

M 64580

DEPT. NATIONAL DEFENCE

JUL 20 1941

N. V. 3a

NAVAL SERVICE

OFFER OF SERVICE (HOSTILITIES ONLY)

55x-3-41 (9824) N.S. 815-11-3a

To be completed in applicant's own handwriting and forwarded to nearest recruiting centre (see back). No papers, testimonials, etc., are to be attached. Completion of this form is in no way binding upon either the applicant or the Naval Service.

A. Personal History—

Name: VAIR, JAMES ALEXANDER
Surname (in Block Letters) Christian Names
Address: 172 GRAVEL ROAD 40 Mrs FARMING ST THOMAS ONT.
Date of birth: OCT. 18, 1913 Place of birth: OWEN SOUND
Nationality: CANADIAN Are you British by birth? YES or by Naturalization?
Birth place of (a) Father: OWEN SOUND ONT. (b) Mother: CLARKS BURG ONT
Are you (a) Single (b) Married YES (c) Widower (d) No. of Children?
Any physical defects (especially eyesight)? NO
Height: 5'7 1/2 Weight: 145 Can you swim? YES

B. Education—

Highest school grade passed successfully? HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE Any Matriculation? NO
University: (a) Name (b) Years attended (c) Course and Degree
Technical courses taken: COMMERCIAL 3 YEARS
Special studies: NONE
Languages spoken: ENGLISH

RECEIVED JUL 18 1941

R.C.N.V.R. LONDON DIVISION

C. Sea Experience—

Have you ever been employed at sea? YES Give number of years and how employed?
1 year Party Boy 2 yrs waiter in your deckhand
4 years Steward (your main season)
Name and number of Mercantile Marine Certificates held: NONE
State last position held at sea (with dates): STEWARD 1933-36

Answered 8

State employment since leaving sea: 3 SEASONS
CLERK - BOOK-KEEPER PARTIAL
POWER & PAPER Co. SAULT ST. MARIE ONT. BOOKKEEPER AND STATION ATTENDANT - GREEN SERVICE STATION LONDON: CIVILIAN CLERK NOW AT T.T.S. RCAF ST. THOMAS ONT.

D. Occupation: What is your profession, trade or occupation in civil life?

BOOKKEEPER AND TYPIST
Are you (a) Actively pursuing your profession or trade on your own account? NO
(b) Employed; if so, in what capacity and under what employer? CIVILIAN CLERK AT T.T.S. RCAF ST THOMAS MAR. 3/41
General experience (with dates): CLERK - BOOKKEEPER - TIME KEEPER. OCT. 1936 - AUG-1938
SEPT 1939 - JUNE 1940. STATION ATTENDANT. JUNE 1940 - FEB 1941.

Have you ever served in any of His Majesty's Forces? If so, which? How long? NO

No. and Class of any Stationary Engineer's certificates or other certificates of competency: NONE

How long would you need to settle up your private affairs? 2 DAYS

E. Any other Qualifications that might be of use to the Naval Service (yachting, cadet corps, hobbies, etc.)

HIGH SCHOOL CRAFT CORPS WHILE ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL

F. Branch Applying for: (a) As Officer (b) As Rating (i.e., in the ranks)

If you cannot be accepted as an Officer are you willing to serve as a rating? YES

In what capacity do you wish to enrol? L/STEWARD or WAITER

Date of Application: 9-7-41 Signature: J. Vair

ORIGINAL

117281

10

N. R. 5

D 80M-47-40 (5932)
NATIONAL N.S. 815-12-5

AUG 27 1941

173-126
CANADA



ATTESTATION FORM

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL RESERVE

SURNAME.....VAIR.....OFFICIAL No. A 4980

CHRISTIAN NAMES.....James Alexander.....MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER.....Married.

PERMANENT ADDRESS		RELIGION
172 Gravel Rd., C/O Mrs. Mailing. St. Thomas, Ontario.		United.
DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
18th October, 1913	Town Owen Sound. County Province Ontario.	Mrs. Norma Vair. (Wife) Same Address

ENTERED IN PAY LEDGERS
H. M. C. S. "BYTOWN"
FAIR Planchuk
18/9/41
ROBERT J. J. J. J.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COM- PLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet.....5..... Inches.....6 1/4..... 138 1/2	Inflated.....38 1/2..... Deflated.....35 1/4..... Mean.....35 3/4.....	Auburn	Blue	Med.	Scar over left eye Scar on the right knee
DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING ENROLLING FOR	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY			
5th August, 1941.	Steward.	Bookkeeper. Green Service Stn. 198 King St., London, 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 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.

Personnel Records
Division

1. Index Card
 2. Non Sub. Card
 3. Statistical Card
 4. Strip
 5. Pension Card
 6.
 7.
 8.
 DATE 15-9-41

(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 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 5th day of August, 1941.

J. A. Vair
(Signature of Applicant)

(C) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Signature of Applicant *J. A. Vair*

Witness *Lieut. J. V. C. Macdonald*

Date 5th August, 1941 Rank LIEUTENANT, R.C.N.V.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 5th day of August, 1941.

Lieut. J. V. C. Macdonald
(Signature of Officer and rank)

Stamp: MAIN FILE, CHARGED TO *admiral*, SINCE 27.8.41, RECD CENTRAL REGISTRY, SEP 5 1941, REFERRED

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

N.V. 17
60M-11-42 (26)
N.S. 81

CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

James Alexander VAIR

in the Royal Canadian ~~Naval Volunteer~~ Reserve

Training Headquarters	R.C.N.V.R. Division	Official Number..... <i>A 1980</i>
Halifax, Nova Scotia	London	"
		"

Date of Birth..... Oct. 18, 1913	Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend <small>(in pencil)</small> <i>Mrs. Norma E. Vair (Wife) Hilton Beach, St. Joe's Island, Ont.</i>
Place of Birth..... Owen Sound, Ontario	
Place of Residence..... 172 Gravel Rd., C/o Mrs. Mailing St. Thomas, Ontario.	
Trade brought up to Bookkeeper	
Religion..... United	
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	
July 12/41	Aug 5/41	Hostil-ities	Steward			

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION								
	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry.....	5	6$\frac{1}{4}$	35$\frac{3}{4}$	138$\frac{1}{2}$	Auburn Blue Med.			Scar over left eye Scar on right knee
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

NAVAL TRAINING and ACTIVE SERVICE

Year	SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT	LEDGER		RATING	FROM	TO	CAUSE OF DISCHARGE
		List	No.				
1941	R.C. NVR London			Steward	Aug 5	7 Oct 41	
1941	Stadacona			Steward	8 Oct	30 Jan 42	9577
	---			Ldg Stud (74)	1 July 42	12 Sep 43	
	Niobe			---	13 Sep 43	23 Nov 43	
	Niobe (Athabaskan)			---	24 Nov 43	29 Apr 44	Reported missing
	Reported Missing			---	29 Apr 44		Reported missing
	Presumed Dead			---	29 Apr 44		Reported missing Presumed Dead Registered Dead Niobe's CNS 242A - 21063

Wounds Received in Action, Hurt Certificates, Meritorious Service, Special Recommendations, Prizes or other Grants

Date	Details	Captain's Signature
13-4-42	S.C.T.W. # 19220	
8 July 43	S.C.G.M. # 1378074 Annual Leave 28-3 days	
1 Aug 43	Embarkation Leave 14-16 days	

A 4980 OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME VAIR, (Surname)

James Alexander (Given Names)

P.I.B.

OFFICIAL NUMBER A 4980

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
Active Ser. London DHQ	Steward	5	8	41		V.G.	Supr.	31	12	41							
H.M.C.S. Stadacona	"	8	10	41	(D)	V.G.	Supr.	31	12	42							
"	Ldg. Steward	1	7	42	Advanced (Memo 20-8-42)	V.G.	Supr.	31	12	43							
H.M.C.S. Niobe	"	13	9	43	DRD H 2611	V.G.	Supr.	29	4	44							
HMCS "Athabaskan"	"	24	11	43	DRD 332												
DISCHARGED	"	29	4	44	"Missing" after sinking HMCS "ATHABASKAN" (Casualty List)												
GENERAL REMARKS																	
Canadian Memorial Cross awarded to Wife: Mrs. Norma E. Vair Hilton Beach, St. Joseph's Island, Ont. on 6.3.45																	

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE		CIVIL OCCU.		RELI-ED		PERM. RESIDENCE			PREV. ENL.		RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT		
DY	MO	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB	GION	P	CTV.	TOWNSHIP	SERV.	DIV.	A	BR	RANK		
18	0	13	11	8	0	40	X	1	11	05	0	16	0	21	94	
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			
05	08	41	05	08	41											
											0230	021	93			
SENIORITY			STR.		NON-SUB		M		CODED			CHECKED				
DY	MO	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.										
01	07	42	09	00	00	20	28	04	44	23						

92 HK

A 4980

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

123-V-26

OFFICIAL NUMBER A 4980

NAME VAIR, James Alexander DATE OF BIRTH 18 October, 1913

PLACE OF BIRTH Owen Sound, Ontario OCCUPATION Bookkeeper, Green Service Stn., 193 King St., London, Ont.

RELIGION United Church EDUCATION

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 172 Gravel Rd., c/o Mrs. Mailing, Town St. Thomas, Province, etc. Ontario.

Table with columns: ENGAGEMENTS (Date, Period), DESCRIPTION (Height, Hair, Eyes, Complexion, Marks or Scars), PREVIOUS SERVICE (Served in, Rank or Rating, Dates).

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) NAME (in pencil)

ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. Town Province, etc.

Table with columns: MEDALS, CLASPS, HURT CERTIFICATES, PRIZE MONEY; EXAMINATIONS, CERTIFICATES, ETC. (Date, Particulars).

Table with columns: BADGES, G.C. OR G.S.; BRIEF PARTICULARS OF WARRANT OR C.M. PUNISHMENTS AND C.P. CHARGES (SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT, Wt. No., Date, OFFENCE, PUNISHMENT).

FILM NO. NSR-4656-5 DATE

Table with columns: DAYS FORFEITED (Date, Prison, Det'n, Cells, C. Power, W. Trial, In diff. Char.); Last Will & Testament Dated 6th AUG. 41 Received O.H.F. received

W.S.G. APPLICATION RECEIVED 5262

VERIFICATION FORM

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

GRADE/RATING OFF. NO. *A-4980* ADDRESS

GRADE	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		
							FRANCE G.		
							AFRICA		
							PACIFIC		
							BURMA		
							ITALY		
							DEFENCE		
							C.V.S.M.		<i>2 x clasp</i>
							" CLASP		
							WAR 1945	✓	<i>medal</i>
							WAR 1915		

OK
act.

29-4-44

VERIFIED BY *P.L.*

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

35

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

Name VAIR, James Alexander
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating Leading Steward Official No. A-4980 Unit R.C.N. PCNR
~~R.C.N.V.R.~~

Place of Birth Owen Sound, Ontario Date of Birth 18th October, 1913

Occupation in Civil Life Bookkeeper 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 5th August, 1921 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. Norma E. Vair, Relationship Wife
Address Hilton Beach, St. Joseph's Island, Ont.

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

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

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.

LA/CM

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

N.S. A-4980 PERS.(N)

40

18 January, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Vair:

Further to my letter of the 23rd of November, 1944, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your son, James Alexander Vair, Leading Steward, Official Number A-4980, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, 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,

[Handwritten signature]

Deputy SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

A.S. *[Handwritten initials]*

Mrs. W. G. Vair,
504 - 4th Ave., E.,
OWEN SOUND, Ontario.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

Date 15/1/45
Time 1800

28

November 23rd, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Vair:

It is very much regretted that you have not previously received official information of the loss of your son, James Alexander Vair, Leading Steward, Official Number A-4980, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, but there was no record in the Department of your name and current mailing address as your son had indicated his wife Mrs. Norma E. Vair, St. Joseph's Island, Ont. as next-of-kin.

As you are aware, your son has been listed as missing since H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action on the 29th of April, 1944, in the English Channel. No information has since been received of his survival or that he is a prisoner of war.

Eighty-five men are now known to have been taken prisoners of war from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN". This list was compiled from names officially communicated by the German Government and from capture cards and letters which have been forwarded to the next-of-kin by prisoners of war in German camps. Five of these prisoners of war, one officer and four ratings, were returned to the United Kingdom.

For your information, I am attaching a list of the above.

The body of one rating from this ship has been recovered and buried in France.

Ten officers and one hundred and fifteen ratings are still missing from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN", and I regret to inform you that slight hope is now held for the survival of your son and the others listed as missing.

Should no information be received to the contrary, Leading Steward Vair will be presumed dead by the Canadian Naval Authorities at a later date and you will be informed accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

Mrs. W.G. Vair,
504 - 4th Ave. E.,
Owen Sound, Ont.

AIA D/Sec Pers info - *[Signature]*
Deputy Secretary,
Naval Board.

[Signature]
Date 23, 11. 44
Time 16 00
[Signature]

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Re:
L/Std. J.A. Vair
A-4980
HMCS Athabaskan

504 - 4th Ave. E.,
Owen Sound, Ont.
November 13, 1944.

The Navy Headquarters,
OTTAWA, Ont.

2028986

Dear Sirs:-

I am writing for information regarding A-4980 L/Std. J.A. Vair, HMCS Athabaskan, who was listed as MISSING after the engagement in which the Athabaskan was lost April 29th.

The attached copy of clipping has been sent to me from England and was taken from one of their papers there. You will notice that it mentions that men from the Canadian destroyer Athabaskan are at Camp Marlag.

Neither his wife or I have had any word as to Jim being prisoner of war but would be obliged if you would please advise me the names of the prisoners from the Athabaskan at this camp in the hope that he may be included among them.

It is possible this letter should be sent to Wartime Information Board, Ottawa - if so, will you be good enough to pass it on to them.

May I hear from you promptly please with any information you are able to offer in this case?

Yours truly,

Mrs. H. G. Vair.

Mrs. W. G. Vair.
(Mother)

KORPSCHER IN N.C.R.		
SECTION	NO.	INIT.
Mail		B15
Index		W
Routing		7/24
Remarks		

INITIALS

24

CANADIANS IN GERMANY

The first purely Canadian prisoner of war camp in Germany is near Stettin. It has a population of 1400. The men work mainly in farming detachments in the vicinity. Medical care and dental treatment are described in the report of a neutral observer as excellent. The men have a theatre and orchestra, organized sports and games and a gramophone.

Near Bremen are two Naval camps; Marlag for men of the Navy, Milag, for Merchant Seamen and interned civilians. At Marlag are men from the Canadian destroyer Athabaska sunk off Brest at the end of April. To date 129 Canadian Naval and Merchant Seamen are reported in German hands.

General conditions at both camps are reported satisfactory. British officers receive food and clothing parcels and distribute them without interference from German authorities.

(COPY)

D OF D 29-4-44

(NAVY)

D.D.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

P

VAIR James Alexander		A-4980	L/Stwd.	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,	2614
C.V.S.M. & Clasp,	
War Medal.	

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

RCNR Sept. 45 "ATHABASKAN"
MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS

PERSON

TITLED TO Mrs. Norma E. Vair - Widow

ADDRESS: Hilton Beach,
St. Joseph's Island, Ont.

correct add.

MEMORIAL BAR

(1)

DATE DESP.....

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

Mrs. Norma E. Vair

ADDRESS: Hilton Beach, St. Joseph's Island, Ont.

REGN NO 1863

(2)

6-3-45

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER

Mrs. W.G. Vair

ADDRESS: 504 - 4th Ave. East, Owen Sound, Ont.

(3)

26-3-45