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**Arthur Parsons**

**World War I**

**Royal Naval Reserve**

**Service No. 1761X**

Arthur was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1897 to parents Edward and Emma Parsons of Crane's Brook, Bay Roberts.

At the age of 18, Arthur enlisted in the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. His enlistment papers carry a date of 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1915. Signed at St. John's, Arthur is described as having dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5 feet 4 inches tall and single.

As part of his enlistment, he had part of his weekly pay allotted to his mother, Emma 50 cents was to be paid to her as long as he served.

Arthur's service record spans from May 7, 1915, to April 30, 1919, almost four years. During that time Arthur saw service on the following ships or ashore at naval bases:

1. Calypso, the training vessel for all recruits.
2. Victory 1
3. Excellent
4. >\?
5. Pembroke
6. Caesar
7. Vivid 111
8. Wallington (3 times)
9. Briton

Here's one of the ships Arthur served on.

## **First World War**

*HMS Caesar*



At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, *Caesar* was brought back into full commission and transferred to the 7th Battle Squadron of the Channel Fleet; the squadron was charged with the defence of the English Channel. During this service she helped in transporting the Plymouth Marine Division from Plymouth to Ostend, Belgium, and covered the passage of the British Expeditionary Force from England to France in September 1914. In December 1914, *Caesar* was detached from the 7th Battle Squadron and transferred to Gibraltar to serve as guard ship and gunnery training ship there. In July 1915, she transferred to the North America and

West Indies Station, serving as guard ship and gunnery training ship at Bermuda and patrolling the Atlantic.

Her North America and West Indies Station service ended in September 1918, when *Caesar* was transferred to relieve HMS *Andromache* (the old second-class cruiser and former minelayer HMS *Latona*) as flagship of the Senior Naval Officer, British Adriatic Squadron, at Corfu, the last British pre-dreadnought to serve as a flagship. In September 1918, *Caesar* went to Malta for refit as a depot ship, during which she was equipped with repair shops and with leisure facilities such as recreation rooms and reading rooms. This conversion completed, she took up duties in October 1918 at Mudros as depot ship for the British Aegean Squadron. In January 1919 she was transferred to Port Said, Egypt, for service as a depot ship there. In June 1919, *Caesar* transited the Dardanelles and transferred to the Black Sea, where she served as a depot ship for British naval forces operating against the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution. In this service she became the last British pre-dreadnought to serve operationally overseas. *Caesar* returned to the United Kingdom in March 1920, paid off at Devonport on 23 April 1920, and was placed on the disposal list. She was sold to a British firm for scrapping on 8 November 1921, then resold to a German firm in July 1922 and towed from Devonport to Germany to be scrapped.

Following his discharge on 1919, Arthur returned home to Bay Roberts, where in the 1921 census, we see Arthur living at home with his parents but there's a couple of additions. He has a wife, Maggie (from Wesleyville) and they have a one-year-old daughter, Marion.

By 1935, the family has grown by two more, now there's a family of three girls and in 1945, we find Arthur and Margaret (Maggie) living in St. John's and there only two daughters now living at home with them.

Arthur passed away in 1984 and is buried in the Anglican Cemetery, St. John's (Forest Road and Empire Avenue).