



Rear-Admiral Walter Hose | 1875 - 1965 © Canadian War Museum CWM 20020045-2180

'Hometown Hero' Rear-Admiral Walter Hose

Born aboard a steamship in the Indian Ocean, Walter Hose joined the Royal Navy in 1890 at age 14. He spent much of the next 21 years at sea, including training the Royal Naval Reserve in Newfoundland, then a separate British Dominion. Seeking new challenges, he offered his services to Canada's newly-created navy.

Hose arrived on the west coast in 1911 and assumed command of HMCS Rainbow. As an officer of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), he led her into the Great War (1914-1918), later commanding the Atlantic coast patrols.

As director of the Naval Service during the turbulent interwar years, he faced challenges such as budget cuts, yet ensured the

RCN's survival.

Widely regarded as the 'father' of Canada's Naval Reserve, the success of Hose's vision included his long-held believe in "a citizen navy" to train sailors in inland cities as well as to foster appreciation for the country's maritime defence.

By the end of the Second World War (1939-1945), Canada's navy was among the world's largest.

Today, 24 Naval Reserve Divisions exist across Canada including HMCS Hunter in Windsor, Ontario, which pays tribute to the enduring legacy of Rear-Admiral Walter Hose, at his gravesite each year on the anniversary of his death.

In 2019, a commemorative plaque with the above information and photos was unveiled in Heavenly Rest Cemetery to commemorate Rear-Admiral Hose's contributions to our community as part of the Hometown Heroes program.

Hometown Heroes is an initiative of Parks Canada that honours ordinary citizens, both military and civilian, who contributed to Canada's wartime efforts.

For more information, please visit:

pc.gc.ca/heroes-heros



© Canadian War Museum CWM 19790602-053



© Saskatoon Public Library, A-884