

V-24028

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



CANADA

DUPLICATE  
DUPLICATA

### ATTESTATION FORM

#### FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME GAIR OFFICIAL NO. 24028  
CHRISTIAN NAMES Alexander Mowat MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS 549 Sherburn Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. RELIGION Presbyterian

DATE OF BIRTH 22 May, 1919 PLACE OF BIRTH Winnipeg, Manitoba. NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN Marjorie Isabella Gair (mother) Same.

#### PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COM- PLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet..... <u>5</u>	Inflated..... <u>37</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Nil.</u>
Inches..... <u>8</u>	Deflated..... <u>32½</u>				
	Mean..... <u>34</u>				

DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING ENROLLING FOR	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY
<u>20th Sept., 1940</u>	<u>Ord.Sea.</u>	<u>Bookkeeper Searle Grain Company.</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.~~ ~~XXX~~

\* Cross out Clause not applicable.

SERVED IN	RANK	FROM	TO

- (c) I have never been rejected 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. (a) That I agree to serve in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve for the duration of hostilities.

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

(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 20th day of September, 1940.

Signature of applicant A. M. Gair

(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 20th day of September, 1940

D. C. Lennor  
for Signature of Commanding Officer.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, Alexander Mowat Gair 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 A. M. Gair

Witness D. C. Lennor

Date 20 Sept., 1940. Rank Lieutenant

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

(E) CERTIFICATE OF DIVISIONAL COMMANDING OFFICER

Alexander Mowat Gair 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 WINNIPEG Division of the R.C.N.V.R.

D. C. Lennor  
for 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.

V24028

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-G-554

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V24028

NAME

CAIR  
(Surname)Alexander Mowat  
(Given Names)

DATE OF BIRTH

22 May 1919

PLACE OF BIRTH Winnipeg Man.

OCCUPATION

Bookkeeper

RELIGION Pres.

EDUCATION

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 549 Sherburn St.

Town

Winnipeg

Province, etc

Man.

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	9	40	H.O.	5'8"	Black	Green	Fair	NIL.				

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil)

Mother

NAME (in pencil)

Mrs. Marguerite Isabelle Cair

ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No.

same

Town

same

Province, etc.

same

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	
17	2	44	C.V.S.M. (R.&C.) (A 10073)	11	40	Passed Educ. Test "one" RCNVR					
17	2	44	1939/43 Star.	22	3	Qual. Sig.					

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		
25	10	43	1st G.C.B.	Granted							

FILM  
NO. 5443-4  
DATE

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT	
From	To

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

Last Will &amp; Testament No. 16527.

O.H.F. Received

Last Will &amp; Test. 2-12-40





N.V. 17  
15M-4-40 (4717)  
N.S. 815-11-17

*Indentification Card # 6613 15/11/40*

CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

Alexander Mowat, G. A. I. R.

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve



Training Headquarters <b>ESQUIMALT</b>	R.C.N.V.R. Division <b>WINNIPEG</b>	Official Number <b>V. 24028</b>
		"
		"

Date of Birth **22nd May, 1919.**

Place of Birth **Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

Place of Residence **549 Sherburn St. Winnipeg, Man.**

Trade brought up to **Bookkeeper.**

Religion **Presbyterian.**

Can Swim:—P.P.T. (Good) Date **12 December 1940** Signature *[Signature]* Rank **St. for C. 27**

P.S.T. Date **11/11/43** Signature *[Signature]* Rank

Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil)  
*Mother (Marjorie Isabelle Gair)*  
*same address*

**O.H.F.**

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	
	<b>20 Sept '40</b>	<b>Hostil.</b>	<b>Ord. Sea.</b>		<b>17 Feb 44</b>	<b>Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp</b>
					<b>17 Feb 44</b>	<b>1939-1943 Star</b>

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION								
	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Nil.</b>
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



# NAVAL TRAINING and ACTIVE SERVICE

Year	SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT	LEDGER		RATING	FROM	TO	CAUSE OF DISCHARGE
		List	No.				



EXAMINATIONS, NOTATIONS, QUALIFICATIONS			RECORD OF RATING		
Date	Particulars	Captain's Signature	Rated	Date	Authority for Advancement or Reason for Disrating to be stated
5 Nov '40	Passed E.T. 1	[Signature]			
23 July '41	Leave granted. Warrant <sup>1178</sup>	[Signature]			
31 May '43	Dual T.O. 1/5	[Signature]			
10 Sep '43	Stand R. 1/3	[Signature]			

23 JULY '41 Furlough Warrant No. 1178  
 15 July '42 S.G.T.W. B24686.

Name Alexander Mowat, G A I R.

Conduct

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT (Inclusive Dates)		CHARACTER, ABILITY IN RATING ON COMPLETION OF TRAINING, DISCHARGE FROM THE SERVICE, AND ANNUALLY, 31st DECEMBER, WHILE MOBILIZED			
From	To	Character	Efficiency in Rating Noting Substantive Rating in Brackets	Date	Captain's Signature
		V.G.	(O <sup>o</sup> Smn) Sat.	2 Dec '40	<i>[Signature]</i>
		V.G.	Sat. (O <sup>o</sup> Smn)	31 Dec '40	<i>[Signature]</i>
		V.G.	Sat (Sig.)	31 Dec '41	<i>[Signature]</i>
		V.G.	Sat (Sig.)	31 Dec '42	<i>[Signature]</i>
		V.G.	Sat. (A/dy Sig.)	31 Dec '43	<i>[Signature]</i>
		V.G.	Sat (Edg Sig)	31 Dec '44	<i>[Signature]</i>
		V.G.	Sat. (1/4y/Seq)	18 Mch '45	<i>[Signature]</i>

R.C.N.V.R. GOOD CONDUCT AND GOOD SERVICE BADGES			
Date	G.S.B. or G.C.B.	1st, 2nd, 3rd	Granted, Deprived, Restored
25 Oct 43	G.C.B.	1st	Granted

TIME FORFEITED			
Date	P., D.C., C.P., or W.T.	No. of Days	
		Awarded	Served





Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

42

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

HEADQUARTERS..... NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, Ottawa, Ont.

Name..... **CAIR**..... **ALEXANDER MOWAT**  
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating..... **Leading Signaller**..... Official No. **V-24028**..... Unit **R.C.N.**  
**R.C.N.R.**  
**R.C.N.V.R.**

Place of Birth..... **Winnipeg, Man.**..... Date of Birth..... **May 22, 1919**

Occupation in Civil Life..... **Bookkeeper**..... Religion..... **Presbyterian**



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)..... **From 20th September, 1940 to 18th March, 1945**

Date of Death..... **18th March, 1945**..... Place of Death..... **At Sea**

Cause of Death..... **Missing, presumed dead. He was serving in H.M.C.S. "GUYSBOROUGH" which was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action at sea.**  
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend { Name..... **Mrs. Marjorie I. Cair**..... Relationship..... **Mother**  
 Address..... **549 Sherburn St.**  
**Winnipeg, Man.**

Date on which the above was informed by Ship..... **NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, 21 March, 1945**

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.....

If applicable { Place of Burial..... **No burial**..... Date of Burial.....  
 Location, Number, etc., of grave.....  
 Undertaker employed.....

*H.A. Money*  
(Commanding Officer)  
 for Secretary, Naval Board.

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

Date..... **Ottawa, Ont., 1 May, 1945**

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, Sec. C.P.C., Dir. of Records.

C.N.S. 1121  
 10M-644 (774)  
 N.S. 7570-S-1121

*Noted in D n PA.  
 G.P.  
 4.5.45*

VERIFICATION FORM

CAMPAIGN STARS, DEFENCE MEDAL, WAR MEDAL, C.V.S.M. and CLASP.  
 NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL (1915).

NAME IN FULL *C. Pir Alexander Mount* RANK/RATING *Act. Sq. Lt. (A)* OFF. NO. *124028* ADDRESS .....

SHIP	SERVICE			AREA	QUALIFYING PERIODS IN DAYS					STARS MEDALS	✓ 1 2	ELIGIBLE FOR AWARDS OF	
	FROM	TO	DAYS		FROM	TO	1939-45	ATLANTIC	DEFENCE				CLASP C.V.S.M.
	<i>25.10.40</i>											1939-45	<i>1 Star</i>
<i>Conestoga</i>	<i>26.4.41</i>	<i>18.8.41</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>W.C.</i>								ATLANTIC	<i>1 + Clasp</i>
<i>Quanta</i>	<i>29.8.41</i>	<i>8.10.41</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>W.C.</i>								FRANCE G.	<i>2</i>
<i>Harer Sword</i>	<i>17.9.42</i>	<i>15.4.43</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>W.C.</i>								AFRICA	
<i>Guyborough</i>	<i>7.10.43</i>	<i>15.3.45</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>Ad. Sq. Lt.</i>								PACIFIC	
<i>Ship "Lead" to date 18.3.45</i>												BURMA	
												ITALY	
												DEFENCE	
												C.V.S.M.	<i>2 + Clasp</i>
												" CLASP	
												WAR 1945	<i>1 Medal</i>
												WAR 1915	

VERIFIED BY *[Signature]*

VERIFIED BY *[Signature]* VERIFIED BY ..... DIR. OF PERSONNEL RECORDS.

LA/ERM

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL 30

N.S. V-24028 PERS(N)

21 March, 1945

Dear Mrs. Gair:

It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 21st of March, 1945, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your son, Alexander Mowat Gair, Leading Signaller, Official Number V-24028, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, is missing at sea.

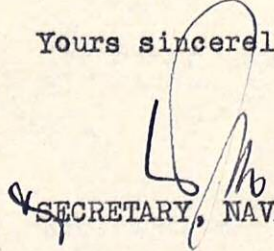
The only information that can be given at this time is that your son is missing at sea as the result of enemy action. The position of the action is such that there is little possibility of him being a prisoner of war and slight hope can be held for his survival.

Please be assured that as soon as further particulars can be released or any other news received, you will be informed.

For security reasons, it is requested that you regard the name of your son's ship in connection with his loss as confidential at this time.

Please accept the sincere sympathy of the Department in your anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

  
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Marjorie I. Gair  
549 Sherburn St.  
WINNIPEG, Man.





4



23 April, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Gair:

Further to my letter of the 21st of March, 1945, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your son, Alexander Mowat Gair, Leading Signaller, Official Number V-24028, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, was reported missing from H.M.C.S. "GUYSBOROUGH", 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 18th of March, 1945.

H.M.C.S. "GUYSBOROUGH", a Royal Canadian Navy minesweeper, was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine while on operational duty at sea. Five Officers and 48 ratings, including one Royal Navy Officer and one rating who were taking passage, are missing and now presumed dead.

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. While there is no official confirmation of these statements, they are believed to be authentic, considering their source:

"Only one death occurred from the explosion but many died during the 19 hours the men who had survived the explosion spent in the water clinging to five Carley floats. Only six men of 42 on one overcrowded float lived until the rescue ship, a Royal Navy frigate, arrived.

"Both the air and the water were cold," said one of the survivors. "Most of the men who died, died smiling. If they suffered any, you'd never have known it."

"With the whaler overturned and the ship's motor boat holed by the explosion, only the Carley floats remained for the survivors. Four of the five floats were lashed together and from these the majority of the survivors were picked up. Seven hours after the men abandoned ship only 10 men remained alive on the one overcrowded Carley float. Four others died before rescue came.

"Exposure accounted for the largest number of deaths. Survivors were unanimous in saying that those who died did so quietly and with little apparent suffering.

"When the torpedo struck the Guysborough so much debris littered the decks that the Commanding Officer, Lieut. B. T. R. Russell, R.C.N.R., at first glance, thought his ship had been the victim of two simultaneous torpedoes.

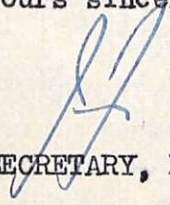
"It looked at first as if the ship would survive. Guns crews were closed up, water-tight doors were closed, bulkheads shored up and every effort made to save the little vessel. \*



"There was just one fatality from the torpedoing"  
although some members of a gun's crew were injured."

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, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Marjorie I. Gair,  
549 Sherburn St.,  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba.



Despatched by  
Sec. N. B.

  
Date 22.4.45  
Time 3.00

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

RCNVR Nov.45 "GUYSBOROUGH"

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS  
PERSON

ENTITLED TO Mrs. Marjorie Gair - Mother

ADDRESS: 549 Sherburn St.,  
WINNIPEG, Man.

MEMORIAL BAR

DATE DESP.....

REGN. NO. 268

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(2)

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER

Mrs M. I. Gair

ADDRESS: 549 Sherburn Street  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba

(3)

5 June 1945

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DECEASED 18 March 1945

AWARDS NAVY N A V Y

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

D.D.

GAIR

Alexander Mowat

V-24028

L/Sig.

FILE No.

SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS)

CHRISTIAN NAMES

REG. No.

RANK ON  
DISCHARGE

C.A.S.F. UNIT

WAR SERVICEBADGE

(CLASS)

No.

DATE DESPATCHED:

ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN MEDALS

REGISTRATION NUMBER AND DATE DESPATCHED

1939-45 Star

Atlantic Star &amp; Clasp

C.V.S.M. &amp; Clasp

War Medal

8844

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)