

EPILOGUE

It's now eighteen years since I first wrote this account of my early life, and my life at sea until I "swallowed the anchor" (stopped going to sea). Since that time, as I briefly mentioned in the book, on my last appointment I became a diplomat at the Canadian Embassy in Oslo, serving as the Canadian Defence Attache to Norway, Denmark and Sweden. Following my retirement from the navy in 1987 I entered industry for a short time, after being asked to head a submarine building program that the Canadian government had proposed. Like many government programs they were not serious and the project was cancelled, so I then decided to act like a retired sailor, and do nothing. Also during this period Shirley and I were divorced.

Always liking challenges, and having been interested in flying for many years, I decided at the age of 62 to learn to fly. After getting my licence I became a partner in the purchase of a four-seater aeroplane. I flew all over eastern Canada and the eastern United States. Like my previous life I enjoyed it tremendously, even after a "non-airport landing" in a farmer's field. But as they say, "every landing that you can walk away from is a good landing". I continued flying until I became 70. I gave up flying because I never wanted to end up in a position where I was ever in any doubt about my ability to fly a plane safely, and even more importantly, that any passenger I had never felt anything but safe while flying with me.

I have now been married for fifteen years to a very lovely lady, Jean Cudmore, from Kensington PEI. We spend as much time travelling as we can, because at some time in the future, one, or both of us, will become too frail, or medically unfit to travel.

Do I miss going to sea? No! What I have written about is a totally different era from life at sea today. I will always have a high regard for sailors of all ages, knowing somewhat of the life that they lead. As I said a long time ago, I just enjoyed my life as ----- a simple sailor.

Since I first wrote this book, two more ladies have entered my life, Lindsay's children, Alexandra and Amanda. This book was written for them as well.

Ray Hunt
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