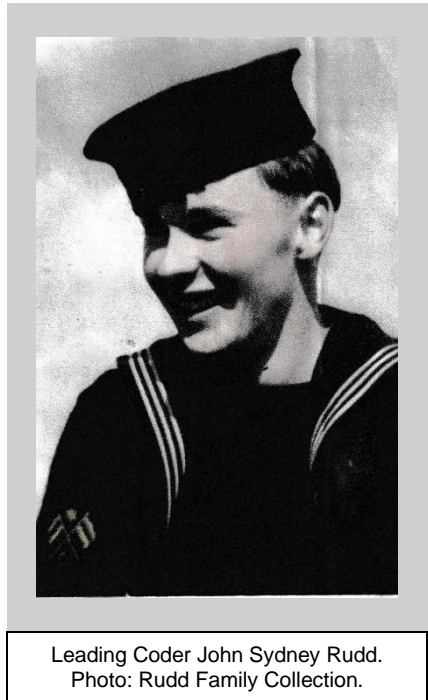


## Leading Coder John Sydney Rudd V-13701



- **Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve**
- **Born: Blairmore AB, 7 February 1923**
- **Enlisted: Calgary Division RCNVR, 30 January 1941**
- **Civilian Occupation: Student**
- **Death: Lost at sea while serving in HMCS Valleyfield on 7 May 1944**
- **Commemorated: Halifax Memorial, Panel 12; HMCS *Tecumseh* Memorial Plaque; and Crescent High School memorial plaque**

John Sydney Rudd was born in Blairmore, AB on 7 February 1923. He was the son of Doris Rudd and John Rudd Senior. He was the oldest of three children: the others being a brother and sister. The family took up residence in Calgary, at address 406 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest, when the children were still very young. John Sydney attended Crescent High School in Northwest Calgary and was active in sports, particularly ice hockey, which he loved. His interest in the navy was apparent when he joined the sea cadets at the Calgary Naval Division.

Following high school at the age of 18, John Sydney joined the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve at the Calgary Naval Division, later renamed HMCS *Tecumseh*. The date of enlistment was 30 January 1941. He was 5 feet 9 inches in stature and was extremely fit thanks to his years of playing hockey. He was not the first member of his family to join the military. His grandfather and father served in the First World War. His grandfather was a gunner in the Canadian Garrison Artillery in Vancouver, and his father served with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force and was wounded in battle in August 1917. Several of John Sydney's cousins also participated in the Second World War by enlisting in the army or air force.

Following basic training at HMCS *Tecumseh*, John Sydney was posted to HMCS *Stadacona* in Halifax, NS, where upon completing further training he was assigned to serve in HMCS *Algoma*, a 1000-ton Flower-class corvette. His service in *Algoma* took him to the Mediterranean on convoy duty between England and Algeria.

Later in the war he was promoted to the position of Leading Coder on the new River-class frigate HMCS *Valleyfield*, a 1445-ton ship commissioned in 1943 in Quebec City. The position of coder was a senior security appointment, responsible for sending and receiving classified messages.

During a return voyage from the United Kingdom on 7 May 1944 at 0435, *Valleyfield* was nearing St. John's when a German U-boat *U-548* fired two acoustic torpedoes at the convoy, one of which

struck *Valleyfield's* port side boiler room splitting her in two. She sank in under four minutes. She had been traveling astern of the group and it took some time for the rest of the escorts to realise that *Valleyfield* had been struck. Eventually, HMCS *Giffard* picked up survivors while other members of the group searched unsuccessfully for the U-boat. In total, 125 sailors including John Sydney died in the confusion and delay that followed the sinking. There were only 38 survivors. The location of sinking and those that perished was approximately 50 miles south of Cape Race, Newfoundland. John Sydney's family received this tragic news with extreme shock and could not talk about it for an exceptionally long time. Lead Coder John Sydney Rudd was just 21 years old when he died.

For his service, Leading Coder Rudd was awarded: the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Africa Star and Clasp, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. and the War Medal. His mother Doris received the Memorial Cross.

John Sydney Rudd is commemorated on Panel 12 of the Halifax Memorial at Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, NS; the HMCS *Tecumseh* Memorial Plaque, the Crescent High School Memorial Plaque; and the Second World War Book of Remembrance, Page 433 at the Centre Block Houses of Parliament, Ottawa.

**Prepared By:**

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**Sources:**

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