



WILLIAM F BAGGS

W.W. II

William was born on 14 February 1920 to parents Jas. (James?) and Louise Baggs of Bay Roberts. William was the youngest of five children at the time.

At the age of 20, he would enlist in the Newfoundland Navy and be taken on strength in the Royal Naval Reserve and assigned the service #D/JX181712.

Part of the 3rd. Naval contingent, William left Newfoundland with the other 174 members of the contingent on Jan 14th., 1940 and arrived in Liverpool, England on January 31, 1940.

He died while aboard the HMCS Ottawa in September 1942, when the destroyer was torpedoed and sunk. Of the 201 man crew, 132 were lost with only 69 survivors. Sadly William was designated officially Lost at Sea. See "Notes on Event" below.

Buried or commemorated at

[PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL](#)

Panel 72, Column 2.

United Kingdom





Name	HMCS Ottawa (H 60)	
Type:	Destroyer (C)	
Tonnage	1,375 tons	
Completed	1932 - Portsmouth Dockyard, Portsmouth	
Owner	Royal Canadian Navy	
Homeport		
Date of attack	14 Sep 1942	Nationality:  Canadian
Fate	Sunk by U-91 (Heinz Walkerling)	
Position	47° 55'N, 43° 27'W - Grid BC 6191	
Complement	201 officers and men (132 dead and 69 survivors).	
Convoy	ON-127	
Route		

Cargo

History

Completed in May 1932 as **HMS Crusader (H 60)** for the Royal Navy. On 15 June 1938 transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy and renamed **HMCS Ottawa (H 60)**.

Notes on event

At 02.05 hours on 14 September 1942, [U-91](#) fired a spread of two torpedoes at a destroyer and observed a hit. Then they saw another destroyer, made a full circle and fired at 02.15 hours one torpedo, which hit amidships and caused the ship to blow up and sink immediately. Walkerling thought that they had sunk two destroyers, but in fact **HMCS Ottawa (H 60)** (LtCdr C.A. Rutherford, RCN), escorting convoy [ON-127](#), was hit twice.

At 02.15 hours on 12 September 1942, [U-92](#) (Oelrich) had fired a spread of four torpedoes at a destroyer in grid BD 2719 and heard two impacts after 46 seconds, but two detonations only much later that were apparently depth charges. The destroyer attacked was probably **HMCS Ottawa (H 60)**. She had picked up 24 survivors from the **Empire Oil** that was torpedoed on 10 September, but one of the men died of wounds and 16 more were lost when the destroyer was sunk together with her commander and 115 crew members. Only seven of the shipwrecked men and 62 crew members were picked up by **HMS Celandine (K 75)** (Lt P.V. Collings, RNR) and **HMCS Arvida (K 113)** (T/Lt A.I. MacKay, RCNR) and landed at St. John's on 15 September.
