

21. Particulars of Education:

	Name of school	Date		Courses—Subjects, etc.
		From	To	
Primary Education—Public or Separate School.....	Started at King Hudson School Avenue	Sept. 1926	June, 1932	
High School—Collegiate Institute, etc.....	North Burnaby High	Sept. 1932	June 1934	Latin, French, Algebra, Geometry, Social Studies, Science, Community, Literature
Technical School				
University or School other than above.....	Business School	Dec. 1939	May 1939	Nov. 1939 Feb. 1940
Correspondence Courses, etc.....				

22. Particulars of all Civil Occupations (in full):

Employer and place	Duties, trades, positions	Date		Reason for leaving
		From	To	
Mr. Swanson, Belmont Hotel	bell. sup. & elevator boy	Nov. 1938	May	
Mr. Battersby	odd jobs	July 7/38	Sept 8/38	full staff
Mr. Hillas	porter	June 6/39	Oct. 10/39	not enough seniority
Mr. Newton	"	July 20/40	Jan 11/40	
Dr. R. H. MacIntosh	clerk (looking after books & making appointments)	Nov 1/39	May 1/40	was called on the boat

23. Flying Experience (in Hours) Solo..... Dual..... Passenger 15 min.

24. Special Qualifications, Hobbies, etc., useful to the R.C.A.F..... none

25. Sports engaged in. State: extensively, moderately, occasionally. Tennis - moderately, badminton - moderately, baseball - ball, moderately.

26. AIR FORCE DUTY you wish to enlist for Ground Duties. Flying Duties. If for Ground Duties, state Air Force trade in which you wish to enlist... clerk. If for Flying Duties, state preference as (a) Pilot; (b) Observer; (c) Air Gunner (d) Wireless Operator (Air Crew). (Cross out words not applicable.)

27. Names of at least two persons who can give references as to character and ability.

Name	Address	Occupation
Miss Macdonald	Trunstead Bldg.	Principal of Vancouver Business School
Dr. H. L. Craig	2700 block Dundas St.	Physician and surgeon
Rev. Graham	2700 block Trunstead St. W. Heights	minister of the Vancouver Pentecostal Church

28. Other information that may have any bearing on this application..... none

29. Do you understand that vaccination, re-vaccination and inoculation are compulsory? Yes

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing information furnished by me is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date June 11 / 1940 1940 Signature R. H. MacIntosh

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(A) Report of Interviewing Officer—

Type Good General appearance Good

Suitability for (state in what capacity) Clerk

Date 3-2-40 Signature Boyle, L B Rank Cpl.

(B) Report of Trade Test—

Trade in which tested Clerk

Result Recommended "C" Sp

Trade qualifications other than above likely to lead to efficient employment in the R.C.A.F.

Date 3-2-40 Signature Boyle, L B Rank Cpl.

(C) DECLARATION MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

I, William Albert McCutcheon do solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve on active service anywhere in Canada, and also beyond Canada and overseas, in the Royal Canadian Air Force for the duration of the present war, and for the period of demobilization thereafter, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should so long require my services.

Date June 13th, 19 40 Signature W. A. McCutcheon
Signature of Recruit

(D) OATH TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

I, William Albert McCutcheon do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty.

Date June 13th, 19 40 Signature W. A. McCutcheon
Signature of Recruit

(E) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answers to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided by law.

The above questions and answers were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the Oath before me,

at Vancouver, B. C. this 13th day of June, 19 40.

Signature of Officer [Signature] Flight Lieutenant Rank [Signature] RCAF Recruiting Centre, Vancouver Unit

R.C.A.F. RECRUITING CENTRE VANCOUVER, B. C.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Part 1. Information obtained from the applicant—

1. Age. *19* 2. Have you ever suffered from any of the following defects in health?
- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Rheumatism..... <i>no</i> | (j) Nasal Trouble..... <i>no</i> |
| (b) Tuberculosis..... <i>✓</i> | (k) Ear Disease..... <i>✓</i> |
| (c) Bronchitis or Asthma..... <i>✓</i> | (l) Eye Disease..... <i>✓</i> |
| (d) Heart Disease..... <i>✓</i> | (m) Epilepsy..... <i>✓</i> |
| (e) Kidney or Bladder Disease..... <i>✓</i> | (n) Nervous or Mental Disease..... <i>✓</i> |
| (f) Gastro-intestinal..... <i>✓</i> | (o) Syphilis..... <i>✓</i> |
| (g) Rupture..... <i>1931</i> | (p) Gonorrhoea..... <i>✓</i> |
| (h) Varicose Veins..... <i>no</i> | (q) Bone Fracture..... <i>✓</i> |
| (i) Flat or Deformed Feet..... <i>✓</i> | (r) Other Disease or Defect..... <i>✓</i> |
3. Have you ever worn glasses? *Yes*

W. A. M. Cotton
Signature of Applicant

Examiner's Remarks *re above*.....
.....
.....

Part 2. Information obtained by Medical Examination (Applicant must be stripped)—

1. Identification marks or scars (if operative obtain history)..... *scar on R. upper side of forehead. Chocolate mark 3" above navel. mole on part upper part of R. thigh. numerous moles on back & shoulders.*
2. Height..... *5* feet *8 3/4* inches. 3. Weight..... *130* pounds.
4. Complexion..... *Fair* 5. Color of Eyes..... *blue* Hair..... *Brown*
6. Development..... *Good* Fair *4000* Poor *4000* 7. Chest Measurement—Full expiration..... *34 1/2* inches
Range of expansion..... *2* inches
8. Hearing—Right..... *W 20'* Left..... *W 20'* Tympana—Right..... *N* Left..... *N*
9. Vision—Without glasses—Right..... *20/20* With glasses—Right..... *—*
Refractive normal Left..... *20/20* Left..... *—*
10. Condition of mouth and teeth..... *good*
11. Urine—Albumen..... *Neg.* Sugar..... *Neg.*
12. Abnormalities (Congenital and Pathological) found on Examination.....
Subnormal Normal

Part 3. The Candidate has been examined in accordance with the pamphlet, "Physical Standards and Instructions for the Medical Examination of Recruits" and he is considered fit for Category A

Any special remarks of the Medical Officers.....
.....
.....

Date..... *11-6-40* 19.....
John F. Cook President
Reamc. Lt. Member

AIR FORCE No.

R 58046 R

SURNAME: *McCutchew*
 FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES: *William Albert*

ENLISTMENT PLACE: *Vancouver B.C.*
 DATE: *13-6-40*

C.R. FILE NUMBER: *1022-M-1523*

R.C.A.F. FORM R. 44 (B)

RECORD OF SERVICE AIRMEN

7. BIRTH: DATE *28-11-20* PLACE *Humboldt, Sask* CITIZENSHIP *British*
 FATHER (FULL NAME) *Robert Hunter Mc Cutchew*
 BIRTHPLACE *Ont*
 MOTHER (FULL MAIDEN NAME) *Amelia Gertrude Richler*
Deceased.
 BIRTHPLACE *Hamilton, Ont.*

8. EDUCATIONAL STANDING
 HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE
 JUNIOR MATRICULATION *2 yrs. B.C.*
 SENIOR MATRICULATION
 TECHNICAL SCHOOL
 UNIVERSITY
 CORRESPONDENCE COURSES
Business College 10 mo. B.C. 2

16. SINGLE-MARRIED-WIDOWER-SEPARATED-DIVORCED: *Single*
 WIFE (FULL MAIDEN NAME)
 PLACE OF MARRIAGE DATE
 AUTHORITY (IF AFTER ENLISTMENT)

17. MARRIED ESTABLISHMENT
 REMARKS RANK EFFECTIVE D.R.O.

18. CHILDREN
 CHRISTIAN NAMES BIRTH DATE D.R.O. CHRISTIAN NAMES BIRTH DATE D.R.O.

19. NEXT OF KIN (ADDRESS AND D.R.O. IN PENCIL)
 FULL NAME: *Dr. Robert Hunter Mc Cutchew* RELATIONSHIP *father*
 ADDRESS: *3831 Dundas St. Vancouver 13* D.R.O.
 FULL NAME: RELATIONSHIP
 ADDRESS: D.R.O.

9. CIVIL OCCUPATIONS OR EXPERIENCE USEFUL TO R.C.A.F.
Bell-boy, elevator boy, porter, clerk. - entire without employment.
8300

10. PREVIOUS ARMY, NAVY OR AIR FORCE SERVICE
nil

20. PAY ENTRIES (OFFENCE FORFEITURES, STOPPAGES IN RED INK)
 RATE CHANGES ETC. EFFECTIVE D.R.O. RATE CHANGES ETC. EFFECTIVE D.R.O.

11. HONOURS-AWARDS, MENTIONS AUTHORITY DATE

12. FLYING EXPERIENCE ON ENLISTMENT (HOURS)
 SOLO DUAL PASSENGER *15 min*

13. RELIGION *United Church of England*

14. LANGUAGES *1*

15. SPORTS: *Tennis, badminton, baseball.*

21. ENGAGEMENTS
 TERM EFFECTIVE D.R.O. TERM EFFECTIVE D.R.O.
Duration 13 6 40

22. TEMPORARY DUTY AND MISCELLANEOUS ENTRIES
 FROM TO DATE D.R.O.
Discharged under KR(Air) Para 392, Section 13. Eff. 14-3-41. Character - J. Good 8EF16-24
Ceased to draw this pay sub 14-3-41 8EF16
DRD 86716 is cancelled 86724
Clothing Allow of \$35.00 86724
Entitled to Rehabilitation Grant. 86724

A.P. 3831 Dundas St. Vancouver B.C. 90410

23. DOCUMENT CONTROL (INDICATE RECEIPT BY DATE)
 R60 R79 B465 X-RAY AFM-13 IDN. CARD KX
17-9-40 6-6-40



P 45495

N. V. 5
25M-9-40 (6793)
N.S. 815-11-5

DEPT.
NATIONAL DEFENCE

APR 25 1941
N.S. 113 M 2158
CANADA

8

ATTESTATION FORM (HOSTILITIES FORM)

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME McCUTCHEON OFFICIAL NO. V-14727
CHRISTIAN NAMES William Albert MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS <u>1889 Haro St., Vancouver, B. C.</u>	RELIGION <u>United Church</u>
---	----------------------------------

DATE OF BIRTH <u>28th Nov. 1920</u>	*PLACE OF BIRTH Town <u>Humboldt</u> County Province <u>Sask.</u>	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN <u>Father-Dr. Robert H. McCUTCHEON</u> <u>3831 Dundas St.,</u> <u>Vancouver, B. C.</u>
*Original Nationality of: Father <u>Scottish</u> Mother <u>British</u>		

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

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet <u>5'</u>	Inflated <u>34</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Blue</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>NIL</u>
Inches <u>9"</u>	Deflated <u>31</u>				
	Mean <u>32½</u>				

DATE OF ENROLMENT <u>14th April 41</u>	RATING ENROLLING FOR <u>Prob. Writer</u> <u>RCNVR</u> <u>Vancouver</u>	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY <u>Clerk</u> <u>Royal Canadian Air Force</u>
R.C.N.V.R. Division (or other establishment) at which enrolled.....		

(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 R.C.A.F. 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
<u>Royal Canadian Air Force</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	<u>13th June, 1940</u>	<u>14th March 1941</u>
			1. Noted in Reports
			2. Index Card
			3. Non Serv. Card
			4. Statistic
			6. Pension Card
			8.
			DATE <u>26/4/41</u>

(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.

(3) On being enrolled as a member of the Vancouver Division of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, I undertake to 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 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.

(d) To undergo vaccination or re-vaccination, or inoculation, as considered necessary by the appropriate authorities.

Dated this 14th day of April, 1941

Signature of applicant WA McCutcheon

(C) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING 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 14th day of April, 1941

J. G. Fox
Signature of and rank of Attesting Officer.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, William Albert McCutcheon 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 WA McCutcheon

Witness J. G. Fox

Date 14th April, 1941 Rank Lieutenant R.C.N.V.R.

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

(E) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

William Albert McCutcheon 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 Vancouver Division of the R.C.N.V.R. or in the appropriate official documents.

J. G. Fox
Attesting Officer.

14th April 1941 R.C.N.V.R. Division VANCOUVER DHQ
(or other establishment)

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.

V-14727

TRUE COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE of the Service of

William Albert McCutcheon

IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

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.

Official Number V-14727

Date of Birth 28 November, 1920

Nearest known Relative or Friend (To be noted in pencil).

Where born } Province Saskatchewan Town or County Humboldt

Name: Dr. R. H. McCutcheon

Relationship: Father

Trade brought up to Clerk

Address: 3831 Juniper St. Vancouver, B.C.

Religious denomination United Church

Date passed swimming test

Man's signature on discharge to pension

All Engagements, including N.C.S., to be noted in these Columns

Table with 6 columns: Date of actually volunteering, Commencement of time, Period volunteered for, Date of actually volunteering, Commencement of time, Period volunteered for. Includes handwritten entry for 14 Apr '41.

Medals, Clasps, Etc.

Table with 4 columns: Date received or forfeited, Nature of Decoration, Date received or forfeited, Nature of Decoration.

Table with 7 columns: Description of Person, Stature (Feet, In.), Chest, In., Colour of (Hair, Eyes, Complexion), Marks, Wounds and Scars. Includes physical description for 'On Advancement to man's rating'.

V14727

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER 113-M-2158

OFFICIAL NUMBER V14727

NAME MC. CHITCHEON William Albert DATE OF BIRTH 28 Nov. 1920
(Surname) (Given Names)PLACE OF BIRTH Humboldt, Sask. OCCUPATION ClerkRELIGION United Church EDUCATIONRESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 1889 Haro St. Town Vancouver 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
14	4	41	H.O.	5'9"	Brown	Blue	Fair	Nil.	Royal C.A.F.	Clerk	13/6/40	14/3/41

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Wife NAME (in pencil) Mrs. R.H. McCutcheon
ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 625 Davie St. Town Vancouver 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	
				8	7	41	Passed E.T. "one"				
				19	5	42	Qual. Prof. Idg. Writer (Ty)				
				17	5	43	Failed for Rating of P.O. Wtr.				

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		
12	7	43	1st. G.C.B.	Granted							

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

Approved to count 275 days R.C.A.F. Service towards award of Good Conduct Badges.

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From _____ To _____

FILM
NO WSR-5363-1
DATE



V14727

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME MC CLUTCHERON
(Surname)

William Albert
(Given Names)

PIB
OFFICIAL NUMBER V14727

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	Year
Vancouver Div. Str.	Prob. Wtr.	14	4	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	41						
Duty Div. Hdqtrs.	" "	14	4	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	42						
"	Wtr.	14	7	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	43						
Stadacona	"	5	10	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	44						
Bytown	"	11	12	41	Duty with D.N.I.	V.G.	Sat.	18	3	45						
"	Idg. Wtr. (ty)	1	6	42	Rated(249A/21218)											
Fort Ramsay	" " "	29	9	43	Bytown DRD #34.											
Stadacona	" " "	22	1	44	No.45:P#6.											
Guysborough	" " "	20	2	44	S.#78:P#6.											
DISCHARGED	" " "	18	3	45	"Missing" Per Casualty List.											
					"Presumed Dead" Per Casualty List.											

GENERAL REMARKS

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE		CIVIL OCCU.		RELI.	ED.	PERM. RESIDENCE			PREV. ENL.	RANK OR RATE			
DY.	MO.	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB.	GION			P.	CTY.	TOWN	SERV.	DIV.	A	BR.	RANK
28	X	20	19	830	0	40	X	9	04	10	8	08	0	23	95	
ENLIST. DATE			ACT. SERV. DATE			STR.	ACT. SERV. DATE			SHIP. CR.	RANK OR RATE					
DY.	MO.	YR.	DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	DY.	MO.	YR.	ESTAB.	A	BR.	RANK			
14	04	41	14	04	41					3290	0	23	93			
SENIORITY			STR.	NON-SUB.		M.				CODED		CHECKED				
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.										
01	06	42	13	00	00		D/H/B			D/B		D/B				

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Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

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

Name McUTCHEON William Albert
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating Landing Writer Official No. V-14727 Unit R.C.N. R.C.N.R. R.C.N.V.R.

Place of Birth Humboldt, Sask. Date of Birth 28 November, 1920.
Clerk, Royal

Occupation in Civil Life Canadian Air Force Religion United Church

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 14th April, 1941 to 18 March, 1945.

Date of Death 18 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 Dr. Robert H. McCutcheon Relationship Father
 Address 675 Davie Street
VANCOUVER, B. C.

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.....

*noted
 S.N.P.A. 9.5.45
 E.L.*

H.B. Money
 (Commanding Officer)
 for SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD. C

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

Date Ottawa, Ontario, 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.

LA/APS

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

52

N.S. V-14727 Pers. (N)

21 March, 1945.

Dear Dr. McCutcheon:

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, William Albert McCutcheon, Leading Writer, Official Number V-14727, 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.

Dr. Robert H. McCutcheon,
675 Davie Street,
VANCOUVER, B.C.









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23 April, 1945.

Dear Dr. McCutcheon:

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, William Albert McCutcheon, Leading Writer, Official Number V-14727, 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.

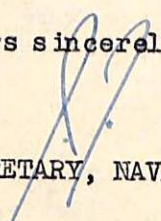
"When the torpedo struck the Guysborough so much debris littered the decks that the Commanding Officer, Lieut. B. T. R. Russell, R.C.N.R., at first glance, thought his ship had been the victim of two simultaneous torpedoes.

"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.

Dr. Robert H. McCutcheon,
675 Davie Street,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.


Date 22. 4. 45
Time 13 30

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

RCNVR "GUYSBOROUGH" Aug. /46

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

MEMORIAL BAR

(1) MEDALS
PERSON

ENTITLED TO Dr. Robert H. McCutcheon - Father

ADDRESS: 2575 Cornwall St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

DATE DESP

(1)

REGN. NO. ~~CANCELLED~~

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(2)

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER DECEASED

ADDRESS:

(3)

AWARDS NAVY

DECEASED 18 March 1945

D.D.

MCCUTCHEON	William Albert	V-14727	L/Wtr.	FILE No.
SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS)	CHRISTIAN NAMES	REG. No.	RANK ON DISCHARGE	C.A.S.F. UNIT


WAR SERVICEBADGE

CLASS)

Nil

DATE DESPATCHED:

ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN MEDALS	REGISTRATION NUMBER AND DATE DESPATCHED
1939-45 Star	
Fr. Ger. Star & Clasp	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	8425
	01-36659 M
	
	P

(THE REVERSE)