


**Vice-Admiral Percy Walker Nelles, CB**  
**Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)**  
**10 January 1934 to 15 January 1944**

Born: 07 January 1892 Brantford, Ontario  
 Father: Canadian Army Brigadier-General Charles M. Nelles, CMG  
 Married: Helen Schuyler Allen  
 Sons: 2 Charles M. Nelles and Lieutenant William Allen Nelles, RCN  
 Died: 13 June 1951 Ottawa, Ontario - buried at sea by HMCS *Sault Ste. Marie*

**Honours**

|             |                              |                                       |        |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 09/01/1943  | CB                           | Companion of the Order of the Bath    |        |
| 03/08/1946  | Commander                    | Legion of Merit                       | USA    |
| 27/11/1946a | Commander                    | Légion d'honneur                      | France |
| 27/11/1946a | Croix                        | Croix de Guerre avec Palmes en Bronze | France |
| 01/12/1948a | Knight 1 <sup>st</sup> Class | Order of St Olav, 1st class           | Norway |

**Military**

|            |                |   |  |
|------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1909       | Cadet          | Fisheries Protection Service (Canada) - <i>CGS Canada</i>                                 |  |
| 21/10/1910 | Midshipman     | Royal Canadian Navy (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 7 Cadets) – <i>HMCS Niobe</i>                     |  |
| 13/12/1911 | Midshipman     | <i>HMS Dreadnought</i> (Battleship) with the RN   |  |
| 14/01/1913 | Acting Sub-Lt  | HMS President   |  |
| 01/04/1913 | Acting Sub-Lt  | HMS Dryad   |  |
| 12/07/1913 | Acting Sub-Lt  | <b>HMS Neptune</b> , Flagship, Home Fleet   |  |
| 06/08/1913 | Acting Sub-Lt  | HMS Excellent   |  |
| 08/11/1913 | Acting Sub-Lt  | HMS Victory II  |  |
| 25/02/1914 | Acting Sub-Lt  | <b>HMS Suffolk</b> (Cruiser)  |  |
| 14/07/1914 | Lieutenant     | Promoted - <b>HMS Suffolk</b> (Cruiser) – North America and West Indies Station           |  |
| 1914       | Lieutenant     | <i>HMS Suffolk</i> based in Bermuda – To Mexico during civil war                          |  |
| 26/08/1916 | Lieutenant     | HMS Antrim – North America and West Indies Station  |  |
| 01/04/1917 | Lieutenant     | Flag Lieutenant to Chief of Naval Service (RCN) Admiral Kingsmill                         |  |
| 01/10/1920 | Lieutenant     | HMS President - Attended the Royal Naval College  |  |
| 04/01/1921 | Lieutenant     | District Intelligence Officer   |  |
| 14/07/1922 | LCdr           | Promoted – District Intelligence Officer  |  |
| 12/02/1923 | LCdr           | <b>HMS Vivid</b>  |  |
| 14/04/1923 | LCdr           | <b>HMS Caledon</b>  |  |
| 16/09/1924 | LCdr           | Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich  |  |
| 11/07/1925 | LCdr           | HMS Victory and HMS Victory 1   |  |
| 01/10/1925 | LCdr           | RCN Headquarters  |  |
| 01/12/1925 | Commander      | Promoted - Senior Naval Officer Esquimalt   |  |
| 01/04/1929 | Commander      | HMS Victory 1   |  |
| 01/07/1929 | Commander      | Staff, Operations Division of the Naval Staff Admiralty (RN)                              |  |
| 15/11/1929 | Commander      | <b>HMS Pembroke</b>   |  |
| 18/03/1930 | Commander      | Executive Officer <b>HMS Dragon</b> (Danae-class cruiser)                                 |  |
| 23/08/1930 | Acting Captain | <b>Commanding Officer HMS Dragon</b> after Captain dies suddenly Cape Horn                |  |
| 01/03/1931 | Commander      | HMS Victory 1   |  |
| 15/09/1931 | Commander      | To Naval Headquarters Ottawa  |  |
| 23/01/1932 | Commander      | <b>Commanding Officer</b> of <b>HMCS Saguenay</b> – Senior Officer Cdn Destroyer Flotilla |  |
| 07/06/1932 | Commander      | Commanding Officer and Commander-in-Charge, Halifax                                       |  |

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**Military**

|                   |                     |  |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| 01/01/1933        | Captain             | Promoted – first member of the RCN affirmed in the substantive rank of Captain             |
| 15/01/1933        | Captain             | Imperial Defence College   |
| <b>10/01/1934</b> | <b>Captain</b>      | <b>Acting Director Canadian Naval Service &amp; Acting Chief of the Naval Staff</b>        |
| <b>01/07/1934</b> | <b>Commodore</b>    | <b>Promoted Commodore 1<sup>st</sup> Class – Director CNS and Chief of the Naval Staff</b> |
| <b>01/08/1938</b> | <b>Rear-Admiral</b> | <b>Promoted – Chief of the Naval Staff</b>   |
| <b>19/11/1941</b> | <b>Vice-Admiral</b> | <b>Promoted – Chief of the Naval Staff</b>   |
| 15/01/1944        | Vice-Admiral        | Removed as Chief of the Naval Staff  |
| 15/01/1945        | Vice-Admiral        | Senior Canadian Flag Officer Overseas at HMCS Niobe  |
| 06/01/1945        | Vice-Admiral        | Retired  |
| 07/01/1945        | Admiral             | <b>Promoted Admiral</b> on the Retired Captain's List                                      |

**Medals**

CB  
1914/1915 Star  
Victory Medal  
British War Medal  
Defence Medal  
1939/1945 War Medal  
Canadian Volunteers Service Medal with Clasp  
Commander Legion of Merit (USA)  
Command Legeion of Honour (France)  
Croix de Guerre (France)  
Knight (1<sup>st</sup> Class) Order of St Olav (Norway)

(from the book, The Admirals, Canadian Naval Leadership in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Nauticapedia)

