

**Vice-Admiral Henry George DE WOLF, CBE, DSO, DSC, CD**  
**Chief of the Naval Staff**  
**16 January 1956 to 01 August 1960**

Born: 26/06/1903 Bedford, Nova Scotia  
Died: 18/12/2000 Ottawa, Ontario

**Honours**

05/01/1946	CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire		Commodore
27/05/1944	DSO	Distinguished Service Order		Commander
20/01/1945	DSC	Distinguished Service Cross		Captain
01/01/1941+	MID	Mentioned in Despatches – <i>HMCS St. Laurent</i>		Commander
09/01/1943	MID	Mentioned in Despatches – <i>HMCS St. Laurent</i>		Captain
10/10/1944	MID	Mentioned in Despatches – <i>HMCS Haida</i>		Captain
14/11/1944	MID	Mentioned in Despatches – <i>HMCS Haida</i>		Captain
03/09/1946	Officer	Legion of Merit	USA	Commodore
25/08/1947	Croix	de Guerre avec Palmes en Bronze	France	Commodore
29/08/1947	Officer	Legion of Honour	France	Commodore
08/01/1949	Cross	King Haakon VII's Cross of Liberation Norway		Commodore

**Military**

22/09/1918	Cadet	RCN	9 <sup>th</sup> Term Royal Naval College of Canada
1920	Cadet	RCN	<i>HMCS Festubert</i> (Battle Class Trawler) training
01/09/1921	Midshipman	RCN	Promoted – <i>HMCS Vancouver</i> for Navigation Train
01/09/1921	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	Promoted Sub-Lt same day – <i>HMCS Guelph</i>
26/10/1921	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Resolution</i>
1923	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Stadacona</i> Halifax, N.S.
1924	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMS Chleatham</i> for test mobilization
1924	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	Royal Naval College Greenwich
1925	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMS Excellent</i> for cours
03/08/1925	Sub-Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Patriot</i> (Cruiser)
01/04/1926	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Patriot</i>
1927	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMS Capetown</i>
1927	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Patriot</i>
1928	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMS Dryad</i> for Long Navigation Course
1928	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMS Argus</i>
1928	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Champlain</i> (Cruiser)
20/07/1929	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Naden</i> Esquimalt, B.C.
07/03/1930	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Stadacona</i> Halifax, N.S. Directing Staff
14/04/1930	Lieutenant	RCN	Commanding Officer <i>HMCS Festubert</i> Mine Sweeper
27/04/1932	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Vancouver</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt and for Navigating Duties
03/07/1933	Lieutenant	RCN	<i>HMCS Skeena</i> (HO1)
01/04/1934	Lt-Commander	RCN	Promoted Lieutenant-Commander
01/06/1935	Lt-Commander	RCN	<i>HMCS Naden</i> Esquimalt, B.C. Directing Staff
01/07/1935	Lt-Commander	RCN	NSH as staff officer Intelligence
13/01/1937	Lt-Commander	RCN	<i>HMS President</i> for RN Staff College Course
1937	Lt-Commander	RCN	<i>HMS London</i> – Staff Off to RAdm 1 <sup>st</sup> Cruiser Sqd
01/12/1938	Lt-Commander	RCN	<i>HMCS Ottawa</i> on Staff of Captain(D)



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06/10/1939	Lt-Commander	RCN	Commanding Officer <i>HMCS St. Laurent</i>
01/07/1940	Commander	RCN	Promoted – while still CO <i>HMCS St. Laurent</i>
13/07/1940	Commander	RCN	End term as CO <i>HMCS St. Laurent</i>
16/08/1940	Commander	RCN	Stadacona Halifax as Staff Officer Operations
01/12/1941	Acting Captain	RCN	Stadacona Chief Staff Officer Operations
1942	Acting Captain	RCN	HMCS Venture as Chief Staff Officer FOAC
1942	Acting Captain	RCN	Naval HQ as Director of Plans
30/08/1943	Acting Captain	RCN	First Commanding Officer <i>HMCS Haida</i> (Tribal)
01/07/1944	Captain	RCN	Promoted Captain while CO <i>HMCS Haida</i>
18/12/1944	Captain	RCN	End term as CO <i>HMCS Haida</i>
01/12/1944	A/Commodore	RCN	To Naval HQ as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff
20/01/1945	Captain	RCN	Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 4 <sup>th</sup> on Naval Bd
15/10/1945	A/Commodore	RCN	Assistant Chief of Naval Staff
01/01/1947	Commodore	RCN	Promoted Substantive Commodore
01/01/1947	Commodore	RCN	Commanding Officer <i>HMCS Warrior</i> (Carrier)
29/08/1948	Commodore	RCN	End term as CO <i>HMCS Warrior</i> (Carrier) SCNOA
08/09/1948	Rear-Admiral	RCN	Flag Officer Pacific Coast & Promoted RAdm
30/08/1950	Rear-Admiral	RCN	End term at Flag Officer Pacific Coast
11/09/1950	Rear-Admiral	RCN	NSHQ Ottawa as Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff
15/12/1952	Rear-Admiral	RCN	Chair Cdn Joint Staff Washington-HMCS Niagara
<b>16/01/1956</b>	<b>Vice-Admiral</b>	<b>RCN</b>	<b>Promoted – Chief of the Naval Staff</b>
08/08/1960	Vice-Admiral	RCN	HMCS Bytown for retirement leave
15/05/1961	Vice-Admiral	RCN	Retires

**Honours to Vice-Admiral Henry George De Wolf, CBE, DSO, DSC, CD**

Citation for award of **Commander of Order of the British Empire (CBE)** Cmdre

"Commodore De Wolf has held various administrative appointments, including that of Director of Plans, at Naval Service Headquarters at a time of rapid expansion in the R.C.N. As Commanding Officer of one of HM Canadian Tribal Class Destroyers (*HMCS Haida*), he served at sea with unparalleled success during the invasion of the Continent. On being re-appointed ashore, he now holds the position of Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, which appointment is being filled with perspicacity and ability."

Citation to **Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)** (Commander RCN *HMCS Haida*)

"For gallantry and distinguished service as Senior Officer of Destroyers in successful destroyer night actions in the English Channel on 26th and 29th April 1944." Details on the action in which *HMCS Haida* sunk the German Destroyer T-29 north of Brittany on 26 April 1944 can be found in Chapter 39 of the book "*The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-1945*".

Citation to **Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)** (Captain RCN *HMCS Haida*)

"For outstanding courage, skill and devotion to duty in *H.M. Ships Tartar, Ashanti, Eskimo, Javelin, and H.M. Canadian Ships Haida and Huron* in action with German destroyers."

Chapter 42 of "*The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-1945*" describes *HMCS Haida* (River Class Destroyer - G63) and *HMCS Huron* (Tribal Class Destroyer) sinking German Destroyer Z-32 and ZH-1 in the English Channel on 9 June 1944. Details on the action in which *HMCS Haida* sunk the German Minesweepers M-263 and M-486 as part of the 10th Destroyer Flotilla's sweeps along the French coast on 6 August 1944 can be found in Chapter 43 of the book "*The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-1945*".



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Citation to 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 Mentioned-in-Despatches in WWII

"For outstanding zeal, patience and cheerfulness and for never failing to set an example of wholehearted devotion to duty without which the high tradition of the Royal Canadian Navy could not have been upheld."

"*HMCS St. Laurent* was the first Canadian warship to engage the enemy in World War II when firing on German troops at St. Valery near Dieppe, France on 9 June 1940."

Citation to 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 Mentioned-in-Despatches in WWII (Captain *HMCS St. Laurent*)

"For valuable services in command of HMC Destroyer (*HMCS St. Laurent*) in the early months of war in Convoy Escort duty in the Western Atlantic, and overseas during the evacuation from France."

Citation to 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 Mentioned-in-Despatches in WWII (Captain RCN *HMCS Haida*)

"For bravery, skill and devotion to duty in *H.M. Ships Affleck, Balfour, Eskimo, Wanderer and Tavy and H.M. Canadian Ships Haida and Huron* in anti U-Boat operations." Details on the action in which *HMCS Haida* (Tribal Class Destroyer - G63) and *HMCS Huron* (Tribal Class Destroyer) and sunk the *German Destroyer Z-32* in the English Channel on 9 June 1944 can be found in Chapter 42 of the book "*The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-1945*".

Citation to 4<sup>th</sup> of 4 Mentioned-in-Despatches in WWII (Captain RCN *HMCS Haida*)

"For courage and determination in *H.M. Ships Albright, Ashanti, Bellona, Diadem, Mauritius, Onslow, Tartar and Ursa and H.M. Canadian Ships Assiniboine, Haida, Iroquois, Qu'appelle, Restigouche and Skeena*, in a series of successful attacks on enemy escorted convoys off the coast of France." Details on the action in which *HMCS Haida* (Tribal Class Destroyer) and *HMCS Eskimo* (Tribal Class Destroyer) sunk the *German Submarine U-971* off the Biscay Coast on 24 June 1944 can be found in Chapter 44 of the book "*The Canadian Naval Chronicle 1939-1945*".

Citation for award of **Officer of the Legion of Merit (USA)** Cmdre

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service while serving as Chief Staff Officer to Rear-Admiral G.C. Jones, RCN. He frequently conferred with Commander Task Force Twenty-four and his staff in connection with planning and the operational control of the surface forces under Commander Task Force Twenty-four. His excellent professional grasp of strategic and tactical situations, together with his intelligent and co-operative attitude, contributed materially to the success of operations conducted by Commander Task force Twenty-four."

Citation for award of **Officer of the Legion of Honour (France)** Cmdre

"For services at sea in the war against the enemy."

Citation for award of **Croix de Guerre avec Palme en Bronze (France)** Cmdre

"For services at sea in the war against the enemy."

Citation for award of **King Haakon's VII Cross of Liberation (Norway)** RAdm

"Bestowed by His Majesty, King Haakon of Norway."



## Medals of Vice-Admiral Henry George DE WOLF, CBE, DSO, DSC, CD, RCN

CBE - DSO - DSC - 1939/1945 Star - Atlantic Star with BAR France & Germany - CVSM and Clasp - 1939/1945 War Medal with MID - EIIR Coronation - CD & 2 BARS - Officer, Legion of Merit (USA) - Officer, Legion of Honour (France) - Croix de Guerre avec Palme en Bronze (France) - King Haakan's VII Cross of Liberation (Norway).



Uniform on Display at CFB Halifax Maritime Museum