

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

(a) To serve from the date thereof for the 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 when called and 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 naval establishment 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, until called into active service, not to wear such uniform or outfit (which is and remains the property of the Crown) except when on naval duty.

(d) To undergo vaccination or re-vaccination, or inoculation, as considered necessary by the appropriate authorities.

(e) I have not been induced to enter as Stoker Ic (T) by the prospect of being transferred at some future date to any other branch or rating.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 1943.

Signature of applicant Donald A. Bell

(C) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

I hereby certify that all the foregoing statements were made by the volunteer above named and that he has made and signed the above declaration in my presence on this 23rd day of January, 1943.

My authority for attestation is NS 114-1-46 NS 114-1-7 2nd November, 1942.

W. P. Lynch
Signature of and rank of Attesting Officer.
Lieutenant V. R.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, Donald A. BELL 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 Donald A. Bell

Witness W. P. Lynch

Date 23rd January, 1943. Rank Lieutenant V. R.

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

NOTE.—Attestation Form in duplicate, Certificate of Medical Examination (B-207) in duplicate, Occupational History Form in triplicate and certificates of previous service are to be forwarded to Naval Service Headquarters immediately after attestation.

Certificates of previous service will be returned after examination.

Unemployment Insurance Book

yes

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

Donald Alexander BELL

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Training Headquarters	R.C.N.V.R. Division	Official Number <i>V-53224</i>
	<i>H.M.C.S. "Proost"</i>	"
		"

Date of Birth..... <i>3rd December, 1923</i>	Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil) <i>Mrs. Catherine Bell</i> <i>(Mother)</i> <i>Same address</i>
Place of Birth..... <i>Peterborough, Ontario</i>	
Place of Residence..... <i>152 Delaware Street, London, Ontario</i>	
Trade brought up to..... <i>Machinist</i>	
Religion..... <i>United Church</i>	

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	
	<i>23 Jan. '43</i>	<i>Duration of Hostilities</i>	<i>Stoker 1/c</i>			

	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry.....	<i>5</i>	<i>3 3/4</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Hazel</i>	<i>Fair</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

NAVAL TRAINING and ACTIVE SERVICE

Year	SHIP OR ESTABLISHMENT	NON-SUB. RATE	RATING	FROM	TO	CAUSE OF DISCHARGE
	H.M.C.S. "PREVOST"		Stoker 1/c	23 Jan '43	11 Feb '43	
	<i>In Active Service 12 February 43</i>					
	PREVOST		Stoker 1/c	12 Feb '43	19 Apr '43	
	CORNWALLIS		"	20 Apr '43	11 June '43	
	Itadacora		"	12 June '43	22 Aug '43	
	Niobe		"	27 Aug '43	7 Oct '43	
	Niobe (Athabaska)		"	8 Oct '43	29 Sept '44	Missing 20/38 P.D. - 21062 Presumed Dead.

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

Date	Details	Captain's Signature
6 July '43	Issued S.C. J.W. H.B. 77946 Sharp Ent. leave	

3172
1372

V53224

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-B-1728

OFFICIAL NUMBER V53224

NAME

BELL
(Surname)Donald Alexander
(Given Names)

DATE OF BIRTH 3 Dec 1923

PLACE OF BIRTH

Peterborough, Ont.

OCCUPATION

Machinist

RELIGION

United

EDUCATION

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No.

152 Delaware St.,

Town

London,

Province, etc.

Ont.

Date (in figures)			Period	DESCRIPTION					PREVIOUS SERVICE			
Day	Month	Year		Height	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Marks or Scars	Served in	Rank or Rating	Dates	
23	1	43	H.O.	5' 3 ³ / ₄ "	brown	hazel	fair	nil			From	To

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil)

Father

NAME (in pencil)

Mrs Grant Allen Bell

ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No.

152 Delaware St.

Town

London

Province, etc.

Ont.

MEDALS, CLASPS, HURT CERTIFICATES, PRIZE MONEY

EXAMINATIONS, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

25.11.43 (211214056)

Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			PARTICULARS
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
				31	5	43	Qual. anti-gas 1 day				

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		

FILM

NO.

WSR-5791-17

DATE

Date (in figures)

DAYS FORFEITED

Day Month Year

Prison

Det'n

Cells

C. Power

W. Trial

In diff. Char.

O.H.F. Received

Last Will & Testament dated 23-1-43 received

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From

To



V53224

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME BELL
(Surname)

Donald Alexander
(Given Names)

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V53224

PI

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 "Prevost"	Sto. I	23	1	43	Div. Str. London												
"	"	12	2	43	Active Service DL. 12.2.43.												
" Cornwallis (D.B.)	"	20	4	43	D.L. 20-4-43												
" Stadacona	"	12	6	43	DRD H-1777.												
" Niobe	"	27	8	43	D.R.D. #H-2437												
" Athabaskan	"	8	10	43	Niobe DRD # 284												
DISCHARGED	"	29	4	44	"Missing" Casualty List, "Presumed Dead"												

GENERAL REMARKS

Canadian Memorial Cross Awarded to:
 Mother: Mrs. Catherine Bell,
 152 Delaware St.,
 LONDON, Ontario 31-1-45

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE BIRTH		CIVIL OCCU.		RELI-ED		PERM. RESIDENCE			PREV. ENL.		RANK OR RATE OF ENLISTMENT			
DY.	MO.	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB	GION	P.	CTV.	TOWN	SEMI	DIV.	A	BR.	RANK			
03	R	23	11	270	X	40	X	1	30	03	0	16	0	1594			
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				
23	01	43	12	02	43					0230	0	15	94				
SENIORITY			STR.			NON-SUB			M			COGED			CHECKED		
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.	DY.	MO.	YR.	ESTAB.	A	BR.	RANK				
12	02	43	09	00	00	20	29-04-44										

35'

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

~~HMCS~~ NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, At OTTAWA, Ont.

Name BELL, Donald Alexander
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating Stoker First Class Official No. V-53224 Unit R.C.N. (R.C.N.V.R.)

Place of Birth Peterborough, Ontario Date of Birth 3rd December, 1923

Occupation in Civil Life Machinist Religion United

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 23rd January, 1943 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 Mr. Ernest A. Bell Relationship Father
Address 152 Delaware Street, LONDON, Ontario.

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
S.N.P.A.'s LOG BOOK
JAN 20 1945
CLERK No. 1
G.P.

H.B. Money
for SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD. EMC
(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.

VERIFICATION FORM

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

RANK/RATING *Sgt. I* OFF.NO. *V-53224* 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>
							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 *J. Rose*.....

IFIED BY DIR. OF PERSONNEL RECORDS.

TFH/IF

AIR MAIL
REGISTERED
N.S. V.53224 Pers. (N)

- NAVAL SERVICE -

LETTER DISPATCHED BY
PERSONNEL NAVAL

2 1944

1 May, 1944.

14

Dear Mr. Bell:

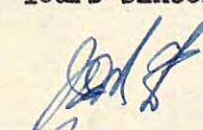
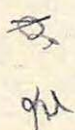
It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 1st of May, 1944, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your son, Donald Alexander Bell, Stoker First Class, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, Official Number V.53224, is missing from H.M.C.S. "Athabaskan".

According to the report received from overseas, your son'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 Stoker Bell 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 son 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 son has helped to maintain.

Yours sincerely,


SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD. 

Mr. Ernest Allen Bell,
152 Delaware Street,
LONDON, Ontario.

LA/JM

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

N.S. V-53224, Pers.(N)

38

January, 1945.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Bell:

It is with deepest regret that I must inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your son, Donald Alexander Bell, Stoker First Class, Official Number V-53224, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer 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,

Deputy

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest A. Bell,
152 Delaware Street,
LONDON, Ontario.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

Date 15/1/45
Time 1800

15 December, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Bell:

With reference to your letter of recent date it has been learned in the Department that along the coast of Finistere, France at Brignogan, Plouescat, Santec and L'Aberwrach, shortly after the tragic sinking of H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN", bodies from this ship were recovered and buried. Of approximately seventy bodies known to have been recovered in this region, only two, however, were identified. In many cases all positive means of identification were taken from the bodies by the Germans and retained by them.

See
N.S.O-2450.

While the wallet you received may have been obtained by the Germans in the above manner, there is insufficient evidence to determine exactly how it came into their possession or to establish that your son's body was recovered. It is quite feasible that during the emergency that existed at the time that articles of clothing and personal effects were discarded, lost or appropriated by members of the crew.

Regarding the unidentified bodies, it is understood that the citizens of the French towns where they were recovered, looked after the burials and held funeral services, even against the wishes of the Germans.

It is regretted that this Department is unable to offer you any hope that your son is alive. The extensive investigations conducted by the Allied authorities on the Continent since the cessation of hostilities have failed to bring to light any news of his fate. Nor has any information been received from the Canadian Naval authorities overseas that mention of Stoker Bell was made in the captured German casualty records.

An extensive search for graves of Canadian Naval personnel who lost their lives in the European theatre of war is still being conducted by the Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries, London, England and the Imperial War Graves Commission and you may rest assured that should a grave be located or any other news received, you will be informed immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Despatched by
N. Sec.

DEPUTY

NAVAL SECRETARY.

.....
Date *15.12.45*
Time *1245*

Mrs. Catherine Bell,
152 Delaware Street,
LONDON, Ontario.

SA
2
15
15/15.12.45
Shv

Ontario, 8th June, x 50.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bell:

On the cessation of hostilities the Army Graves Services, Overseas, made searches on the Continent in an effort to locate graves and identify bodies. Exhumation reports, dental records, etc., of casualties from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" have since been turned over to the Secretary of the Imperial War Graves Commission, Wooburn House, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Bucks., England, who, in turn has forwarded them to Naval Headquarters with a view to definitely establishing the identity of bodies which were exhumed and over whose graves temporary markers in some cases have been placed.

As the dental particulars on the exhumation reports respecting your son, the late Stoker First Class Donald Alexander Bell, Official Number V-53224, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, are similar to those on file at Naval Headquarters, such particulars have been accepted as positive identification.

Stoker Bell's grave is located in the Plouescat Communal Cemetery, Plouescat, Finistere, France, in Plot Number 1, Row 'A', Grave Number 2. It is understood a permanent headstone will be erected in due course by the Imperial War Graves Commission (Overseas). It is suggested that any inquiries regarding your son's grave should be addressed direct to the Secretary of that Commission.

Yours very truly,

Despatched by
N. Sec.Date
Time..... M.G.
19.6.50

NAVAL SECRETARY.

Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Bell,
152 Delaware Street,
LONDON, Ontario.

D OF D 29-4-44

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

NAVY

D.D.
WAR SERVICE RECORDS

BELL	Donald Alexander	V-53224	Sto. 1	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	2918
Atlantic Star	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

RCNVR Aug. 45 "ATHABASKAN"

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) MEDALS

PERSON

ENTITLED TO Mrs. Catherine Bell - Mother

ADDRESS: 152 Delaware St.,

LONDON, Ont.

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW

ADDRESS:

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER Mrs. Catherine Bell

ADDRESS: 152 Delaware St.,
London, Ontario.

MEMORIAL B R

(1)

DATE DESP.....

REGN. NO. 896

(2)

(3)

31-1-45