



CANADA

N. V. 5
25M-9-40 (6793)
N.S. 815-11-5

ATTESTATION FORM (HOSTILITIES FORM)

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME Matthews OFFICIAL NO. V2809

CHRISTIAN NAMES George Herbert MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS	RELIGION
<u>Red Head, Saint John Co., N.B.</u>	<u>Methodist</u>

DATE OF BIRTH	*PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
<u>May 8th, 1921</u>	<u>Town Red Head</u> <u>County Saint John</u> <u>Province New Brunswick</u>	<u>Mother</u> <u>Mary Matthews</u> <u>Red Head,</u> <u>Saint John Co., N.B.</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.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION ON ENROLMENT

HEIGHT	CHEST MEASUREMENT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	WOUNDS, SCARS, MARKS
Feet <u>5</u>	Inflated <u>36.5</u>	<u>Blonde</u>	<u>Hazel</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Inches <u>10.25</u>	Deflated <u>34</u>				
	Mean <u>35.5</u>				

DATE OF ENROLMENT	RATING ENROLLING FOR	TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY
<u>23-6-41</u>	<u>Ordinary Seaman</u>	<u>Steelworker</u> <u>Saint John Dry Dock & S.B. Co.</u>
R.C.N.V.R. Division (or other establishment) at which enrolled <u>Saint John</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 Reserve Army 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
<u>Army Reserve</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>July, 1940</u>	<u>June, 1941</u>

(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.

(3) On being enrolled as a member of the..... Saint John..... 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..... 23rd..... day of..... June, 1941.....

Signature of applicant..... George H. Matthews.....

(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..... 23rd..... day of..... June, 1941.....

..... R. D. Munro, Lieut (Temp).....
Signature of and rank of Attesting Officer.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, George H. Matthews..... 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..... George H. Matthews.....

Witness..... Ralph D. Munro.....

Date..... 23 June, 1941..... Rank..... Lieut: RCNVR (Temp).....

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

(E) CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

..... George H. Matthews..... 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..... Saint John..... Division of the R.C.N.V.R. or in the appropriate official documents.

..... R. D. Munro,.....
Attesting Officer.

..... 23 rd July..... 194 1..... R.C.N.V.R. Division
(or other establishment)..... Saint John.....

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.

CERTIFICATE of the SERVICE of

George Herbert MATTHEWS

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Training Headquarters	R.C.N.V.R. Division	Official Number
Halifax, N.S.	Saint John, N.B.	12809
		"
		"

Date of Birth 8th May, 1921

Place of Birth Red Head, Saint John, Co., N.B.

Place of Residence Red Head, Saint John, N.B.

Trade brought up to Steelworker

Religion Methodist

Can Swim:—P.P.T. Date.....19..... Signature..... Rank.....

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

Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil)

Mother
Mary Matthews
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	
10-6-41	23-6-41	Hostilities	Ord. Smn.	21 Nov 43		Awarded Ribbon for 1939-43 Star

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION									
Identification Card #	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS	
	Feet	Inches							
869	5	10	25	55	133	Blond	Hazel	Fair	Nil
On Entry.....									
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

V2809

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER 113-M-2682

OFFICIAL NUMBER V2809

NAME MATTHEWS

(Surname)

George Herbert

(Given Names)

DATE OF BIRTH 8 May, 1921.

PLACE OF BIRTH Red Head, Saint John, New Brunswick

OCCUPATION Steelworker

RELIGION Methodist

EDUCATION Grade 9

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No.

Town Red Head

Province, etc St. John Co., New Bruns.

Date (in figures)			Period	DESCRIPTION					PREVIOUS SERVICE			
Day	Month	Year		Height	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Marks or Scars	Served in	Rank or Rating	Dates	
											From	To
23	6	41	H.O.	5'10 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Blonde	Hazel	Fair	None	Army Reserve	Private	7/40	6/41

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) *mother*NAME (in pencil) *Mrs. Mary Matthews*ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. *Red Head*Town *Saint John*Province, etc *N.B.*

Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			Particulars	Date (in figures)			PARTICULARS
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
21	11	43	1939/43 Star. (20071).	3	8	42	Marked "Tr".				
				13	3	44	Qual. Preliminary Fire Fighting 1 day. (249A #-40564).				

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		
					Athabaskan.	12	29	5	43	Absent over leave. (249A #19518).	Reduced to 2nd Class for Conduct.

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

Approved to count 332 days Army Reserve Service towards the award of G.S.B.

SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT

From

To

29-5-43. (19518).

28-8-43. (19791).



V2809 OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME MATTHEWS
(Surname)

George Herbert
(Given Names)

P.I.B. V2809
OFFICIAL NUMBER

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
St. John Div. Str. Duty Div. Hdqrs.	Ord. Smn.	23	6	41		V.G.	Sat.	31	12	41	S.T.	5	2	43	19	27	1
Cornwallis	"	7	7	42	Nv 10AOP 7-7-42	V.G.	Sat.	31	12	42							
Stadacona	"	9	9	42	DRD Cornwallis 6.9.42	Fair	Sat.	31	12	43							
Tribal 11	"	28	10	42	DRD	V.G.	Sat.	29	4	44							
Vincent	"	10	12	42	D.R. #98												
"	A/Able Smn.	7	8	42	249A #20256												
Niobe	"	7	2	43	D.R. #108												
Athabaskan	"	9	2	43	D.R. #108												
DISCHARGED	"	29	4	44	"Missing" per casualty List. Presumed Dead, per Casualty List, page 67.												

GENERAL REMARKS

X-Ray approved

CANADIAN MEMORIAL CROSS:

MOTHER: Mrs. Mary MATTHEWS,
Red Head,
Saint John, N.B.

08 5 21 15 380 0 43 25 11 00 9 02 0 08 95
0230 1 05 94
07 08 42 13 25 00 21 24.01.42 AB
W.P.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
- Naval Service -
OTTAWA, Canada.

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Sir:

JAN 15 1945

(Date)

The following casualty has been reported -

NAME	RANK or RATING	NAVAL NO.
MATTHEWS, George Herbert	Able Seaman	V-2809, R.C.N.V.R.

DATE OF ENLISTMENT - 23 June, 1941 Active Service 7th August, 1941

DATE OF DISCHARGE - 29th April, 1944

HOSPITAL -

(If discharged in hospital under jurisdiction of D.P. & N.H.)

SERVICE - Canada & High Seas

(Indicate whether in Canada only; or in Canada and the high seas or elsewhere)

Reason for discharge and -
when and where any disability
was incurred, or where death
occurred.Missing, presumed dead, when H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN"
was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action in the
English Channel.(Show clearly whether death or disability due to enemy action,
accident or disease, and whether it occurred in Canada, or on the high seas or
elsewhere outside Canada.)

NEXT OF KIN & RELATIONSHIP -

RELATIONSHIP - Mother NAME - Mrs. Mary Matthews,

ADDRESS - RED HEAD, Saint John Co., N.B.

NOTE: If records indicate that rating was separated from his wife, legally
or otherwise, details to be furnished and copy of any Court Order,
the separation Agreement, etc., to be furnished.FORM "A" RESPECTING THE ABOVE NAMED HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY
FORWARDED. PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR DETAILS OF MARRIAGE
ALLOWANCE, DEPENDENTS ALLOWANCE, etc.

C. R.
P. A.
NAVAL TREASURY
DATE 16/1/45
INITIAL K

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

NAME A/AB OFF.NO. V2809 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	Star
							ATLANTIC	1	Star
							FRANCE G.		
							AFRICA		
							PACIFIC		
							BURMA		
							ITALY		
							DEFENCE		
							C.V.S.M.	2	Clasp
							" CLASP		
							WAR 1945	1	Medal
							WAR 1915		

VERIFIED BY J. Rose

LA/DL

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

N.S. V-2809 (Pers. N)

15 January, 1945.

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Dear Mrs. Matthews:

Further to my letter of the 10th of October, 1944, I regret to inform you that in view of the length of time which has elapsed since your son, George Herbert Matthews, Able Seaman, Official Number V.2809, 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.

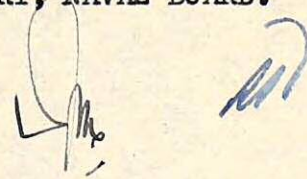
May I again express sincere sympathy with you in your bereavement on behalf of the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, the Chief of the Naval Staff, and the Officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Mary Matthews,
Red Head,
SAINT JOHN CO., N.B.



Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

cum
Date 15/1/45
Time 800

79

10th October, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

I must regretfully inform you that since your son was reported missing no further information has been received of his survival or that he is a prisoner of war.

I wish to assure you, however, that the Department makes every endeavour to discover the fate of missing men and draws upon all likely sources of information about them.

In the case of men who are believed to be prisoners of war continuous efforts are made to speed up the machinery whereby their names and camp addresses can reach this country. The official means is by lists of names prepared by the enemy government. These lists take some time to compile, especially if there is a long journey from the place of capture to a prisoners of war camp. Consequently "capture cards", filled in by the prisoners themselves soon after capture and sent home to their relatives, are often the first news received in this country that a man is a prisoner of war.

Very slight hope is now held, however, that your son is a prisoner of war as the total number of names of men known to be prisoners from H.M.C.S. "ATHABASKAN" coincides with the number which the Germans claim to have captured from this ship.

Even if no news is received that a missing man is a prisoner of war, endeavours to trace him do not cease. Enquiries are pursued, not only among those who are serving with him, but also through diplomatic channels and the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. The moment reliable news is obtained from any of these sources it is sent to the Department and is immediately passed on to the next of kin.

Should no information be received to the contrary your son will be presumed dead by the Canadian Naval Authorities at a later date.

May I extend my sincere sympathy in this time of anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

V. T. Horgan
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Mary Matthews,
Red Head,
SAINT JOHN Co., N.B.

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

Date
Time

10/10/44
1800

TFH/VD

REGISTERED

AIRMAIL

NS: V-2809 Pers. "N"

9

1 May, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

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, George Herbert Matthews, Able Seaman, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, Official Number V-2809, 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 Able Seaman Matthews 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.

Mrs. Mary Matthews,
Red Head,
SAINT JOHN Co., N.B.

dbn

LETTER DISPATCHED
PERSONNEL NAVAL
MAY 1 1944

NAVAL PERSONNEL RECORDS

HMCS "ATHABASKAN" Sept. /45. R.C.N.V.R.
MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL

REGISTRATION NO. DATE OF DESPATCH

(1) <u>MEDALS</u> <u>PERSON</u> ENTITLED TO Mr. Charles Matthews - Father	(1)
ADDRESS: Red Head, St. John County, N.B.	
(2) <u>MEMORIAL CROSS</u> WIDOW	(2)
ADDRESS:	
(3) <u>MEMORIAL CROSS</u> MOTHER Mrs. M. Matthews	(3) 19 February 1945
ADDRESS: RED HEAD St. John Co., N.B.	

MEMORIAL BAR

DATE DESP.....

REGN. NO. 521.....

DECEASED 29 April 1944

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AWARDS

NAVY

D.D.

WAR SERVICE RECORDS

MATTHEWS	George Herbert	V-2809	A.B.	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	9985
Atlantic Star	
C.V.S.M. & Clasp	
War Medal	

(THE REVERSE TO BE USED FOR ESTATE PURPOSES)