

The monument to the crew of the Novadoc on the Digby waterfront. (Photograph by Jonathan Riley)



ON MARCH 1ST, 1947, LOADED WITH 3,860 TONS OF CYPSSUM, THE FREIGHTER NOVADOC LEFT DEEP BROOK CROSSING THE BAY IN FRONT OF YOU BOUND FOR STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK. TWO DAYS LATER, MARCH 3RD, IN THE MIDST OF A NORTHEASTER OFF THE COAST OF MAINE, CAPTAIN VALLIS CALLED THE PORTLAND COAST GUARD AND REPORTED THAT THE NOVADOC HAD BADLY DAMAGED HATCHES AND BULKHEAD. "WE ARE RUNNING BEFORE THE STORM TRYING TO KEEP THE DECK FREE OF WATER," HE SAID. "WE REQUEST THAT A COASTGUARD SHIP BE ASKED TO STAND-BY UNTIL WE REACH PORT." THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS FROM THE NOVADOC. THE SHIP AND CREW WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

## IN MEMORY OF

NAME	AGE	RANK	FROM
ALLEN J. VALLIS	49	MASTER	ST. PIERRE, QC
JOHN H. CREWE	23	1ST MATE	ST. PIERRE, QC
ALLEN S. VALLIS	23	2ND MATE	ST. PIERRE, QC
BERNARD PAIEMENT	24	3RD MATE	VERDUN, QC
FRANK BATES	41	WHIFFSMAN	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
MAGNUS LARSEN	45	WHIFFSMAN	WINDSOR, NS
JACK COSSAR	41	WATCHMAN	RED ISLAND, NS
JAMES ASH	48	CHIEF ENGINEER	AURORA, ON
WILLIAM CHRISTIE	38	2ND ENGINEER	PAISLEY, ON
GERALD RAFAUSE	19	OILER	WINDSOR, NS
ALEX TISCHART	35	OILER	GLEN ROBERTSON, ON
JOHN FRANCIS	27	FIREMAN	SMITHS COVE, NS
SHERMAN THOMPSON	21	FIREMAN	DEAR RIVER, NS
RODERICK McLEAN	37	FIREMAN	GLEN ROBERTSON, ON
WILLIAM MORGAN	23	FIREMAN	NOVADOC, ROYAL, NS
ROBERT J. VROOM	23	FIREMAN	DEEP BROOK, NS
MARGARET EADY	33	1ST COOK	ADMASTON, ON
GORDIEY LARSEN	25	2ND COOK	WINDSOR, NS
WILLIAM FRANCIS	18	DEKHAND	SMITHS COVE, NS
RALPH S. PETERS	21	DEKHAND	ROSSWAY, NS
GERALD PORTER	22	DEKHAND	HILLGROVE, NS
CHIPMAN RICE	27	DEKHAND	DEAR RIVER, NS
LLOYD RICE	16	DEKHAND	DEAR RIVER, NS

## NOVADOC



Capt. A. J. Vallis



Chief Engineer James Ash

**MONTREAL, March 6 — (CP)—** Captain Allan J. Vallis, the Montreal master of the Canadian freighter Novadoc now missing for four days off the New England coast, is a native of Ramea, Newfoundland.

He went to sea at the age of 12 and engaged in cod fishing on the Grand Banks.

Capt. Vallis, now 52 years old, received his master's papers at the age of 28. During the First Great War he served in Canada with the army.

In the last war he served mostly in the Caribbean area. He was awarded the OBE in 1945 for service as captain of the Port of Trinidad in the British West Indies from 1942 to 1944.

His son, Allan S. Vallis, third mate on the Novadoc, served with his father during the last war. Another son, George, served with the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve. Arthur, 20, is attending school here. Capt. Vallis also has three daughters living at home.

A revised list of the crew was made known by the Patterson Steamship company's Montreal office. It contained all 24 names of the crew.

In its revised list the company deleted the name of Fireman Charles Holmes, of Port Wade, N.S., who had been included in an earlier list. William Morgan, of Digby, N.S., was added for Holmes.

The list:  
Master, Allan J. Vallis, Montreal; first mate, John N. Crewe, Montreal; second mate, Allan S. Vallis, Montreal; third mate, Bernard Paiement, Verdun, Que.

Wheelmen, Frank Bates, Montreal; Angus Larsen, Windsor, N.S.; Jack Cossar, Montreal.

Chief engineer, James Ash, Oak Ridges, Ont.; second engineer, William Christie, Paisley, Ont.

Oilers—Gerald Rafuse, Windsor, N.S.; Roderick McLean, Glen Robertson, Ont.; Alex Tischart, Glen Robertson.

Firemen—Robert Vroom, Deep Brook, N.S.; William Morgan, Digby, N.S.; J. Francis, Smith's Cove, N.S.; Sherman Higgins, Bear River, N.S.

Cook, Mrs. Margaret Eady, Admaston, Ont.; second cook, Mrs. Angus Larsen, Windsor, N.S.

Seamen—Lloyd Rice, Morganville, N.S.; Chipman Rice, Morganville, N.S.; William Francis, Smith's Cove, N.S.; James Vroom, Deep Brook, N.S.; Gerald Porter, Hillgrove, N.S.; Ralph Peters, Rossay, N.S.

James Rankin Ash, 49, chief engineer, is the son of William Henry Ash, Oak Ridges, North York Township. He started sailing in 1918 on the Great Lakes and obtained his chief engineer's papers in 1934. During the war he was in Atlantic coastwise service and came through without seeing a German submarine. The family settled in the Oak Ridges district in the early 1800's.

### THE NOVADOC

**Boston, March 4—(CP)—**The 248-foot Canadian freighter Novadoc, out of Nova Scotia, was sought by the U.S. coast guard today after she reported by radio yesterday that she had been damaged in high seas off the New England coast.

In addition, three coast guard planes joined the search.

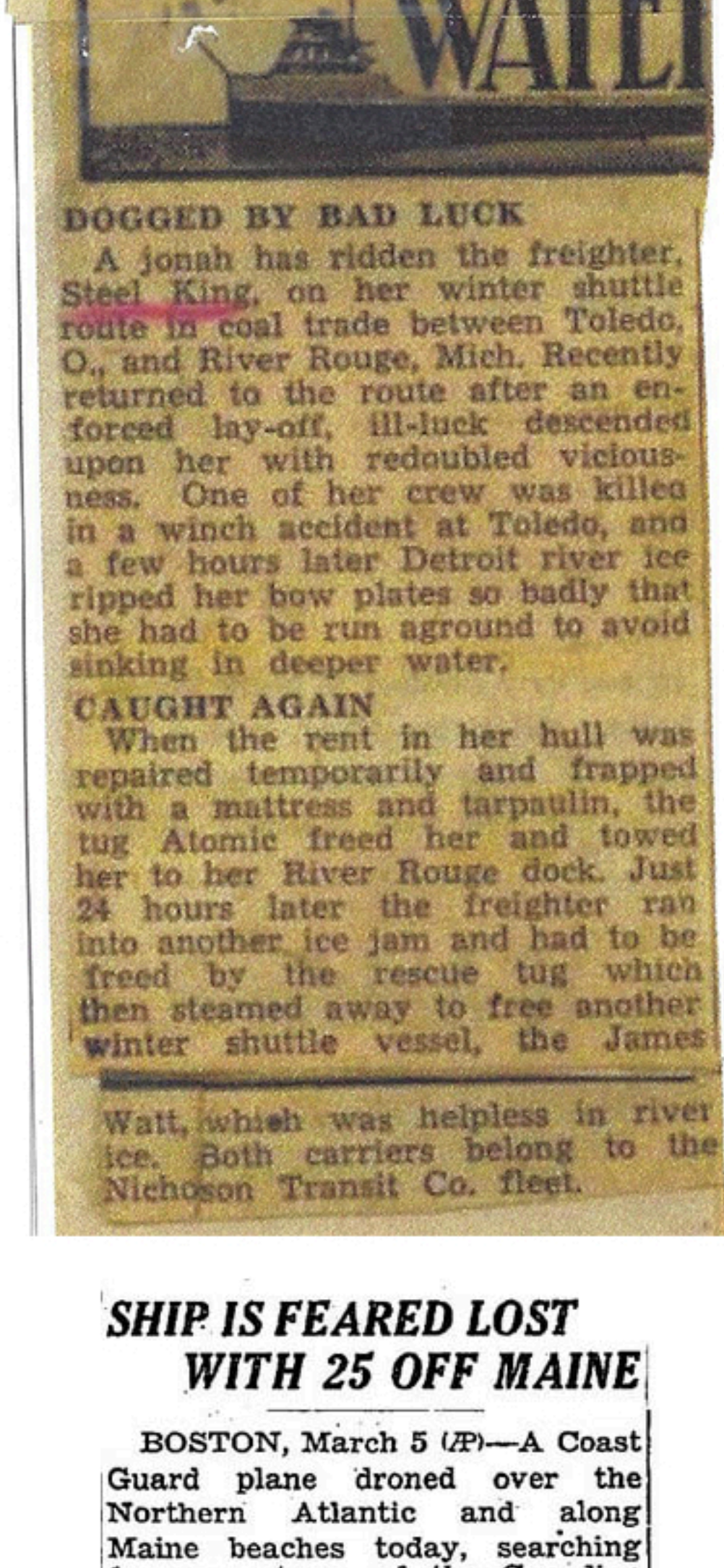
Fighting her way to the Novadoc, which had given her position as 22 miles east of Portland, Me., was the cutter Algonquin. The Algonquin was sent to aid the Canadian ship after the tug Snohomish, able to make only three knots

against the sea and winds, had to go back to port.

The Novadoc's message said high seas had damaged several bulkheads and a hatch had been stove in.

Officials of the Paterson Steamship Co. identified the skipper as Capt. A. J. Vallis of Montreal. Among her officers and crew are several Ontario men. She carried a crew of 22.

Formerly the Northton of Port Colborne, the Novadoc has been in coastal service several months. Before the war the Northton was a familiar ship in Toronto.



### SHIP IS FEARED LOST WITH 25 OFF MAINE

**BOSTON, March 5 (AP)—**A Coast Guard plane droned over the Northern Atlantic and along Maine beaches today, searching for some trace of the Canadian freighter Novadoc whose radio flashed a brief appeal for help in Sunday's storm and then fell silent.

Although Boston Coast Guard headquarters had no official opinion on what had become of the 2,227-ton vessel and her crew of twenty-five, Lt. Cmdr. George V. Stepanoff, captain of the cutter Algonquin, said after returning to Portland from a two-day search, "I think she foundered and all hands are lost."

Paterson Steamships Limited of Fort William, Ont. owns the Novadoc.

The Coast Guard, struggling to restore aids to navigation, warned mariners today that "extreme caution should be exercised in navigating waters of the New England coast" because buoys and other navigation aids still may be extinguished, off station, or missing.