

# Able Seaman Audrey Chester Coultis

## Royal Canadian Navy

### Family Life:

Audrey was born to Millie Coultis and Herman Bowerman in June of 1918, at Tehkummah, Ontario.

He grew up on Manitoulin Island and Tobermory. Audrey attended school at South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island.

In February 1942, Audrey married Noriene Hazel Hopkins and they had four children, Kyle, Danny, John and Mark.

Audrey worked as first Mate on the Cariboo Ferry Service on Manitoulin Island from 1941 to 1942, before he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve Service as Able Seaman.

He was the Lighthouse Keeper at Flower Pot Island for thirty-two years from 1950 until 1982 when he was to retired. Unfortunately, just two months from his retirement, Audrey would suffer a heart attack and die.

### Lessons Learned:

Audrey always said, "Never give up!"



### Decorations:

Pacific Star  
Atlantic Star and Clasp  
France and Germany Star  
Italy Star  
1939-1945 Star  
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp  
War Medal 1939 –1945

### Military Service:

Able Seaman Coultis enlisted at the Sudbury Recruiting Office in February 1942. He trained in Toronto, British Columbia, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Able Seaman Coultis was assigned to HMCS *Prince Robert* and *Thetford Mines* as a Radar Operator. He was part of Escort group, 25L, of the Atlantic Coast Command, Operations, North West Atlantic based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They escorted ships in Canadian waters with Frigates *Ste. Therese*, *Joliette*, *La Hullose* and *Orkney*.

In March of 1945, as part of Escort group 25L, HMCS *Thetford Mines*, HMCS *La Hullose* and HMCS *Strathadam* sunk U-boat 1302 in the Irish Sea. The U-boat was a VIIC type and all hands aboard were lost. Later that month Escort group 26L including the Frigate *New Glasgow* rammed U-boat 1003 in the Irish Sea. Frigates *Thetford Mines* and *Strathadam* would later pick up survivors. On September 18, 1945, Audrey was discharged due to demobilization.