

113-M-7187



N. V. 5

25M-9-40 (6793)
N.S. 815-11-5

~~89387~~

89387

5

ATTESTATION FORM

(HOSTILITIES FORM)

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME MCNEIL OFFICIAL NO. V59518

CHRISTIAN NAMES John James MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS	RELIGION
House 1047, New Victoria, Cape Breton Co., N.S.	R.C.

DATE OF BIRTH	*PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
11th March, 1924.	Town <u>New Victoria,</u> County <u>Cape Breton,</u> Province <u>N. S.</u>	Mrs. Katherine McNeil (Mother) House 1047, New Victoria, Cape Breton Co., NS

*Original Nationality of:
Father British
Mother British

*If not the son of natural born British parents, particulars to be given at foot of next page.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet <u>5</u>	Inflated <u>34</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Blue</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Inches <u>7 1/2</u>	Deflated <u>31</u>				
<u>118</u>	Mean <u>32</u>				

DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING ENROLLING FOR	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY
<u>20th April, 1943.</u> <u>Active Service</u>	<u>Stoker 2/c (Temp)</u>	<u>Donkeyman--Dominion Coal Co.,</u> <u>New Victoria, N. S.</u>
R.C.N.V.R. Division (or other establishment) at which enrolled <u>Stadacona</u>		

(B) DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT

I hereby declare as follows:—

- (1) That I am a British Subject domiciled in Canada.
- (2) That I am desirous of being enrolled as a member of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve Force, and that I accept and agree to abide by the rules of the said Force.
- (3) That * (a) I have never served, and am not serving in any Naval, Military, Reserve, or Territorial Force.

* (b) I served in for the period shown, and attach my record of service, in corroboration of this statement.

*Cross out Clause not applicable.

SERVED IN	RANK	FROM
	<u>N I L</u>	

Personnel Records Division.

1. Noted in Records 213

2. Index Card 213

3. Non-Sub. Card

4. Statistical Card

5. Boneo Strip TO

6. Pension Card

7.

8.

DATE 11-2-43

(c) I have never been rejected for or discharged from any of His Majesty's Forces on account of unfitness.

(4) That the particulars contained above are correct and true according to the best of my knowledge and belief.



(3) On being enrolled as a member of the Halifax Division of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, I undertake to bind myself:—

(a) To serve from the date thereof for the duration of hostilities, being subject to the provisions of the Naval Service Act, and of the Regulations made in pursuance thereof for the government of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, and to the customs and usages of His Majesty's Canadian Naval Service.

(b) To report for active service if called upon in time of war or emergency, and, if called into active service, to serve ashore or afloat as may be directed, according to where my services are required.

(c) To keep in good repair and condition the articles of uniform and any articles of outfit which may be issued to me and to return them to the nearest Divisional Commanding Officer or to Training Headquarters prior to my discharge or when required so to do by any authorized person, or to pay compensation for any loss or damage thereto other than fair wear and tear; and also not to wear such uniform or outfit (which is and remains the property of the Crown) except when on naval duty.

(d) To undergo vaccination or re-vaccination, or inoculation, as considered necessary by the appropriate authorities.

Dated this 20th day of April, 1943.

✓ Signature of applicant John J Mc Neil

(C) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

I hereby certify that all the foregoing statements were made by the volunteer above named, in my presence, and that he has made and signed the above declaration in my presence on this 20th day of April, 1943.

Harvey P Shea
Signature of and rank of Attesting Officer.
Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, John James McNeil do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Britannic Majesty, His heirs and successors according to law.

✓ Signature of Applicant John J Mc Neil
Witness Harvey P Shea

Date 20th April, 1943 Rank Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.

The Oath of Allegiance may be administered by a Commissioned Officer of the Naval Service.

(E) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

John James McNeil having been duly enrolled to serve in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve Force, I have caused his name and every prescribed particular to be recorded in the Record Book of the Halifax Division of the R.C.N.V.R. or in the appropriate official documents.

Harvey P Shea
Attesting Officer.
Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.
R.C.N.V.R. Division Stadacona
(or other establishment)

20th April, 1943

NOTE.—This form when completed and when the particulars on it have been noted in the Divisional Commanding Officer's Record Book, is to be forwarded to Headquarters, Ottawa, for custody.

The Certificate of medical examination, B-207, and certificates of previous service are to be sent to Headquarters, Ottawa, with this form.

Certificates of previous service will be returned after they have been examined at Headquarters, Ottawa.

This is to acknowledge that I have not been induced enter the Stoker Branch of the R.C.N.V.R. Service by the prospect of being transferred at some future date to another Branch.



✓ John J Mc Neil
Signature

If a copy of this Form is required, Form C.N.S. 1243 is to be used

The corner of this Certificate is to be cut off if the man is discharged with a "Bad" character or with disgrace, or if specially directed by the Department of National Defence (Naval Service). If the corner is cut off, the fact is to be noted in the Ledger.

CERTIFICATE of the Service of

John James McNEIL

IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL *Volunteer Reserve*

Halifax Nova Scotia *Halifax Division*

Official Number *V. 59578*

Date of birth <i>11 March 1920</i>	Nearest known Relative or Friend (To be noted in pencil)
Where born { Province <i>Nova Scotia</i>	Name: <i>Mrs Katherine McNeil</i>
{ Town or county <i>New Victoria, C.B.</i>	Relationship: <i>Mother</i>
Trade brought up to <i>Dokey man</i>	Address: <i>House 1047</i>
Religious denomination <i>Roman Catholic</i>	<i>New Victoria</i>
Date passed swimming test	<i>Cape Breton, NS</i>
Man's signature on discharge to pension }	<i>1-11-53</i>

All Engagements, including N.C.S., to be noted in these Columns

Date of actually volunteering	Commencement of time	Period volunteered for	Date of actually volunteering	Commencement of time	Period volunteered for
1. <i>20 April 1943</i>			5.		
2.			6.		
3.			7.		
4.			8.		

Medals, Clasps, Etc.

Date received or forfeited	Nature of decoration	Date received or forfeited	Nature of decoration

Description of Person	Stature		Chest, In.	Colour of			Marks, Wounds and Scars
	Feet	In.		Hair	Eyes	Complexion	
On entry as a boy	<i>5</i>	<i>7½</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Red</i>	<i>Nil</i>
On advancement to man's rating or on entry under 28 years.....							
On re-entry for C.S. or for Non-C.S. after attaining 28 years.....							
Further description if necessary....							



V59518

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-M-7187

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V59518

NAME **MCNEIL** (Surname) **John James** (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH **11 March, 1924**

PLACE OF BIRTH **New Victoria, Cape Breton, N.S.** OCCUPATION **Donkeyman**

RELIGION **Roman Catholic** EDUCATION **Grade X**

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. **House 1047** Town **New Victoria** Province, etc. **N.S.**

ENGAGEMENTS				DESCRIPTION					PREVIOUS SERVICE			
Date (in figures)			Period	Height	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Marks or Scars	Served in	Rank or Rating	Dates	
Day	Month	Year									From	To
20	4	43	H.O.	5'7½"	Brown	Blue	Medium	Nil				

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) *Mother* NAME (in pencil) *Miss Katherine McNeil*
ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. *House 1047* Town *New Victoria* Province, etc. *N.S.*

MEDALS, CLASPS, HURT CERTIFICATES, PRIZE MONEY				EXAMINATIONS, CERTIFICATES, ETC.			
Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			Particulars
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
				10	8	43	Qual. Anti-Gas, one day.

BADGES, G.C. OR G.S.				BRIEF PARTICULARS OF WARRANT OR C.M. PUNISHMENTS AND C.P. CHARGES							
Date (in figures)			1st, 2nd or 3rd G.C. or G.S.	Granted Deprived Restored	SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT	Wt. No.	Date (in figures)			BRIEF PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE	PUNISHMENT
Day	Month	Year					Day	Month	Year		

FILM NO. 5943-1
DATE

Date (in figures)			DAYS FORFEITED					
Day	Month	Year	Prison	Det'n	Cells	C. Power	W. Trial	In diff. Char.

O.H.F. Received

W.S.G. APPLICATION 2086 RECEIVED

V59518

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME **MCNEIL**
(Surname)

John James
(Given Name)

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V59518

PIB

Ship or Establishment	Rating	From			Remarks	Character	Efficiency	Date			Non-Sub. Rating	Qualified			Re-Qualified		
		Day	Month	Year				Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
H.M.C.S. Stadacona	Stoker II	20	4	43		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	43							
" Protector 11	"	26	4	43	WRD # 10	V.G.	Sat.	29	4	44							
" Cornwallis	"	9	6	43	WRD # 15.												
" Stadacona	"	11	8	43	DRD H-2332												
" York	"	6	11	43	DRD H-3131												
" Stad (Persian)	"	25	11	43	Service Cert.												
" Niobe "	"	2	1	44	" "												
" Niobe	"	23	1	44	" "												
" Athabaskan	"	11	2	44	" "												
DISCHARGED.	"	29	4	44	"Missing" per Casualty List												
		29	4	44	"Presumed Dead " "												

GENERAL REMARKS

MEMORIAL CROSS sent to:-
 Mother,
 Mrs. Katherine McNeil,
 House 1047,
 NEW VICTORIA, B.C. (14-9-44).



DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE		CIVIL OCCU.		RELI-ED	PERM. RESIDENCE			PREV. ENLI	RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT		
DY.	MO.	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB	GION	P.	CTY.	TOWN	SERV.	DIV.	A	BR.	RANK
11	3	24	14	150	0	10	3	4	03	00	0	19	0	15
ENLIST. DATE			ACT. SERV. DATE				STR.	ACT. SERV. DATE			SHIP OR	RANK OR RATE		
DY.	MO.	YR.	DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	DY.	MO.	YR.	ESTAB.	A	BR.	RANK	
10	04	43	26	04	43					0230	0	15	95	
SENIORITY			STR.	NON-SUB		M				CODED	CHECKED			
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.								
16	04	43	09	00	00	20	29-04-44							

TFH/IF

AIR MAIL
REGISTERED
N.S. 59518

- NAVAL SERVICE -

1 May, 1944.

Dear Mrs. McNeil:

It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 1st of May, 1944, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your son, John James McNeil, Stoker Second Class, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, Official Number V.59518, is missing from H.M.C.S. "Athabaskan".

According to the report received from overseas, your son's loss occurred when H.M.C.S. "Athabaskan" was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action on the 29th of April, 1944, in the English Channel. Further particulars of this Naval disaster are being published in the newspapers.

While Stoker McNeil is reported as "missing", there is a possibility of his survival. It is understood that a number of the crew have been taken prisoners of war by the enemy. The Red Cross have been informed and are attempting to obtain from the German Government a list of those taken. Please be assured that as soon as any further information respecting your son has been received you will be informed.

Please allow me to express the sincere sympathy of the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy, the high traditions of which your son has helped to maintain.

Yours sincerely,

LETTER DISPATCHED BY
PERSONNEL NAVAL
MAY 2 1944
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Dea
Mrs. Katherine McNeil,
House 1047,
NEW VICTORIA, N.S.

(Information extracted from records at Naval Service Headquarters).

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

~~H.M.C.S.~~ ~~NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS,~~ at ~~OTTAWA,~~ Ont. 43

Name McNEIL, John James
(Christian names in full)

Rank of Rating Stoker Second Class Official No. V-59518, R.C.N.V.R.
(If unknown, date of first entry)

Place of Birth New Victoria, N.S. Date of Birth 11 March, 1924.

Occupation in Civil Life Donkeyman Religion Roman Catholic

Number of years service in the Navy (Long Service R.C.N., or mobilized service in case of R.C.N. (Temporary) or Reserve ratings) 20th April, 1943, to 29th April, 1944.

Date of Death 29th April, 1944. Place of Death at sea.

Cause of Death After the sinking of H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" due to enemy action.
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend { Name Mrs. Katherine McNeil, Relationship Mother
Address House 1047,
New Victoria, N.S.

Date on which the above was informed by ~~Ship~~ Naval Service Headquarters: 1 May, 1944.

Date on which death was registered with local Officials.....

In the case of Imperial Service men, whether Active Service, Pensioner or Reserve, date on which the prescribed return was rendered to the Registrar General in London, Edinburgh or Dublin, according to Nationality.....

Place of Burial L'Aberwrach, Finistere, Date of Burial 29th April, 1944.
(if known) (if known)

Location, Number, etc., of grave French Cemetery Landeda, Square 12, Lot 18
(if known)

Undertaker employed Not known.
(if any)

If borne for discipline only, date D.S.Q. or invalidated.....

Commanding Officer,

OTTAWA, Ont., 31st October, 1944.

THE NAVAL SECRETARY, Naval Board,
Department of National Defence,
Ottawa, Canada.

H.B. Money
for SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

In all cases this Form is to be sent in addition to the Report by Telegraph required by the Regulations.

Distribution: File, Imp. W. G. Com., Dom. Stat., Register.

26 August, 1944.

29

Dear Mr. and Mrs. McNeil:

A few days ago I was in the small Brittany port of L'Abervach. There I met Mme. Mignard. Her daughter Mdlle Jacqueline and I climbed to the top of a beautiful hill to place flowers on the grave of your son.

May I offer my most sincere sympathy to you for the loss of your son John. I have written this letter in the hopes that it may be of some comfort to you to know that your son's body lies in a beautiful cemetery, shaded by fir trees, high on a hill overlooking the sea. Geraniums bloom on his grave which is bordered with forget-me-nots. On the cross is inscribed:

John McNeil,
Cogre Buiton,
Alsland Kanada.

After the funeral service, the good people of L'Abervach paid their respects to a brave Canadian and heaped his grave with flowers.

And each day Mdlle Jacqueline Mignard climbs the hill to put fresh flowers where John's body rests.

May God comfort you.

(Sgd) J.R.H. Kirkpatrick

Lieut.Cdr., R.C.N.V.R.

LANDEDA (FINISTERE)

le 25 ~~avril~~ aout 1944.

33

Madame,

Je remplis un pieux devoir en venant vous donner quelques renseignements sur la mort de votre fils John MacNeil, inhumé dans le cimetière de ma paroisse de Landeda.

Dans la nuit du 28 au 29 ~~avril~~ avril 1944, il y eut un engagement naval au large de la côte de Landeda. Le matin du 29 on débarqua à la côte de l'Abervrach en Landeda 27 blessés du croiseur Athabaska. Votre fils était du nombre de ces blessés, mais il était le plus gravement atteint: il mourut en arrivant dans le petit port, des suites de ses brûlures.

Le soir, j'appris que les autorités allemandes avaient l'intention de l'inhumer dans le cimetière de Landeda. Je me présentai devant le capitaine allemand pour lui demander la permission de réciter les dernières prières de l'Eglise sur les dépouilles de votre fils. Le capitaine ne voulut pas me recevoir et me fit déclarer que ce n'était possible de rendre les dernières honneurs religieux à ce brave. - J'exprimerai alors mon étonnement et je chargerai l'interprète de faire savoir au capitaine que je protestais au nom de la famille de la victime et en mon nom personnel.

Le corps de votre fils fut alors enterré le lendemain 30 avril le matin vers 10 heures. Et le lendemain 1 mai je célébrai la messe pour le repos de son âme. A cette messe assistèrent plusieurs personnes du quartier de l'Abervrach - particulièrement la famille du Docteur Mignard qui prit à cœur l'entretien de la tombe de votre fils.

Et depuis cette date beaucoup de personnes vont pieusement s'agenouiller sur la tombe de John MacNeil, la *plumier* et sans doute elles songent à prier Dieu d'adoucir la douleur de sa mère.

En terminant je vous prie madame d'agréer l'expression de mon respect et de garder ~~la~~ l'assurance que la tombe de votre fils sera entourée des soins les plus pieux jusqu'au que les autorités alliées fassent le nécessaire pour vous rendre les restes de votre fils .

sgd F. SALIOU

Abbe Saliou

recteur de la paroisse de Landeda Finistère France

TRANSLATION
MB/JLa
14-11-45

MIN.(N)

Landéda, Finistère, France,
October 19, 1945.

Mr. Falhun Aimé, dealer,
Landéda.

V-59518
1216562

To The Honourable
The Minister of National Defence
for Naval Services,
Ottawa.

Mr. Minister:

I have the honour to advise you that a Canadian seaman has been buried in the local cemetery by the German Occupation Forces. This seaman is a casualty of one of your war ships, the "ALTABASKA," that was sunk in a naval engagement not far from the coast of Brittany.. The Germans have left no papers, just the following inscription on the cross:

John McNeil, Cogre Buiton, Olsland, Kanada.

I was sure that with this address I would succeed in tracing the family; so, I wrote but the letter was returned to me yesterday. That is why I have decided to send this information to you personally, in the hope that some day the family of John McNeil may have the pleasure of knowing where this seaman is buried. The grave is very well kept and covered with flowers and will always be looked after. I am almost a Canadian myself, having lived 20 years in your beautiful country and having retained most pleasant memories of it. I would be very pleased to communicate with the McNeil family some day and I could send them a few pictures of the grave.

Hoping that this will be possible with your kind co-operation and looking forward to your reply, I beg to remain,

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) Falhun.

Mr. Falhun Aimé
Dealer, Finistère
Landéda, France.

*Departmental
reply*

EXTRACT FROM GERMAN OFFICIAL TOTENLISTE 219

28

Registered No.	Nationality	Name	Next of Kin Address	Rank	Wounds, Injuries, etc., remarks.
116	England	McNeil John	Cogre-Bueton In Olsland Canada	Sold	Body recovered from sea 29.4.44. Buried 29.4.44. French Cemetery Landeda, Square No. 12, Plot No.18.

DECEASED 29 April 1944

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

NAVY

D.D.
WAR SERVICE RECORDS

MCNEIL	John James	V-59518	Sto. 2	FILE No.
SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS)	CHRISTIAN NAMES	REG. No.	RANK ON DISCHARGE	C.A.S.F. UNIT

WAR SERVICE

BADGE

(CLASS) No. DATE DESPACHED:

ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN MEDALS	REGISTRATION NUMBER AN DATE DESPACHED
1939-45 Star	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	
	650

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

HMCS "ATHABASKAN" Feb. /45. R.C.N.V.R.
MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS
PERSON
ENTITLED TO Mr. Lawrence McNeil - Father

ADDRESS: House 1047,
New Victoria, N.S.

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS
WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS
MOTHER Mrs. Katherine McNeil

ADDRESS: House 1047 - NEW VICTORIA,
Cape Breton, N.S.

MEMORIAL BAR

(1)

DATE DESP

REGN. NO. 1047

(2)

(3) 14 September 1944