

Stoker Archibald Frederick Anderson V-14692



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- **Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**
- **Born: Swift-Current SK, 31 August 1918**
- **Enlisted: Vancouver Division RCNVR, 13 February 1941**
- **Civilian Occupation: Labourer**
- **Death: Lost at sea when HMCS Louisburg was torpedoed and sank on 6 February 1943**
- **Commemorated: Halifax Memorial, Panel 10; HMCS *Discovery* Memorial Plaque**

Archie Anderson was born on the 31st of August 1918 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan to John and Catherine E. Anderson. He had one younger sister and three older brothers. The family lived in Swift Current until Archie was five and then moved to Vancouver. Prior to joining the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) he served in the militia with the 2nd Battalion Irish. At that time, he indicated his civilian employment as a labourer. He had three older brothers Graham, George, and William as well as a married sister Catherine Swift. Graham age 29 was training with the army in Lethbridge. George age 28 was serving with the Canadian Forestry Corps overseas. William age 25 was serving in HMS *Quebec* a naval commando training establishment in Inveraray, Scotland.

Archie enrolled at the Vancouver Division RCNVR on 13 February 1941 at the age of 21. He was described as 5' 7 ½" in height with brown hair and eyes, and a fair complexion. He indicated his religion as Salvation Army (on his Militia Enrolment Form he states his religion as Agnostic), and he was enrolled as a Stoker 2nd Class. He had completed part of Grade 8 before leaving school and while he was unemployed at the time of enlistment, he indicated that he had worked for the CPR previously and that he had some farming experience. He wants to join the permanent Navy.

Stoker 2nd Class Anderson trained in the Vancouver Division between 13 February 1941 to 30 April 1941 at which time he was sent to HMCS *Naden* where he completed a two-month technical training course at the Stokers' Training Establishment in *Naden*. On 16 September 1941, he was transferred to HMCS *Stadacona* in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he was employed in dockyard work parties before being drafted overseas to HMCS *Niobe* in Greenock, Scotland.

HMCS *Niobe* served as a parent ship to all HMC Ships in UK waters. It functioned as an accounting base, manning pool and hospitalization centre for all Royal Canadian Navy personnel in England. In Nov 1941, Stoker 2nd Class Anderson served in *Niobe* until 30 April 1942.

On 1 May 1942, Archie Anderson was rated Acting Stoker 1st Class and drafted to HMCS *Louisburg*. Stoker Anderson and the crew made two round trips escorting merchant ships across the Atlantic during the summer of 1942. During one convoy transit that summer, U-boats sunk four merchant ships over a two-day period and torpedoed a fifth merchant ship. The constant threat of U-boats and the need to adjust speeds during U-Boat counterattacks would have kept engine room stokers like Anderson very busy.



Louisburg arrived at Londonderry on 23 September 1942 and the ship entered a short work period where additional Anti-Aircraft armament was fitted. This work was completed on 18 Oct 1942. On 09 Dec 1942, while anchored at Londonderry, she was accidentally rammed by HMS *Bideford*, necessitating five weeks' repairs at Belfast.

Louisburg had scarcely commenced her "Torch" (Operation Torch – Invasion of North Africa) duties when, on the afternoon of 6 Feb 1943 near Cape Tenes, Algeria, the convoy that *Louisburg* was escorting (KMF-8 Gibraltar to Bone) was attacked by Italian aircraft. HMCS *Louisburg* was hit by bombs and torpedoes and sank in position 36°15'N, 00°15'E. Forty-three of her crew were lost and 2 additional Canadian sailors later of injuries received during the attack. Stoker Archie Anderson's body was not recovered.

Archie's mother received a telegram from NSHQ on the 13th of February 1943 reporting the death of her son in the sinking. This was followed by a letter confirming his death. He was 24 years of age.

For his service Stoker 1st Star, the Atlantic Star, Africa Service Medal and the War were later sold by Dix the War Memorial Cross on Halifax War Memorial, Panel He is commemorated on Remembrance.



Class Anderson was awarded the 1939-45 Star and Clasp, Canadian Volunteer War Medal. The medals awarded Archie Anderson Noonan Webb for £520. His mother received October 29, 1946. His name is listed on the 10 in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Page 131 of the Second World War Book of

Prepared By:

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Sources:

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- Canadian Virtual War Memorial:
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2557327?Archibald%20Frederick%20Anderson>
- Dix Noonan Webb - https://www.dnw.co.uk/auction-archive/special-collections/lot.php?specialcollection_id=181&lot_uid=236123
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