

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE  
(Naval Service)

C.N.S. 2417  
3M-2-35  
N.S. 815-9-2417

M 0785

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Halifax N.S.  
(Place)

Jan. 5, 1936  
(Date)

The Naval Secretary,  
Department of National Defence,  
OTTAWA.

SIR:— I hereby make formal application for entry in the Royal Canadian Navy, under a seven years' continuous service engagement as a Victualling Assistant  
(Insert rating chosen)

I certify that the following particulars are in my own handwriting and are true in every respect:

- Name (to be given in full in Block Letters) GERARD McAVOY
- Date of Birth (Birth Certificate or sworn declaration by parent or guardian must be attached) Jan 15, 1917
- Place of Birth. Town: Halifax, Province: N.S.
- Permanent Place of Residence. No. 22 Street Merkle St.  
Town: Halifax, Province: N.S.
- Are you a British Subject? yes.
- How long have you resided in Canada? all life
- What is your Mother Tongue? English
- What other language do you speak? none other.
- Are you of the White Race? yes.
- Are you Single, Married or a Widower? single.
- How far advanced educationally are you? Completed Grade VIII  
(Certificates of School Authorities must be attached)

12. What practical experience have you had?  
(Details and certificates from employers, trade credentials, etc. must be attached to substantiate employment reported.)

odd jobs

13. Do you belong to any Naval, Military, Air or Police Force? no

14. If so, give details. no

15. Have you ever served in such forces? no

16. If so, give dates and details. no

17. Have you ever been discharged from His Majesty's Forces as medically unfit? no

18. Have you ever offered to serve in His Majesty's Forces and been rejected? no

Why? no

19. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence?  
(Enclose two character references, one of which must confirm your answer to Question 19)

no

20. What is your weight? 138 Height 5-5 Chest Measurement (Not inflated) 34 inches

21. Have you ever had fits? no

22. Do you suffer from any deformity? no

23. Have you suffered the loss of any fingers, toes, etc? no

24. Do you suffer from any disease? no

25. Do you wear glasses? no

26. Are you subject to any disability which might cause your rejection? no

27. Give details. no

28. Are you willing to be vaccinated and inoculated as considered necessary by the appropriate authorities? yes.

G. F. Curran  
Signature of Witness.

Gerard McAvoy  
Signature of Applicant.

CERTIFICATE TO BE SIGNED BY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF CANDIDATES UNDER 21 YEARS OLD

I agree to refund to the Department of National Defence the expenses incurred by that Department for transportation to a Naval Base of the above applicant, should he, on arrival at such Base, fail to enrol for seven years' continuous Naval service for reasons which in the opinion of the Department are within his own control. Signed and Sealed at....., this..... day of....., 19....., in the presence of

Signature of Witness.

M. F. Rank McAvoy  
Signature of Parent or Guardian.

CERTIFICATE TO BE SIGNED BY CANDIDATES OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE

I agree to refund to the Department of National Defence the expenses incurred by that Department for my transportation to a Naval Base, should I, on arrival at such Base, fail to enrol for seven years' continuous Naval service for reasons which in the opinion of the Department are within my own control.

Signed and Sealed at....., this..... day of....., 19....., in the presence of

Signature of Witness

Signature of Candidate.





P6624

N. V. 5  
2M-4-20  
N.S. 815-11-5

P6624  
MAY 21 1937  
113-M 552

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303

### ATTESTATION FORM

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME..... Mac. Avey ..... OFFICIAL NO. V 221

CHRISTIAN NAMES..... Gerald W. ..... MARRIED, SINGLE or WIDOWER..... Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS		RELIGION
<u>22 Merkle St. Halifax, N.S.</u>		<u>R.C.</u>
DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
<u>15th. Jan. 1917.</u>	Town <u>Halifax, N.S.</u> County <u>"</u> Province	<u>Mrs. Mary Mac. Avey (mother)</u> <u>same address.</u>

### PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COM- PLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet... <u>5</u> .....	Inflated..... <u>34</u> .....	<u>Black</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Fresh</u>	<u>piece out of edge of right ear.</u>
Inches... <u>5 1/4</u> .....	Deflated..... <u>31</u> .....				
.....	Mean..... <u>33</u> .....				
DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING ENROLLING FOR	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY			
<u>May 1937</u>	<u>Ord Sea.</u>	<u>Plumber's Helper</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.

¶ Cross out Clause not applicable.

SERVED IN	RANK	FROM	TO
<del> </del>			

- (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.

*Handwritten notes:*  
No Record  
Lawyer  
1936



(5) On being enrolled as a member of the Halifax Division Company 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 Company 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 15th day of May 1937

Signature of applicant Gerald W. MacAvey

(C) CERTIFICATE OF COMPANY 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 15th day of May 1937

J. Wilson, Lt.  
for Signature of C. C. O.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Signature of Applicant Gerald W. MacAvey

Witness J. Wilson

Date May 18/37 Rank Lt., R.C.N.V.R.

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

(E) CERTIFICATE OF COMPANY COMMANDING OFFICER

Gerald W. MacAvey 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 Halifax Division Company of the R.C.N.V.R.

J. Wilson, Lt.  
for Company Commanding Officer.

NOTE—This form when completed and when the particulars on it have been noted in the Company 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.



If a copy of this Form is required, Form C.N.S. 1243 is to be used

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**  
**Gerald William MacAvoy.**  
 IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

**HALIFAX, N.S.**

Official Number 40500

Date of birth 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1917.  
 Where born { Province Nova Scotia.  
 Town or county Halifax.  
 Trade brought up to Unemployed.  
 Religious denomination Roman Catholic.  
 Date passed swimming test \_\_\_\_\_  
 Man's signature on discharge to pension \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest known Relative or Friend  
 (To be noted in pencil)  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
29<sup>th</sup> Marine St.  
Halifax, N.S.

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

Date of actually volunteering	Commencement of time	Period volunteered for	Date of actually volunteering	Commencement of time	Period volunteered for
1. <u>21<sup>st</sup> September 37.</u>		<u>Seven years.</u>	5.		
2.			6.		
3.			7.		
4.			8.		

**Medals, Clasps, Etc.**

Date received or forfeited	Nature of decoration	Date received or forfeited	Nature of decoration
<u>21 Nov. 1943</u>	<u>Awarded Ribbon for 1939-43 Star.</u>		

Description of Person	Stature		Chest, In.	Colour of			Marks, Wounds and Scars
	Feet	In.		Hair	Eyes	Complexion	
On entry as a boy.....							
On advancement to man's rating or on entry under 28 years.....	<u>5</u>	<u>5 1/2</u>		<u>Black</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Fresh</u>	<u>Scar right ear lobe</u>
On re-entry for C.S. or for Non-C.S. after attaining 28 years.....							
Further description if necessary.....							















40500

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

N-40500

OFFICIAL NUMBER

40500

NAME MACAVOY Gerald William DATE OF BIRTH 15th January, 1917.  
(Surname) (Given Names)PLACE OF BIRTH Halifax, N.S. OCCUPATIONRELIGION Roman Catholic. EDUCATION Completed Grade VIII.RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 22 Merkle Street Town Halifax Province, etc. N.S.

Date (in figures)			Period	DESCRIPTION					PREVIOUS SERVICE		
Day	Month	Year		Height	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Marks or Scars	Served in	Rank or Rating	Dates From To
21	9	37	Seven Years.	5'5 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Black	Brown	Fresh.		RCNVR. O.N.221	18.5.37-20.9.37.	

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Wife NAME (in pencil) Mrs Mary Margaret Macavoy  
29 1/2 Macara St 12/40 Town Halifax Province, etc. N.S.ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 29 1/2 Macara St Town Halifax Province, etc. N.S.

Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			Particulars
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
21	11	43	1939-43 StarRibbon.	9	1	39	A/G - 2 days.				
				11	10	40	Passed Prof. for Ldg.Cook.				
				4	11	41	Passed Prof. for P.O.Cook (S).				

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		
8	7	40	1st	Granted.							

**FILM**  
NO. W.R. 5006-6.  
**DATE**

Approved to count 75 days' RCNVR. time towards award G.C.Badges.

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From To

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





**P.T.B.**

40500 OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME **MACAVOY**  
(Surname)

**Gerald William**  
(Given Names)

OFFICIAL NUMBER 40500

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	Cook (O)	21	9	37		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	37							
<del>Skeena</del>	"	17	8	38		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	38							
Stadacona	"	27	10	39		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	39							
Stadacona	"	4	12	39		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	40							
"	Ldg.Ck.(O)(Ty)	15	11	40		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	41							
Prince David.	"	12	6	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	42							
" "	P.O.Ck.(O)(Ty)	1	12	41		V.G.	Supr.	31	12	43							
Stadacona	"	1	7	42		V.G.	Supr.	29	4	44							
Cornwallis.	"	25	7	42													
Stadacona	"	15	10	42													
Niobe (Tribal 11)	"	28	10	42													
Athabaskan	"	4	2	43													
DISCHARGED	"	29	4	44	Missing, Presumed Dead.												

GENERAL REMARKS

No Active Service in R.C.N.V.R.

Canadian Memorial Cross issued to  
Wife: Mrs. Mary M. MacAvoy,  
29 $\frac{1}{2}$  Macara St.,  
HALIFAX, N.S. - 19.2.45.

Issued to Mother:  
Mrs. Frank MacAvoy,  
16 Merkle Street,  
HALIFAX, N.S. - 17.3.45

Service Certificate checked on  
discharge.



Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

74

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

~~XXXXXX~~ NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS at OTTAWA, Ont.

Name MacAVOY Gerald William  
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating Petty Officer Cook (O) Official No. 40500 Unit R.C.N.  
~~R.C.N.V.~~  
~~R.C.N.V.R.~~

Place of Birth Halifax, N.S. Date of Birth 15th January, 1917

Occupation in Civil Life Plumber's Helper 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 18th May, 1937 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. Mary M. MacAvoy Relationship Wife  
Address 29 1/2 Macara Street, HALIFAX, N.S.

Date on which the above was informed by ~~SNPX~~ 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  
S.N.P.A.'s LOG BOOK  
JAN 19 1945  
G.P.  
CLERK No. 1

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

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

Date OTTAWA, Ont., 12 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.



TFH/MD

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

N.S. 40500 Pers.(N)



1 May, 1944.

51

Dear Mrs. MacAvoy:

It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 1st of May, 1944, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your husband, Gerald William MacAvoy, Petty Officer Cook (p) Royal Canadian Navy, Official Number 40500, is missing from H.M.C.S. "Athabaskan".

According to the report received from overseas, your husband's loss occurred when H.M.C.S. "Athabaskan" was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action on the 29th of April, 1944, in the English Channel. Further particulars of this Naval disaster are being published in the newspapers.

While Petty Officer Cook MacAvoy is reported as "missing", there is a possibility of his survival. It is understood that a number of the crew have been taken prisoners of war by the enemy. The Red Cross have been informed and are attempting to obtain from the German Government a list of those taken. Please be assured that as soon as any further information respecting your husband has been received you will be informed.

Please allow me to express the sincere sympathy 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. Mary Margaret MacAvoy,  
29½ Macara St.,  
HALIFAX, N.S.

Last day RCNVR 20/9/37  
RCN 21/9/37

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

*[Handwritten initials]*



64

10th October, 1944.

Dear Mrs. MacAvoy:

I must regretfully inform you that since your husband 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.

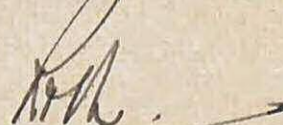
Very slight hope is now held, however, that your husband is a prisoner of war as the total number of names of men who are known to be prisoners from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" coincides with the number which the Germans claim to have captured from this ship.

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 husband 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. Mary M. MacAvoy,  
29½ Macara Street,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Despatched by  
Sec. N. B.

Date 10/10/44  
Time 830



LA/PM

REGISTERED

①

N.S. N-40500 Pers.(N)

15 January, 1945

Dear Mrs. MacAvoy:

Further to my letter of the 10th October, 1944, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your husband, Gerald William MacAvoy, Petty Officer Cook (O), Official Number 40500, Royal Canadian Navy, was reported missing from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN", 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 29th of April, 1944.

May I again 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.

Yours sincerely,

*W. H. ...*

Deputy

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Despatched by  
Sec. N. B.

Mrs. Mary M. MacAvoy,  
29½ Macara Street,  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.

①

Date 15/1/45  
Time 1800

*J. ...*



DECEASED 29 April 1944

D.D.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### AWARDS

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

P

MACAVOY Gerald William		N-40500	<b>(NAVY)</b> FILE No. P.O. Cook. (0)	
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,	1288
Atlantic Star,	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp,	
War Medal.	

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)



R.C.N. Aug, 45. HMCS "ATHABASKAN"

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS  
PERSON

ENTITLED TO Mrs. Mary M. MacAvoy - Widow

ADDRESS: ~~29 $\frac{1}{2}$  Macara St., Halifax, N.S.~~  
West L'Ardoise, Richmond Co., N.S. 11-8-48

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS  
WIDOW Mrs. M. Margaret MacAvoy

ADDRESS: 29 $\frac{1}{2}$  Mocara Street  
HALIFAX, N.S.

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS  
MOTHER

Mrs. Frank MacAvoy  
ADDRESS: 16 Merkle Street  
HALIFAX, N.S.

(1) MEMORIAL B O R

DATE DESP

REGN. NO

(2) 19 February 1945

(3) 17 March 1945