

# HMCS Sackville stars in Tom Hanks movie Greyhound

Jen Taplin (jtaplin@herald.ca)

Published: 22 hours ago

Updated: 14 hours ago



Tom Hanks stars as Ernest Krause in the naval thriller Greyhound. — AppleTV+

“I understand they also sent a film crew to HMCS Montreal when she was doing some sea trials so they were able to get video of open ocean, North Atlantic seas,” said Thomas. “The North Atlantic in the winter is an unfriendly place so they wanted to depict accurately what it would be like.”

The movie was initially scheduled for release on March 22, 2019 but it was delayed. Thomas said he suspects it was because there were other Second World War films premiering around that time. It was delayed another few times until it was released on the streaming platform earlier this month because of theatre shutdowns. Hanks has said he hopes it will be appear in theatres someday.

Thomas was asked by the production company if there would be a fee for filming the Sackville, but Thomas said no, and instead requested the corvette portrayed in the film be identified as HMCS Sackville or hull number (K181) be used, as well as crediting the Trust. He said the Trust was just thrilled for the Sackville to appear in the movie. Thomas added he doesn't know if the requests were approved.

Greyhound, starring and written by Hanks, is based on the Good Shepherd, a 1955 novel written by C.S. Forester. Based on true events, Hanks plays a U.S. destroyer captain protecting a convoy sailing across the Atlantic in 1942.



HMCS Sackville, dressed overall, is pulled along by the tugboat, Glenbrook, during it's a salute to the city, seen from Dartmouth during a short harbor loop, Tuesday June 23, 2020. The ship was doing a sail past en route to its summer berth, where it is hope she will be open for visitors this summer. - Tim Krochak

## 1942 was a big year for the corvette

Greyhound is set in 1942, which happened to be a big year for the Sackville as she flexed her muscles on German submarines.

In August 1942, Sackville was part of an escort of a convoy.

“She engaged three different U-boats in the span of 24 hours while protecting the convoy,” said Thomas. “Two of them were very badly damaged, and in fact at the time, the thought was both of them had been sunk. They managed to limp back to Germany and after extensive refits, they were able to be redeployed to the North Atlantic, but it took a long time.”

Thomas said Sackville was busy throughout the war, but that summer in 1942 was the closest she came to sinking U-boats.

### Perfect ship for the film

Given her history and museum-quality state, Sackville was a shoo-in for the role. Actually, the only choice.

“Since Sackville is the very last of 269 corvettes of her time that were built in World War Two, we were an obvious choice because what Greyhound was based on had a Canadian corvette and a British corvette, I believe in the movie,” Thomas said.

He hasn't seen the movie yet and he's a bit disappointed he'll have to watch it on an iPad instead of a movie screen, but he's excited to see the Sackville in action. There is a quick shot of a Flower-class corvette, identical to the Sackville, in the trailer.

Thomas said films like these are vital in showing modern audiences how pivotal the Battle of the Atlantic was.

“You couldn't get troops to land in Normandy if you couldn't get across the ocean and with all of the material: the tanks, the guns, ammunition, you name it, and of course the people,” he said. “That had to go by sea and the seas had to be made safe from U-boats.”

---

#### RELATED:

- [Tom Hanks Zooms with the Post's Calum Marsh about his need to keep it real](#)
- [HMCS Sackville, the last Second World War corvette, tours Halifax Harbour](#)

Did this story inform or enhance your perspective on this subject?

1 being least likely, and 10 being most likely

Submit feedback



# The last of 269 corvettes of her kind that was built during World War Two, she was obvious choice to be featured in a film about the battle of the Atlantic



A famous longtime Halifax resident has a striking role in Tom Hanks' new Second World War movie, Greyhound.

The naval battle drama, which premiered on July 10 on Apple TV+, stars HMCS Sackville, the corvette docked as a museum piece on the Halifax waterfront. And it didn't have to leave its berth to be in the movie.

GREYHOUND - Official Trailer (HD) | Apple TV+



In December 2017, Lt.-Cmdr. (retired) Doug Thomas, executive director of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, was contacted by FilmNation Entertainment in Baton Rouge, La. They needed footage of convoy escorts for the film. Sackville is the last of 269 corvettes from the Battle of the Atlantic.

“I was very pleased to hear it was Tom Hanks’ project and I knew it would be a quality production with him involved,” Thomas said. “To have our ship in effect at sea again, virtually, was really neat.”

A member of the film’s visual effects team, Alex Shvartzman, traveled to Halifax from Vancouver. Over two days shortly before Christmas, Shvartzman used light detection and ranging (lidar) to scan the ship.

The scans of the exterior of the ship were used to produce realistic scenes of the Sackville in action.



Alex Shvartzman, a special effects crew member, photographed and scanned HMCS Sackville in Halifax for the movie Greyhound. - Contributed