



# ATTESTATION FORM

123-D-338

## FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL RESERVE **71361**

SURNAME DEVINS OFFICIAL No. A.5544

CHRISTIAN NAMES James Edward MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| PERMANENT ADDRESS                       | RELIGION |
| 322 Talbot Street, Port Arthur, Ontario | R. C.    |

|                     |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| DATE OF BIRTH       | PLACE OF BIRTH                                 | NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN  |
| 14th September 1916 | Town Port Arthur<br>County<br>Province Ontario | Mother:<br>Mrs. Kathleen Devins,<br>322 Talbot Street,<br>Port Arthur, Ontario |

### PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

| HEIGHT          | CHEST MEASUREMENT    | HAIR  | EYES | COM-<br>PLEXION | WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS                 |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feet.....5..... | Inflated.....36..... | light |      |                 |                                      |
| Inches...6..... | Deflated.....34..... | brown | blue | Medium          | 1" "Z" scar on left fore-<br>finger. |
|                 | Mean.....35.....     |       |      |                 |                                      |

|                   |                      |                        |   |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| DATE OF ENROLMENT | RATING ENROLLING FOR | ENTERED IN PAY LEDGERS | TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY  |
| 2nd July 1942     | Stoker               | H. M. C. S. "BYTOWN"   | Moulders Helper:<br>Port Arthur Shipbuilding Co. Ltd.,<br>Port Arthur, Ontario. |
|                   |                      | FAIR                   |   |
|                   |                      | ROUGH                  |   |

### (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 Reserve, and that I accept and agree to abide by the rules of the said Force.
- (3) (a) ~~That it is my intention to follow the sea for a period of at least five years from this date.~~
- (b) That it is my intention to follow the calling of a Fireman, either at sea or on shore, for a period of ~~five years from this date.~~ of hostilities.
- (c) ~~That it is my intention to follow the sea in an Engineer's capacity for a period of five years from this date.~~

NOTE.—Candidates for enrolment as *Seaman* are to cross out clauses (b) and (c) above.

Candidates for enrolment as *Stoker* are to cross out clauses (a) and (c) above.

Candidates for enrolment as *E.R.A.* are to cross out clauses (a), (b) and (c) above.

Candidates for enrolment as *Engineman* are to cross out clauses (a) and (b) above.

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Person el Records     | .....   |
| 1. Noted in Rec. Card | .....   |
| 2. Photo Card         | .....   |
| 3. Non Sub. Card      | .....   |
| 4. Statistical Card   | .....   |
| 5. R. neo Strip       | .....   |
| 6. Pension Card       | .....   |
| 7. ....               | .....   |
| 8. ....               | .....   |
| DATE                  | 23-7-42 |

(4) That I have never been rejected from any of His Majesty's Forces on account of unfitness.

\*Cross out clause not applicable.

(5) 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.

| Served in | Rank | From | To |
|-----------|------|------|----|
|           |      |      |    |

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

(7) On being enrolled as a member of the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, I undertake and bind myself:—

- (a) To serve from the date thereof for ~~five consecutive years~~ <sup>hostilities</sup>, 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 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 Registrar 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.

(8) I am willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated as considered necessary by the appropriate authorities.

Dated this ..... 2nd day of ..... July 1942.

*James Devins*  
(Signature of Applicant)

(C) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, James Edward DEVINS ..... do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Britannic Majesty.

Signature of Applicant *Jim Devins*

Witness *F. W. Anderson*

Date ..... 2nd July 1942 ..... Rank *Sub Lieut V.R.*

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

(D) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICIAL

I hereby certify that all the foregoing statements were made by the man above named, in my presence, and that he has made and signed the above declaration and has taken the oath of

allegiance in my presence this ..... 2nd ..... day of ..... July 1942.

*F. W. Anderson R/R V.R.*  
(Signature of Officer and rank)

NOTE.—When this form has been completed it is to be forwarded to Naval Service Headquarters, Ottawa, for custody.

CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

*James Edward DEVINS*  
I.C.N.S. #65876  
in the Royal Canadian Naval ~~Volunteer~~ Reserve

|   |                                       |                                |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Training Headquarters<br><i>Esquimalt</i> | R.C.N.V.R. Division<br><i>Griffon</i> | Official Number <i>A. 5544</i> |
|   |                                       | "                              |
|   |                                       | "                              |

Date of Birth *14th September 1916*

Place of Birth *Port Arthur, Ontario*

Place of Residence *322 Talbot St. Port Arthur Ont.*

Trade brought up to *Moulder's Helper (steel)*

Religion *Roman Catholic*

Can Swim:—P.P. *(FAIR)* Date *21st September 1942* Signature *[Signature]* Rank *for CO*

P.S.T. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil)  
*Wife: Teresa Devins  
38 Queen St.  
Halifax, N.S.*

| PARTICULARS OF SERVICE      |                                   |                            |                                     | MEDALS, DECORATIONS, etc. |              |                                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Date of Actual Volunteering | Date of Enrolment or re-enrolment | Period Volunteered for     | Rating on Enrolment or Re-enrolment | Date of                   |              | Nature of Decoration               |
|                             |                                   |                            |                                     | Award                     | Presentation |                                    |
|                             | <i>2 July '42</i>                 | <i>Durston Hostilities</i> | <i>1st Lt</i>                       | <i>15 April 45</i>        |              | <i>Personally awarded C.U.S.M.</i> |
|                             |                                   |                            |                                     |                           |              |                                    |
|                             |                                   |                            |                                     |                           |              |                                    |
|                             |                                   |                            |                                     |                           |              |                                    |

| PERSONAL DESCRIPTION              |          |          |              |            |                    |             |             |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                   | Height   |          | Chest (mean) | Weight     | Hair               | Eyes        | Complexion  | MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS                |
|                                   | Feet     | Inches   |              |            |                    |             |             |                                     |
| On Entry                          | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>35</i>    | <i>140</i> | <i>light brown</i> | <i>blue</i> | <i>med.</i> | <i>1" Z scar on left forefinger</i> |
| On re-enrolment—6 years' Service  |          |          |              |            |                    |             |             |                                     |
| On re-enrolment—12 years' Service |          |          |              |            |                    |             |             |                                     |
| Further Description if necessary  |          |          |              |            |                    |             |             |                                     |

| TRANSFER BETWEEN DIVISIONS |    |      | TRANSFER—LISTS A AND B |      |           |
|----------------------------|----|------|------------------------|------|-----------|
| From                       | To | Date | List                   | Date | Authority |
|                            |    |      |                        |      |           |
|                            |    |      |                        |      |           |
|                            |    |      |                        |      |           |







A 5544

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME DEVINS  
(Surname)

James Edward  
(Given Names)

P.L.B.

OFFICIAL NUMBER

A 5544

| 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 |
| D/S HMCS Griffon | Stoker 1 | 21   | 7     | 42   |  | V.G.      | Sat.       | 31   | 12    | 42   |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Naden            | "        | 13   | 9     | 42   | E.D.O. 1725  | V.G.      | Sat.       | 31   | 12    | 43   |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Givenchy         | "        | 9    | 12    | 42   |  | V.G.      | SAT        | 31   | 11    | 44   |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Stadacona        | "        | 7    | 2     | 43   | DRD 526  | V.G.      | Supr.      | 16   | 4     | 45   |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Cornwallis       | "        | 12   | 2     | 43   | DRD H 689  |           |            |      |       |      |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Stadacona        | "        | 25   | 2     | 43   | DRD H 781  |           |            |      |       |      |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Esquimalt        | "        | 14   | 3     | 43   | DRD H 916  |           |            |      |       |      |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Avalon           | "        | 29   | 3     | 43   |  |           |            |      |       |      |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| Esquimalt        | "        |      |       |      |  |           |            |      |       |      |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |
| DISCHARGED       | "        | 16   | 4     | 45   | "Missing" "Presumed Dead"<br><i>Casualty List S.C.</i> |           |            |      |       |      |                 |           |       |      |              |       |      |

GENERAL REMARKS  
Address on Discharge: 38 Quinne St.,  
Halifax, N.S.

Canadian Memorial Cross awarded to Mother: Mrs. Catherine Devins  
322 Talbot St., Port Arthur, Ont.  
Canadian Memorial Cross awarded to Wife: Mrs. Teresi Devins,  
170 Machar Ave., Port Arthur, Ont.

|               |    |    |                 |     |       |                 |         |                 |      |              |                            |    |              |
|---------------|----|----|-----------------|-----|-------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|------|--------------|----------------------------|----|--------------|
| DATE OF BIRTH |    |    | PLACE           |     | CIVIL | OCCU.           | RELIED. | PERM. RESIDENCE | AREA | ENL.         | RANK OR RATE OR ENLISTMENT |    |              |
| 14            | 9  | 16 | 11              | 900 | 0     | 10              | 2       | 1               | 1    | 03           | 0                          | 10 | 0/15/94      |
| ENLIST. DATE  |    |    | ACT. SERV. DATE |     | STR.  | ACT. SERV. DATE |         | SHIP            | OR   | RANK OR RATE |                            |    |              |
| 02            | 07 | 42 | 02              | 07  | 42    |                 |         |                 |      |              |                            |    | 3200 0/15/94 |
| STR.          |    |    | NON-SUB         | M   | CODED |                 | CHECKED |                 |      |              |                            |    |              |
| 02            | 07 | 42 | 13              | 00  | 00    |                 |         |                 |      |              |                            |    | 23           |

EB

A 5544

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

123-D-338

OFFICIAL NUMBER

A 5544

NAME **DEVINS** (Surname) **James Edward** (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH **14 September, 1916.**PLACE OF BIRTH **Port Arthur, Ontario.** OCCUPATION **Moulders Helper: Port Arthur Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.**RELIGION **Roman Catholic** EDUCATIONRESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. **322 Talbot Street,** Town **Port Arthur,** Province, etc. **Ontario.**

| Date (in figures) |       |      | Period           | Height | Hair    | Eyes | Complexion | Marks or Scars                | PREVIOUS SERVICE |                |       |  |
|-------------------|-------|------|------------------|--------|---------|------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------|--|
| Day               | Month | Year |                  |        |         |      |            |                               | Served in        | Rank or Rating | Dates |  |
|                   |       |      |                  |        |         |      |            |                               |                  | From           | To    |  |
| 2                 | 7     | 42   | Hostilities Only | 5' 6"  | L. Brn. | Blue | Medium     | 1" Z scar on lt. fore finger. | --nil--          |                |       |  |

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) *Wife* NAME (in pencil) *Mrs. Teresa Devins*ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. *170 Mackay Ave.* Town *Port Arthur* Province, etc. *Ont*

| Date (in figures) |       |      | Particulars | Date (in figures) |       |      | Particulars       | Date (in figures) |       |      | PARTICULARS |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------------|-------------------|-------|------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|------|-------------|
| Day               | Month | Year |             | Day               | Month | Year |                   | Day               | Month | Year |             |
|                   |       |      |             | 21                | 9     | 42   | P.P.T. "Fair"     |                   |       |      |             |
|                   |       |      |             | 24                | 9     | 42   | Qual. A/G 2 days. |                   |       |      |             |

| 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.** *WAR 4586-1-*  
**DATE**

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From

To

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

O.H.F. Received  
Has Ins. Book:

**W.S.G.**  
APPLICATION  
1284  
RECEIVED 10/6/45



Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

44

### REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

H.M.C.S. ESQUILD at Sea

Name DEVINE, James Edward  
(Christian names in full)

Rank of Rating Stoker 1 Official No. A 2544 R.C.N.R.  
(If unknown, date of first entry)

Place of Birth Port Arthur, Ontario Date of Birth 14th September, 1916

Occupation in Civil Life Welder's helper 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) 2nd July, 1942 - 16th April, 1945

Date of Death 16th April, 1945 Place of Death At Sea

Cause of Death Foot at sea - enemy action  
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend { Name Mrs. Theresa Devine Relationship Wife  
Address 35 Galt Street,  
Halifax, N. S.

Date on which the above was informed by Ship Not known

Date on which death was registered with local Officials not known

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 ..... Date of Burial .....  
(if known) (if known)

Location, Number, etc., of grave .....  
(if known)

Undertaker employed .....  
(if any)

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

*H. Pagan*  
Commanding Officer,

28th May 1945

The NAVAL SECRETARY,  
Department of National Defence,  
Ottawa, Canada.

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.

C.N.S. 1121  
15M-7-40 (5849)  
N.S. 815-9-1121

NOTED  
ESTATES CARD  
JUN 25 1945  
D.N.P.A. SECT. 11  
*E.L.*

LA/CM

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL 31

N.S. A-5544, PERS.(N)

20 April, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Devins:

It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 18th of April, 1945, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your husband, James Edward Devins, Stoker First Class, Official Number A-5544, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, is missing at sea due to enemy action.

From information available, little hope can be held for his survival and there is no possibility of his having been taken prisoner. For security reasons, this is the only information which can be released at this time.

Should no information be received to the contrary, an official presumption of his death will be made at a later date, when you will be informed. Please be assured, however, that as soon as any further news is received or more details can be released, you will be informed immediately.

It is requested that you will regard the name of the ship in which Stoker Devins was serving, together with the fact that she has been in contact with the enemy, as secret until an official announcement is made.

The above information was forwarded to you at 170 Machar Avenue, Port Arthur, Ontario, on the 19th of April, 1945, before your new address was known in the Department.

Please allow me to express the sincere sympathy of the Department with you in your anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

  
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Teresa Devins,  
38 Quinne Street,  
HALIFAX, N.S.



Department of National Defence

Naval Service

REGISTERED

**AIR MAIL**

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

NO. ....

Ottawa, Canada, 7 May, 1945. 47

Dear Mrs. Devins:

Further to my letter of the 20th of April, 1945, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your husband, James Edward Devins, Stoker First Class, Official Number A-5544, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, was reported missing from H.M.C.S. "ESQUIMALT", the ship in which he was serving, the fact that all circumstances surrounding his loss have been carefully reviewed, and as no news has since been received to the contrary, the Canadian Naval Authorities have now presumed his death to have occurred on the 16th of April, 1945.

H.M.C.S. "ESQUIMALT", a Royal Canadian Navy minesweeper, was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine while on operational duty off the east coast of Canada. One Officer and fifteen ratings were killed at the time of the disaster, four Officers and twenty-four ratings are missing and now presumed dead, while two Officers and twenty-four ratings survived the sinking.

The above information is now being released for publication.

The following is an excerpt from the report of a Canadian Naval Press Relations Officer who was in contact with survivors of the ill-fated ship.

"Struck by a torpedo on the starboard side, H.M.C.S. "ESQUIMALT" listed heavily, and sank stern first in a few minutes. The ship's list had the seaboard under water and flooded before it could be released from the davits, but carley floats were freed quickly before the ship went down, and those who escaped from the ship gathered on four of these floats.

"It was from the four floats that a sister Bangor minesweeper, H.M.C.S. "SARNIA", picked up the survivors nearly six hours later. Many who had reached the floats safely had died of exposure on the floats, from the soaking in the cold sea water, and sixteen bodies were taken aboard the rescue craft.

"In spite of the rapidity with which the ship heeled over and slid under the surface there was no panic or confusion", a surviving Officer reported. Everyone he had seen had been calmly and quickly abandoning ship.

"Many men had died in the floats, and their bodies were brought aboard H.M.C.S. "SARNIA" with the survivors.

"Artificial respiration was given to some of the unconscious men for hours after they were picked up, but only two men were revived."

→ Please allow me to express sincere sympathy with you in your bereavement on behalf 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 husband has helped to maintain.

Yours sincerely,

*L.G. Feeroys*  
Deputy SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Teresa Devins,  
38 Quinne Street,  
D. 11a HALIFAX, N.S.

D OF D 16-4-45  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(278427)

**(NAVY)**  
**AWARDS**

D.D.  
WAR SERVICE RECORDS

|                            |                 |          |                   |               |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|---------------|
| DEVINS                     | James Edward    | A-5544   | Sto. 1            | FILE No.      |
| SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS) | CHRISTIAN NAMES | REG. No. | RANK ON DISCHARGE | C.A.S.F. UNIT |



WAR SERVICE

BADGE

(CLASS) No. DATE DESPATCHED:

ADDRESS:

| CAMPAIGN MEDALS  | REGISTRATION NUMBER AN DATE DESPATCHED |
|------------------|--|
| 1939-45 Star     | MAY 29 1989<br>MAY 29 1989             |
| Atlantic Star    |  |
| C.V.S.M. & Clasp |  |
| War Medal        |  |
|                  | 788                                    |

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

3/15/89

RCNR Oct. 45 "ESQUIMALT"

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION NO. DATE OF DISPATCH

(1) MEDALS  
PERSON

ENTITLED TO Mrs. Teresa Devins - Widow

ADDRESS: ~~38 Quinne St.,~~ 170 Macher Ave.  
~~HALIFAX, N.S.~~ PORT ARTHUR, Ont.  
10-11-48

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW Mrs. Teresa Devins

ADDRESS: 170 Macher Ave., Port Arthur, Ont.

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER Mrs. C. Devins

ADDRESS: 322 Talbot St., Port Arthur, Ont.

(1)

MEMORIAL B. R.

DATE DESP

REGN. NO.

904

28-6-45

(3)

18-7-45