yacht, *La Dérision*. Later, he sailed on two other yachts: *U-877* and *La Vision*.

IV His experience in the Navy

Stanislas Déry's military experience, spread out over a period of more than ten years, was a significant part of his life. First engaged as a reserve officer in the Royal Canadian Navy in peacetime, Mr Déry saw active service for the whole duration of the Second World War.

a) *Pre-war reservist, 1932-1939*

Stanislas Déry enrolled in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1932, and was promoted to the rank of sub-lieutenant in 1934. From September 1935 until June 1936, he was on various training cruises ("winter cruises") aboard Royal Canadian Navy and British Navy ships such as HMS *Dundee*, HMCS *Champlain*, HMCS *Saguenay*, HMCS *Vancouver* and HMCS *Skeena*.

b) *Active war-time service, 1939-1945*

Enrolling as a volunteer in 1939, Stanislas Déry held various posts within the Royal Canadian Navy both on warships and in military establishments. He was released with the rank of lieutenant-commander in July 1945.

1. Inspection station at Saint-Jean, Île d'Orléans

Stanislas Déry's first assignment was at the inspection station at Saint-Jean, Île d'Orléans. He held this position from the autumn of 1939 to the summer of 1940.

2. HMCS *Prince Henry*

Stanislas Déry was assigned to HMCS *Prince Henry* from December 1940 to November 1941. The ship's task at that time was to conduct coastal patrols in waters off Callao, Peru, with the assistance of the cruiser HMS *Diomedé*.

3. Counter-espionage service, Ottawa

For a period of about six months, from February 1942 to September 1942, Stanislas Déry was assigned to the Routing & Convoy Section in Ottawa. His work consisted in monitoring and guiding ship convoys to ensure their maximum safety.

4. HMCS *Chambly*

Stanislas Déry was assigned to HMCS *Chambly* for a few months in the autumn of 1942. Starting in September 1942, the corvette's task was limited to escorting convoys of ships as far as the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. On 26 November 1942, the ship was put in for refit at Liverpool, Nova Scotia, and remained there until 1943.

5. Signals School, St-Hyacinthe

From December 1942 to the summer of 1943, Stanislas Déry was assigned to the Signals School, Saint-Hyacinthe, as an administration officer. The Signals School trained seamen in the basics of communication techniques such as Morse code, semaphores and flags.

6. HMCS *Prince Rupert*

Stanislas Déry was assigned to HMCS *Prince Rupert* from July 1943 to August 1944. For a few months, the ships carried out surveillance duties along the coast of Nova Scotia. In January 1944, it joined Escort Group C-3 as the Senior Officer's Ship.

7. HMCS *St. Thomas*

Stanislas Déry's last assignment was on HMCS *St. Thomas*, from August 1944 to the spring of 1945. This *Castle*-class corvette was also assigned to Escort Group C-3.