



**William Frederick Baggs**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Royal Navy**  
**Service No. D/JX 181712**  
**WW 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 3<sup>rd</sup>. Naval contingent, William left Newfoundland with the other 174 members of the contingent on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>., 1940 and arrived in Liverpool, England on January 31, 1940.

He died while aboard the HMCS Ottawa in September 1942, when the destroyer was torpeded 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



William is also remembered on the Cenotaph in Bay Roberts.

Secty. War Comforts Committee, Bay Roberts.

Dear Friends:—I know it will be a while before my letter reaches home thanking you one and all for the Five Shillings, which I received this week, owing to the money order going to R.N. Barracks, Devonport, and taking a few days before reaching me here in Scotland. I can tell you that I appreciate your kindness a lot. Also, please convey my thanks to all that have sent me gifts. Wishing you and all members every success in your good work in helping us in the forces. Thanking you all again.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. F. Baggs, A.B.

c/o Nfld Trade Comm'r.,  
London, Eng.

**WM. F. BAGGS, A.B.  
REPORTED MISSING  
ON WAR SERVICE**

— Able Seaman William Frederick Baggs of His Majesty's Royal Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Baggs, Bay Roberts, is reported missing this week while on active service.


Rev. J. L. Reynolds received the following message on Thursday from the Secretary for Defence, and conveyed the sad news to the next of kin:

"Regret to inform you report has been received from Trade Commissioner for Newfoundland, London, that Seaman William Frederick Baggs, JX181712, is missing, presumed killed on war service. Please notify next of kin, Mrs. James G. Baggs, Bay Roberts."

William F. Baggs was 22 years of age. He left here on January 8th, 1940, and went overseas with the third naval draft shortly afterwards. He was serving on H.M.S. Laurentic when that ship was torpedoed in November, 1940, and at that time was in the water several hours before being picked up by a British destroyer. Since then he has served on other ships, but according to letters received recently he was training for service with the Marines.

The Guardian joins with the whole community in extending deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Baggs and family.



<b>Name</b>	<b>HMCS Ottawa (H 60)</b>		
<b>Type:</b>	Destroyer ( <a href="#">C</a> )		
<b>Tonnage</b>	1,375 tons		
<b>Completed</b>	1932 - Portsmouth Dockyard, Portsmouth		
<b>Owner</b>	Royal Canadian Navy		
<b>Homeport</b>			
<b>Date of attack</b>	14 Sep 1942	<b>Nationality:</b> 	Canadian
<b>Fate</b>	Sunk by <a href="#">U-91</a> ( <a href="#">Heinz Walkerling</a> )		
<b>Position</b>	47° 55'N, 43° 27'W - Grid BC 6191		
<b>Complement</b>	201 officers and men (132 dead and 69 survivors).		
<b>Convoy</b>	<a href="#">ON-127</a>		
<b>Route</b>			
<b>Cargo</b>			
<b>History</b>	Completed in May 1932 as <b>HMS Crusader (H 60)</b> for the Royal Navy. On 15		

June 1938 transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy and renamed **HMCS Ottawa (H 60)**.

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**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.

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