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**Benjamin Gilbert Batten**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Royal Navy**  
**Service No. C/JX299657**  
**World War II**

**Born:** 01 Jul 1922

**Died:** 14 Dec 2011 (age 89)

**Place of Birth:** Clarke's Beach, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Frederick and Catherine "Katie" Batten

According to the 1935 general census of Newfoundland, Benjamin was thirteen (13) years old, living with his parents Frederick and Katie in Springfield, Clarke's Beach, Newfoundland. He is the youngest of three (3) children and has an older sister Marie (18) and an older brother William (15).

Although the exact date of Benjamin's enlistment into the Royal Naval Reserve of Newfoundland and subsequently the Royal Navy is not known, it was more than likely in early to mid 1941 since he was part of the 16<sup>th</sup> naval contingent from Newfoundland. This contingent of men arrived at Liverpool, England August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1941. The vessel of note used to carry this contingent may have been the SS Baltrover: (*Liverpool: SS Baltrover (United Baltic Corporation Ltd) travelling from Halifax to Liverpool. Embarking at Halifax and St Johns, Newfoundland. Official Number: 132840.*) In fact, the Baltrover did arrive at Liverpool on 08 August 1941 and according to the passenger list, a 19 year old Benjamin Batten is noted as passenger #91.

Benjamin had enlisted for a five (5) year period and was assigned service number C/JX2997657. The "C" designated that his home port division was Chatham (England), and the "J" meant he was a seaman. He was described as being 5' 8" tall and having black hair with brown eyes.

He was assigned time on the Sprite, the Queen, and the Resolution. All vessels of Great Britain.



**HMS Resolution**  
Royal Sovereign Class 15 in Gun Battleship

It is interesting to note that at the time Benjamin's contingent was being shipped overseas, the Allied forces had established the NEF or Newfoundland Escort Force, specifically designed to escort convoys across the treacherous North Atlantic. The HMS Resolution was one ship assigned that task.

Another ship, the Fort Townshend has Benjamin listed as a passenger arriving New York, U.S.A. on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1944. The passenger list shows that he is 21 and single.

The 1945 Newfoundland census finds Benjamin back in Newfoundland living in Springfield, Clarke's Beach. He is now 23 and married to a young lady by the name of Lillian. She is from Scotland.

From Newfoundland, the couple move to Ontario, where Benjamin finds work at the Alcan factory in Toronto. He worked there for thirty-six (36) years until he retired.

Together they have at least seven children including Rod, Kevin, Trevor, Darrell, Jerry, Debbie, and Holly.

Benjamin passed away in 2011 at the age of 89. He was predeceased by wife, Lillian. He is interred/buried at the Bowmanville Cemetery, Durham Region, Ontario.