

*No Picture Available*



**Alexander Mercer**  
**Royal Naval Reserve**  
**Service No. 1726X**  
**Word War I**

**Born:** Jan 1896

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts

**Parents:** Thomas and Elizabeth Mercer

Alexander enlisted at the Port of St. John's on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was described on his papers as being 20 years old, of fresh complexion with light hair and blue eyes. He stood 5 ft. 7 inches tall, gave his occupation as fisherman and enlisted in the Reserve for a one-year period.

His service record shows that Alexander fulfilled his contracted term (and a little more) by serving from 28 January 1915 to 1 June 1916.

Alexander's service record provides a list of the ships/naval bases to which he was posted as follows:

1. HMS Calypso Training Vessel: 28 Jan 1915 – 14 Feb 1915
2. HMS Calypso: 15 Feb 1915 – 29 May 1915
3. HMS Victory 1: 30 May 1915 – 14 July 1915
4. HMS Excellent: 18 July 1915 20 Aug 1915
5. HMS Cornwall: 21 Aug 1915 – 3 Apr 1916



HMS Cornwall: armoured cruiser, Monmouth-class, 9,800, 1904(c), 14-6in, 23kts, 678 crew.

6. HMS Pembroke: 4 Apr 1916 – 2 May 1916
7. HMS Britton: 3 May 1916 – 1 June 1916

Alexander was officially discharged on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1916.

He then returned to his former life as a fisherman and is found in the 1921 Newfoundland census living in Bay Roberts with wife Alfreda and one (1) month old son, Thomas. Alfreda and Alexander had married in 1919.

By 1935 the family had now grown to include Harry, Katie, Chesley, Florence and

Phyllis, making for a family of six (6) children.

The 1945 census shows Alexander, 49 and Alfreda, 45 with another addition to the family. Ralph makes seven (7) children in all but by now, three (3) have move out on their own, leaving parents with just four (4) at home

1982 would be a difficult year since in that year both Alexander and Alfreda would pass away. They are buried side by side in the Salvation Army Cemetery at the Cat Hills, Bay Roberts.