



CANADA

N. V. 5
100M-12-42 (7804)
N.S. 815-11-5

113-8-4791

no 114

3

ATTESTATION FORM (HOSTILITIES FORM)

101804

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME.....**SORRELL**.....OFFICIAL No.....**V. 61536**
CHRISTIAN NAMES.....**William Wallace**.....MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER **Single**

PERMANENT ADDRESS	RELIGION
521 Brock Street, Sandwich, Ontario.	Roman Catholic.

DATE OF BIRTH	*PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
26 October, 1925	Town Sandwich, County Essex, Province Ontario.	Corrine Sorrell (mother) Same Address.
*Original Nationality of: Father American 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 Inches..... 7 3/4 W 140	Inflated..... 35 Deflated..... 32 Mean..... 33 1/2	Brown	Blue	Fair	Scar below knee on left leg.

EDUCATIONAL STANDING	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY
Grade VIII	Labourer, Canadian Bridge Co., Walkerville, Ontario.

NA

DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING FOR WHICH ENROLLED	H.M.C.S. ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH ENROLLED
Divisional Strength 7 May, 1943.	Ordinary Seaman	"HUNTER", Windsor, Ontario.

(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, Air Force, Reserve or Territorial Force.

* (b) I served in **Canadian Army (Reserve)** for the period shown, and attach my record of service, in corroboration of this statement.

*Cross out Clause not applicable.

SERVED IN	RANK	FROM	TO
R. C. O. C. (R)	Private A579529	24 November, 1942	6th May, 1943.
		Discharged to R.C.N.V.R. 6th May, 1943.	

(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.

6th May, 1943.
Personnel Records Division.
1. Noted in Records
2. Index Card
3. Non-Sub. Card
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...
1-6-43

(5) On being enrolled as a member 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 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 Ordinary Seaman by the prospect of being transferred at some future date to any other branch or rating.

Dated this Seventh day of May, 1943.

Signature of applicant William Sorrell

(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 Seventh

day of May, 1943.

My authority for attestation is

William Sorrell
Signature and rank of Attesting Officer.
Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.

(D) **OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

I, William Wallace Sorrell, 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 William Sorrell

Witness William Sorrell

Date 7th May, 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.

N.V. 17
 GOM-9-42 (5943)
 N.S. 815-17

3-550

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

O.H.F.

William Wallace SORRELL

ICNS - 109103

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Training Headquarters	R.C.N.V.R. Division	Official Number..... <i>V 61536</i>
	<i>HMCS. "Hunter"</i>	"
		"

Date of Birth..... *26 Oct. 1925*

Place of Birth..... *Sandwich, Ontario*

Place of Residence..... *121 Josephine Ave Windsor Ont*

Trade brought up to..... *Labourer*

Religion..... *Roman Catholic*

Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil)
Corrine Sorrell (mother) same address

Can Swim:—P.P.T. Date..... 19..... Signature..... Rank.....

P.S.T. Date..... 19..... Signature..... Rank.....

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	
	<i>7 May '43</i>	<i>Duration of Hostilities</i>	<i>Ord. Sea.</i>			

	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry.....	<i>5</i>	<i>7 3/4</i>	<i>33 1/2</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Scar below knee on left leg</i>
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

V61536

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-S-4791

OFFICIAL NUMBER V61536

NAME SORRELL William Wallace DATE OF BIRTH 26th October, 1925.

(Surname)

(Given Names)

PLACE OF BIRTH Sandwich, Ontario. OCCUPATION LabourerRELIGION R.C. EDUCATION Grade VlllRESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 521 Brock St., Town Sandwich, 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
7	5	43	H.O.	5' 7 ³ / ₄	Brown	Blue	Fair	Scar below knee on left leg.	R.C.O.C. (R)	Pte.	24/11	6/5
											42	43

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Mother (CNS 53 7-27/10/43) NAME (in pencil) Josephine SorrellADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 171 Josephine Ave Town Sandwich Province, etc. Ontario

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	
				12	10	43	Qual. Anti-Gas 1 day, 249A/A7759.				
				17	12	43	Marked "TR" 249A A17963				
				9	9	43	N.V. Good. Ser. 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						O.H.F. Received.
Day	Month	Year	Prison	Det'n	Cells	C. Power	W. Trial	In diff. Char.	

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From

To



FILM
NO. WHP-5961-1
DATE

V61536

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME **SORRELL**
(Surname)

William Wallace
(Given Names)

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V61536

PIB

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 "HUNTER"	Ord. Smn.	7	5	43	Div. Str. Windsor.	V.G.	Sat.	25	10	43							
"	"	9	6	43	Act. Svce. D.L. 9-6-43.	V.G.	Sat.	31	12	43							
" "Cornwallis"	"	7	9	43	D.L. 16/9/43.	V.G.	Sat.	31	12	44							
" Stadacona	"	29	1	44	DRD #51 P.3	V.G.	Sat.	18	3	45							
" Gujborough	"	1	2	44	DRD S.59 P.8 (Serv. Passage)												
"	Able Smn.	9	6	44	Rated. 249A #20236.												
DISCHARGED	"	18	3	45	"Missing" Per Casualty List.												
					Presumed Dead, Casualty List.												

GENERAL REMARKS

Canadian Memorial Cross awarded to (Mother.) Mrs. Corrine Sorrell, 171 Josephine Ave., Windsor, Ont. to date 5.6.45.

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE OF BIRTH	CIVIL OCCU.	RELI-ED	PERM. RESIDENCE	PREV. ENL.	RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT					
DY.	MO.	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB	GION	A	CTY.	TOWNSHIP	SERV. DIV.	A	BR.	RANK
26	10	25	11	900	0	10	1	1	12	12	9	11	0 15 75
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	
07	05	43	09	06	43					3290	0	08 95	
SENIORITY			STR.	NON-SUB	M.	CODED			CHECKED				
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.							
09	06	43	13	00	00								

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 **SORRELL, William Wallace**
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating **Able Seaman** Official No. **V-61536** Unit **R.C.N.V.R.**

Place of Birth **Sandwich, Ontario.** Date of Birth **26 October, 1925**

Occupation in Civil Life **Labourer** 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 the 7th May, 1943 to the 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"**
(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. Corrine Sorrell,** Relationship **Mother**
Address **171 Josephine Ave., WINDSOR, Ontario.**

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..... Date of Burial.....
Location, Number, etc., of grave.....
Undertaker employed.....

H.B. 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.

*Noted
A. N. P. A.
10.5.45
L.D.*

21 April, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Sorrell:

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 Wallace Sorrell, Able Seaman, Official Number V-61536, 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.

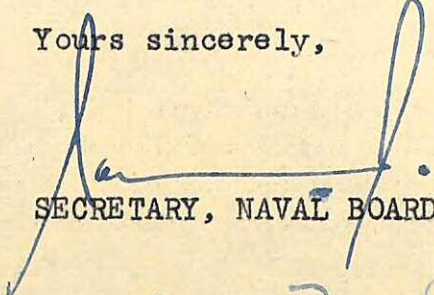
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- 2 -

"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. Corrine Sorrell,
171 Josephine Ave.,
WINDSOR, Ontario.



Despatched by
Sec. N. B.


Date 22. 4. 45
Time 13 30

RCNVR May 46 "GUYSBOROUGH"
MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION NO. DATE OF DISPATCH

MEMORIAL BAR

(1) MEMORIAL

PERSON

ENTITLED TO

Mr. Tom Sorrell - Father

ADDRESS:

171 Josephine Avenue,
Windsor, Ont.

DATE DESP

(1)

REGN. NO

906

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(2)

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER

Mrs. Corrine Sorrell

ADDRESS:

171 Josephine Ave., Windsor, Ont.

(3)

5-6-45

*(see conveyance file with X
J.S. 2/10/70)*

D OF D 18-3-45

(NAVY)

D.D.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

H

SORRELL

William Wallace

V-61536

A.B.

FILE No.

SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS)

CHRISTIAN NAMES

REG. No.

RANK ON DISCHARGE

C.A.S.F. UNIT

WAR SERVICE

BADGE

(CLASS)

No.

DATE DESPATCHED:

ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN MEDALS

REGISTRATION NUMBER AN DATE DESPATCHED

1939-45 Star

France Ger. Star & Clasp

C.V.S.M. & Clasp

War Medal

3974

1-16-50

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)