

# Elgin County Archives and Museum



## Profile Photographs, General Interest - D.W. Piers

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Museum / Archive: Elgin County Archives  
Part Of: St. Thomas Times-Journal fonds  
Creator: St. Thomas Times-Journal  
Description Level: Item  
Accession Number: 2008-01  
Storage Room: Archives Storage Rm. 110  
Storage Location: R8 S4 Sh5 B8 87  
GMD: graphic material  
textual records  
Date Range: 1957-1958  
Series: St. Thomas Times-Journal fonds - Profile Photographs, General Interest file  
Physical Description: 5 photographs : b&w  
3 p. textual records

### Scope and Content:

Black and white profile photograph showing Commodore Desmond William Piers, D.S.C., C.D., R.C.N., commandant of the Royal Military College in Kingston, published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal on March 1957. (R8 S4 Sh5 B8 87a)

Black and white profile photograph showing D.W. Piers published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal on April 21, 1958. (R8 S4 Sh5 B8 87b)

Black and white profile photograph showing D.W. Piers published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal on April 24, 1958. (R8 S4 Sh5 B8 87c)

Black and white profile photograph showing D.W. Piers published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal on April 24, 1958. (R8 S4 Sh5 B8 87d)

Black and white profile photograph showing D.W. Piers published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal on April 24, 1958. (R8 S4 Sh5 B8 87e)

Clipping, St. Thomas Times-Journal, April 21, 1958, describing Commodore Piers, a noted naval commander, as the guest of honour of the Elgin Regiment during the St. George's Day celebrations. (R8\_S4\_Sh5\_B8\_87a.pdf)

Clipping, St. Thomas Times-Journal, April 24, 1958, describing Commodore Piers signing the guest register of the Elgin Regiment. Major Charles Eldert, mess president, was also present. (R8\_S4\_Sh5\_B8\_87b.pdf)

Clipping, St. Thomas Times-Journal, April 24, 1958, describing Commodore Piers inspecting a Guard of Honour composed of student militiamen of C. Squadron at the Wilson Avenue Armoury. Following him on inspection were Cpl. H. Warren, Lt.-Col. J.W. McNeil, and Major G. Sellars. (R8\_S4\_Sh5\_B8\_87c.pdf)

Name Access: St. Thomas (Ont.)  
St. Thomas Times-Journal

Subject Access: Newspapers  
Military  
Elgin Regiment

## Images

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## Documents

**St. George's Day Speaker Noted Naval Commander**

Commodore D. W. Piers, D.S.C., R.C.N., who will be guest of honor of the 84th Regiment during the St. George's Day celebrations Wednesday evening at the Wilson Avenue Armory, holds the distinction of being the first graduate of the Royal Military College at Kingston to enter the service of the Royal Canadian Navy, and to be the first naval officer to command the college, he has been commander of R.M.C. since August last year.

At 44, Commodore Piers, who already had nearly 20 years' service with both the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy, his service with the R.N. lasting five years in the United Kingdom and in the Mediterranean before the outbreak of World War II.

**SECRET COMMANDER**

When war came, he was back with the Royal Canadian Navy serving as executive officer on the destroyer *Brantford*, and then he commanded in 1941 and in which he served as escort group commander of Atlantic convoys until the summer of 1943. For these services he was awarded the D.S.C.

Late that year he became training commander at Halifax for a short period, then took command of the new destroyer *Albatross* which operated off the Norwegian coast at the Normandy invasion and then as an escort vessel on convoys to Northern Russia during 1944 and '45.

Since then was one of his most interesting jobs was the commissioning of the aircraft carrier *Magnum* at Belfast in 1947 and that year he also qualified as a pilot aircraft pilot. His first senior appointment at Naval Headquarters in Ottawa was as deputy director of naval plans and operations in 1949 and he was promoted to rank of captain in January, 1951.

**NATO STAFF POST**

After a course at the National Defence College at Kingston, Commodore Piers was appointed to the NATO staff of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic at Norfolk, Va., then returned to the National Defence College directing staff from 1953 to 1955.

**COMMODORE D. W. PIERS**

Two brief periods thereafter, Commodore Piers commanded the cruiser *Quebec*, then the destroyer *Albatross*, and in 1956 was appointed Senior Canadian Officer Afloat (Atlantic). He gained his present rank in July, 1957, and soon after became commander of the Royal Military College. Since last September, he has also been Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor-General.

**Baby Born 19,000 Ft. Up**

PARIS, AP.—The captain of a trim World War II-era transport plane flying through Paris this morning from 19,000 feet to announce a change in his passenger list—a baby had been born on board.

The boy was born to Mrs. Lillian Shaw, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., a Freuchenian married to an American and traveling to visit her parents' home in La Rochelle, France.

Dr. Leo Gaudy, of Columbus, O., was one of the 44 passengers and he presided at the delivery.

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