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Ukrainian National Youth Federation  
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*Seven*

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**Presidents**

*in*

**Uniform**



*U.N.Y.F.*



# SEVEN PRESIDENTS IN UNIFORM

With the Compliments of the



**1945**

*Published by  
Ukrainian National Youth Federation,  
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## **FOREWORD**

*Perhaps there is no other organization in Canada that can be as proud of its presidents as the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation. This feeling is justified, because the seven young men, who were presidents of the U.N.Y.F. in Toronto, served during the war with His Majesty's Forces.*

*The Toronto Branch of the U.N.Y.F. is affiliated with the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada. The headquarters of the U.N.Y.F. is at present in Winnipeg, Manitoba. With the U.N.Y.F. are also affiliated two other Dominion-wide organizations — the Ukrainian War Veterans' Association and the Ukrainian Women's Organization.*

*This pamphlet was prepared to appear in print in 1943, but due to war shortages, its publication was deferred until now.*

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## FIRST PRESIDENT



**STEPHEN PAWLUK**

*Radio Officer on British merchant ships before the war, after the outbreak of war enlisted with the Royal Air Force.*

Stephen Pawluk was the first President of the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation. He was also the organizer of a wireless course under the auspices of the U.N.Y.F.

Born in Smoky Lake, Alberta, in 1910, Stephen took his public and high school training there. It was the period of economic depression that forced him to abandon his plans of going to university. Instead, he decided to do what he considered was next best for him—he took radiotelegraphy.

Stephen left Alberta so that he could gain wider knowledge in his chosen work. He took up courses in radiotelegraphy in Chicago, and later at the Marconi College in Toronto, where, in 1936 he obtained his Government Second Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy. During that time Stephen and his radio minded friends established a Ukrainian radiotelegraphy school. The school began to operate in June, 1935, with ten other boys on whom rested the responsibility of keeping the school going. The Toronto Branch of the U.N.F. gave the school, not only the necessary schoolroom facilities, but also the much needed financial aid during the two years that the school existed. It was a night school. The boys came there after a hard day's work to have the secrets of the radio waves revealed to them.

Even after the radio school had to close, due to Stephen's departure, the awakened creative spirit made the students, two months later, turn their energies to the starting up of the Ukrainian Flying Club in Oshawa, Ontario — another very timely effort.

In December, 1937, Stephen sailed for England to join the Marconi International Services. There he received his first assignment as radio officer aboard a British merchant ship.

On his first ship Stephen served as Second Radio Officer and his first journey was from England to Australia and back, by way of the Suez Canal.

Later Stephen was appointed as the Radio Officer in charge on a freighter engaged in Spanish trade. On these journeys he got his first impression of the Spanish Civil War.

At that time war clouds in Europe were becoming darker and darker. Realizing that the outbreak of the war was only a matter of time, Stephen enlisted in the Royal Air Force

Mrs. Pawluk joined her husband in England in 1938. At the outbreak of war she chose to remain with Stephen in England

Altogether Stephen served with His Majesty's forces for eight years.



## SECOND PRESIDENT



**JOHN STOGRIN, B.C.D.**  
*Chief radio officer. First Canadian Ukrainian to obtain a First Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy and Radiotelephony.*

After Stephen Pawluk resigned as President, because of his departure for England, John Stogrin was elected to the presidency of the Toronto U.N. Y.F. in 1936.

John's history is very similar to Stephen's. He too, is a native of Smoky Lake, Alberta, and took his public and high school training there. Due to financial difficulties, he was unable to attend the university, and with Stephen left for Toronto in 1935 to attend the Marconi School of Wireless Telegraphy where he obtained his Second Class Certificate of Proficiency in radiotelegraphy. While attending the school, he had to support himself by working at various jobs.

In December, 1937, John sailed for England as a Radio Officer. This was the beginning of his five years of travel to every part of the earth. He visited every continent. He sailed all the seas.

Five years of adventurous life, five years of sailing, over seas often infested by enemy submarines, with enemy planes roaring over head — this is the life John had known.

His first trip was as a Third Radio Officer on a huge passenger liner to Australia by way of the Suez Canal. He soon was promoted to the position of Second Radio Officer. Then he was transferred to the Indian Foreign Service at Bombay, Durban, and Natal. In 1938 he was made Radio Officer on a ship visiting India, Ceylon, Singapore, Dutch East Indies, the Phillipines and the west coast of U.S.A. and Canada.

John had some of his most thrilling experiences while serving as Chief Radio Officer on a catapult ship, one of the new secret British weapons and a terror for the Axis shipping raiders. In his charge he had three Junior Radio Officers.

While at sea, John continued his studies by correspondence, first, from the Bennett College of Sheffield, England, where he obtained his diploma in radiotelegraphy and radiotelephony, and, later, in advanced radio communication, from the National Radio Institute of Washington, D. C.

In 1941 he contracted malaria in an Iranian port and was forced to spend some time at hospital in Bombay. On advice of the medical authorities, he was released from the British Merchant Navy and in 1942 returned to Canada to continue his anti-malaria treatment. Even during his convalescence John was not idle. He obtained his First Class Certificate of Proficiency in radiotelegraphy and radiotelephony in September, 1942. Later he was in the R.A.F. ferry Command.

John Strogrin died in Hamilton on July 23, 1944, of malaria.



## THIRD PRESIDENT



**FRED TERNOWAY**

*Radio Officer whose ship was sunk by enemy action in February, 1942. After eight hours in an open boat, Fred was rescued by a Canadian Corvette*

On John Stogrin's departure for England, Fred Ternoway, was chosen as president. Like his predecessors, Fred comes from Alberta, where he successfully passed his senior matriculation.

Unfortunately for the branch of the U.N.Y.F., Fred did not remain long in Toronto. After only a few months, he enlisted in the Merchant Navy and sailed for England in 1938. It was rather a curious fact that Fred who had never seen an ocean should choose to become a sailor. In four years he served on fifteen different ships of the British Merchant Navy.

## THE U.N.Y.F. AT WORK

The Ukrainian National Federation is vitally interested in the activities of young people. During the time of the depression when the sons and daughters of Ukrainian farmers and laborers found themselves without any prospect for the better future the U.N.F. tried, to the best of its limited abilities, to get them established in new fields, ventures, or activities.

When Mr. Pawluk and some other young men left for England the Ukrainian Radio Telegraphy School was left without instructors and so its activities ceased. But the members of the U.N.F. were not satisfied to let matters stand as they were. They directed at the end of 1937 their material and moral help to the establishing of the Ukrainian Flying Club. This project was started

in Eastern Canada because the financial situation of members was somewhat better there than in Western Canada. Because the local conditions in Oshawa, Ont., were favorable for such organization, the Ukrainian Flying Club was organized there on January 24, 1938. The young people, previously connected with the Ukrainian Radio Telegraphy School, found their hope and inspiration in this new venture.

The campaign went up among the members, "Buy an aeroplane for the young people!" Donations from ten cents to ten dollars began to pour in. In a short time enough money was collected for the purchase and upkeep of a plane, in all about three thousand dollars.

Mr. P. T. Anten was chosen as instructor and technical adviser. M. Wladyka and W. Zaleschuk, who were also in uniform, were the backbone of the organization. In 1938, during the Dominion Convention of the U.N.F. and affiliated organizations in Toronto, they made their first parachute jumps, while other members of the club made their first solo flights.

At the time of its organization the club consisted of 55 members, of whom two were Anglo-Saxons. The club continued to be active up to the outbreak of the war. Immediately after Canada declared war on Germany Mr. Anten and Mr. W. Zaleschuk joined the R.C. A.F. as instructors. A few days later, fourteen other members of the Ukrainian Flying Club enlisted in the Canadian Active Forces.

This is just a brief summary of the activities of the U.N.Y.F. which shows that even during the time of great depression the young people had good constructive ideas which they tried to put into practice, and aided by a sympathetic understanding of the older generation, prepared themselves to be of some use to their country, both in time of peace and in time of war.

## FOURTH PRESIDENT



**MICHAEL KALIMIN**

*Attended Radio College of Canada at Toronto and received his Second Class Government Certificate for Proficiency in Radio, July, 1941.*

where he performed various duties. But this still was not what he wanted, so in January, 1942, he entered the service of the exiled Greek government and sailed on a Greek ship for unknown destinations. While in African waters, their ship was torpedoed. Michael escaped injury. He has visited Aden, Red Sea, Alexandria, Cape Town, Freetown, and other places.

While Michael was president, the Toronto U.N.Y.F., under his directions, became the leading section of the U.N.Y.F. in Canada. Michael was only seventeen at the

In 1939 Michael Kalimin was elected as the fourth president of the Toronto U.N.Y.F.

He was born on the rolling plains of Ukraine. As a boy of seven he came to Canada, with his mother, to join his father in Woodstock, Ontario. Michael graduated from Central High School of Commerce and worked for some time as a bookkeeper. But this work did not appeal to him, and, being inspired by the activities of the Ukrainian Radio School, he entered Radio College. He graduated in 1941 and received his Second Class Diploma as a wireless operator on a former Jugoslavian ship, then sailing for Panama. He did not stay there long, for very shortly he was transferred to the Department of Transport

time, his studies taking most of his time and energy. The older members of the U.N.F. and his fellow-members of the U.N.Y.F. were sorry that Michael couldn't devote more of his time to the organization, and yet, on the other hand, they were happy that Michael had ambition to study.

## FIFTH PRESIDENT



### JOHN OKURLEY

*Joined the R.C.A.F. in the spring of 1941 and went overseas.*

It is interesting to note that the slogan "Go West, young Man", which echoed across Canada in the pre-war days, had the opposite effect as far as story of the "Seven Presidents" is concerned. These sons of the sturdy western farmers saw that the "Golden West" held no more opportunity for them. They went east, meeting strange adventures in the heart of Canada's industrial and business life. Among them was also 21-year old John Okurley. He worked in Toronto as a mechanic. After two years of membership in the Toronto U.N.Y.F. he became, in 1940 its president.

During the period of his presidency John strove to enlarge the membership of the club and to intensify the work

the club was doing. At the Dominion Convention of the U.N.F. and its affiliated organizations the Toronto branch of the U.N.Y.F. was given a silver cup for the best work done in that year. In 1941 John enlisted as a mechanic in the R.C.A.F. and, on the completion of his training he was sent to England. Shortly after his arrival, he volunteered there for service on the active front and was sent to North Africa. The last word that was received from John was from somewhere in the Pacific.

While John was a member of the U.N.Y.F. the Ukrainian Flying Club was just being organized and

put into action. John took great interest in the activities of the Flying Club. This acquainted him somewhat with the aerial activities — at first just a new way of travel, now one of the three main ways of combat. That is why none of John's friends was suprised when he enlisted in the Air Force preferably to the other branches of the Fighting Forces, and went off to distant lands on active service, like the four preceding presidents.



## SIXTH PRESIDENT



### **MICHAEL CWIHUN- RICHARD**

*On board of a Canadian Merchant ship, visited the British West Indies, South Africa, India, Malay States.*

was transferred to the Canadian Merchant Marine and sailed to the British West Indies, South Africa, India, and the Malay States.

He came back to Canada early in 1942, after a trip to Singapore. While undergoing treatment in Toronto, he did not waste his time. He worked in a radio war industry. After full recovery he was transferred to a Canadian Merchant ship as Radio Officer.

Cwihun-Richard's father is also on active service with the R.C.A. S.C.

Michael's adventurous spirit has let him to many distant lands and into strange situations. He was standing shoulder to shoulder with other loyal citizens fighting for Canada, the British Empire, and all the nations who are seeking freedom along with the Ukrainians.

Michael Cwihun-Richard was born in Ukraine in 1922, and came to Canada with his parents when he was six. The Cwihun-Richards took up their residence in Toronto. So right from start Michael had an opportunity to become interested in community life.

Michael was an active student of the U.N.Y.F. wireless course under the direction of Stephen Pawluk. When that course was discontinued he went on with his studies at private radio school. He graduated in 1941 and obtained employment with the Marconi Company of Canada as wireless operator on the liners on Lake Ontario. Sometime later he

## SEVENTH PRESIDENT



### **SVIATOSLAV WASYL FROLACK**

*C.O.T.C. taken in Toronto; now  
overseas with the rank of a  
captain.*

Sviatoslav Frolack was born at Hillcrest, Alberta. A few years before the outbreak of the war he and his parents went for a visit to Western Ukraine, then under Polish domination. After a short visit his parents returned to Canada, leaving Sviatoslav behind, at school, for a short time.

Sviatoslav was attending a Ukrainian Secondary School in a large city, south of Lviv. He worked there diligently, studying, not only Ukrainian, but kept up his English, too. He taught many of his friends English. They eagerly learnt all he could teach them. The boys studied English because they had a feel-

ing that some day the knowledge of his language would be of great value to them. Some of them dreamt of the time when they would be attending a university in Britain, Canada, or the United States.

Often, during his stay in Ukraine, Sviatoslav felt an irresistible desire to return to Canada, but each time something would come up to prevent his departure. The present war took him by surprise..

The Germans invaded Poland unexpectedly and, with unbelievable speed and destruction, moved towards the rich and fertile Western Ukraine.

For young Sviatoslav a difficult and dangerous life began. The storm of war rose before him with all its horrors, suffering, tears, blood, and destruction. At

first, the city re-echoed with the cries, "The Germans are coming! They aren't far away! Their road is marked with fires and destruction!" The Germans, however, did not reach that particular section where Sviatoslav stayed, but their allies, at that time, the Russians, did — in full battle array.

'History repeats itself', thought the Ukrainians. The older people remembered still quite well how in the First World War that same city was invaded by the forces of the "White Czar". This time the "whites" gave place to the Reds", the horses to tanks, balloons to aeroplanes.

Sviatoslav had to retire to a nearby village when life in the city became too dangerous, but after a short time he came back to the city, to continue his studies. He studied as much as he could in spite of the fact that the city was then under military rule. He could not study in peace. His thoughts turned more and more to the quiet life he had known in Canada.

He wrote his final examination while the Soviet tanks and heavy artillery rumbled through the streets towards Ukrainian Bukovina and Bessarabia in Roumania.

In 1940 Sviatoslav enrolled at the Academy of Medicine in Lviv, but after a few months of study was forced to quit. He appealed to the British Embassy in Moscow to help him leave the country. Towards the end of February, 1941, he received the necessary visa and began his long journey back to Canada. He reached Moscow by way of Kiev, and from there he took the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostock. During the trip he suffered many hardships and privations. In March, 1941, he left the Soviet Union on a ship for Vancouver.

It so happened that while one president of the U.N.Y.F., John Okurley, was going east to Britain, a future president Sviatoslav, was also going east — to Toronto. He had circled the globe, and at last was returning home. He knew that he was safe now, and that a dark and uncertain future was replaced by a confident one. As he crossed Canada, he thanked the Lord that he lived to see again the majestic Rockies, the endless prairies, and the busy East.

Life at home in Toronto for Sviatoslav seems very peaceful and settled compared to the life he had known.

But Sviatoslav is not settled yet. For two years he attended the University in Toronto, taking his C.O.T.C. there. It was then that he had the honor to be seventh president of the U.N.Y.F. At present he is overseas with the rank of a captain.

## CONCLUSION

The establishment of the "Ukrainian Radio School" in Toronto in 1935 and the "Ukrainian Flying Club" in Oshawa, Ontario, in 1938, which was done by the youth of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation, and supported by all the members of the Ukrainian National Federation, demonstrated constructive thinking and constructive activity. The radio course produced technicians which, in the time of the nation's need, ably served Canada, while instruction in flying gave fundamental training to many who offered their services to Canada during the second World War.

So these young people, the first generation of the Ukrainian settlers, have contributed much towards the victorious outcome of the war for Canada and the British Commonwealth. In order to better understand the spirit in which these young people have been brought up, we shall take a look at the aims of the Ukrainian Flying Club, organized in 1937.

The Ukrainian Flying Club was organized for the purpose of giving practical flying instruction to Canadian youth of Ukrainian descent for the following purposes:

1. To assist the Ukrainian-Canadian youth to become air-minded.
2. To teach the Ukrainian-Canadian youth the rudiments of aeronautics, in the form of a ground course, including theory of flight, navigation, meteorology and primary engine mechanics, under competent instructors. In this way, the students would be prepared for practical instruction.
3. To teach the Ukrainian youth the art of flying in order that they may be prepared to become actively engaged in, and to take up positions in Canadian commercial aviation.
4. The Ukrainian Flying Club was sponsored and supported solely by public subscriptions, and donations of Ukrainian-Canadians in Canada.





