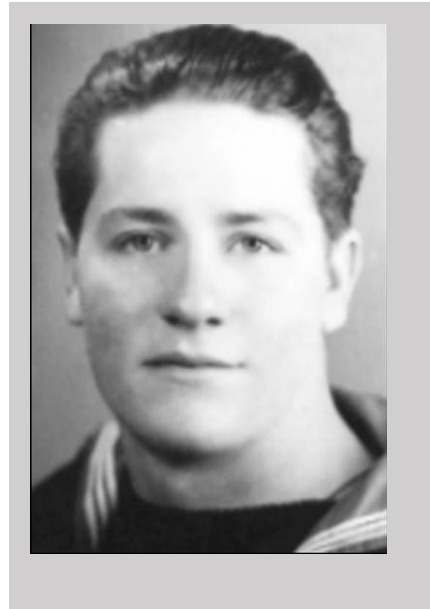


Ordinary Seaman Harold Laverne Lockwood V-65120



Ordinary Seaman Harold L. Lockwood.
Photo: Canadian Virtual War Memorial

- **Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**
- **Born: Moose Jaw SK, 6 January 1924**
- **Enlisted: HMCS *Queen*, 24 June 1943**
- **Civilian Occupation: Retail Salesman, Co-op Creameries Limited**
- **Death: Lost at sea when HMCS *Valleyfield* was torpedoed and sank on 7 May 1944**
- **Commemorated: Halifax Memorial, Panel 11; Moose Jaw Public School Board Veterans' Memorial Lockwood Lake (Lat 55° 36'N Long 103° 17' W) in Northern Saskatchewan**

Harold Laverne Lockwood was the third of four sons born to Mabel and George Lockwood on 6 January 1924 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Brothers George, Douglas and Lloyd were born in 1921, 1922 and 1928 respectively. Father George and Mable were born in Ontario in 1898 and 1896 respectively. They were married in Muncey, Ontario in November 1919 and moved to a farm a few miles west of Moose Jaw soon after. Around 1925 they moved into Moose Jaw where George found work as a department manager with Co-operative Creameries Ltd – the employer he would stay with for the remainder of his career. The family lived in two different houses in Moose Jaw. The second was purchased in 1930 in a comfortable neighbourhood where they withstood the Great Depression reasonably well - largely because of George's steady employment. Harold attended King George Public School (grades 1-8) and completed grades 9 and 10 at Central Collegiate before leaving school for good at age 15 in 1939. At 16 he was hired by Co-operative Creameries Ltd. as a salesman – the job he held when he enlisted in the Navy.

On 24 June 1943 Harold was sworn in at the Regina Division (HMCS *Queen*) of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve as an Ordinary Seaman (Visual Signals). Brother George enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and by September 1944 was a Leading Aircraftsman serving at No. 1 Repair Depot Rockcliffe near Ottawa.

Upon enrollment Harold was single, 5 feet 7 ¾ inches tall and weighed 157 pounds. He had brown hair, hazel eyes and a medium complexion.

Harold remained in HMCS *Queen* for three weeks attending to administrative matters and waiting. He was drafted to HMCS *Chippawa* in Winnipeg on 20 July and underwent basic training until 22 August. On completion, he journeyed by train to Deep Cove, Nova Scotia for new entry training at HMCS *Cornwallis*. He was there until 2 November. From *Cornwallis* he was drafted to HMCS *St. Hyacinthe*. The Signal School at *St. Hyacinthe* provided all phases of communications training. It is apparent from his personnel file that Harold was unsuccessful in Visual Signal training and he was transferred to the Seaman Branch on 20 December 1943. He was then

drafted to HMCS *Stadacona* where he was placed in the manning pool until 14 February 1944 when, on very short notice – referred to as a *piethead jump* - he was drafted to HMCS *Valleyfield* and immediately sailed for Boston in a convoy of 25 merchant ships and four escorts including *Valleyfield*.



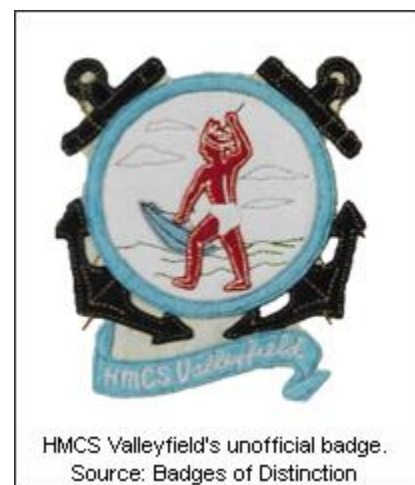
HMCS Valleyfield.
Photo Credit: Bob Fenton Collection www.forposteritysake.ca

Valleyfield was a River-class frigate named for Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec, situated on Grande-Île in the St. Lawrence River. The ship had recently joined the Newfoundland Command Escort Group C-1 as a trans-Atlantic convoy escort. She departed for Boston on the same day Harold joined her. Of course, Harold missed work ups and the team building that work-ups instilled. Consequently, it may have taken Harold some time to fit in although *Valleyfield's* relentless schedule

would give Harold every opportunity to do so. *Valleyfield's* second convoy, which left Halifax on 28 February, was eventful. She was detached to escort a tug and tow to the Azores and then escort another tug and tow from the Azores to Scotland. After her third and uneventful return trip to Canada, HMCS *Valleyfield* left Londonderry, Northern Ireland on 27 April 1944 and joined Convoy ONM 234.

In the early hours of 7 May 1944, as was standard practice, the Mid-Ocean Escort Force of which *Valleyfield* was a member handed the convoy over to the Local Escort Force, parted company with the convoy south of Newfoundland at the Western Ocean Meeting Point and set course for St. John's.

At 0432, *U-548* fired two GNAT torpedoes at the five ships of Escort Group C1. *Valleyfield* was hit by one torpedo on the port side of the boiler room, broke in two and sank within four minutes about 50 miles south of Cape Race. She had been astern of the other ships of the group. Consequently, it took some time for her sinking to be noticed. Then while three ships of the Group conducted an unsuccessful search for *U-548*, HMCS *Giffard*, dispatched to search for survivors, approached the area cautiously thus unavoidably delaying rescue. Including Ordinary Seaman Harold Lockwood, 120 members of *Valleyfield's* ship's company perished in the sinking plus five more who later died of exposure onboard *Giffard*. Only 38 were rescued and survived



HMCS Valleyfield's unofficial badge.
Source: Badges of Distinction

Harold like most of the others killed has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Halifax Memorial, Panel 11 and the Moose Jaw Public School Board Veterans' Memorial. Additionally, Lockwood Lake (Lat 55° 36' N Long 103° 17' W) in Northern Saskatchewan is named in his memory

For his service, Ordinary Seaman Harold Lockwood was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and the War Medal. His mother, Mrs. Mabel Lockwood, was awarded the Memorial Cross.

Prepared By:

John Dalzell, Capt(N) (retired), Commanding Officer HMCS *UNICORN* 1983-88 & Citizen Sailor Virtual Cenotaph Research Team



Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission record for Ordinary Seaman Harold Lockwood
- Library and Archives Canada Service Record for Ordinary Seaman Harold Lockwood
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial – Profile page for Ordinary Seaman Harold Lockwood
- Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial - Profile page for Ordinary Seaman Harold Lockwood
- Peel's Prairie Provinces. *Henderson's Moose Jaw Directories*. Retrieved February 4, 2022 from <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/3178.html>
- Library and Archives Canada 1916, 1921, 1926 Census
- Freeman, David J.: *Designs of Distinction Unofficial Insignia of the RCN 1910-1948*. Victoria, British Columbia: Victoria Training Development Services, 2015
- Government of Canada, HMCS *Valleyfield*. Retrieved February 4, 2022 from <https://www.canada.ca/en/navy/services/history/ships-histories/valleyfield.html>
- For Posterity's Sake. HMCS *Valleyfield* K-329. Retrieved February 5, 2022 from http://www.forposterityssake.ca/Navy/HMCS_VALLEYFIELD_K329.htm
- Wikipedia (February 6, 2022). HMCS *Valleyfield* (K-329). Retrieved February 6, 2022 from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMCS_Valleyfield_\(K329\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMCS_Valleyfield_(K329))
- u-boat.net. HMCS *Valleyfield* (K 329). Retrieved February 6, 2022 from <https://uboat.net/allies/merchants/ship/3245.html>
- Google Earth Pro
- Saskatchewan Land Titles Titles. Retrieved January 9, 2022 from <https://www.isc.ca>
- Arnold Hague Convoy Database. Retrieved February 8, 2022 from <http://www.convoyweb.org.uk/hague/index.html?search3.php?query=Rimouski&Submit=Find+Vessel~haguemain>