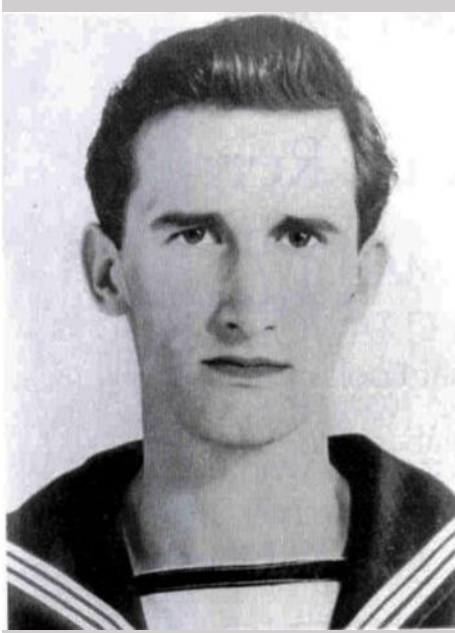


Stoker 1st Class John Andrew Hammond V-60632



Stoker 2nd Class John Andrew Hammond.
Photo credit: 1st Hussars Museum

- **Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**
- **Born: London ON, 21 May 1925**
- **Enlisted: HMCS *Prevost*, 10 May 1943**
- **Civilian Occupation: Receiver, National Grocers London**
- **Death: Lost at sea when HMCS *Alberni* was torpedoed and sank on 21 August 1944**
- **Commemorated: Halifax Memorial, Panel 12 and the HMCS *Alberni* Memorial in BC**

John Andrew Hammond was born on 21 May 1925 in London, Ontario, to Irene Lillian Hammond and Wilfred Norton Hammond. He grew up in a large family, having eight other siblings. He had three younger brothers, Wilfred William, Douglas Carol, and Gerald Russell and five sisters, Sandra Josephine, Lorna Lillian, Shirley Louise, Irene Margaret and Donna June. The family lived at 825 Dufferin Avenue, in London, Ontario, which is in a neighbourhood known as the Old East Village. Hammond attended Brick Street Public School, Odell Public School, Victoria Public School and H.B. Beal Technical School. Both Victoria Public School and H.B. Beal Technical School - now called H. B. Beal Secondary School - still exist and continue to serve pupils in the London area. Before his military service, Hammond worked as a receiver at National Grocers London.

As the Second World War unfolded, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) began taking on an increasingly vital role in the war effort. One of the RCN's core objectives involved protecting convoys and the supplies they carried through anti-submarine operations around North America and Europe.

In light of the growing need for qualified sailors, Hammond joined the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) and enlisted with HMCS *Prevost* on 10 May 1943 at 18 years of age. At the time of enlistment, Hammond was 5 feet and 7.5 inches tall, had black hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. His enlistment documentation also acknowledges that he served two and a half years with the Royal Canadian Engineers in London, Ontario. Unfortunately, his service file does not contain documentation from that service that might inform his activities, but the service dates imply that he began his Army Reserve career as a 15-year-old.

At the end of May 1943, the Navy sent Hammond to HMCS *Cornwallis* in Halifax for his New Entry Training course. *Cornwallis* was established on 1 May 1942 to help train the growing number of

Canadians eager to serve in the Navy. At *Cornwallis*, Hammond learned the fundamentals of being a navy sailor: drill, military discipline, navy routines, gunnery and seamanship. In July of 1943, Hammond trained at the Stokers' Technical Training Establishment at HMCS *Stadacona* and in Halifax. In September of 1943, the Navy sent him on a Motor Operator's Course at the Danforth Technical School in Toronto. While in Toronto, Stoker 2nd Class Hammond was attached to HMCS *York*.

Training as a stoker was arduous and physically demanding, and through his training, Hammond became proficient at the operation and maintenance of a ship's engines and associated duties in the engineering plant. As part of his training, Hammond learned how to handle oil-fed fires and boilers, and how to clean the main engines and auxiliary components that were vital to a ship's operation. In November 1943, Hammond returned to *Stadacona* for a final time before embarking on HMCS *Alberni* later that year.

Alberni was a Flower-class corvette designed for anti-submarine warfare and was commissioned on 4 February 1941. The ship played an integral role in the Battle of the Atlantic by escorting trans-Atlantic convoys and in Operation *Torch* in the Mediterranean in 1942. In 1943, *Alberni* returned to Canada to conduct local operations and undergo routine maintenance. It was during this period that Hammond joined the ship on 1 January 1944. On 24 April 1944, *Alberni* sailed for the United Kingdom as one of 17 RCN ships assigned to Operation *Neptune*, the naval component of the Normandy D-Day landings. At the end of May 1944, Hammond was promoted to Stoker 1st Class. On 21 August 1944, while conducting anti-submarine operations near the D-Day landing site, Hammond was lost at sea when HMCS *Alberni* was torpedoed and sunk by U-480.

At the time of his passing, Stoker 1st Class John Andrew Hammond was only 19 years old. All records indicate that he was a hard-working sailor in good standing. For his service and 208 days at sea, the Navy awarded Hammond the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star and Clasp, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and the War Medal. The Memorial Cross was presented to his mother, Irene Hammond. His name appears on panel 12 on the Halifax Memorial in Point Pleasant Park.

Prepared By*:

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*All stories are edited by the project crew and sometimes altered to conform to the Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph format, length and content parameters.



Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission file for Stoker 2nd Class John Andrew Hammond
- Library and Archives Canada Service file for Stoker 2nd Class John Andrew Hammond
- For Posterity's Sake, A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project

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