

1340 West 54th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 1N6,
February 8, 2006

Dear *Jennie*:

Back in August 1945, the Commanding Officer of HMCS St. Boniface, (Lieut. Bill King) gave me the option of selecting whichever of the ship's artifacts I desired, this privilege emanating from my being the only remaining officer on board, from the group that took her out of Port Arthur in September 1943. Bill was definite in his opinion that items of sentimental value should go to those that served in the ship, rather than fall into the hands of the permanent navy.

My selection was easy! I opted for the painting of the ship by the renowned Arthur Lismer, who through the persuasion of Larry Hampson made a sketch while she was at dockside in Montreal late in 1943, and delivered the finished oil painting in Halifax at the end of the year. You will recall this item hung in the ship's wardroom for the balance of the war.

The painting hung in various Young households in Toronto and Vancouver for the next fifty-nine years, but as age crept up on us, we had to give consideration to its ultimate destination, and felt it belonged to Canada rather than our heirs. Accordingly, we approached the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and found the curator Mr. James Delgado delighted to have it in their collection.

The Museum set up a gallery of ship's paintings for the Year of the Veteran in connection with Remembrance Day, November 11, 2005, so Doris and I and other family members took the opportunity of visiting the gallery in December 2005. The enclosed snapshot was taken at the time by my daughter Karen, who you may recall took a number of shots at our reunion in Vancouver in June, 1991.

As an interesting sidebar, The Vancouver Maritime Museum has outgrown its present premises, and a new location for a larger museum has been recently announced for North Vancouver, to be established a few years hence.

Kindest regards,

Harry

From The Desk Of:

A 7 Dougall

THE STORY GOES
THAT SOME GIRL
STUDENTS OF MR. LISMER
ASKED PERMISSION TO
PAINT THE SHIP
BUT MR. LISMER
SAID "NO, NO" I
AM GOING TO DO IT
MYSELF!

