



Bertram Elihu Bartlett

Royal Naval Reserve Newfoundland

Royal Navy

Service No. C/JX181442

World War II

Born: 27 Mar 1920

Died: 26 Oct 2000

Place of Birth: Bareneed, Newfoundland

Parents: Hedley and Emma (nee Barrett) Bartlett

Bertram was the fourth (4th) child of eleven (11) children born to parents, Hedley and Emma Bartlett of Bareneed, Newfoundland.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census lists the Bartlett family as living at 3 Mount Royal Avenue in the district of St. John's West. They had moved there shortly after Bertram's birth. At the time of this census, there are five (5) children listed. Agnes age 5, Ivy 4, Angus 3, Bertram 2, and Iris 1. Hedley is 30 years old, and Emma is 29.

The 1935 census enumeration shows the family still living on Mount Royal Avenue, St. John's. The family dynamic has changed slightly. Bertram is 14

now and there are seven (7) children living at home. Hedley is working as a "taximan," and 18-year-old Ivy is a saleslady at Ayre & Sons department store.

Bertram enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve Newfoundland and subsequently became part of the Royal Navy of Great Britain.

Since WW II personnel service records are not available to the public, the best that can be established based on official record is that Bertram was a member of the 3rd Naval Contingent to go overseas. This contingent was comprised of 175 men and departed St. John's on 14 Jan 1940, arriving in Liverpool, England 31 Jan 1940. Since this contingent left Newfoundland in mid January 1940, it is safe to assume that Bertram enlisted in late 1939 or early 1940.



HMHS Newfoundland

"HMHS Newfoundland was a British Royal Mail Ship that was requisitioned as a hospital ship in the World War II. She was sunk in 1943 in a Luftwaffe attack."

Bertram's length of service or the ships he served on are not known at this time. It is known however, that Leading Seaman Bertram Elihu Bartlett, C/JX 181442 - HMS Caicos was on the 14 Jun 1945 Birthday Honours List and awarded a Mentioned in Despatches (MiD) for gallantry or outstanding service in the face of the enemy, or for zeal, patience and cheerfulness in dangerous waters and for setting an example of wholehearted devotion to duty, upholding the high tradition of the Royal Navy. A photo of the HMS Caicos can be found on page 4.

There is record dated 27 Jul 1948 showing Bertram as passenger on the same SS Newfoundland vessel, departing Liverpool, and arriving in Boston via St. John's and Halifax. It is assumed that Bertram disembarked at St. John's. On the ship's passenger list, Hedley gives his occupation as motor mechanic and his address as being Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Bertram married Mary Balmer of Belfast, Northern Ireland and on August 12th, 1952, the couple welcomed their first child Bertram Gregory at St. John's, Newfoundland. The couple would have six (6) children, four (4) boys and two (2) girls.

The next year, 1953, the Bartlett family is found in the United States, residing in Ohio. Bertram is working as a mechanic for the Lorain Trucking Company.

Bertram died in October 2000 at the age of 80 and is buried at Rugby Cemetery in Brownhelm, Lorain County, Ohio.

Here is his official Obituary for Bertram Bartlett:

"He was born March 27, 1920, in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. He moved to Vermilion from St. Johns in 1953. . Bartlett worked for Hoisting Engineers Union Local 18, operating heavy equipment, until his retirement in 1982 after 30 years' service. He was a member of the United Church of Christ Congregational, Vermilion; AMVETS Post 22, Veterans of Foreign Wars and DAD organization Post 248. He enjoyed golf, fishing, and horseshoes. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary (nee Balmer); daughters Eileen P. Abraham of Amherst and Kathryn Miller of Vermilion; sons Angus H. Bartlett and Samuel T. Bartlett, both of Vermilion, and Dennis J. Bartlett of LaGrange; 18 Grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; sisters Ivy Gurchy and Daphne Dzwonkowski, both of Sandusky, Elizabeth Nosworthy of Delaware, Ohio and Fern DeLamatre of Huron; and brothers Angus H. Bartlett of Huron and Hubert Bartlett of Vermilion. He was preceded in death by his son, Bertram G. Bartlett, in 1975, two brothers, two sisters and his parents, Hedley and Emma Mae Bartlett. Friends may call Friday 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Riddle Funeral Home, 5345"

Below are several newspaper clippings referencing Bertram.

From The Evening Telegram 09 March 1940:



BERTRAM

(DICK) E. BARTLETT
son of Mr. and Mrs. Hedley B. Bartlett, 3 Mount Royal avenue, who went overseas with the 3rd Naval Draft. His father is an ex-Naval Reservist.

From The Daily News 01 February 1943:

Promotion In The Royal Navy

Information has been received from the Trade Commissioner for Newfoundland, London that Seaman Bertram E. Bartlett, C/JX 181442, Royal Navy, of St. John's, has been advanced to the rank of Acting Leading Seaman, Temporary, with effect from 3rd August, 1942.

W. F. RENDELL, Colonel.
Secretary for Defence.

From The Daily News 12 January 1946:

Servicemen And Families Now Enroute Home

**EMBARKED S.S. STAVANTGA
FIORD, JANUARY 8, 1946**

Royal Navy

Wife and child of Smn. Bartlett, Bertram (demobilized), 3 Mount Royal Avenue, St. John's.

Campbell, John F., and wife, Campbell's Creek Port au Port,

Dawe, Wm. J., wife and child, Burnt Head, Cupids.

Wife of Smn. Cyril Power (demobilized), 4 Monchy Road, Grand Falls.

Wife and child of Smn. Montague Reader, Portugal Cove.

Wife of Smn. Jacob Scott, 23 Carmelite Road, Grand Falls.

Wife of Smn. Robert Tetford, (discharged), Harbour Grace.

Wife of Smn. James J. Wilson (discharged), 16 Prospect Street, St. John's.

The Daily News 03 July 1945:

War Veteran's Son Mentioned in Despatches Another Boy Serving

Mr and Mrs Hedley Bartlett, of 3 Mount Royal Avenue, St. John's, Nfld., have been advised by the Secretary for Defence that information has been received from the Admiralty to the effect that their son, Leading Seaman Bertram Bartlett, JX181442, of the Royal Navy, has been awarded "Mention in Despatches." Mr. Bartlett himself served in the Royal (Nfld.) Naval Reserve in the last war and he has another son, Bombardier Angus Bartlett of the Royal Artillery, who is now home on rotation leave from overseas.

Leading Seaman Bertram Bartlett was a motor mechanic at Nightingales Garage when he was called up for service on January 11th, 1940. This gallant young Naval rating is twenty five years of age.

The award appears in the London Gazette dated 8th June, 1945.



HMS Caicos K505 Colony Class Frigate – WW II

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