

Frundy

QH.

14NR-1
371
N. R. 5
1500-11-39
N. S. 8 15-12-5



ATTESTATION FORM

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL RESERVE

Surname.....CORKUM,..... Official No.....

Christian Names.....Gordon Francis..... Married, Single or Widower...Single.....

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Permanent Address | Religion |
| Pleasantville, Lu. Co., N.S. | Baptist. |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Date of Birth | Place of Birth | Name and Address of Next of Kin |
| 27th October, 1919. | Town Pleasantville County Lunenburg Province N.S. | Mrs. Genivive Corkum, (Mother) Pleasantville, N.S. |

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

| Height | Chest Measurement | Hair | Eyes | Complexion | Wounds, Scars, Marks |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|------|------------|----------------------|
| Feet 5 | Inflated | Dark Brown | Blue | Fresh | NIL. |
| Inches 6 | Deflated 33 | | | | |
| | Mean..... | | | | |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date of Enrolment | Rating Enrolled for | Trade or Calling and in whose Employ |
| 21st December, 1939. | A.B. (T) | Seaman |

(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 member of the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, and that I accept and agree to abide by the rules of the said Force.
- (3) (a) That it is my intention to follow the sea for a period of at least five years from this date.
- (b) ~~That it is my intention to follow the calling of a Fireman, either at sea or on shore, for a period of five years from this date.~~
- (c) ~~That it is my intention to follow the sea in an Engine-room capacity for a period of five years from this date.~~

NOTE.—Candidates for enrolment as *Seaman* are to cross out clauses (b) and (c) above.

Candidates for enrolment as *Stoker* are to cross out clauses (a) and (c) above.

Candidates for enrolment as *E. R. A.* are to cross out clauses (a), (b) and (c) above.

Candidates for enrolment as *Engineman* are to cross out clauses (a) and (b) above.

(4) That I have never been rejected from any of His Majesty's Forces on account of unfitness.

*Cross out clause not applicable

(5) That (a)* I have never served, and am not serving in any Naval, Military, Reserve or Territorial Force.

(b)* I served in NIL for the period shown.

| Served in | Rank | From | To |
|-----------|------|------|----|
| | NIL | | |

(6) That the particulars contained above are correct and true according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(7) On being enrolled as a member of the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, I undertake and bind myself:— **AND/OR DURATION OF HOSTILITIES.**

(a) To serve from the date thereof for five 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 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 Registrar 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.

(8) I am willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated as considered necessary by the appropriate authorities.

Dated this 21st day of December, 1939.

Gordon Corkum
(Signature of Applicant)

(C) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, Gordon Francis CORKUM do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Britannic Majesty.

Signature of Applicant Gordon Corkum

Witness Paul Royce

Date 21st December, 1939. Rank Payr. Lieutenant R.C.N.R.

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

(D) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICIAL

I hereby certify that all the foregoing statements were made by the man above named, in my presence, and that he has made and signed the above declaration and has taken the oath of allegiance in my presence this 21st day of December, 1939.

Paul Royce
(Signature of Officer and rank)
Payr. Lieutenant R.C.N.R.

NOTE.—When this form has been completed it is to be forwarded to Naval Service Headquarters, Ottawa, for custody.

Medically fit
A. Hill
Surgeon Comdr.

APPROVED:-
[Signature]
Commander R. C. N.

DURATION OF HOSTILITIES

~~True Copy of the~~
CERTIFICATE of the Service of

Gordon Francis C O R K U M
 in the Naval Service of Canada

The corner of this Certificate is to be cut off whenever it is considered that the man's antecedents and character are such as to render his re-entry at any future time undesirable. Whenever the corner is cut off the fact is to be noted in the Ledger.

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| PORT DIVISION | <u>H A L I F A X</u> | OFFICIAL NUMBER | <u>A 1169</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|

Date of birth 27th October, 1919.

Where born { Town Pleasantville,
 County and province Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia.

Usual place of residence Pleasantville, N.S.

Trade brought up to Seaman.

Religious denomination Baptist.

Next of kin Mother Mrs. Senanave, 287 Stratford, Halifax, N.S. 6/2/41

Can swim.....

Man's signature on discharge to pension.....

| CONTINUOUS SERVICE ENGAGEMENTS. | | | MEDALS, CLASPS, Etc. | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Date of actual volunteering. | Commencement of time | Period volunteered for | Date Received. | Nature of Decoration |
| <u>21st December,</u> | <u>1939.</u> | <u>Duration of Hostilities</u> | <u>/</u> | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| DESCRIPTION OF PERSON. | STATURE | | COLOUR OF | | | MARKS, WOUNDS AND SCARS. |
|---|----------|----------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | Feet. | In. | Complexion. | Hair. | Eyes. | |
| On entry as a boy..... | | | | | | |
| On advancement to man's rating, or on entry under 28 years..... | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>Fresh</u> | <u>Dark Brown</u> | <u>Blue</u> | <u>Nil.</u> |
| On re-entry for C. S. or for Non-C.S. after attaining 28 years..... | | | | | | |
| Further description if necessary..... | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

A1169

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME CORKUM
(Surname)

Gordon Francis
(Given Names)

PIB

OFFICIAL NUMBER

A1169

| 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 |
| Stadacona | Able Seaman | 21 | 12 | 39 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fundy | " | 22 | 2 | 40 | | V.G. | Sat. | 31 | 12 | 40 | | | | | | | |
| V66 (Banks) | " | 4 | 4 | 41 | | V.G. | Sat. | 31 | 12 | 41 | | | | | | | |
| Stadacona | " | 1 | 1 | 43 | (DRD H304) | V.G. | Sat. | 31 | 12 | 42 | | | | | | | |
| Liverpool | " | 7 | 1 | 43 | (DRD H358) | V.G. | Sat. | 20 | 12 | 43 | | | | | | | |
| Stadacona | " | 20 | 3 | 43 | (DRD H-978) | V.G. | Sat. | 31 | 12 | 43 | | | | | | | |
| Oakville | " | 25 | 3 | 43 | (HDO 25936) | V.G. | Sat. | 29 | 4 | 44 | | | | | | | |
| Stadacona | " | 18 | 9 | 43 | (DRD H-2652) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Camrose | " | 9 | 10 | 43 | (DRD H-2841) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Niobe | " | 6 | 1 | 44 | (DRD 373 p. 1) Niobe 'Creevagh 21-12-43 (DRD 375 p. VI) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Athabaskan | " | 17 | 1 | 44 | DRD 386 p. 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DISCHARGED | " | 29 | 4 | 44 | "Missing" after sinking of HMCS "ATHABASKAN" (Casualty List) Presumed Dead | | | | | | | | | | | | |

GENERAL REMARKS

Canadian Memorial Cross forwarded 22.2.45 to Mother: Mrs. Genevieve Corkum, 287 Gottingen St., Halifax, N.S.

| DATE OF BIRTH | | | PLACE BIRTH | | | CIVIL OCCU. | | | RELI. ED. | | | PERM. RESIDENCE | | | PREV. ENL. | | | RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----------------|------|-----|-------------|-----|------|-----------------|--------|------|-----------------|------|------|--------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| DY. | MO. | YR. | BIRTH | MAIN | SUB | GION | P. | CTV. | TOWN | SERV. | DIV. | A. | BR. | RANK | | | | | | |
| 27 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 540 | 0 | 60 | X4 | 12 | 00 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 08 | 94 | | | | | | |
| 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. | ESTAB. | A. | BR. | RANK | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 12 | 39 | 21 | 12 | 39 | | | | | 0230 | 0 | 08 | 94 | | | | | | | |
| SENIORITY | | | STR. | | | NON-SUB | | | M | | | CODED | | | CHECKED | | | | | |
| DY. | MO. | YR. | CAT. | A | B | ST. | DY. | MO. | YR. | DY. | MO. | YR. | DY. | MO. | YR. | | | | | |
| 21 | 12 | 39 | 09 | 00 | 00 | 20 | 29 | 04 | 44 | M.H. | | | | | | | | | | |

M.H.

A1169

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER 123-C-156

OFFICIAL NUMBER A1169

NAME CORKUM (Surname) Gordon Francis (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 27th October, 1919
 PLACE OF BIRTH Pleasantville, Lunenburg Co., N.S. OCCUPATION Seaman
 RELIGION Baptist EDUCATION _____
 RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. _____ Town Pleasantville, Lunenburg Co Province, etc. N.S.

| 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 |
| 21 | 12 | 39 | Hostilities Only | 5' 6" | D.Brown | Blue | Fresh | Nil | | | | |

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) mother NAME (in pencil) Mrs. Genevieve Corkum
 ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 287 Hatten Street Town Halifax Province, etc. N.S.

| 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 | |
| 1 | 4 | 44 | Issued ribbon for 1939-43 Star | 4 | 8 | 44 | | | | | |

| 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 | | |
| 21 | 12 | 42 | 1st GCB | Granted | | | | | | | |

FILM
 NO. W.R. 4490-2
 DATE

| 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



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

NAMING *A.B.* OFF. NO. *A-1169* ADDRESS

| 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 | / | <i>star</i> |
| | | | | | | ATLANTIC | / | <i>star</i> |
| | | | | | | FRANCE G. | | |
| | | | | | | AFRICA | | |
| | | | | | | PACIFIC | | |
| | | | | | | BURMA | | |
| | | | | | | ITALY | | |
| | | | | | | DEFENCE | | |
| <i>4-44</i> | | | | | | C.V.S.M. | | <i>27 clasp</i> |
| | | | | | | " CLASP | | |
| | | | | | | WAR 1945 | / | <i>medal</i> |
| | | | | | | WAR 1915 | | |

VERIFIED BY *R.L.*

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

29

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

H.M.C.S. NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, at OTTAWA, Ont.

Name **CORKUM, Gordon Francis**
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating **Able Seaman** Official No. **A-1169** Unit **R.C.N.R. RCNR**
~~R.C.N.V.R.~~

Place of Birth **Pleasantville, N.S.** Date of Birth **27th October, 1919**

Occupation in Civil Life **Seaman** Religion **Baptist**

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 21st December, 1939 to 29th April, 1944**

Date of Death **29th April, 1944** Place of Death **At Sea**

Cause of Death **Missing, presumed dead, when H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action in the English Channel.**
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend { Name **Mrs. Genevieve Corkum** Relationship **Mother**
Address **287 Gottingen Street, HALIFAX, N.S.**

Date on which the above was informed by Ship **Naval Service Headquarters: 1 May, 1944.**

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

ENTERED IN
N.P.A.'s LOG BOOK
JAN 18 1945
CLERK No. 1
S.P.

for **J.B. Moore**
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD. E.M.C.
(Commanding Officer)

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

Date **OTTAWA, Ont., 12th January, 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.

10th October, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Corkum:

I must regretfully inform you that since your son was reported missing no further information has been received of his survival or that he is a prisoner of war.

I wish to assure you, however, that the Department makes every endeavour to discover the fate of missing men and draws upon all likely sources of information about them.

In the case of men who are believed to be prisoners of war continuous efforts are made to speed up the machinery whereby their names and camp addresses can reach this country. The official means is by lists of names prepared by the enemy government. These lists take some time to compile, especially if there is a long journey from the place of capture to a prisoners of war camp. Consequently "capture cards", filled in by the prisoners themselves soon after capture and sent home to their relatives, are often the first news received in this country that a man is a prisoner of war.

Very slight hope is now held, however, that your son is a prisoner of war as the total number of names of men who are known to be prisoners from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" coincides with the number which the Germans claim to have captured from this ship.


Even if no news is received that a missing man is a prisoner of war, endeavours to trace him do not cease. Enquiries are pursued, not only among those who were serving with him, but also through diplomatic channels and the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. The moment reliable news is obtained from any of these sources it is sent to the Department and is immediately passed on to the next of kin.

Should no information be received to the contrary your son will be presumed dead by the Canadian Naval Authorities at a later date.

May I extend my sincere sympathy in this time of anxiety.

Yours sincerely,


 SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.



Mrs. Genevieve Corkum,
287 Gottingen St.,
HALIFAX, N.S.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

Date 10/10/44
Time 1800

LA/CAM

N.S. A-1169,
N.S.C. 4160-355/3,
PERS.(N) "N"/4.

9 December, 1947.

Sir:

With reference to your letter of the 21st of November, 1947, no news has ever come to light regarding the fate of the late Gordon Francis Corkum, Able Seaman, Official Number A-1169, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, who is missing and presumed dead from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" on the 29th of April, 1944.

Since the time of the tragedy the Canadian Naval Authorities Overseas have been constantly attempting to obtain information regarding naval personnel missing from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" from various sources, included among which are the diplomatic channels and the Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries, London, S.W. 1, England. Any authentic information which has been received has been forwarded to this Department for transmission to the next-of-kin.

On their arrival back in the United Kingdom the prisoners of war from this ship were closely interrogated in an effort to obtain news. Later, a thorough check was made of the German Casualty Records which were captured practically intact. However, little information was gained from these records. Searcher parties are still operating on the Continent, attempting to locate graves and gain information of the missing men.

At the present time, of the 126 officers and men initially listed as missing, it is known that approximately seventy bodies were recovered shortly after the disaster, and buried along the coast of Finistere, France at Brignogan, Plouescat, Santee and L'Aberwrach. Of the bodies which were recovered, only three were definitely identified.

The War Office, London, expects that the bodies of Canadians will in due course all be disinterred and reburied in proper consecrated Canadian cemeteries on the Continent. It may be possible at that time to definitely identify some of the remains now buried as unidentified by means of dental charts and physical particulars available at present in the Department.

A copy of your letter is being forwarded to the Canadian Naval Authorities Overseas for investigation regarding the possibility of Able Seaman Corkum being an amnesia victim in a hospital in France or England. Little hope is held out in this direction, however, as France was under German occupation at the time and eighty-five prisoners of war were taken on landing ashore in France from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN". The possibility of a man landing undetected is extremely remote and due to existing war-time conditions in England at the time the possibility of his returning to England and being placed in a hospital there without a thorough check-back being made as to his identity, would appear highly unlikely.

- 2 -

It is noted that the picture which you state you were enclosing with your letter has not been received.

It would be appreciated if these particulars might be passed on to Mrs. Starrett Corkum.

Yours truly,



NAVAL SECRETARY.



To 240
For Despatch
Date 11-12
Staff My

Executive Secretary,
The Canadian Red Cross Society,
95 Wellesley Street,
TORONTO, Ontario.

D OF D 29-4-44

D.D.

P DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

(NAVY)

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|---------------|
| CORKUM Gordon Francis | | A-1169 | 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, | 3997 |
| Atlantic Star, | |
| C.V.S.M. & Clasp, | |
| War Medal. | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

RCNR Feb. 46 "ATHABASKAN"

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS

PERSON

ENTITLED TO Mr. Starrat N. Corkum - Father

287 Gottingen St.,

ADDRESS:

HALIFAX, N.S.

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER

Mrs. G. Corkum

287 Gottingen St., Halifax, N.S.

ADDRESS:

MEMORIAL BAR

(1)

DATE DESP

REGN. NO.

630

(2)

(3)

22-2-45