



R. H. Gray VC – **Fact quest** - Answer sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the following article about Robert Hampton Gray and answer the questions below.

- [Robert Hampton Gray, VC](#) article on The Canadian Encyclopedia website

1. What was Robert Hampton Gray's date of birth and where was he born?

Robert Hampton Gray was born 2 November 1917 in Trail, British Columbia

2. How many siblings did Gray have?

Two; Robert Hampton Gray was the oldest of three children

3. In what conflict did his father served?

John Gray, his father, was a veteran of the South African War

4. Name two universities where Robert studied.

University of Alberta

University of British Columbia

5. When did Robert join the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve and when did he get commissioned as a sub-lieutenant?

In July 1940, he joined the Royal
Canadian Naval Volunteer

He was commissioned a temporary
sub-lieutenant in December 1941

6. In what American-built aircraft was Robert trained to fly in Britain?

In Britain, Gray was trained to fly the American-built Corsair

7. Which squadron of the Royal Navy did Robert join in August 1944?

In August 1944, he joined 1841 Squadron, based aboard HMS *Formidable*

8. What is the name of the German battleship attacked by Robert Gray and other pilots on 29 August 1944?

The aircraft carrier and two others were tasked to sink the German battleship *Tirpitz*

9. What aircraft carrier that Robert Gray served on was sent to the Pacific in April 1945?

HMS *Formidable* was dispatched to the Far East and joined the British Pacific Fleet in April 1945

10. What action earned Robert Gray a Distinguished Service Cross?

During an attack on 28 July, Gray scored a direct hit on a Japanese destroyer and sank it

11. On what date was the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima?

The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945

12. What was the name of the Japanese warship sunk by Robert Gray on 9 August 1945?

Gray released his bomb only 45 metres from the Japanese ocean escort *Amakusa* and scored a direct hit

13. What military decoration was Robert Gray posthumously awarded for his brave actions on 9 August 1945?

Gray was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) after the attack on the *Amakusa*

14. What is unique about the granite cairn honouring Robert Gray that overlooks Onagawa Bay?

A simple granite cairn overlooking Onagawa Bay where his Corsair crashed, is the only known instance of a monument in Japan honouring an Allied serviceman

15. In what year was a bust of Robert Gray put on display in downtown Ottawa as part of The Valiants Memorial?

A bust of Gray is one of 14 life-size statues and busts unveiled in downtown Ottawa in 2006 as part of The Valiants Memorial

Considering that the Second World War was almost over when Robert Gray lost his life during his last mission, do you think the continuing Allied assaults on enemy forces were the right thing to do? Justify your response.