



Donald Victor Hambling

Royal Air Force (RAF)

World War II

Born: 23 Oct 1918

Died: 01 Dec 2011 (Age 93)

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay North, Newfoundland

Parents: John and Florence “Flossie” (nee Parsons) Hambling

John Hambling came to Bay Roberts as a young man to work as a cable operator at the Western Union Cable Company. The building now houses the Town of Bay Roberts Council Offices, The Road to Yesterday Museum and the Christopher Pratt Gallery. The building is also a designated Heritage Building.

It seems he met Florence (Flossie) Parsons, and they were married in 1915. Their first child, Augustus, arrived in 1916 and Donald in 1918. The 1921 Newfoundland general census for Bay Roberts shows the Hambling family living on Cable Avenue

and consisting of John aged 31, Florence 29, Augustus 4 and Donald 2.

The next census enumeration in 1935 finds the Hamblings still on Cable Avenue, Bay Roberts. John is now 44, Florence is 43, Augustus is 18, Donald is 17 and John (jr.) is 7.

In 1938, nineteen (19) year old Donald is found as a crew member of the Fort Gary, a three-masted schooner used as a supply vessel for Labrador.

*“The **Fort Garry** was a vessel built in Little Brook, Nova Scotia, in 1920.^{[1][2]} Her first owners were Revillon Frères Ltd., who operated her under the name Albert Revillon. She was later purchased by the Hudson’s Bay Company. She is described as a propeller driven steam powered schooner, of 246 tonnes.”*

Donald moved to the United States sometime in the 50’s. He died in January 1991 at his home in Fort Myers, Florida. He was 93.

Although there is no service record available at this time for Donald, there are a number of newspaper articles found in the local newspaper, the **Guardian** that allows a glimpse into his service and his life following the war.

A reception was held in the Public Building here on Tuesday night in honor of Donald Hambling of the R.C.A.F., who is home on leave, after completing his training in Canada, and Frank Tipple, who just returned from England after serving for eighteen months in the Nfld. Overseas Forestry Unit. Capt. John Parsons, President of the N.P.A. presided. Mr. E. V. all ably acted as Master of Ceremonies. Short speeches were made by the following: Rev. H. Torrville, Rev. J. L. Reynolds, Messrs. Samuel Dawe, John Ploughman, W. E. Mercer and Beth Mercer. Don Hambling gave a brief description of life in training for the air force. Miss R. F. Parsons, President of the W.P.A. made the presentations.

Donald Hambling, who has been training in Canada for service in the Royal Air Force, arrived here today on a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hambling.

From Sgt. D. Hambling, R.C.A.F.—“I feel rather guilty about writing so late to express my profound gratitude for those swell parcels of ‘cigs’ which I receive regularly each month. It has always been my intention when I opened that first package to say ‘Thank you,’ but I somehow neglected to do so then, under pretext of always being too busy with other important work. Believe me, your job is also an important one and worthy of the highest praise. These ‘cigs’, a token of remembrance and appreciation, is undoubtedly the best and most appropriate way of showing us that you, the Comforts Committee, and the people of Bay Roberts, have not forgotten, and that you are looking after our welfare. Although I am attached to the Royal Canadian Air Force, I am greatly inspired and very proud indeed, to wear the ‘Newfoundland’ badge on my shoul-

der, especially when I realize such kind generosity as you and your Committee have shown towards me. I cannot help but feel that with people like you at home ever willing to help, always thinking of us, and wishing us luck, that it will not be long before all Bay Roberts’ boys will be back home after a glorious victory.”

ON LEAVE—

Sergt. W. O. Air Gunner Donald Hambling, who recently graduated from No. 1 Bombing and Gunnery School, Jarvis, Ont., arrived here this week to spend his leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hambling, before proceeding overseas.

Mrs. J. Hambling received a message this week from her son, Donald of the Royal Air Force, to the effect that he has arrived safely in England.

Warrant Officer, Donald V. Hambling, R.A.F., is on furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hambling, Cable Ave. He has completed a tour of operations over Germany and during one flight received injuries from which he is now convalescing. He will instruct in Canada for the next six months.

Warrant Officer Donald V. Hambling, R.A.F., who was spending a short leave here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hambling, left on Thursday for his new post of duty at Ottawa.

Warrant Officer Donald Hambling of the Royal Air Force, arrived here Thursday to spend a short leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hambling. Don has served in England and is now an instructor in Canada.

DON HAMBLING DIS- CHARGED FROM AIR FORCE

Word was received by his parents here last week to the effect that W/O Donald Hambling, R.C.A.F., has been honorably discharged from the service as a result of a recent medical check-up. Don received severe head injuries in a raid over Cologne, Germany in 1942, and since then he has been instructing and taking a special course in Canada. Before joining the Air Force Don was taking a law course in Canada, and we understand that his injuries are such that he will not be able to resume his studies in law. His many friends, both here and abroad, will regret to hear this.

**BAY ROBERTS BOY
DEBATER AT
ACADIA UNIVERSITY**

**Donald Hambling of This
Town Returned Home Last
Week**

Don Hambling, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Hambling, of this town, arrived here on Saturday last from Wolfville, N.S., where he had been a law student at the Acadia University. He received a diploma in the Academic class. During the closing exercises of the Horton Academy. Don was one of the speakers in a debate entitled, "Resolved that the power of the Central Government at Ottawa be extended."
