



ATTESTATION FORM
(HOSTILITIES FORM)

113-B-4923

N. V. 5
50M-8-42 (5715)
N.S. 815-11-5

W.M.N.

3 050852

FOR MEN OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SURNAME BERNST OFFICIAL No. V55264
CHRISTIAN NAMES Ronald William MARRIED, SINGLE OR WIDOWER Single

PERMANENT ADDRESS Vickers Heights, Ontario. RELIGION Baptist

DATE OF BIRTH 16th June 1925 *PLACE OF BIRTH Town Nokomis, County Saskatchewan. NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN Mother: Mrs. Rose Alice BERNST, Vickers Heights, Ontario.
*Original Nationality of: Father Scotch 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>5</u>	Inflated <u>34</u>	<u>Dark Brown</u>	<u>Hazel</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>nil</u>
Inches <u>5 1/2</u>	Deflated <u>32</u>				
Mean <u>33</u>					

EDUCATIONAL STANDING Grade IX TRADE OR CALLING AND IN WHOSE EMPLOY Stores Clerk: Canadian Car & Foundry, Fort William, Ontario.

DATE OF ENROLMENT 23 Feb. '43 RATING FOR WHICH ENROLLED Ord. Smn. H.M.C.S. ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH ENROLLED H.M.C.S. "GRIFFON"

(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.~~ 4th Field Ambulance
* (b) I served in Non-Permanent for the period shown, and attach my record of service, in corroboration of this statement.

Personnel Records Division.
1. Noted in Records [initials]
2. Index Card [initials]
3. Non-Sub Card [initials]
4. Statistical Card [initials]
5. Roneo Strip [initials]
6. [initials]
7. [initials]
DATE 9-2-43

SERVED IN	RANK	FROM	TO
<u>4th Field Ambulance (R) 18/AUG/42</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>15 Aug. '42</u>	<u>22 Feb. '43</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.

Unemployment Insurance filed by Canadian Car & Foundry.

(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 Ord. Smn by the prospect of being transferred at some future date to any other branch or rating.

Dated this 23rd day of February 1943

Signature of applicant Ronald Bernst

(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 February 1943

My authority for attestation is N.S. 114-1-46 & N.S. 114-4-47 (No date)

J. W. Mason LIEUT. RCNVR.
Signature of and rank of Attesting Officer.

(D) OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, Ronald William BERNST 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 Ronald Bernst

Witness J. W. Mason

Date 23rd February 1943 Rank LIEUTENANT R.C.N.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.

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

Ronald William BERNST

in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

R.C.N.V.S. 66181

Training Headquarters	R.C.N.V.R. Division	Official Number <i>V. 55264</i>
	<i>H.M.C.S. Griffon</i>	"
		"

Date of Birth <i>16th June 1925</i>	Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend (in pencil) <i>31/10/43</i>
Place of Birth <i>Nokomis Saskatchewan</i>	<i>Mother</i>
Place of Residence <i>Vickers Heights, Ft. Williams Ont.</i>	<i>Mrs. Rose Alice BERNST (same address)</i>
Trade brought up to <i>Stores Clerk</i>	
Religion <i>Baptist</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 Feb 43</i>	<i>Duration of Hostilities</i>	<i>Ord. Serv.</i>			

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION								
	Height		Chest (mean)	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	MARKS, WOUNDS, SCARS
	Feet	Inches						
On Entry.....	<i>5</i>	<i>5 1/2</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>dark 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

V55264

OFFICIAL NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

113-B-4923

OFFICIAL NUMBER V55264

NAME BERNST Ronald William DATE OF BIRTH 16 June, 1925
 (Surname) (Given Names)
 PLACE OF BIRTH Nokomis, Sask. OCCUPATION Stores Clerk
 RELIGION Baptist EDUCATION Grade IX
 RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENLISTMENT: Street and No. _____ Town Vickers Heights 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
23	2	43	H.O.	5'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	D. Brown	Hazel	Fair	Nil	4th Field Ambulance Pte.	(R)	15-8	22-2
											1942	1943

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP (in pencil) _____ NAME (in pencil) _____
 ADDRESS (in pencil): Street and No. _____ Town _____ Province, etc. _____

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	
				31	7	43	Qual. "TR" (249A#6304)				
				24	5	43	Qual. A/G... 2 days... Ser. Cert.				
				9	6	44	N.V. Normal... Ser. Cert.				

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 _____



FILM NO. WSR-5881-7
 DATE

V55264

OFFICIAL NUMBER

NAME BERNST
(Surname)

Ronald William
(Given Names)

OFFICIAL NUMBER

V55264

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 GRIFFON	Ord. Smm.	23	2	43	Div. Str. Port Arthur	V.G.	Sat.	15	6	43	IR 111	11	9	43	11	6	43
"	"	18	3	43	Active Service D.L. 18-3-43	V.G.	Sat.	31	12	43							
Naden	"	16	5	43	DL 15-5-43	V.G.	Supr.	24	11	44							
Givenchy	"	17	9	43	DRD #1606												
Quatsino.	"	16	10	43	DRD #1716.												
Stadacona II	"	30	5	44	DRD #2628.												
Shawinigan	"	14	6	44	DRD S-194 P-14.												
DISCHARGED:	Able Smm.	18	3	44	Rated, Back Dated, 249A A29612.												
	"	24	11	44	"Missing". Casualty List.												
					Presumed Dead.												

GENERAL REMARKS

Canadian Memorial Cross Awarded to:
Mother, Mrs. Rose Alice Bernst,
VICKERS HEIGHTS, Ont. 18-5-45

DATE OF BIRTH			PLACE OF BIRTH		CIVIL OCCU.		RELI-ED	PERM. RESIDENCE	PREV. ENL.	RANK OR RATE ON ENLISTMENT				
DY.	MO.	YR.	BIRTH	MAIN	SUB	SION	P.	CTY.	TOWN	SERV.	DIV.	A	BR	RANK
16	6	25	19	660	0	60	21	4900	9	10	0	08	95	
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	
23	02	43	18	03	43					35300	08	95		
SENIORITY			STR.	NON-SUB.		M	CODED			CHECKED				
DY.	MO.	YR.	CAT.	A	B	ST.								
18	03	43	13	08	00		210			210				

Donny

28

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

428074

H.M.C.S. "SHAWINIGAN" at sea.

Name Ronald William BERNST (Christian names in full)

Rank of Rating Able Seaman Official No. V-55264 R.C.N.V.R. (If unknown, date of first entry)

Place of Birth Nokomis, Sask. Date of Birth 16 June, 1925.

Occupation in Civil Life Stores Clerk Religion Baptist

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) Active Service 18 March, 1943 - 24 Nov., 1944.

Date of Death 24 November, 1944. Place of Death At sea.

Cause of Death Enemy action. Ship lost at sea. (If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend. Name Rose Alice Bernst Relationship Mother Address Vickers Heights, Fort William, Ontario.

Date on which the above was informed by Ship Not known.

Date on which death was registered with local Officials Not known.

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 Not known.

Place of Burial (if known) Date of Burial (if known)

Location, Number, etc., of grave (if known)

Undertaker employed (if any)

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

Handwritten signature and date 11/4/44

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.N.S. 1121 15M-7-40 (5849) N.S. 815-9-1121

Handwritten note: noted under memo 14/4

REGISTERED

N.S. V-55264 PERS. (N) "M" 5.

, 28 August, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Bernst:

Further to my letter of the 15th of February, 1945, the Department is now able to release additional information regarding the loss of your son's ship and I am accordingly passing on the following particulars which will, no doubt, be of interest to you.

H.M.C.S. "SHAWINIGAN" sailed from Sydney, N.S., on the 24th of November, 1944, to escort a merchant ship to Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland, and arrived off Port Aux Basques that night. In accordance with orders she was then to carry out a patrol in the area for the duration of the night, after which she was to meet the same merchant ship the next morning and return with her to Sydney.

The merchant ship arrived in Sydney unescorted on the night of the 25th of November and after it was ascertained that "Shawinigan" had not appeared at the designated rendezvous to provide escort as instructed, searches were instituted and "Shawinigan" was discovered to be missing.

It was the opinion of the Department at the time that the ship had been torpedoed by an enemy submarine during the night of the 24th/25th of November, 1944, as submarines were known to be operating in that area; and this has since been confirmed from German evidence. Although no survivors were found, a few bodies were recovered by later searches, due to tidal movements, some distance from the area in which "Shawinigan" was known to be operating. As a result, the position of the sinking can not be exactly ascertained, although from German evidence and the Department's computation, it is estimated to be in the vicinity of the three mile limit off Channel Head, near Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland.

Yours sincerely,

Despatched by
Sec. N. B.

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD

Date

Time

28.8.45
Approval on N.S.O-3690, F.D. 76
See also N.S.S. 1156-331/93

Mrs. Rose Alice Bernst,
Vickers Heights,
Fort William, Ont.

LA/MED

REGISTERED

AIR MAIL

File N.S. V-55264 Pers.(N)

13

7 December, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Bernst,

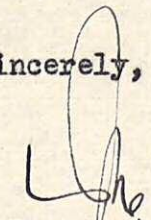
Further to my letter of the 29th of November, 1944, details of the disaster in which your son has been reported missing are now being released.

H.M.C.S. "SHAWINIGAN", a Royal Canadian Navy corvette, was lost while on operational duty at sea. Seven officers, including her Captain, Lieutenant W. J. Jones, R.C.N.R., and seventy-eight ratings are missing. The bodies of five other ratings have been recovered and identified. There are no known survivors.

It is requested that you will regard this information as confidential until an official announcement is made.

May I again express sincere sympathy with you in your anxiety.

Yours sincerely,


SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Mrs. Rose Alice Bernst,
VICKERS HEIGHTS, Ontario.



A.S.