

Approval:- N.S. 62-21-4 "K"

CS CL. ICNS 64320 7967

H. M. C. S.

F.D. 152 "NA DEN"

22/10/40

OFFICIAL No. IF KNOWN Space to be left vacant if not known

B. 4004

**CONTINUOUS SERVICE ENGAGEMENT, OR RE-ENGAGEMENT**

To be forwarded to the Naval Secretary, Department of National Defence, with Form S. 59

CHRISTIAN AND SURNAME IN FULL		NEXT OF KIN	PRESENT RATING
John Chesworth KNOWLES.		Name: Mrs. Anne (Mother) Address: 1385 Vista Heights, Victoria, B.C.	Boy Seaman
DATE OF BIRTH*	PLACE OF BIRTH†		NAME, RANK AND STATION OF RECRUITING OFFICER
15th September, 1923	Town: Victoria, County: Province: B.C.	W. B. Holms, COMMANDER, R.C.N. Barracks, Esquimalt, B.C.	

Personal Description at the Date of this Document

Height	Chest	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	WOUNDS, SCARS OR MARKS	Religious Denomination	TRADE OR OCCUPATION
5' 7 1/2"	36 1/2" 33 1/2" 34 1/2"	Red.	Blue	Fresh	Tattoo on left forearm	C. of E.	Stenciler.

Commencing date of Engagement or Re-engagement	15th September 1941	Period of Engagement or Re-engagement	Seven Years.
Date of actually volunteering to engage or re-engage	18th November, 1940	Date of entering present ship	18th November, 1940.

Particulars of former Continuous Service Engagements, if any; but, if none, and the person engaging has had previous Service, the date of his First Entry should be given. If the person has not previously served, write the words "First Entry" here.  
If an Engagement is ante-dated for any period, the man's services for such period should be forwarded in to office, with the Engagement, on Form S.-1243.

First Entry.

Declaration of Entry or Re-Entry from Shore for Continuous Service

The following questions are to be put by the Commanding Officer to the person about to engage for Continuous Service, whose answers are to be recorded hereon:—

- Are the particulars given above of your name and date and place of birth correct? **Yes.**
- Are you a British subject? **Yes.**
- Nationality of Parents—Father **English** Mother **English.**
- Have you ever served in the Navy, Royal Fleet Reserve, Royal Naval Reserve, Army, Army Reserve, Marines, Militia, Volunteers (Naval or Military), Territorial Force, or in His Majesty's Indian or Colonial Military Forces, or in the R. C. Mounted Police? **No.**
- Do you now belong to the Militia, Volunteers (Naval or Military), Territorial Force or any Regiment or Corps in His Majesty's Army, or to any established Naval or Army Reserve Force, or to the R. C. Mounted Police? **No.**
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's service, or discharged from it on that account? If so, state reason of rejection or discharge, and date. **No.**
- Have you ever been discharged from the Navy, Marines, Army or R. C. Mounted Police on account of misconduct? **No.**
- Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? **Yes.**
- Can you swim? **No.**

\* When evidence of age is obtained on First Entry, it should be attached to this Form.  
† Foreigners are not to be entered. On the entry of a person born out of the British Empire, it should be ascertained that he is (and in the case of a boy, that his father is) a British Subject, and evidence of the fact should be attached to the "Entry Papers."  
‡ Particulars of service in the Army, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marines, Militia, or H. M. Indian or Colonial Military Forces, or in the Merchant Service should be forwarded in to office with this Engagement. If a member of the Royal Fleet Reserve, the man's Registrar is to be immediately informed of his entry (Royal Fleet Reserve Instructions). If an R. N. R. man, state number of R.V. 2.

(OVER)



I.—Declaration and Certificate for Men newly entered and Men who have been out of the Service since the expiration of their previous C. S. Engagement

I,....., do solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the answers to the questions overleaf are true, and I do hereby agree to serve honestly and faithfully in the Naval Service of Canada\*..... from†..... 19....., provided my service should be so long required. And I do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty. As witness my hand this..... day of..... 19.....

..... Man's Signature in full  
Witness to Signature.....

Attested before me this..... day of..... 19.....

..... { Signature of a Commissioned Officer of the Naval Service

Date..... 19.....

This is to certify that we have examined the person named on the other side hereof as to his fitness for the Naval Service of Canada, and we find as follows:—He is of perfectly sound and healthy constitution, free from all physical malformation, active and intelligent; and we consider him in all respects fit for His Majesty's Service.

..... Commanding Officer  
..... Medical Officer

II.—Certificate and Declaration for Boys

Date..... 19th November..... 19..... 40

This is to certify that we have examined the boy named on the other side hereof as to his fitness for the Naval Service of Canada, and we find as follows:—He is a well grown, stout, intelligent lad, of perfectly sound and healthy constitution, and free from all physical malformation, and we consider him in all respects fit for His Majesty's Service.

The consent of his parents or guardian has been obtained in writing, and they are willing and desirous that the boy should be entered for..... the term of seven..... years' continuous and general service from the age of 18, in addition to whatever period may be necessary till he attains that age

*W. B. ...*  
*R. Bourke*  
*W. J. ...*

..... COMMANDER..... Commanding Officer

..... LIEUT. COMMANDER..... Lieutenant

..... SURG. COMMANDER..... Medical Officer

I declare that to the best of my knowledge or belief the answers to the questions on the other side of this form are true and that I am not indentured as an apprentice.

I am willing to enter and serve in the Naval Service of Canada for..... the term of seven..... years' continuous and general service from the age of 18, provided my service should be so long required; in addition to whatever period may be necessary till I attain that age. And I do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty.

*John Chestoorth Knowles*  
*Jas Hill*  
*R. Bourke*

..... Boy's Signature in full

Witness to Signature.....

Attested before me this..... 19th..... day of..... November..... 19..... 40

..... Lieut. Commander. { Signature of a Commissioned Officer of the Naval Service

III.—Re-engagement for Continuous Service

To be executed by men who have not been out of the Service since the expiration of their first engagement

The particulars indicated on the other side are also required when this Form is used.

I,....., now serving as a..... on board H. M. C. S....., who on the..... of..... 19.....

engaged to serve in the Naval Service of Canada for a period of §..... years, do hereby engage to serve for a further period\*\*..... from†..... 19..... provided my services should be so long required.

..... Man's Signature in full

..... 19.....

Witness..... Commanding Officer

\* Insert "for the term of (number in words) years," or "to complete (number) years for pension" or "until I attain the age of..... years."  
† Insert the date from which the engagement actually commences.  
‡ The document conveying the consent to be attached to this paper. (N.B.—Not required in the case of youths over 17 years of age.)  
§ To be written in words.  
\*\* Insert as follows:—"Of (number) years," or "to complete time for pension," or "until I attain the age of..... years," as the case may be.  
†† Insert the date of commencement of the re-engagement, which must either be coincident with, or (when the re-engagement is ante-dated) earlier than the date of execution.





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 Chesworth KNOWLES*  
IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY I.C.N.S. ~~86320~~ ~~7762~~ *4004*

*Esquimalt*

Official Number.....*4004*

Date of birth <i>15<sup>th</sup> September 1923</i>	Nearest known Relative or Friend (To be noted in pencil)
Where born { Province <i>British Columbia</i> Town or county <i>Victoria</i>	Name: <i>Etta Knowles</i>
Trade brought up to <i>Stenciler</i>	Relationship: <i>Wife</i>
Religious denomination <i>Church of England.</i>	Address: <i>574 Victoria Rd. Sydney, N.S. 23-3-45</i>
Date passed swimming test	
Man's signature on discharge to pension }	

#### 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
<i>18 Nov. 40</i>	<i>15 Sep. 41</i>	<i>Seven years.</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
<i>15 April '45</i>	<i>Personally awarded C.V.S.M. and clasp 1939-43 Star</i>		
<i>15 April '45</i>	<i>Personal award.</i>		

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>7 1/2</i>	<i>34 1/2</i>	<i>Red</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>Tattoo on left forearm.</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.....							















4004

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

62-K.153

OFFICIAL NUMBER 4004

NAME KNOWLES (Surname) JOHN CHESWORTH (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 15th September, 1923PLACE OF BIRTH VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA OCCUPATION STENCILERRELIGION CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION attended Grade 9RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 1385 Seaview Ave. Town Victoria Province, etc. B.C.

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
18	11	40	as Boy Smn.									
15	9	41	Seven Years	5' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Red	Blue	Fresh	Tatoo on left forearm.				

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Wife NAME (in pencil) Mrs. C. H. KnowlesADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 574 Victoria Rd. Town Victoria Province, etc. B.C.

MEDALS, CLASPS, HURT CERTIFICATES, PRIZE MONEY				EXAMINATIONS, CERTIFICATES, ETC.							
Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			PARTICULARS
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
19	12	41	Prov. awarded 1939-43	8	3	42	Qual. "Tr"				
			tar	22	10	42	Passed advanced course in Fire-Fighting.				
				9	3	43	Passed Prof. for Ldg. Smn.				
				11	9	44	Passed Prof. for P.O.				

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		
15	9	44	1st	Granted							

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

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From To

O.H.F. Received





4004

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME (Surname)

KNOWLES

(Given Names)

JOHN CHESWORTH

OFFICIAL NUMBER

4004

P 1 B

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
HMCS. NADEN	Boy Smn.	18	11	40		V.G.	Sat.	4	7	41	A/S.D.	15	11	41			
" PRINCE ROBERT	" "	6	5	41							(R) S.D.	28	3	42			
	Ord. Smn.	5	7	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	42							
" Naden	" "	4	10	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	43							
" Outarde	" "	5	12	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	44							
" Naden	" "	13	2	42													
	Able Smn.	5	4	42													
New Westminster	"	21	4	42	84953												
" Canso	"	4	7	42	71035												
" Naden	"	17	7	42	N 54/421												
" Stadacona	"	29	7	42	DRD												
" Renard	"	9	8	42	M 5329 3114												
" Stadacona	"	18	8	42	DRD												
" Niobe-Iroquois	"	26	9	42	DRD 7415 11/10/42												
	A/Ldg. Smn. (Ty)	15	3	43	DRD												
" Niobe	"	25	4	43	DRD - 122												
" Osprey	"	6	5	43	DRD 132												
" Niobe	"	21	6	43	DRD 179												
" Iroquois	"	3	8	43	DRD 220												
	Ldg. Smn. (Ty)	15	3	44	Confirmed												
Stadacona	"	18	5	44	DRD 159 113												
Red Deer	"	3	7	44	DRD 143 130												
Avalon.	"	6	10	44	DRD 280 112												
	A/P.O. (Ty)	1	10	44	DRD												
Peregrine	"	2	2	45													
Avalon	"	22	1	45	DRD 37 30												
Stadacona	"	3	2	45	DRD 5 30 43												
Scotian	"	3	2	45	DRD 1399 13												
Esquimalt	"	12	2	45	DRD 1576 12												
DISCHARGED	"	16	1	45	Missing Presumed dead												

GENERAL REMARKS  
 Canadian Memorial Cross Awarded to  
 Wife:-28.6.45.  
 Mrs Etta Knowles,  
 574 Victoria Road,  
 Whitney Pier, Sydney, N.S. &  
 Mother: Mrs W.H. Knowles,  
 1385 Vista Heights,  
 Victoria, B.C. --28.6.45.

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE BIRTH		CIVIL OCCU.		RELI-ED	PERM. RESIDENCE			PREV. ENL.	RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT		
DY.	MO.	YR.	MAIN	SUB	GION	P.	CTY.	TOWN	SERV.	DIV.	A	BR.	RANK	
15	9	23	18	380	X	30	19	05	10	0	13	0	08	96
ENLIST. DATE			ACT. SERV. DATE			STR.	ACT. SERV. DATE			SHIP OR ESTAB.		RANK OR RATE		
DY.	MO.	YR.	DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	DY.	MO.	YR.	A	BR.	RANK		
18	11	40	18	11	40					1790	1	08	93	
SENIORITY			STR.	NON-SUB		M	CODED			CHECKED				
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.								
15	03	43	13	32	00		9x6			me				



58

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

H.M.C.S. BRUNNABLE at Sea

Name KNOWLES, John Chester  
(Christian names in full)

Rank of Rating P.O. Official No. 4004 R.C.N.  
(If unknown, date of first entry)

Place of Birth Victoria, B.C. Date of Birth 15th Sept., 1903

Occupation in Civil Life Stenographer Religion Church of England

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) 18th Nov., 1940 - 16th April, 1945

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

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

Nearest known relative or friend. { Name Mrs. Kate Knowles Relationship wife  
Address 574 Victoria Rd.,  
Whitney Pier, Sydney, 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 \*\*\* (if known) Date of Burial \*\*\* (if known)

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

Undertaker employed \*\*\* (if any)

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

*[Signature]*  
Commanding Officer,  
.....194.....

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

In all cases this Form is to be sent in addition to the Report by Telegram 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  
MAY 27 1945  
D.N.P.A. SECT. 11  
M. M.O.



7 May, 1945. 43

Dear Mrs. Knowles:

Further to my letter of the 19th of April, 1945, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your husband, John Chesworth Knowles, Petty Officer, Official Number 4004, Royal Canadian Navy, 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 mine-sweeper, 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.E.*  
Deputy SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Etta Knowles,  
574 Victoria Road,  
Whitney Pier,  
SYDNEY, N.S.

Despatched by  
Sec. N. B.

*[Signature]*  
Date 6/5/45  
Time 1200.

*[Signature]*  
pm



DECEASED 16 April 1945

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

NAVY

D.D.  
WAR SERVICE RECORDS

KNOWLES	John Chesworth	N-4004	P.O.	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	7879
Atlantic Star	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)



RCN Nov.46 "ESQUIMALT"

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS  
PERSON Samms (Re-married)  
ENTITLED TO Mrs. Etta Knowles - Widow  
ADDRESS: ~~574 Victoria Rd.,~~ CODROY,  
~~Whitney Pier,~~ Newfoundland.  
SYDNEY, N.S. 13-10-48

(1)

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS  
WIDOW Mrs. E. Knowles  
ADDRESS: CODROY, Nfld

(2)

28 June 1945

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS  
MOTHER Mrs. W. Knowles  
ADDRESS: 1385 Vista Heights  
VICTORIA, B.C. (Issued 28 June 1945)

(3)

MEMORIAL BAR  
DATE DESP  
REGN. NO 42