



CANADA

ATTESTATION FORM (HOSTILITIES FORM)

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME SHIBLEY, OFFICIAL NO. V-32049
CHRISTIAN NAMES Francis Roy, MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS: 308- Second St. West, CORNWALL, Ontario. RELIGION: Presbyterian.

DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
<u>18th August, 1913</u>	Town <u>Toronto,</u> County <u>York,</u> Province <u>Ontario.</u>	Mother: <u>Mrs. Frances Shibley,</u> <u>396 Regent St.,</u> <u>LONDON, ONT.</u>

Original Nationality of:
Father English
Mother English

*If not the son of natural born British parents, particulars to be given at foot of next page

(A) PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet <u>6</u>	Inflated <u>40</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Blue</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Scars on Shins.</u>
Inches <u>2</u>	Deflated <u>35</u>				
Mean <u>38</u>					

EDUCATIONAL STANDING	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY
<u>Two Years High School (Technical)</u>	<u>Agent: London Life Insurance Com.</u> <u>CORNWALL, Ont.</u>

DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING FOR WHICH ENROLLED	R.C.N.V.R. DIVISION, OR OTHER ESTABLISHMENT, AT WHICH ENROLLED
<u>22nd July, 1941.</u>	<u>V.A. Prob.</u>	<u>OTTAWA.</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 Not Applicable. 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

(c) I have never been rejected for or discharged 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 OTTAWA Division of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, I undertake to 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 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.

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

Dated this 22nd day of July, 1941.

Signature of applicant

Francis Roy Shibley

(C) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING 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 22nd day of July, 1941.

Signature of rank of Attesting Officer.
[Signature]
Lieut. RONVR.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, Francis Roy Shibley, 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

Francis Roy Shibley

Witness

[Signature]

Date 22nd July, 1941.

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 ATTESTING OFFICER

Francis Roy Shibley, 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 OTTAWA Division of the R.C.N.V.R. or in the appropriate official documents.

Signature of Attesting Officer.
[Signature]
Lieut. RONVR.

22nd July, 194 1 R.C.N.V.R. Division OTTAWA (or other establishment)

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.

COPY

CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

Francis Roy SHIBLEY

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

*Attd (Visor)
on 5 June '42*

Training Headquarters Halifax, N.S.	R.C.N.V.R. Division Ottawa, Ont.	Official Number V-32049
---	--	--------------------------------

Date of Birth **18 August 1913.**

Place of Birth **Toronto, Ont.**

Place of Residence **308 - 2nd Ave W Cornwall**

Trade brought up to **Insurance Agent.**

Religion **Presbyterian.**

Can Swim:—P.P.T. Date **19** Signature **3/1/42** Rank **396/Regent St London Ont**

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

Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil)
Francis (mother)
396/Regent St London Ont
3/1/42

O.H.F.

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	
22 July 1941.		Hostilities only.	P/V.A.			

COPY

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry	6	2	38	170	Brown	Blue	Fair.	Scars on shins.
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.	Ottawa Div.			P/V.A.	22 July	1 Jan '42.	
	Active Service.						
1942.	Carleton.			P/V.A.	2 Jan.	4 Jan.	
1942.	York.			P/V.A.	5 Jan.	2 Mch.	
1942.	Stadacona.			P/S.A.	17 Mch '42	22 Apr '42	
	Venture			S.A.	3 Apr '42	13 Apr '42	
	Stadacona			---	1 May '42	8 June '42	
1942	Stadacona (Victory)			---	9 June '42	14 June '42	
--	Protector (---)			---	18 June '42	19 Dec '42	
	Stadacona (---)			---	20 Dec '42	26 Dec	
--	Coventry (---)			---	26 Dec '42	30 June '43	Discharged Dead.

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

Date	Details	Captain's Signature
20 July '42	Wound S.C.T.W. # B18808	

V32049

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME SHIBLEY
(Surname)

Francis Roy
(Given Names)

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V32049

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
Ottawa Div. Str.	Vict. Prob.	22	7	41													
Duty Div. Hdqs.	"	2	1	42													
HMCS "York"	"	5	1	42													
"	Supply Prob.	1	3	42													
HMCS "Stadacona"	"	2	3	42													
"	S.A.	3	4	42	Rated (249A-24157)												
Venture Staff	"	13	4	42	1161-204867												
Stadacona Staff	"	1	5	42	1161-1346011												
HMCS "Vison"	"	9	6	42	1161-111611												

Discharged

30 6 43 "Dead" 3/1 3012322/6/43
*Discharged off ship/1/43
 a starting period certificate*

GENERAL REMARKS

Awarded Memorial Cross to Wife:
 Mrs. Gwendolyn Shibley,
 396 Regent St.,
 LONDON, Ont.
 5th August, 1943

Awarded Memorial Cross to Mother:
 Mrs. Frances Shibley,
 396 Regent St.,
 LONDON, Ont.
 18th August, 1943

DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE	CIVIL	OCCU.	RELIED	PERM.	RESIDENCE	PREV. ENL.	RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT				
DY	MO	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB	GIG	CITY	TOWNSHIP	SERY	DIV.	A	BR	RANK
18	8	13	11	691	0	503	147	01	0	03	0	22	95
ENLIST. DATE		ACT. SERV. DATE	STR.	ACT. SERV. DATE		SHIP OR ESTAB.	RANK OR RATE						
DY	MO	YR.	DY	MO	YR.	CAT.	EV	MO	YR.	ESTAB.	A	BR	RANK
22	07	41	02	01	42					5250		22	94
SENIORITY		STR.	NON-SUS	M.									
DY	MO	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.							
03	04	42	09	00	00	22	30-06-43						
										CODED	CHECKED		
										ER	EP		

V32049

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-S-1680

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V32049

NAME SHIBLEY (Surname) Francis Roy (Given Names) DATE OF BIRTH 18 Aug. 1913

PLACE OF BIRTH Toronto, Ont. OCCUPATION Insurance Agent

RELIGION Presbyterian EDUCATION 2 yrs. High School (Technical)

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. 308 Second St. West, Town Cornwall, Province, etc. Ont.

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
22	7	41	H.O.	6' 2"	brown	blue	fair	Scars on shins				

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) NAME (in pencil) ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. 396 Regent St. Town London Province, etc. Ont. 24/12/42

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	

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		

WSP-5577-6
DATE

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

O.H.F. Received

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT From To

W.S.G. APPLICATION 25576 RECEIVED 18/8/42

AWARDS NAVY

SHIBLEY

Francis Roy

V-32049

S.A.

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

1939-45 Star
Atlantic Star
C.V.S.M. & Clasp
War Medal

REGISTRATION NUMBER AND DATE DESPATCHED

3576

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL
RCNVR Dec. 43

REGISTRATION No. DATE OF DESPATCH

MEMORIAL BAR

(1) MEDALS
PERSON

McCollum (Re-married)

ENTITLED TO Mrs. G.R. ~~Shibley~~ - Widow

ADDRESS: ~~396 Regent Street,~~ Jarvis Apts., #103,
390 Princess Ave.,
London, Ont.

DATE DESP

(1)

REGN. NO. 650

(2) MEMORIAL CROSS

WIDOW Mrs. Gwendolyn Shibley

ADDRESS: 275 Edward St., London, Ont.

(2)

5-8-43

(3) MEMORIAL CROSS

MOTHER Mrs. Francis Shibley

ADDRESS: 396 Regent St., London, Ont.

(3)

18-8-43

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

H.M.C.S. **"CORNWALLIS"** at **Deep Brook, Nova Scotia.**

Name **Francis Roy SHIBLEY**
(Christian names in full)

Rank of Rating **Supply Assistant** Official No. **V.32049**
(If unknown, date of first entry)

Place of Birth **Toronto, Ontario.** Date of Birth **18th August, 1918**
Agent London Life

Occupation in Civil Life **Insurance Co.,** 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) **1 year, 342 days**

Date of Death **30th June, 1943** Place of Death **Digby Pier, Digby, N.S.**

Cause of Death **Drowning**
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend. Name **Gwendolyn Shibley** Relationship **Wife**
Address **396 Regent Street, London, Ontario.**

Date on which the above was informed by Ship **30th June, 1943.**

Date on which death was registered with local Officials **30th June, 1943.**


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

Place of Burial **London, Ontario.** Date of Burial **Not Known**
(if known) (if known)

Location, Number, etc., of grave **Body shipped to London Ontario for burial.**
(if known)

Undertaker employed **Undertaker employed in Digby, N.S. Matheson Funeral Parlour.**
(if any)

If borne for discipline only, date D.S.Q. or invalidated


CAPTAIN, R.C.N. Commanding Officer,
6th July, 1943.

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

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.

C.P.

NAVAL SERVICE

113-28-1680

FROM: The Commanding Officer,
H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS".

DATE: 16th July, 1943.

FILE: C.173/3.

TO : The Commander-in-Chief,
Canadian Northwest Atlantic.

F.R. SHIBLEY, Supply Assistant, V.23049

Submitted.

With reference to your CNA 55-2-1/257 of 13th July, 1943, no action has been taken locally on the recommendation of the Board of Inquiry. It is suggested that the matter be referred to Mr. O.S. Cox, District Engineer, Public Works Department, Halifax, who, it is understood, is responsible for the condition and maintenance of the Digby pier. Pending any official action on this matter, steps have been taken to warn all personnel using this pier at night to do so with extreme caution.

2. In regard to Paragraph 2 of your letter, the Coroner was informed as soon as the body was recovered. He did not consider that an inquest was necessary. This is brought out in evidence (Question Nos. 70 and 71).

MAIN FILE
CHARGED TO *R.N.A.*
SINCE *4-8*
REC'D. CENTRAL OFFICE

2
JUL 19 1943
55-2-1/257
Canadian North West Atlantic

J. Richards
CAPTAIN, R.C.N.

MINUTE II

File: C.N.A.55-2-1/257.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Department of National Defence,
Ottawa.

Submitted for the information of the
Department with reference to CNA.55-2-1/257 of
13th July.

2. It is recommended that the Department
of Public Works for Nova Scotia be approached
regarding repairs to the Digby pier and improve-
ments in the lighting.

AREA
L. W. MURRAY

The Commander-in-Chief,
Canadian Northwest Atlantic,
3rd August, 1943.

(L. W. Murray)
REAR ADMIRAL, R.C.N.

H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS",
Deep Brook, N.S.
3rd July, 1943.

BOARD OF INQUIRY into the death of Francis Roy Shibley, Supply Assistant, which occurred at approximately 0130 on the 30th June, 1943.

SIR:

We, the undersigned, have the honour to report that we convened as a Board of Inquiry on the above matter at the following times:

1330 - 30th June, 1943.
1000 - 1st July, 1943.
0915 - 3rd July, 1943.

The following witnesses were called:

Lieutenant W.E. Nicholson, R.C.N.R.
Lieutenant J.R. Noonan, R.C.N.R.
Sub-Lieutenant C.B. MacKay, R.C.N.V.R.
E.C. Allin, Ordinary Seaman, V-44593.
J. Forrest, Signalman, V-33747
Morris M. Nabbs, Leading Stoker, V-47581
Cecil Tiffin, Ordinary Seaman, V-47355
Surgeon Lieutenant J.W. Sinclair
Geo. A. Wells, Acting Petty Officer, V-5383
M.C. Edwards, Ordinary Seaman, V-59160
V. Miller, Ordinary Seaman, V-58667
James McCulloch, Ordinary Seaman, V-55126
P.E. Dequirt, Ordinary Seaman, V-54505

The following are the findings of the Board. From the evidence heard, the Board is satisfied on the following points:

1. Death was due to misadventure.
2. The deceased was sober at the time. After due consideration, the Board is of the opinion that the death was attributable to the Naval Service in that this rating was returning to his place of duty; namely, H.M.C.S. "VISON", alongside Digby pier. It is recommended that the proper authorities be approached with a view to improving the state of repair of the jetty and providing sufficient lighting to prevent further accidents.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

Member: J. N. Sinclair
Surg. Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R. (Temp.)

Member: B. Lake
Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R. (Temp.)

President: Will Sage
Lieutenant, R.C.N.V.R.

Enclosures:

Shorthand notes of evidence taken,
Transcript of Evidence taken,
Written order from Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS",
ordering Board of Inquiry.

The Commanding Officer,
H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS",
Deep Brook, N.S.

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

S.A. OFF. NO. *V-32049* ADDRESS

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

"Dead"
13

VERIFIED BY *Mr. Ic*

R E G I S T E R E D

LA/CM

A I R - M A I L

31

S-1680

2nd July, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Shibley:-

It is with deepest regret that I must confirm the telegram of the 30th of June, 1943, from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, informing you that your husband, Francis Roy Shibley, Supply Assistant, Official Number V-32049, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, was drowned off Digby Pier, Digby, Nova Scotia.

No further details are available at this time other than that your husband was drowned at 1:28 o'clock, in the morning of the 30th of June, 1943. However, a Naval Board of Inquiry has been ordered and you will be informed immediately on receipt of the results of the investigation.

In accordance with your wishes, arrangements have been made to send the remains at the public expense to London, Ontario for burial. The Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. "PREVOST" in London will be notified of the anticipated time of arrival and will consult you with regard to making final arrangements.

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. Gwendolyn Shibley,
396 Regent Street,
LONDON, Ontario.

Despatched
Sec. N. B.
7mo
Date 3.7.43
Time 1245

[Handwritten signature]
see
for

113-8-1080 F.D.4447

23rd August, 1943.

N.S. 441-8-55

ACTION OR INFORMATION	
INITIAL DATE	
CHIEF	
DNO	
DVIC	
IGB	
P. O.	
S.E.D.	
D. ADMIN.	
S.L.O.	
D.N.S.	
D.W.N.	
S.E. SUP.	
P. A.	
B. ENROLLMENT	

Dear Sir:-

Re:- Digby Pier,
Digby, N.S.

I have to call your attention to an accident that happened on the Pier at Digby, N.S. on the 30th of June 1943 whereby one of our enlisted men lost his life by drowning after falling from this pier at night.

2. This deplorable accident seems to have been due to a certain extent to the lack of lighting and the poor condition of the deck.

3. We would, therefore, request that steps be taken at your discretion to improve these conditions.

4. As this pier is extensively used by our men we would appreciate any action you may take in this case.

Yours truly,

Sgd. WBG
(W.G. Mills)
Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa.

STAFF	Initials	Date
A.C.N.S.		
D.of P.		
D.O.D.		
D.W.T.		
D.T.D.		
C.N.S.		
V.C.N.S.		
D.J.A.F.		
O.I.C.		
D.N.I.		
D.S.D.		
HYD.		
INDEX		
B. F.		
REFER		

D. MAIN *APB*
26-8-43

10/25/43

AUG 30 AM

APB
H/O. Main
21/8

N.S. 113-S-1680

N.S. C1079-4-207 Vol. "1"

29 July, 1943.

57

Dear Mrs. Shibley:

Further to my letter of the 2nd of July, 1943, confirming the loss of your husband, Francis Roy Shibley, Supply Assistant, Official Number V-32049, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, a report of the unfortunate circumstances respecting his death has now been received.

According to the evidence given at the Naval Board of Inquiry, your husband fell from Digby Pier, Digby, N.S., and was drowned at 1.28 o'clock in the morning of the 30th of June, 1943, on his return from a short leave on shore, to his ship which was berthed alongside the pier. A splash was heard by one of the ratings on duty aboard the ship, and as it was believed that someone had fallen from the pier in the dark, a search was conducted immediately with the aid of searchlights and small boats. However, it was not until three hours later that the body was located and identified as that of your husband.

The Department at Ottawa is in full agreement with the opinion of the Naval Board of Inquiry that your husband's death, due to drowning on the 30th of June, 1943, was purely accidental and no blame has been directed against anyone.

For the information of the Imperial War Graves Commission, who are charged with the responsibility of permanently marking, by the use of a uniform type of headstone, the graves of all members of His Majesty's forces who die on service in the war, it would be appreciated if the following information respecting your husband's burial might be forwarded to this Department:

Name of the Cemetery
 Date of Burial
 Location, Number, etc., of Grave
 Undertaker Employed

A silver Memorial Cross, as a memento of your personal loss and sacrifice, is now in the hands of the engravers and will be forwarded to you in due course. In this connection also, it would be appreciated if the Department might be informed as to whether Supply Assistant Shibley's mother is living and her address, if known, in order that a similar Cross may be forwarded to her.

May I again express the sincere sympathy of the Department in your bereavement.

Yours sincerely,

 Dispatched by
 Sec. N. B.

 Jmo
 Jm

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

 Date 28.7.43
 Time 1.30

 Mrs. Gwendolyn Shibley,
 396 Regent Street,
 LONDON, Ont.

DEPUTY SECRETARY PERSONNEL

 H.S. Money
 11-30-1943

H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS",
Deep Brook, N.S.

29th June, 1943.

MEMORANDUM:

Francis Roy Shibley, Supply Assistant,
Official Number V-23049

A Board of Enquiry is to be convened in accordance with C.N.R. Article 256, Clause 3, and K.R. and A.I. Article 486, to enquire into the death of Francis Roy Shibley, Supply Assistant, Official Number V-23049 which occurred at approximately 0130 on the 30th of June due to drowning.

2. The Board is to sit in a place as arranged by the President on Wednesday, 30th June, 1943, commencing at 1830.

3. The Minutes and findings of the Board are to be sent to my office in quadruplicate at the conclusion of the enquiry, together with shorthand notes.

4. The following officers will comprise the Board:

Lieutenant W.M. Gage, R.C.N.V.R. - President.
Lieutenant B.S. Lake, R.C.N.V.R. - Member.
Surg. Lieut. J.W. Sinclair, R.C.N.V.R. - Member.

5. The President is to ensure that all witnesses, together with any other persons he may require, are present during the Board.

6. A shorthand writer will be detailed by my Secretary.

7. The President will make all the necessary arrangements for the conduct of the Board.

J. C. I. EDWARDS
CAPTAIN, R.C.N.

DISTRIBUTION:

Lieut. Gage.
Lieut. Lake.
Surg. Lieut. Sinclair.

30th June, 1943.

BOARD OF INQUIRY

This Board has been convened by order of Captain J.C.I. Edwards, Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. "CORNEALLIS", enquiring into the circumstances of the drowning of Francis Roy Shibley, V-23049. The court first wishes to call for the evidence of the Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. "VISON", Lt. W.E. Nicholson, R.C.N.R.

Question 1. You are Lieutenant W.E. Nicholson?

Answer 1. Yes.

Question 2. Did you identify the body of the deceased man as Francis Roy Shibley?

Answer 2. Yes.

Question 3. Did you see or hear anything in connection with the drowning of this man.

Answer 3. No.

Witness Retired.

Next witness called, First Lieutenant J.R. Noonan, R.C.N.R.

Question 4. Lieutenant Noonan, do you know anything about the drowning of this rating?

Answer 4. At twenty to two this morning, I was awakened by the Signalmen who informed me that Shibley was drowned. I went on deck. Under the officer of the Day, Sub Lieutenant MacKay, various ratings were conducting a search for the body.

Question 5. Did you see the body in the water?

Answer 5. No. Two of our ratings and two of the Ambler's were in a boat over the spot searching for the body.

Question 6. But no one saw the man in the water?

Answer 6. Yes. The quartermaster on the Ambler.

Question 7. Where was the scene of the accident?

Answer 7. On the shore end of Digby Spur.

Question 8. Where was this in relation to the ship?

Answer 8. Twenty feet ahead of the bow.

Witness retired.

The Court asks Sub-Lieutenant C.B. MacKay for his evidence.

Question 9. You have heard the foregoing evidence. Have you anything to add to this?

Answer 9. No. I have nothing to add.

Question 10. What time were you called?

Answer 10. Approximately 0125.

Question 11. Was the boat over then?

Answer 11. The boat was over then.

Question 12. Was this rating ashore on duty or on short leave?

Answer 12. On short leave.

Question 13. Do you know if he was in the company of another rating?

Answer 13. To my knowledge he was alone.

Question 14. What time did his leave expire?

Answer 14. 0730.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 15. What is your name and official number?

Answer 15. E.G. Allin, V-44593.

Question 16. Were you Quartermaster aboard the "VISON" the night of June 29th-30th.

Answer 16. Yes sir.

Question 17. Do you know anything about the drowning of Supply Assistant Shibley?

Answer 17. I was taking some slack off the lines back aft when I heard a splash. I came running forward to see what it was. I did not see anything until I heard from the other ship and the one that was tied to in front of us that there was a man overboard. Then I came and hollered through the porthole that there was a man overboard and they came up. That is all I know about it.

Question 18. What happened immediately after your raising the cry "Man Overboard".

Answer 18. The man from the other ship turned on a spotlight and they were trying to find out the spot in the water where he had gone down.

Question 19. What about this boat? Did you have anything to do with it?

Answer 19. No Sir.

Question 20. Do you know who procured the boat?

Answer 20. No Sir.

Question 21. Did you inform anyone else after calling into the Signalmen's Mess.

Answer 21. No Sir.

Question 22. You did not see anyone in the water?

Answer 22. No Sir. I did not see any person, but I saw a cap floating on top of the water.

Question 23. You did not see anyone else on the Jetty?

Answer 23. No Sir. I looked up on the Jetty to see if there was anyone else but there wasn't.

Question 24. Was the Jetty lighted?

Answer 24. No Sir. It was very dark.

Question 25. Was the state of the tide such that you could see the surface of the jetty?

Answer 25. No Sir. You couldn't see the surface of the jetty.

Question 26. Were there any lights in the fo'a'sle?

Answer 26. No. There were no lights on in the fo'a'sle, but there was a light in the alleyway.

Question 27. What time did you hear the splash.

Answer 27. 0130.

Question 28. You checked this by your watch?

Answer 28. Yes Sir.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 29. What is your name and official number.?

Answer 29. Signaller J. Forrest, V-33747.

Question 30. Were you in the signalmen's Mess when the cry "Man Overboard" was raised?

Answer 30. Yes Sir.

Question 31. What happened next?

Answer 31. They wanted to know if we could work the S.P. if there was a man overboard. Taylor ran out and I ran out after him.

Question 32. Who do you refer to as Taylor?

Answer 32. Leslie Taylor. Telegraphist.

Question 33. What happened then?

Answer 33. When I got out there he had the Signal Projector on and I went out on the fo'c'sle. Then I came into our mess to get our flashlight. It was no good so I took it back and when I came out again the officer on the "AMBLER" hollered for us to get the Officer of the Day up. I went down below and woke both Mr. MacKay and Mr. Noonan up.

Question 34. You saw no one in the water?

Answer 34. No Sir.

Question 35. Did you see anything in the water?

Answer 35. No Sir. I saw his hat.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 36. What is your name and official number?

Answer 36. Leading Stoker Morris M. Nabbs, Y-47561.

Question 37. Will you please tell the Board what you knew about the drowning of Shibley?

Answer 37. I was coming down on the jetty a little after one o'clock. There were three boats tied up along the jetty. I noticed they had their signal lights on as though looking for something in the water. When we looked down in the water, all we could see at that time was a hat floating. A fellow came from one of the other boats and lowered a small boat off the jetty to see if he could find him. After looking for approximately one-half to three-quarters of an hour, he quit. At low tide, about four o'clock in the morning, we resumed the search and the body was located and brought on board.

Question 38. Did you know who was supposedly in the water when you were searching?

Answer 38. No, we did not sir, until we located this hat.

Question 39. Who else was in the boat searching with you?

Answer 39. The first time a man by the name of Tiffin and P/O Chipman off the "AMBLER".

Question 40. Was this man Tiffin from your ship.

Answer 40. Yes.

Question 41. The "VISON"?

Answer 41. Yes.

Question 42. Where did you locate the body?

Answer 42. Approximately twelve or fifteen feet underneath the piling; in approximately six feet of water.

Question 43. Was the body floating or was it below the surface?

Answer 43. It was below the surface when it was located.

Question 44. Did you see or find anything on the jetty prior to or after the search?

Answer 44. Before the search was started, I noticed a rubber on the jetty.

Question 45. Did it belong to the deceased?

Answer 45. There was one on his shoe that would match it.

Question 46. How close to the edge of the jetty?

Answer 46. It would be about ten or twelve feet.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 47. What is your rating, name and Official number?

Answer 47. Cecil Tiffin, O.S., V-47355.

Question 48. Tell us what you know of the accident which occurred last night.

Answer 48. Right after I got on board, the quartermaster came and flashed a signal "Man Overboard".

Question 49. Where were you at the time?

Answer 49. Just getting ready to get into my bunk.

Question 50. Where is your mess?

Answer 50. Signalmen's.

Question 51. What did you do then?

Answer 51. I followed Leslie Taylor and we turned on the light; then went over and helped the fellow from the "AMBLER" get the boat out.

Question 52. Did you see anyone or anything in the water?

Answer 52. We saw his hat.

Question 53. From the signal booth?

Answer 53. No sir. We saw it from the boat.

Question 54. Did you see anyone on the jetty at this time?

Answer 54. Yes. I saw Nabbs on the jetty. We fished around for a while and the water was too deep, being over a fifteen or twenty foot oar.

Question 55. So you abandoned the search for the time being?

Answer 55. Yes sir.

Question 56. Had you seen Shibley ashore that evening?

Answer 56. Yes sir. At the dance.

Question 57. What was the last time you saw him?

Answer 57. The dance broke up at about half-past twelve and I saw him at that time.

Question 58. Would you say he was sober?

Answer 58. Feeling good, sir.

Question 59. Was he walking unsteadily?

Answer 59. No sir. Dancing pretty good.

Witness retired.

First lieutenant of H.M.C.S. "VISON" is called again as a witness.

Question 60. Will you please tell the Board what happened once the search was started?

Answer 60. After three-quarters of an hour the search was abandoned. I went to the Winchester Hotel and made a report to the Officer of the Day, Deep Brook. I also telephoned the Captain of the "VISON", the Mounted Police and the Town Police. I also tried to contact the Shore Patrol but could not. I then went back to the ship and after searching in the water with an Aldis lamp, the second search was over with. By this time the Captain had arrived on the job and about five minutes afterwards the body was found, and brought aboard.

Question 61. Was any attempt at Artificial Respiration made?

Answer 61. No.

Question 62. How long approximately had the body been in the water?

Answer 62. Three hours.

Question 63. When was the body found?

Answer 63. It was found about four o'clock.

Question 64. When did any medical authority first see the body?

Answer 64. This morning at about 1030.

Witness retired.

The Board asked Surgeon Lieutenant J.W. Sinclair for his evidence.

Question 65. Did you see the body on arrival to the ship?

Answer 65. Yes.

Question 66. In your opinion, what was the cause of the death?

Answer 66. Drowning.

Question 67. Were there any marks, cuts or bruises on the body?

Answer 67. Yes. Wound to the right eye and one on the knees.

Question 68. In your opinion, were these inflicted before or after the death took place?

Answer 68. I would say before.

Question 69. Is it possible that these were incurred while falling on or from the jetty?

Answer 69. Yes.

Question 70. You spoke to the Coroner after he arrived?

Answer 70. Yes.

Question 71. Did his opinion substantiate yours?

Answer 71. Yes.

Captain of the "VIBOS" was called to give further evidence.

Question 72. Do you know if the deceased had any altercations ashore with either Shore Patrol or members of the crew?

Answer 72. No.

Question 73. Did he meet, or was he seen by the Shore Patrol or members of the crew on his way back to the ship?

Answer 73. Yes. I understand by hearsay that he was spoken

Shore patrol on leaving the dance hall and I have not heard of anyone else who saw him until he met with his accident.

Question 74. Can you suggest anyone aboard this ship who could give any further evidence than has already been produced?

Answer 74. No.

Question 75. Was the man normally of sober habit?

Answer 75. As far as I am aware, yes. He has served with me for about eighteen months, and I have found him in every respect satisfactory.

The Board at this point adjourned until the evidence of the quartermaster/and the Shore Patrol can be obtained.

The Board reconvened at 1000 in the Administration Building H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS" to hear the evidence of the Shore Patrol on duty in Digby the night of June 29th-30th.

First witness called.

Question 76. What is your name, rating and official number please?

Answer 76. Acting Petty Officer Geo. A. Wells, V-5323

Question 77. This Board is endeavouring to ascertain how Leading Supply Assistant Shibley was drowned on the night of June 29th. Were you in charge of the Shore Patrol at that time?

Answer 77. Yes Sir.

Question 78. Did you see Shibley during the evening?

Answer 78. Yes Sir. The first time we noticed him was at the dance hall when one of the Shore Patrol brought it to my notice, that he had a chief's hat on. We went over to investigate and asked him what he was doing with the chief's hat on. He told us that he got the hat from the checking room by mistake, so we went into the check room to check and found that they had made a mistake giving him this hat and coat. He had to wait while all the people left the hall to get his hat. The Chief came along and was looking for his hat. We asked him if it was his hat

or if his name was in it. In the meantime this rating started to walk out. We put him down in the Shore Patrol Truck to wait until we investigated the hat.

Question 79. Do you consider he was sober at this time?

Answer 79. I would not say he was drunk sir. He was standing pretty straight. We found the chief whom the hat belonged to and he told us that he was also missing a burberry, so we brought the chief down to the truck. Shibley took the burberry off and the chief identified his burberry by the name in the sleeve. We went back up again and got this ratings hat and coat. After everyone had gone we got his oilskin, hat and rubbers.

Question 80. Did he leave the hall alone?

Answer 80. No. He came down with us, Sir. He asked us for a lift into town. He got out right beside Webbers Restaurant.

Question 81. Where is that?

Answer 81. Just about seventy-five feet from the show on the opposite side of the street. Just next to the Victory Cafe.

Question 82. Where is that in relation to the Digby Jetty?

Answer 82. It would be about one-quarter of a mile.

Question 83. At what time was this?

Answer 83. This was around one o'clock in the morning, sir.

Question 84. Did you see him join any other ratings before you left?

Answer 84. No sir. When he got out of the truck, he thanked me for getting his coat and said he didn't want to go aboard his ship with the wrong hat and coat on.

Question 85. When you last saw him was he still alone?

Answer 85. He was walking towards the Webber Restaurant.

Question 86. Where is the dance hall and what is the name of it?

Answer 86. It is called the Racquet Dance Hall and it is about one-half mile from the centre of town.

Question 87. Was the dance sponsored by the Navy?

Answer 87. That I don't know sir. The only thing I know about the dance is that they have them Tuesday, Thursday and

Saturday and the Navy orchestra was in attendance the night we were on duty. Tuesday night.

Question 88. Was Shibley wearing his oilskin when you left him?

Answer 88. He was carrying it underneath his arm, sir.

Question 89. You state that he wasn't drunk and that he mistook his oilskin for a burberry?

Answer 89. Similar mistakes have happened before.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 90. What is your name, rating and official number?

Answer 90. Ordinary Seaman M.C. Edwards, V-59160

Question 91. Were you part of the Shore Patrol at Digby on the night of June 29th-30th.

Answer 91. Yes Sir. I Was.

Question 92. Did you see in the course of your duties Supply Assistant Shibley?

Answer 92. Not to my knowledge, sir, no.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 93. What is your name and official number, please?

Answer 93. Ordinary Seaman V. Miller, V-58867.

Question 94. Were you a member of the Shore Patrol at Digby on the night of June 29th - 30th?

Answer 94. Yes sir.

Question 95. Did you know Supply Assistant Shibley?

Answer 95. I did not know his name. He said his name but I did not catch on to what it was. He had the wrong hat and coat.

Question 96. Is this the same man that you understand was drowned later that evening?

Answer 96. Yes. Yesterday when we were coming in town a fellow said there was a fellow killed last night and I asked him who it was and he said it was a cook. I knew the fellow the night before was a cook too.

Question 97. In your opinion, had this man been drinking during the evening.

Answer 97. Yes a little bit.

Question 98. Would you say he was in a drunken condition?

Answer 98. When I saw him last he knew what he was doing.

Question 99. Was he walking properly, or staggering?

Answer 99. I did not see him walking. I saw him sitting down.

Question 100. Did you not see him standing at any time?

Answer 100. No.

Question 101. Was he troublesome at all in any way?

Answer 101. No.

Witness retired.

Next witness called.

Question 102. What is your rating, name and official number, please?

Answer 102. Ordinary Seaman James McCulloch, V-55126.

Question 103. Were you a member of the Shore Patrol in Digby in the night of June 29th-30th?

Answer 103. Yes Sir.

Question 104. You were at the dance?

Answer 104. Yes Sir.

Question 105. Did you see Supply Assistant Shibley?

Answer 105. Yes Sir.

Question 106. Did you observe the error concerning his hat and coat?

Answer 106. Yes Sir.

Question 107. In your opinion, was he sober?

Answer 107. He was feeling alright.

Question 108. Was he walking properly?

Answer 108. Yes Sir. I had to run after him.

Question 109. Was he troublesome?

Answer 109. No Sir.

The Board adjourns until such time as it is possible to take evidence from members of the crew of E.M.C.S. "AMBLER".

The Board reconvened at 0915 in the Administration Building, H.M.C.S. "CORNWALLIS", 3rd July, 1943 to hear the evidence of the Quartermaster of the "AMBLER" on duty the night of June 29th-30th.

Question 110. What is your name, rating and official number?

Answer 110. P.E. Dequirt, Ordinary Seaman, V-54505.

Question 111. Were you employed as Quartermaster on the "AMBLER" on the night of June 29th -30th.

Answer 111. Yes Sir. During the middle watch.

Question 112. Was the "AMBLER" at Digby pier during this period?

Answer 112. Yes Sir.

Question 113. Will you tell us what you know about this rating falling off the jetty?

Answer 113. It was about 1 o'clock. I had just done my rounds and had returned to the Quarterdeck where my post was. Somebody came along and told me what was going on in front of the ship. I went out on the Po'e'sle of the ship and there were about five men looking down in the water. They were speaking among themselves and they were saying "Did you hear the splash" and they were saying "I think someone has fallen in the water". Someone went to waken the Officer of the Day and I returned to the Quarterdeck. The Officer of the Day came down to the Quarterdeck to see me. I told him that someone had fallen in the water. I went back to the front of the ship with the Officer and he ordered all the search lights turned on in the direction of where the man had fallen.

Question 114. Did you see anyone in the water?

Answer 114. No, I didn't see anyone. I did see a cap in the water.

Question 115. Do you know of anyone who saw him fall in?

Answer 115. No Sir.