

HMCS GALIANO

The Only Canadian Warship Lost in WWI

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Introduction: The Canadian Government ship *Galiano* was built at Dublin, Ireland, for the Fishery Protection Service in 1913 and arrived at Esquimalt to take up her duties on 27 February 1914. She was requisitioned for war service with the Royal Canadian Navy on 15 September 1917.



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Following *Galiano's* transfer to the Royal Canadian Navy, she was commanded by Lieutenant Robert May Pope, RNCVR. With her sister ship *Malaspina*, she was employed chiefly as an Examination and Fisheries Protection vessel. The two ships also practiced naval tasks such as minesweeping.

Galiano was damaged in a gale on 10 January 1915 when she went aground. On 17 August 1915 she caught the U.S. vessel *Solano* of Seattle, Washington, fishing within territorial limits. *Galiano* continued with duties of this kind until her loss in 1918.

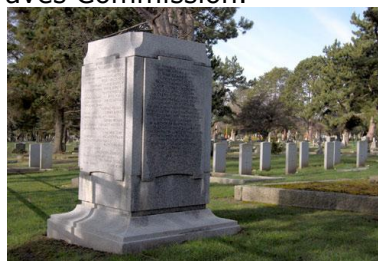
The Loss of Galiano: In late October, 1918, the *Galiano*, just returned from the Queen Charlotte Islands and in need of some repair, was sent with supplies for the light house at Triangle Island off Cape Scott at the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island. A number of her regular crew were

unable to make the trip due to illness as the 1918 flu pandemic had reached her base at Esquimalt. She set out for the Queen Charlotte Islands on October 29, 1918. When she made her only distress call at 3 am the next morning, "Holds full of water send help", she was estimated to be within visual range of the light at Cape St. James, 95 miles from Triangle Island.

It was the last anyone heard of HMCS *Galiano* and her crew of 39 and one female passenger.

Galiano and her crew of Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reservists was the only Canadian Naval vessel lost during the First World War – only 12 days before the armistice.

Their sacrifice is marked by a memorial to the ship's company in Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria, erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Galiano Memorial

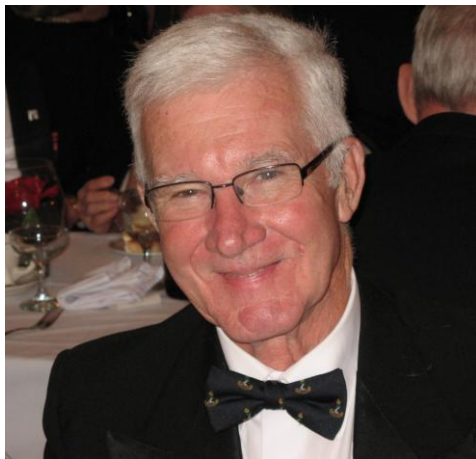
References:

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