



Arthur James French

Arthur James French was born December 24th, 1923 to parents John James and Ethel (Sparkes) French of Coley's Point, Newfoundland. He was the youngest of five children. His mother died when he was just nine years old and he was raised by his father and his four older sisters.

Times were hard for the family with father gone to make a living for the family. His dad went to the front sealing when he could each year. At the tender age of twelve my dad went cod fishing on the Labrador with Lewis Dawe & Sons of Bay Roberts.

At eighteen he started sailing the coastal waters of Newfoundland on schooners and was the engineer on the Marjorie Inkpen, the Robert & Thomas and the Kromet. These schooners were in service carrying supplies around the coast of Newfoundland and were a valuable part of the Merchant Navy during WW II.

After the war, on November 27th, 1947, he married Ruby Elizabeth Dawe of Coley's Point South where they had a home and raised a family. Together they had four children, two of which, twins, died in infancy.

Dad worked various jobs to help make ends meet. He started his own business, a service station, operated school buses and ran heavy equipment.

A life Member of The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 32, he held numerous offices in the branch.

He had a passion for hunting and fishing and did as much as he could once he retired. At the age of 81 following a lengthy battle with cancer, he passed away at his residence in April 2005.

By daughter Lois (French) Andrews