



Arthur "Art" Neville

Arthur Neville was born in North River in 1921. His parents were Richard and Grace (Reid) Neville. Arthur was one of seven sons born to the family.

In 1932, his mother, Grace, passed away during childbirth. Him and his six brothers were left to be raised by their grandmother and other family members.

Growing up, Arthur and his brothers were surrounded by a hard-working family, and fishermen. The brothers grew up to be very energetic and strong.

At the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, Arthur and his brothers were eager to serve, and maybe have some adventures along the way.

In 1939, Arthur and his brother, William "Billy", signed up for the Royal

Navy. They were among the First Contingent of 200 men who were immediately sent to England for training in the same year of their enlistment.

Arthur Neville spent the next years of his service doing training and having many different postings in different places.

Arthur became an able seaman on the aircraft carrier H.M.S Avenger. Their job was to escort ships, men and supplies for the Allied invasion of North Africa (Operation Torch).

In November of 1942, Arthur's boat was torpedoed off Gibraltar by U-155. Within minutes, the big ship blew up with the loss of over 500 sailors, including 31 Newfoundlanders. There were only 12 survivors.

Unfortunately, Arthur was one of those lost with "no further trace". His war record lists him as "missing, presumed killed; 15/11/42"

Arthur Neville's name is enshrined on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent, England dedicated to Royal Navy personnel lost at sea during the First and Second World Wars.

The news of this loss was devastating to Arthur's father and family.

Family dearly remembers Arthur Neville today for his bravery and strength.

Source used:

<https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/news/a-north-river-familys-story-of-sacrifice-327976/>



The Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England



Service No: C/JX 173331

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Avenger provided air escort for the first British assault slow convoy (K.M.S. 1) to sail for Algiers and Oran in Operation "Torch". On November 15, 1942, while escorting a subsequent convoy returning from the Mediterranean, the carrier was torpedoed west of Gibraltar, by U-155. There were only 12 survivors. The list of fatal casualties included the names of 31 Newfoundlanders,* by far the greatest number to be lost in any one naval ship during the war.

War Medals:

1939-45 Star

Atlantic

Africa

War Medal