

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

(a) To serve from the date thereof for the duration of hostilities ~~duration of hostilities~~ being subject to the provisions of the Naval Service Act, and of the Regulations made in pursuance thereof for the government of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, and to the customs and usages of His Majesty's Canadian Naval Service.

(b) To report for active service 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 20th day of July, 1942.

Signature of applicant William A. Hunter

(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 20th day of July, 1942.

J. Dawson
Signature of ~~Commanding Officer~~
Sub-Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, William Alexander HUNTER. do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Britannic Majesty, His heirs and successors according to law.

Signature of Applicant William A. Hunter

Witness J. Dawson

Date 20th July, 1942. Rank Sub-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

William Alexander HUNTER. 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.

J. Dawson
Signature of ~~Commanding Officer~~
Sub-Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.

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.

This is to acknowledge that I have not been induced to enter the SEAMAN. Branch of the Naval Service by the prospect of being transferred at some future date to another Branch.

William A. Hunter
Signature

CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

William Alexander HUNTER

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Training Headquarters	R.C.N.V.R. Division <i>"Maden"</i>	Official Number... <i>V-43655</i>
		"
		"

Date of Birth... *12th January - 1925*

Place of Birth... *Vancouver - B.C.*

Place of Residence... *Anderson Ave Port Alberni, B.C.*

Trade brought up to... *Press Man*

Religion... *Presbyterian*

Can Swim:—P.P.T. *fair* Date... *13 November* 19*42*. Signature... *J. Orma* Rank... *Lieut*

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

Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil)
(Mother)
Mrs Elizabeth Hunter
(Same Address)



PARTICULARS OF SERVICE				MEDALS, DECORATIONS, etc.		
Date of Actual Volunteering	Date of Enrolment or re-enrolment	Period Volunteered for	Rating on Enrolment or Re-enrolment	Date of		Nature of Decoration
				Award	Presentation	
	<i>20 July '42</i>	<i>Host.</i>	<i>O/Smn</i>		<i>17 Feb '44</i>	<i>Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & clasp - Provincial Award</i>
					<i>17 Feb '44</i>	<i>1939-1943 Star Provincial Award</i>

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION								
	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry	<i>5</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>33</i>		<i>Brown Grey</i>	<i>Medium</i>		<i>NIL</i>
On re-enrolment—6 years' Service								
On re-enrolment—12 years' Service								
Further Description if necessary								

TRANSFER BETWEEN DIVISIONS			TRANSFER—LISTS A AND B		
From	To	Date	List	Date	Authority

V43655

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-H-2676

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V43655

NAME HUNTER (Surname) William Alexander (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 12 Jan., 1925PLACE OF BIRTH Vancouver, B.C. OCCUPATION Press ManRELIGION Presbyterian EDUCATION Grade IX; 1 yr. High SchoolRESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. Anderson Ave. Town Port Alberni, 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
20	7	42	H.O.	5'11	Brn.	Grey	Med.	Nil.				

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) Mother NAME (in pencil) Mrs. Elizabeth HunterADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. Anderson Ave. Town Port Alberni, 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	
17	2	44	C.V.S.M. &C A'10072	18	9	42	Qualified "First Aid Injured"				
17	2	44	1939-1943 Star "	3	12	42	Qualified "TR" 249A-#5509				

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.	
									Un. Ins. book, 534 Broughton St., Victoria, B.C.

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From

To



FILM
 NO. WAR 5735-1-
 DATE

V43655

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME **HUNTER**
(Surname)

William Alexander
(Given Names)

OFFICIAL NUMBER **V43655**

P.I.B.

Ship or Establishment	Rating	From			Remarks	Character	Efficiency	Date			Non-Sub. Rating	Qualified			Re-Qualified				
		Day	Month	Year				Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year		
HMCS Naden	Ord. Smn.	20	7	42		VG	SAT	11	1	43	Q&R A/S.T.	9	2	43	A	5668			
" Guysborough	" "	20	2	43	D.R.D. (Givenchy #595)	V.G.	Supr.	31	2	43									
	Able Seaman	20	7	43	Rated. 249A 26595	VG	SUPR	31	12	44									
DISCHARGED.	"	18	3	45	"Missing" per Casualty List.	VG	SUPR	18	3	45									

Presumed dead

GENERAL REMARKS

To R.C.N.Hosp. 13.10.42. S-161-20366.
 Canadian Memorial Cross granted to:
 MOTHER: Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter,
 Anderson Ave.,
 PORT ALBERNI, B.C., to date
 5th June, 1945.

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE OF BIRTH			CIVIL OCCU.		RELI-GION	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
12	1	25	18	300			50	X		05	07	0	13	0	08	95	
ENLIST. DATE			ACT. SERV. DATE			STR.	ACT. SERV. DATE			SHIP OR ESTAB.	RANK OR RATE						
DY.	MO.	YR.	DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.					A	BR.	RANK				
20	07	42	20	07	42					3290	0	08	94				
SENIORITY			STR.	NON-SUB.		M				CODED	CHECKED						
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST											
20	07	43	13	25	00					AC							

VERIFICATION FORM

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

RANK/RATING *H/Sun* OFF. NO. *V. 43655* ADDRESS

AREA	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	1	<i>star</i>
<i>v. to & date 7.9.</i>							ATLANTIC	1	<i>@ clasp</i>
							FRANCE G.	2	
							AFRICA		
							PACIFIC		
							BURMA		
							ITALY		
							DEFENCE		
							C.V.S.M.	2	<i>@ clasp</i>
							" CLASP		
							WAR 1945	1	<i>medal</i>
							WAR 1915		

VERIFIED BY *[Signature]*

VERIFIED BY DIR. OF PERSONNEL RECORDS.

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Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

~~HUNTERS~~ Naval Service Headquarters, OTTAWA, Ontario.

Name HUNTER William Alexander
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating Able Seaman Official No. V-43655 Unit R.C.N.
R.C.N.R.
R.C.N.V.R.

Place of Birth Vancouver, B.C. Date of Birth 12 January, 1925.

Occupation in Civil Life Press Man Religion Presbyterian

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 20 July, 1942 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.
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

"GUYSBOROUGH" which was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action at sea.

Nearest known relative or friend { Name Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter, Relationship Mother
Address Anderson Avenue,
Port Alberni, B.C.

Date on which the above was informed by ~~Ship~~ Naval Service Headquarters: 21 March, 1945.

Date on which death was registered with local Officials ---

In the case of Imperial Service men, whether Active Service, Pensioner or Reserve, date on which the prescribed return was rendered to the Registrar General in London, Edinburgh or Dublin, according to Nationality ---

If applicable { Place of Burial No burial Date of Burial ---
Location, Number, etc., of grave ---
Undertaker employed ---

H.B. Money

(Commanding Officer)
for SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

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

Date Ottawa, Ont., 1 May, 1945.

In all cases this Form is to be sent in addition to the Report by Telegraph required by the Regulations.

Distribution: File, Imp. W. G. Com., Dom. Stat., Register, Sec. C.P.C., Dir. of Records.

*Noted
D. N. P. A.
10-5-45
L. D.*

28
c/o C.F.M.O.
London, E.C.2.
April 3, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Hunter:

It is with deep regret that I write this letter. I am the former Commanding Officer of H.M.C.S. Guysborough in which your son was serving.

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.

Your son was one of the ship's company ~~for some time~~ and I can truthfully say there was not a better seaman under my command, a fine boy cheerfully disposed under the most trying situations. He was a credit to you and his ship at all times and died gallantly for his country.

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.

30

23 April, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Hunter:

Further to my letter of the 21st of March, 1945, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your son, William Alexander Hunter, Able Seaman, Official Number V.43655, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, was reported missing from H.M.C.S. "GUYSBOROUGH", the ship in which he was serving, the fact that all circumstances surrounding his loss have been carefully reviewed, and as no news has since been received to the contrary, the Canadian Naval Authorities have now presumed his death to have occurred on the 18th of March, 1945.

H.M.C.S. "GUYSBOROUGH", a Royal Canadian Navy minesweeper, was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine while on operational duty at sea. Five Officers and 48 ratings, including one Royal Navy Officer and one rating who were taking passage, are missing and now presumed dead.

The above information is now being released for publication.

The following is an excerpt from the report of a Canadian Naval Press Relations Officer who was in contact with survivors of the ill-fated ship. While there is no official confirmation of these statements, they are believed to be authentic, considering their source:

"Only one death occurred from the explosion but many died during the 19 hours the men who had survived the explosion spent in the water clinging to five Carley floats. Only six men of the 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.

- 2 -



"There was just one fatality from the torpedoing,
although some members of a gun's crew were injured."


Please allow me to express sincere sympathy with you
in your bereavement on behalf of the Minister of National Defence
for Naval Services, the Chief of the Naval Staff, and the Officers
and men of the Royal Canadian Navy, the high traditions of which
your son has helped to maintain.

Yours sincerely,


SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter,
Anderson Ave.,
Port Alberni, B.C.

 
Despatched by
Sec. N. B.


.....
Date 22.4.45
Time 1215

DECEASED 18 March 1945

AWARDS NAVY

D.D.

HUNTER	William Alexander	V-43655	A/Smn.	FILE No.
SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS)	CHRISTIAN NAMES	REG. No.	RANK ON DISCHARGE	C.A.S.F. UNIT

WAR SERVICEBADGE

(CLASS)

No.

DATE DESPACHED:

ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN MEDALS	REGISTRATION NUMBER AND DATE DESPACHED
1939-45 Star	
Atlantic Star & Clasp	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	
	9571

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

RCNVR Oct. 45 "GUYSBOROUGH"

(1) MEDALS
PERSON

ENTITLED TO Mr. William H. Hunter - Father

ADDRESS: Anderson Ave.,
PORT Alberni, B.C.

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER

Mrs. E. Hunter

ADDRESS: Anderson Avenue
PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

MEMORIAL B R

DATE DESP

(1)

REGN. NO

352

(2)

(3)

5 June 1945