



**Clifford P. Russell**

**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**

**Royal Navy**

**Service No. P/188809**

**World War II**

**Born:** 16 Jul 1912

**Died:** 1999

**Place of Birth:** Coley's Point, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** William and Edith Blanche Russell

The 1921 Newfoundland general census shows Clifford at nine (9) years old and the eldest of three (3) children in the Russell household at Coley's Point. Mary at 6 and Gwendolyn at 5 are his two younger sisters.

The 1935 census of Coley's Point lists William at age 52, Blanche at 48 and three children at home, Mary 20, Gwendolyn at 19 and Ellen at 12. Clifford is found at age 23 living in the home of John and Mary Thorne of Russell-town, Bonavista. He is a lodger in their home.

At 28 years old, Clifford is a crew member of the SS Belle Isle. The ship left St. John's,

Newfoundland and arrived New York City on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1940. It seems he was engaged (hired) as of December 1939.

Clifford enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve of Newfoundland sometime in early 1940. This date is a best guess scenario since he was part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Naval Contingent to ship overseas from Newfoundland. This contingent departed St. John's on board the HMHS Newfoundland on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1940, and arrived Liverpool, England April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1940.



**HMHS Newfoundland**

The 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 off southern Italy.

1945 sees Clifford now 33, back home living in Coley's Point with his parents, William and Blanche who are 62 and 58, respectively. At home too is Mary 37, Gwendolyn 29, and Ellen 23. Clifford is working as a bank clerk.

This is where the trail ends with regard to Clifford since no other record on him has been found to date.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 14 Jun 1941:

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**OVERSEAS MAIL**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Russell, of Coley's Point recently received a letter from their son Clifford P. Russell, who is serving overseas in the Royal Navy. Clifford has been promoted to the rank of Leading Seaman. He went overseas with the fifth naval draft and immediately went on active service. He is in excellent health and is enjoying life in the Navy. He receives The Guardian regularly and both he and his shipmates enjoy reading it very much.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 26 Sep 1942:

**CLIFFORD P. RUSSELL  
RECEIVES PROMOTION**

Sub. Lieut. Clifford P. Russell of Coley's Point, who for the past two and a half years has been serving with His Majesties Forces overseas, recently was advised by the Admiralty that he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. The promotion was effective as from July 16th, which happened to be Clifford's birthday.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 14 Mar 1942:

H.M.S. Coatfell,  
c/o G.P.O., London,  
Jan. 21, '42.

Secretary, W. P. A.,  
Bay Roberts.

Dear Madam,— I am indeed grateful for the Christmas present of 10s. 3d. which I received from you a few days ago. Apart from the fact that a Postal Order is very useful at all times, there is also that thought of being remembered by those at home which comes with it. That, I think, has a whole lot to do with making things well worth while for us who are over here.

Wishing you and the W.P.A. every success during 1942, I remain,

Sincerely yours,  
**C. P. RUSSELL,**  
Sub.Lt. R.N.V.R.

From The Evening Telegram 06 December 1941:



CLIFFORD P. RUSSELL  
son of Mr. and Mrs. William Russell, Coley's Point, who went overseas March 20th, 1940. Clifford is now a Sub-Lieutenant in the Navy. Before he went overseas he worked on the staff of the Bank of Nova Scotia. He was working on the staff at Harbor Grace when he enlisted.