

P 75466

N. V. 5 15M-2-40 (4047) N.S. 815-11-5 NATIONAL DEFENCE

JUN 16 1941 N.S. 4309 95-9

### **ATTESTATION FORM**

HOSTILITIES FORM

CHRISTIAN NAI	mesByr	on Ross		MARI	RIED, SINGLE	FICIAL NO. V14857 Tor WIDOWER Single			
	PI	ERMANENT ADD	RESS		uta da julia	RELIGION			
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DATE	OF BIRTH	P	LACE OF BIR	RTH	NAME AN	E AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN			
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Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, I undertake and bind myself: or duration of hostilities (a) To serve from the date thereof for three consecutive years, 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. Dated this \_\_\_\_l0th \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_June., 1941... Signature of applicant...... (C) CERTIFICATE OF DIVISIONAL COMMANDING 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.......10th...... day of June, 1941 Signature of Commanding Officer. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE (D) I, Byron Ross Downie 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...... Witness Lieutenant, RCNVR Date 10th June 1941 The Oath of Allegiance may be administered by a Commissioned Officer of the Naval Service. CERTIFICATE OF DIVISIONAL COMMANDING OFFICER (E) Byron Ross Downie 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

Fer Commanding Officer.

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.



TRUE COPY V-14857

OF THE

### CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Tra	aining Headquarte	ers			R.C.N	N.V.R. Divis	ion		Officia	al Number V-14857
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VERIFICATION FORM
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L GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL (1915). RATING ... A. L. L. L. OFF. NO. ... V. - 14857 ... ADDRESS .... QUALIFYING PERIODS IN DAYS 1939-45 ATLANTIC DEFENCE CLASP 1915 C.V.S.M. MEDAL ELIGIBLE STARS 2 FOR AWARDS OF FROM MEDALS 1939-45 Itar ATLANTIC FRANCE G. tui AFRICA PACIFIC BURMA ITALY DEFENCE 2 @ class C.V.S.M. " CLASP WAR 1945 medal WAR 1915 VERIFIED BY Parkis. BY ..... DIR. OF PERSONNEL RECORDS.

DOWNIE, Byron Ross

O.N. V-14857

TO

PRESENT RANK/RATING: A/Ldg.Tel.

DATE TAKEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE: 12-6-41

SERVICE

SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT	FROM
Vancouver Div.Str.	10-6-41
Duty Div. Hdqtrs.	12-6-41
Naden	13-8-41
Moresby	13-5-42
Givenchy	29-9-43
Massett W/T	5-10-43
Chatham	30-11-43
Cornwallis	21-3-44
St. Hyacinthe	
Stadacona	6-7-44
Avalon	20-7-44
Esquimalt	27-7-44

(WILL); No. NAME & ADDRESS. OF NEXT OF KIN:

Mother:

Mrs. Jessie Downie, 1205 Beach Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

HAS DISCHARGE FOR ANY REASON BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED? No.

REASON:

DATE:

INITIALIZED M.B.

DATE 20/4/45 SECTION: X.C.Y. U.S.

23

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

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	posmis. Bryan	Ross		
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	) or Reserve ratings)	Place o	A	t Sea
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Cause of Death.		violence, or enemy actio		stated briefly)
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Distribution: File, Imp. W. G. Com., Dom. Stat., Register.

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

7 May, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Downie:

Further to my letter of the 19th of April, 1945, I am passing on the following particulars regarding the loss of H.M.C.S. "ESQUIMALT", the ship in which your son was serving. This information is now being released for publication.

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 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 seaboat 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."

May I again express the sincere sympathy of the Department with you in your bereavement.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Jessie Downie, 1205 Beach Ave., VANCOUVER, B.C.

a simple

Despatched by Sec. N. B.

Date 8/5 /45

DIRECT RATE OF OF RECORD

FILE NO.: N.S. V-14857 PERS. (N)

19 April, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Downie:

It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 17th of April, 1945, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your son, Byron Ross Downie, Leading Telegraphist, Official Number V-14857, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, has been killed in action.

For security reasons, the only information which may be released at this time is that your son's death was due to enemy action.

As you are aware, his body was recovered and, in accordance with your wishes, is being sent, at public expense, to Vancouver, B. C. You will be informed of the date and time of arrival by the Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. "BURRARD", Vancouver, B.C., who will be pleased to assist you in making any necessary arrangements for the funeral. The Protestant Chaplain, Rev. J. L. L. Graham, Royal Canadian Navy, who has already contacted you, is also available should you require any further assistance.

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

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 son has helped to maintain.

Yours sincerely,

SECRETARY, WAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Jessie Downie, 1205 Beach Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

C	EP	ARTM	ENT	OF VE	TEFANS	AFFA	IRS
	D	OF I	) 1	6-4-	45		

AWARDS NAVY DEHO-494- Bir SERVICE RECORDS

D.D.

DOWNIE	Byron	Ross	V-14857	Ldg/. Tel	FILE No.
SURNAME (IN BLOCK LET	TERS)	CHRISTIAN NAMES	REG. No.	RANK ON DISCHARGE	C.A.S.F. UNIT

BADGE CLASS

No. Nil

DATE DESPATCHED:

ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN MEDALS	
1939-45 Star	
Atlantic Star	80
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	
-	-
- Company of the Comp	

REGISTRATION NUMBER AND DATE DESPATCHED

20.



(THE REV. \_\_ IN BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

(1) MEDALS PERSON ENTITLED	No Later Add  TO Mr. Malcolm Downie - Father	MEMORIAL BAR
ADDRESS:  (2) MEMORIA  WIDOW	1205 Beach Ave., VANCOUVER, B.C.	DATE DESP REGN. NO.
ADDRESS:  (3) MEMORIA  MOTHER		(2)
ADDRESS:	1205 Beach Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.	28-6-45

N.S. V-14857, PERS. (N)

16 June, 1945.

Sir:

With reference to Report of Death respecting the late Byron Ross Downie, Leading Telegraphist, Official Number V-14857, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, forwarded on the 30th of May, 1945, the following information has now been received respecting his burial:

Name of Cemetery: Mountain View

Date of Burial: April 26th, 1945.

Location of Grave: 3 - 19 - 7

Undertaker: T. Edwards & Co.

Yours truly,

JIG/6 P.

HALLEY

The Secretary, The Imperial War Graves Commission, 312 Transportation Building, OTTAWA, Ontario.