



CANADA

N. V. 5
15M-2-40 (4047)
N.S. 815-11-5

P066237

DEPT. NATIONAL DEFENCE
SEP 23 1940
NS 113 13 1096
CANADA

ATTESTATION FORM

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME BELL-IRVING,..... OFFICIAL NO. V/30317

CHRISTIAN NAMES Richard Morris..... MARRIED, SINGLE or WIDOWER Married....

| PERMANENT ADDRESS | RELIGION |
|--|------------|
| British Properties, West Vancouver, B.C. | C. of Eng. |

| DATE OF BIRTH | PLACE OF BIRTH | NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 30th November, 1916. | Town <u>Alvestoke,</u> County <u>England.</u> Province | Mrs Sally (wife) British Properties, West Vancouver, B.C. |

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

| HEIGHT | CHEST MEASUREMENT | HAIR | EYES | COM- PLEXION | WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS |
|--|--|------|------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Feet..... <u>6</u> Inches..... <u>0</u> | Inflated..... <u>37</u> Deflated..... <u>34</u> Mean..... <u>35½</u> | Red | Blue | Fair | Nil. |

| DATE OF ENROLMENT | RATING ENROLLING FOR | TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 16th September, 1940. | <u>A/E.R.A. 4/Class.</u> <u>R.C.N.V.R.</u> <u>(Temp.)</u> | Apprenticeship served with <u>Ruston & Hornsby Ltd.</u> <u>England.</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 |
|-----------|------|------|------|
| Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |

Nil. Personnel Record Division.

1. Non-Sup. Card.....
2. Statistical Card.....
3. Roneo Strip.....
4. Pension Card.....
5.....
6.....
7.....
8.....
DATE 25/9/40

- (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.

(5) On being enrolled as a member of the Naden Division of Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, I undertake and bind myself:—

(a) To serve from the date thereof for ~~three consecutive years~~ ^{duration of hostilities}, being subject to the provisions of 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.

Dated this 16th day of September, 1940.

Signature of applicant R. M. Bell Irving

(C) CERTIFICATE OF DIVISIONAL 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 16th day of September, 1940.

John Wood Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.
Signature of Commanding Officer. R.C.N.V.R.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Richard Morris BELL-IRVING 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 R. M. Bell Irving

Witness John Wood

Date 16th September, 1940 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 DIVISIONAL COMMANDING OFFICER

Richard Morris BELL-IRVING 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 Naden Division of the R.C.N.V.R.

John Wood Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.
Commanding Officer.

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.

V30317

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-B-1096

OFFICIAL NUMBER V30317

NAME BELL -Irving (Surname) Richard Morris (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 30 Nov. 1916PLACE OF BIRTH Alvestoke, England OCCUPATION ApprenticeshipRELIGION Church of England EDUCATIONRESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. British Properties, Town West 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 |
| 16 | 9 | 40 | H.O. | 6'0" | Red. | Blue | Fair | Nil. | | | | |

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Wife 3/11/43 NAME (in pencil) Miss Lillian Bell-MorrisADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 2954 Marjorie Avenue Town West 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 | |
| | | | | 20 | 10 | 41 | Granted Boiler Room Watchkeeping Certificate. | 10 | 8 | 43 | Qual. for Warrant Rank. <i>out of file</i> |
| | | | | 21 | 10 | 41 | Granted Engine Room Watchkeeping Certificate. | | | | |
| | | | | 18 | 1 | 43 | Granted Charge Cert. <i>Coston file</i> | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 43 | Failed to Qual. for Warrant Eng. | | | | | |
| | | | | 10 | 8 | 43 | Qual. Chl. E.R.A. <i>(Coston file)</i> | | | | |

| 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



V30317

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME BELL - IRVING

Richard Morris

OFFICIAL NUMBER

0-5763 P.I.B.
V30317

| Ship or Establishment | Rating | From | | | Remarks | Character | Efficiency | Date | | | Non-Sub. Rating | Qualified | | | Re-Q ualified | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|-------|------|--|-----------|------------|------|-------|------|-----------------|-----------|-------|------|---------------|-------|------|
| | | Day | Month | Year | | | | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year | Day | Month | Year |
| Naden | a/E.R.A. 4/c | 16 | 9 | 40 | | V.G. | Sat. | 31 | 12 | 40 | | | | | | | |
| Malaspina | A/E.R.A. 4/c | 24 | 10 | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Naden | " " | 1 | 1 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stadacona | " " | 15 | 6 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snowberry | " " | 4 | 7 | 41 | Rated E.R.A. 4/c 20-10-41 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melville | E.R.A. 4/C | 5 | 2 | 42 | #117830 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | E.R.A. 3/c | 17 | 1 | 42 | Rated. (249A #11018) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stadacona | " " | 17 | 9 | 42 | WRP | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Truro | " " | 18 | 9 | 42 | WRP | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cornwallis | " " | 24 | 2 | 43 | DRD H-763. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stadacona | " " | 1 | 6 | 43 | DRD H-1702 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | Ch.M.M. 4/C | 16 | 7 | 43 | Transferred (249B-21307) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | Ch.M.M. 3/C | 17 | 7 | 43 | Rated (249B-21307) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | Ch. ERA (M) | 15 | 8 | 43 | RATED (249A #29180) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DISCHARGED | " " " | 31 | 12 | 43 | Promoted to Comm. Rank. Per App't. of 9-2-44. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

GENERAL REMARKS

Sound condition found & recommended for promotion to Comm. Rank. 14-10-43 (249A 2019)

Sound condition found for sub. (249A 2019)

Revised for Reserve Sub. (E) 14-10-43 (249A 7859)

| DATE OF BIRTH | | | PLACE OF BIRTH | | CIVIL | OCU | RELI | ED | PERM. RESIDENCE | | | PREV. ENL. | RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----------------|---------|-------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|----------------|------|--------------|----------------------------|------|----|----|
| DY. | MO. | YR. | BIRTH | MAIN | SUB | GION | A | CTY. | TOWN | SERV. | DIV. | A | BR. | RANK | | |
| 30 | X | 16 | 22 | R | R | 0 | 30 | X | 9 | 04 | 00 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 35 | 95 |
| 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. | A | BR. | RANK | | |
| 16 | 09 | 40 | 16 | 09 | 40 | | | | | | | 983 | 00 | 35 | 91 | |
| SENIORITY | | | STR. | NON-SUB | | M. | CODED | | | CHECKED | | | | | | |
| DY. | MO. | YR. | CAT. | A | B | ST. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 08 | 43 | 09 | | | | 30 | 3 | 12 | 43 | SAW | | | | | |

0-5763

OFFICIAL NUMBER 0-5763

NAME BELL-IRVING (Surname) Richard Morris (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 30 November, 1916

PLACE OF BIRTH Alvestoke, England OCCUPATION Apprenticeship

RELIGION Church of England EDUCATION

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. British Properties, Town West Vancouver, Province, etc. B.C.

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) WIFE NAME (in pencil) SALLY BELL-IRVING ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 90 HY. BELL-IRVING & CO. LTD., 989 W. HASTINGS ST. Town VANCOUVER, Province, etc. B.C. 4.2.45

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

Table with columns: BADGES, G.C. OR G.S. (Date, 1st, 2nd or 3rd G.C. or G.S., Granted Deprived Restored); BRIEF PARTICULARS OF WARRANT OR C.M. PUNISHMENTS AND C.P. CHARGES (SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT, Wt. No., Date, BRIEF PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE, PUNISHMENT).

FILM NO. 4304-7 DATE

Table with columns: DAYS FORFEITED (Date, Prison, Det'n, Cells, C. Power, W. Trial, In diff. Char.); O.H.F. Received.

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT From To



V.R.
0-5763

OFFICIAL NUMBER NAME BELL-IRVING (Surname) Richard Morris (Given Names) OFFICIAL NUMBER 0-5763 EX-V-30317

| Ship or Establishment | Rating | From | | | Remarks | Character | Efficiency | Date | | | Non-Sub. Rating | Qualified | | | Re-Quar | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|------|-------|------|--|-----------|------------|------|-------|------|-----------------|-----------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|
| | | Day | Month | Year | | | | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year | Day | Month | Year |
| H.M.C.S. Stadacona | Sub.It. (E) T. | 1 | 1 | 44 | addl.-Promoted from C/ERA (M) O.N. V30317 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | " | | | | addl. for trng. in M.T.E., Halifax | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | " | | | | addl. for disposal | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Nonsuch | " | 1 | 3 | 44 | addl. as Naval Liaison Off. for ratings undergoing course of Instr. at University of Alberta | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Stadacona | " | 15 | 1 | 45 | addl.-for-sea-appointment | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Nonsuch | A/Lieut. (E)T. | 1 | 1 | 45 | Promoted and re-apptd. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Stadacona | " | 15 | 1 | 45 | addl. for sea appointment | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " Guysborough | " | 19 | 1 | 45 | addl.-Appt. 20-1-45 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | " | 12 | 2 | 45 | in charge of machinery | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DISCHARGED | " | 18 | 3 | 45 | "Missing-due to enemy action"-per Casualty List pg. 138 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

GENERAL REMARKS
 Memorial Cross sent to Wife:
 Mrs. Sally M. Bell-Irving,
 c/o Hy. Bell-Irving & Co., Ltd.,
 989 W. Hastings Street,
 VANCOUVER, B.C.----sent 5-6-45
 Memorial Cross sent to Mother:
 Mrs. Richard Bell-Irving,
 Onslow Place, Capilano Estates,
 British Properties,
 VANCOUVER, B.C.----- 28-6-45.

Leave for H. Dep. from 7.2.44

| 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. | CTY. | TOWN | SERV. | DIV. | A | BR | RANK |
| 30 | X | 16 | 22 | RRR | 0 | 30 | X | 904 | 00 | X | 99 | 0 | 05 | 12 |
| ENLIST. DATE | | | ACT. SERV. DATE | | | STR. | ACT. SERV. DATE | | | SHIP OR | RANK OR RATE | | | |
| DY | MO. | YR. | DY | MO. | YR. | CAT. | DY | MO. | YR. | ESTAB. | A | BR | RANK | |
| 01 | 01 | 44 | 01 | 01 | 44 | | | | | 9750 | 0 | 10 | 12 | |
| SENIORITY | | | STR. | NON-SUB | | M | CODED | | | CHECKED | | | | |
| DY | MO. | YR. | CAT. | A | B | ST | | | | | | | | |
| 01 | 01 | 44 | 13 | | | | E.B. am | | | T | | | | |

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

93

H.M.C.S. ~~IRVING~~ NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

Name..... ~~BELL-IRVING~~ Richard Morris
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating..... Lieutenant (E) Official No..... --- Unit { R.C.N.
 R.C.N.R.
 R.C.N.V.R.

Place of Birth..... Alvestoke, England Date of Birth..... 30 November, 1916

Occupation in Civil Life..... Apprenticeship served with Ruston & Hornsby Ltd., England, Religion..... Church of England

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 16th September, 1940 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. "GUISEBOROUGH" which was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action at sea.
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend. { Name..... Mrs. Sally M. Bell-Irving Relationship..... Wife
 Address..... c/o Hy. Bell-Irving & Co. Ltd., 989 W. Hastings St., VANCOUVER, B. C.

Date on which the above was informed by Ship ~~at~~ 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..... ---

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

*Noted
 D.N.P.A.
 4.5.45
 E.F.*

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

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

NAME IN FULL BEL-IRVING, Richard Morris..... RANK/RATING ..A/S(Lt.)..... OFF. NO.

| SHIP | SERVICE | | | AREA | QUALIFYING PERIODS | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|----|------------------|
| | FROM | TO | DAYS | | FROM | TO | 1939-45 ATLANTIC |
| <u>NADEN</u> | <u>16.9.40</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>MALASPINA</u> | <u>24.10.40</u> | <u>6.12.40</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>West coast</u> | | | |
| <u>SNOWBERRY</u> | <u>4.7.41</u> | | <u>440</u> | <u>Atlantic</u> | | | |
| <u>MELVILLE</u> | | <u>16.9.42</u> | | | | | |
| <u>TRURO</u> | <u>18.9.42</u> | <u>17.2.43</u> | <u>153</u> | <u>Atlantic</u> | | | |
| <u>GUYSBOROUGH</u> | <u>19.1.45</u> | <u>18.3.45</u> | <u>59</u> | <u>Atlantic</u> | | | |
| <u>Discharged Presumed Dead</u> | | | | | | | |
| <u>to date 18/3/45.</u> | | | | | | | |
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VERIFIED BY Jayne Rose.....

VERIFIED BY

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

NAME ... *A.H.E.* OFF. NO. ... *0-5763* ADDRESS

| QUALIFYING PERIODS IN DAYS | | | | | | STARS MEDALS | ✓ 1 2 | ELIGIBLE FOR AWARDS OF |
|----------------------------|----|---------|----------|---------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|
| FROM | TO | 1939-45 | ATLANTIC | DEFENCE | CLASP C.V.S.M. 1915 MEDAL | | | |
| | | | | | | 1939-45 | 1 | <i>Star</i> |
| | | | | | | ATLANTIC | 1 | <i>Star</i> |
| | | | | | | FRANCE G. | | |
| | | | | | | AFRICA | | |
| | | | | | | PACIFIC | | |
| | | | | | | BURMA | | |
| | | | | | | ITALY | | |
| | | | | | | DEFENCE | | |
| | | | | | | C.V.S.M. | 2 | <i>Clasp</i> |
| | | | | | | " CLASP | | |
| | | | | | | WAR 1945 | 1 | <i>Medal</i> |
| | | | | | | WAR 1915 | | |

VERIFIED BY *Joyce P...*

By command of the Honourable the Minister of National Defence
for Naval Services of the Dominion of Canada

To Sub-Lieutenant (E) Richard M. Bell-Irving, R.C.N.V.R.,
(Temporary), --

You are hereby appointed ~~appointed~~ promoted and re-appointed

Acting Lieutenant (E), R.C.N.V.R., (Temporary),

of His Majesty's Canadian Ship NONSUCH additional as Naval Liaison
Officer for ratings
undergoing course of
instruction at University of
Alberta.

^{promotion}
Your appointment ~~is~~ to take effect from 1st January, 1945.

Joseph Jeffrey

Secretary, Naval Board

R.S.
Department of National Defence
Naval Service

Ottawa, 10th January, 1945.

re-apptd.

| Personnel Records Division. | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Noted in Records . . . | <i>AM</i> |
| 2. Index Card | |
| 3. Non-Sub. Card | |
| 4. Statistical Card | |
| 5. Roneo Strip | |
| 6. Pension Card | |
| 7. | |
| 8. | |
| DATE | <i>15/1/45</i> |

AMENDED APPOINTMENT

0-5763

By command of the Honourable the Minister of National Defence
for Naval Services of the Dominion of Canada

To Lieutenant (E) Richard M. Bell-Irving (Acting), R.C.N.V.R.,
(Temporary),--

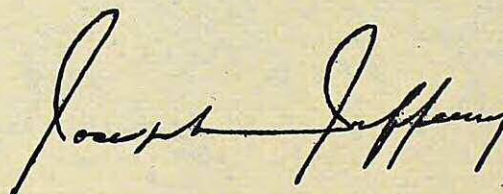
You are hereby appointed

63

Acting Lieutenant (E), R.C.N.V.R., (Temporary),

of His Majesty's Canadian Ship STADACONA additional for sea
appointment.

Your appointment is to take effect from 15th January, 1945.



Secretary, Naval Board

R.S.
Department of National Defence
Naval Service

Ottawa, 10th January, 1945.
NONSUCH addl. as Naval Liaison Offr for ratings under-
going course of instruction at University of Alberta.

H.Q. 36a
20M-1-44 (88)
NFB. 815-7-36

| Personnel Records Division. | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Noted in Records | ✓ |
| 2. Index Card | |
| 3. Non Sub. Card | |
| 4. Statistical Card | |
| 5. Roneo Strip | |
| 6. Pension Card | |
| 7. | |
| DATE | 17/1/45 |

By Command of the Honourable the Minister of National Defence
for Naval Services of the Dominion of Canada

To Lieutenant (E) Richard M. Bell-Irving (Acting), R.C.N.V.R.,
(Temporary),--

You are hereby appointed

Acting Lieutenant (E), R.C.N.V.R., (Temporary),

of His Majesty's Canadian Ship GUYSBOROUGH in charge of machinery.

Your appointment is to take effect from 15th February, 1945.

Joseph Jeffrey

R.S.
Department of National Defence
Naval Service

Ottawa, 9th February, 1945.
GUYSBOROUGH addl.

H.Q. 36
5M-11-44 (1205)
N.S. 7570-H.Q. 36

| Secretary, Naval Board Personnel Records Division. | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Noted in Records | <i>J. Jeffrey</i> |
| 2. Index Card | |
| 3. N. S. Card | |
| 4. Station Card | |
| 5. Roneo Strip | |
| 6. Pension Card | |
| 7. | |
| 8. | |
| DATE | 13/2/45 |

P.N.

LA/CM

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

N.S. 0-5763, PERS.(N)

21 March, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Bell-Irving:

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 husband, Lieutenant (E) Richard Morris Bell-Irving, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, is missing at sea.

The only information that can be given at this time is that your husband 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 husband'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.

Mrs. Sally M. Bell-Irving,
c/o Hy. Bell-Irving & Co. Ltd.,
989 W. Hastings Street,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

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C O P Y

c/o C.F.M.O., London, E.C.2,
April 3rd, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Bell-Irving:

It is with deep regret that I write this letter. I am the former Commanding Officer of H.M.C.S. "GUYSBOROUGH" of which your husband was the Engineer Officer. 87

I know there is nothing I can say that will take away the grief you are suffering, but I do want you to know how extremely sorry I am.

Although Dick was only in the ship for a short time, we were becoming very good friends and I can truthfully say he was the best Engineer Officer that ever served under my command. He was very popular everywhere as you do doubt know, and his loss is deeply felt by those of us who survived.

Regulations prevent me from giving a detailed description of all that happened but I can say that we were close together through most of it. Dick got safely away uninjured to a carley float where he died some hours later, after falling asleep, from exposure.

Please understand although I was not in the same float many of the men died in this fashion and all we could do would not keep them awake. The last time I shouted over to Dick he replied cheerfully enough that all was well, but when morning came his float reported to me that he had died during the night.

If I am ever in your vicinity, I hope you will allow me to call on you to express my condolences in person. In the meantime, if there is anything I can do, please let me know and I will be only too pleased to oblige.

Yours sincerely,

"B.R. Russell"

Lieutenant, R.C.N.R.

21 April, 1945.

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Dear Mrs. Bell-Irving:

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 husband, Lieutenant (E) Richard Morris Bell-Irving, 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.

"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."

One of the survivors is reported to have stated:

"We swam to the floats. The engineer officer, Lieut. R. M. Bell-Irving, took charge of the one I climbed into. Four hours later he died of exposure and that was what caused most of the deaths of the men in the four floats that we succeeded in tying together."

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 husband has helped to maintain.

Yours sincerely,


SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Sally M. Bell-Irving,
c/o Hy. Bell-Irving & Co., Ltd.,
989 W. Hastings St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

.....
Date 22.4.45
Time 12.00

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D OF D. 18-3-45

AWARDS NAVY

D.D.

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|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|---------------|
| BELL-IRVING | Richard Morris | 0-5763 | Lt.(E) | FILE No. |
| SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS) | CHRISTIAN NAMES | REG. No. | RANK ON DISCHARGE | C.A.S.F. UNIT |

WAR SERVICEBADGE

CLASS)

No.

DATE DESPATCHED:

ADDRESS:

| CAMPAIGN MEDALS | REGISTRATION NUMBER AND DATE DESPATCHED |
|--------------------|---|
| 1939-45 Star | 1518 |
| Atlantic Star | |
| C.V.S.M. and Clasp | |
| War Medal | 259048 |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL
RCNVR Mar. 46 "GUYSBOROUGH"

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS
PERSON

Delafon (Re-married)

ENTITLED TO Mrs. Sally May Bell-~~Irving~~ - Widow

~~c/o Hy, Bell-Irving & Com Ltd.,~~

ADDRESS: ~~989 W. Hastings St.,~~

~~VANCOUVER, B.C.~~

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

8 Avenue De Breteuil, PARIS, 7 France.

20-5-49

WIDOW Mrs. S.M. Bell-Irving

989 West Hastings St.,

ADDRESS: Vancouver, B.C.

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER Mrs. R. Bell-Irving

Onslow Place, Capilano Estates,
British Properties, Vancouver, B.C.

ADDRESS:

MEMORIAL BAR

(1)
DATE DESP.....

REGN. NO. 552

(2) 5-6-45

(3) 28-6-45