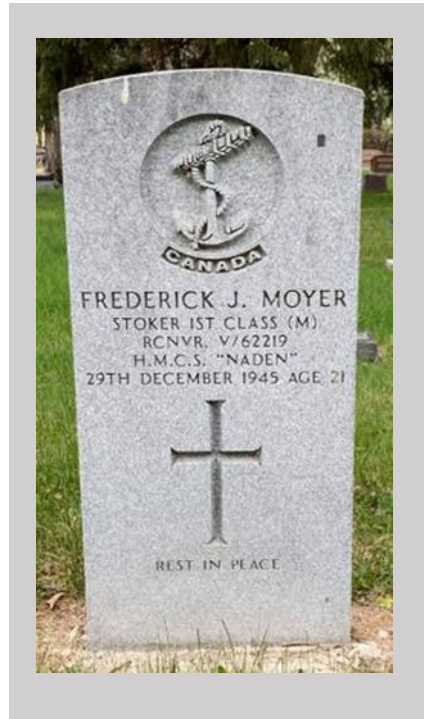


## Stoker 1st Class Frederick James Moyer V-62219



Grave Marker for Stoker 1C Moyer

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- **Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**
- **Born: Medicine Hat AB, 29 June 1924**
- **Enlisted: HMCS *Tecumseh*, 25 May 1943**
- **Civilian Occupation: Locomotive Fireman, Canadian Pacific Railway**
- **Death: 29 December 1945 following a motorcycle accident in Victoria, BC**
- **Buried: Medicine Hat (Hillside) Cemetery, Lot 2. Block 167E**
- **Commemorated: Medicine Hat War Memorial; the Calgary Field of Crosses; the memorial plaque at HMCS *Tecumseh*; and the Naval Museum of Alberta memorial plaque**

Frederick James Moyer was born in Medicine Hat, AB on 29 June 1924. His parents were John Louis Moyer (1885 - 1973) and Mary Irene (Hourigan) Moyer (1891 - 1976). John was born in Walkerton, ON; and Irene was from Chicago, Illinois. Irene moved to Toronto with her parents in 1911. John and Irene were married in Willington, ON in 1915. After the wedding, they moved to Medicine Hat, AB.

Frederick had two older brothers, John D. Moyer (1916 - 2001) and Francis J. Moyer (1917 - 1998); both born in Medicine Hat. The Moyers lived at 34 4th St in Medicine Hat for many years. The family was Roman Catholic.

All four Moyer men worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in Medicine Hat. They were all trainmen, working as conductors, firemen, and engineers. Frederick completed Grade 11 in 1941 and went to work as a locomotive fireman for CPR. He was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

On 25 May 1943, Frederick enlisted in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) at HMCS *Tecumseh* in Calgary. He signed on as a Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, a logical choice for a railway fireman. The CPR promised to hold a job for him until the war was over. His attestation papers described him as being five feet 10 inches tall, with black hair, brown eyes, and a dark complexion. He was single and his mother was listed as his next of kin.

Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Moyer was put on Active Service in August 1943 and he was immediately sent to HMCS *Star* in Hamilton, ON. In addition to being the RCNVR base for Hamilton, HMCS *Star* was also a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) technical training school specializing in radio work and electrical engineering. These courses were developed in cooperation with local technical schools. Frederick was there for four months.

Frederick's next posting was to HMCS *Cornwallis* in Nova Scotia in December 1943. HMCS *Cornwallis* was the primary Navy training base. It was best known for new entry training, but also offered specialized courses, including engine room operations.

In February 1944, he was sent to HMCS *Stadacona* in Halifax, NS. HMCS *Stadacona* was the Navy's major east coast operations base and also provided specialized training.

With nine months of training behind him, Stoker Moyer joined his first ship, HMCS *Truro*, in March 1944. HMCS *Truro* was a Bangor-class minesweeper, and unlike most RCN ships she was diesel-powered. Bangor minesweepers operating in Canada worked as convoy escorts. The diesel-powered minesweepers like HMCS *Truro* were smaller than the steam-powered versions and her minesweeping gear may have been removed to accommodate the 40 depth charges that she carried.

HMCS *Truro* was part of Escort Group W-4. The group's role was to escort convoys from North American ports to a location south of Iceland where the ships were handed off to the Mid-Ocean Escort Force. In May 1944, *Truro* was transferred to the Sydney Escort Force. The ship's role as an escort did not change, but the area of operation



**Photo: HMCS Truro, Bangor Diesel.  
Photo Credit: GC Ships History website**

became the coastal waters of Eastern North America, including the Gulf of St Lawrence.

In July 1944, Frederick was promoted to Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class and in October 1944 was rated Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M), indicating that he was now a qualified motor mechanic for diesel-powered ships. HMCS *Truro* went to Lunenburg, NS in December 1944 for a major refit. In February 1945, she briefly joined the Halifax Force and then finished her wartime service with the Sydney Force.

In July 1945, Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M) Moyer was transferred to HMCS *Noranda*, a diesel-powered Bangor-class minesweeper identical to HMCS *Truro*. She was also based in Sydney. At the end of the war, she was transferred to



**HMCS Truro, Quarter Deck Cleaning Party  
(VRP2002.8.227)  
Photo Credit: For Posterity's Sake website Courtesy  
of the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum**

Halifax where she was paid off on 28 August 1945.

The war in Europe may have been over, but much work was still needed. After *Noranda*, Frederick was assigned ashore at what was then known as HMCS *Scotian*, the dockyard establishment in Halifax that managed ship refits and maintenance.

Then came a transfer to the west coast of Canada. In October 1945, Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M) Moyer was taken on strength at HMCS *Naden* in Esquimalt, BC. He remained ashore, likely working in a dockyard machine shop, until he was assigned to HMCS *Ehkoli* in December 1945. She was a former Fisherman's Reserve diesel-powered patrol boat that had become a Defence Research vessel.

During his time in Esquimalt, Frederick purchased a motorcycle for \$475. On 24 December 1945, he was in an accident on Johnson Street in Victoria. He was thrown from his bike and sustained severe head injuries. He was taken to the HMCS *Naden* hospital in Esquimalt. He died a few days later on 29 December 1945. Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M) Frederick James Moyer was 21 years old when he died.

For his service, Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M) Frederick James Moyer was awarded: the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp, and the War Medal. His mother, Mary, was awarded the Memorial Cross.

Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M) Frederick James Moyer is buried in Lot 2, Block 167E of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of the Hillside Cemetery in Medicine Hat, AB. Full Naval Honours were provided at his funeral by a contingent of sailors from HMCS *Tecumseh* in Calgary.

Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (M) Frederick James Moyer is commemorated on the Medicine Hat War Memorial; the Calgary Field of Crosses; the memorial plaque at HMCS *Tecumseh*; the Naval Museum of Alberta memorial plaque; and in the Second World War Book of Remembrance, Page 548, at the Centre Block of the Houses of Parliament, Ottawa.

### Prepared By:

David Mitchell, former Able Seaman, HMCS *Tecumseh*, Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph Research team



### Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission – profile for Frederick James Moyer
- Library and Archives Canada Service Records via Ancestry.com – Frederick James Moyer
- Ancestry.com for family information
- Victoria *Daily Colonist* newspaper archive
- For Posterity Sake website
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial website
- Naval History Net website

## CITIZEN SAILORS VIRTUAL CENOTAPH - CÉNOTAPHE VIRTUEL DES MARINS CITOYENS

- Peel's Henderson Directories
- Naval Service of Canada – Activities on Shore During the Second World War
- National Inventory of Canadian war memorials