

Minister
of Veterans Affairs



Ministre
des Anciens Combattants

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P4

JUN 02 2016

Mr. Jochen Werne
Expedition Leader
Mr. Bernd Lehmann
Chief Historian
Professor Dr. Mark Hengerer
Expedition Logistics Officer
Expedition Arctic Ocean Raptor
c/o Ambergerstrasse 20
Munich
GERMANY 81679

Dear Messrs. Werne, Lehmann and Hengerer:

Thank you for your letter, which was forwarded to me by the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, regarding Expedition Arctic Ocean Raptor.

I was interested to learn about this multinational initiative to pay tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Second World War battle for control of the Arctic convoy route, regardless of which side of the conflict they were on.

As you mentioned, the sailors of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Merchant Navy played a vital role in keeping the supply lines to Europe open through their convoy escort and anti-submarine operations. Your kind offer to lay a wreath in the name of Canada during your commemorative voyage is greatly appreciated, and on behalf of the Government of Canada, I grant you permission to do so.

I would like to mention that Veterans Affairs Canada's website has an extensive "Remembrance" section, and I am pleased to provide the link to a special feature on the Murmansk Run:

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/murmansk

My department also maintains a popular Canada Remembers Facebook page (www.facebook.com/canadaremembers) where people with an interest in Canadian military history can share information. You are most welcome to post details of the Expedition Arctic Ocean Raptor.

.../2

Canada

Again, thank you for writing and for your efforts to honour the legacy of Canada's fallen heroes. I wish you and the other members of the Expedition a safe and memorable voyage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'K' and 'H' in a stylized, cursive font.

The Honourable Kent Hehr, PC, MP