



CANADA

**ATTESTATION FORM**  
(HOSTILITIES FORM)

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME MATTHEWS OFFICIAL No. 156844  
CHRISTIAN NAMES Paul Joseph MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER single

PERMANENT ADDRESS	RELIGION
74 Yonge Street, Oshawa, Ontario.	R. C.

DATE OF BIRTH	*PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
10 March 1924	Town Oshawa, County Ontario Province Ontario.	Mother Anna Same Address.
*Original Nationality of: Father Canadian Mother Canadian		

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

(A) PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet..... 5	Inflated..... 35	Dark Brown	Brown	Med	1" diameter burn scar right ankle
Inches..... 6 3/4	Deflated..... 33				
..... 125	Mean..... 34				

EDUCATIONAL STANDING	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY
two years of High School	Machinist, General Motors of Canada Limited, Oshawa, Ontario.

DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING FOR WHICH ENROLLED	H.M.C.S. ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH ENROLLED
ACTIVE SERVICE 15th March, 1943.	STOKER 1ST CLASS R.C.N.V.R. (TEMP)	H.M.C.S. "YORK"

(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	Personnel Records TO Division
-----	-----	-----	1. Notes in Records 2. Index Card 3. Non Sub. Card. 4. Statistical Card 6. Pension Card

(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.

31-3-43

(5) On being enrolled as a member of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, I undertake and 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 when called and 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 naval establishment 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, until called into active service, 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.

(e) I have not been induced to enter as.....STOKER 1ST CLASS.....by the prospect of being transferred at some future date to any other branch or rating.

Dated this.....15th.....day of.....March, 1943.....

Signature of applicant.....Paul J. Matthews.....

(C) **CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER**

I hereby certify that all the foregoing statements were made by the volunteer above named and that he has made and signed the above declaration in my presence on this.....15th.....day of.....March, 1943.....

My authority for attestation is.....RD 7-5-2 dated 22nd February, 1943.....

.....S. M. Rawson.....  
Signature of and rank of Attesting Officer.  
**Lieutenant R.C.N.V.R.**

(D) **OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

I,.....Paul Joseph Matthews.....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.....Paul J. Matthews.....

Witness.....S. M. Rawson.....

Date.....15th March, 1943..... Rank.....Lieutenant R.C.N.V.R......

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

NOTE.—Attestation Form in duplicate, Certificate of Medical Examination (B-207) in duplicate, Occupational History Form in triplicate and certificates of previous service are to be forwarded to Naval Service Headquarters **immediately** after attestation.

Certificates of previous service will be returned after examination.

V56844

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-M-6824

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V56844

NAME MATTHEWS (Surname) Paul Joseph (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 10 March 1924PLACE OF BIRTH Oshawa Ontario OCCUPATION MachinistRELIGION Roman Catholic EDUCATION 2 Years High SchoolRESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 74 Yonge Street Town Toronto Province, etc. Ontario

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
15	3	43	H.O.	5'6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	D. Brown	Brown	Med.	1" diameter burn scar right ankle.				

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Miss Ruby H. Matthews NAME (in pencil) Miss Ruby H. MatthewsADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. R.R. #2 Town Beaumont Province, etc. Alberta

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	
				27	9	43	Qual. Anti-Gas 1 day, 249A/29514.				
				1	4	44	Granted Aux. Mach. W/K Cert.				

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		

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

O.H.F. Received.  
Last will & testament; dated 15-3-43; received.  
INVALID No. 5341.

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From To



FILM  
NO. WSR-5938-7  
DATE





VERIFICATION FORM

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

RANK/RATING *Sto 1/c* OFF.NO. *56844* ADDRESS .....

AREA	QUALIFYING PERIODS IN DAYS						STARS MEDALS	✓ 1 2	ELIGIBLE FOR AWARDS OF
	FROM	TO	1939-45	ATLANTIC	DEFENCE	CLASP C.V.S.M.			
							1939-45	1	<i>Star</i>
							ATLANTIC	2	
<i>at 7.2</i>							FRANCE G.	1	<i>8 clasp</i>
							AFRICA		
							PACIFIC		
							BURMA		
							ITALY		
							DEFENCE		
							C.V.S.M.	2	<i>4 clasp</i>
							" CLASP		
							WAR 1945	1	<i>medal</i>
							WAR 1915		

VERIFIED BY *eb* .....

VERIFIED BY ..... DIR. OF PERSONNEL RECORDS.

LA/CC

REGISTERED

N.S. V-56844 PERS. (N)

18

21 March, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

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 husband, Paul Joseph Matthews, Stoker First Class, Official Number V-56844, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, is missing at sea.

The only information that can be given at this time is that your husband 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 husband'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.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten initials]*

Mrs. Ruby K. Matthews,  
R.R. # 2 Beaverton, Ontario.

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c/o C.F.M.O.  
London, E.C.2.  
April 3, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

It is with deep regret that I write this letter. I am the former Commanding Officer of H.M.C.S. Guysborough in which your husband was serving.

I know there is nothing I can say that will take away the grief you are suffering, but I do want you to know how extremely sorry I am.

Your husband was one of the ship's company for some time and I can truthfully say there was not a better stoker under my command. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~posed under the most trying circumstances.~~ He was a credit to you and his ship at all times and died gallantly for his country.

If I am ever in your vicinity I hope you will allow me to call on you to express my condolences in person. In the meantime if there is anything I can do please let me know and I will be only too pleased to oblige.

Yours sincerely,

B.R. Russell,  
Lieutenant, R.C.N.R.



23 April, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

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 husband, Paul Joseph Matthews, Stoker First Class, Official Number V.56844, 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.

"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 husband has helped to maintain.

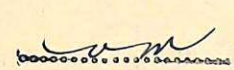
Yours sincerely,

  
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Ruby K. Matthews,  
R.R. #2 Beaverton, Ontario.

Despatched by  
Sec. N. B.

  
Date 22.4.45  
Time 1300

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

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REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

H.M.C.S. NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, Ontario

Name MATTHEWS Paul Joseph  
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating Stoker First Class Official No. V-56844 Unit R.C.N. R.C.N.R. R.C.N.V.R.

Place of Birth Oshawa, Ont. Date of Birth March 10, 1924

Occupation in Civil Life Machinist 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) From 15th March, 1943 to 16th 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 (If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly) which was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action at sea.

Nearest known relative or friend { Name Mrs. Ruby K. Matthews Relationship Wife Address R.R. # 2 BEAVERTON, Ontario

Date on which the above was informed by 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.B. Money  
for Secretary, Naval Board.  
Date Ottawa, Ont., 1 May, 1945.

The SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD  
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, Sec. C.P.C., Dir. of Records.

Noted  
D. N. P. d.  
11.5.45  
b.D

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

(NAVY)

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

DECEASED 18 March 1945

D.D.

MATTHEWS	Paul Joseph	V-56844	Sto.1	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	1572
Fr. Ger. Star & Clasp	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL  
HMCS "GUYSBOROUGH" Oct. /45. R.C.N.V.R.

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

MEMORIAL BAR

(1) MEDALS  
PERSON

ENTITLED TO Fournier (Re-married)  
Mrs. Ruby K. ~~Matthews~~ - Widow

ADDRESS: ~~R.R. # 2,~~ 2509 Riverside Drive,  
~~Beaverton, Ont.~~ TRENTON, Mich., U.S.A.

DATE DESP.....

(1)

REGN. NO.....

600

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW Mrs. R. K. Fournier

ADDRESS: 2509 Riverside Drive  
TRENTON, Michigan, U.S.A.

18-11-48

(2) 5 June 1945

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER Mrs. J. E. Matthews

ADDRESS: 74 Young Street  
OSHAWA, Ontario

(3) 5 June 1945