



**Edward "Ted" Russell**

**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**

**Royal Navy**

**Service No. 1747X/1800X**

**World War I**

**Born:** 15 Nov 1897

**Died:** 21 Feb 1985

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

**Parents:** William and Frances "Fannie" (nee Thompson) Russell

The Russell's would have eight (8) children in all, seven (7) sons and one daughter. There was Chesley, Bramwell, Edward (Ted), Carl, Hubert, Robert, and Alphaeus. The lone girl was Margaret.

Of the children, two boys, Edward and Alphaeus would become Salvation Army officers. Edward would serve in World War I in the Royal Naval Reserve Newfoundland and of course, the Royal Navy.

Edward stood 5' 8" tall, had brown hair with blue eyes and weighed 165 lbs. His enlistment or attestation papers give Chelsea, Massachusetts as his address.

Edwards's original service number was given as 1747X but his official record was found and is listed as 1800X.

His service record obtained from the "The Rooms Archives," reads as follows:

- 1, **HMS Calypso:** 16 Apr 1915 – 29 May 1914. The Calypso was a training vessel stationed at St. John's harbour.
2. **HMS Victory 1:** 20 May 1915 – 21 Aug 1915
3. **HMS Cormorant (?):** 22 Aug 1915 – 13 May 1916
4. **HMS Victory 1:** 13 May 1916 = 31 May 1916
5. **HMS Excellent:** 01 Jun 1916 – 15 Aug 1916
6. **HMS President 111:** 16 Aug 1916 – 06 Nov 1916
7. **HMS Victory 1:** 07 Nov 1916 – 14 Nov 1916
8. **HMS Pembroke:** 15 Nov 1916 – 24 May 1917
9. **HMS Briton:** 25 May 1917 – 14 Jun 1917
10. **HMS Triton (?):** 15 Jun 1917 – 22 Nov 1917

Transferred to Royal Canadian Navy:

11. **RCNS Niobe**: 23 Nov 1917 – 30 Apr 1918

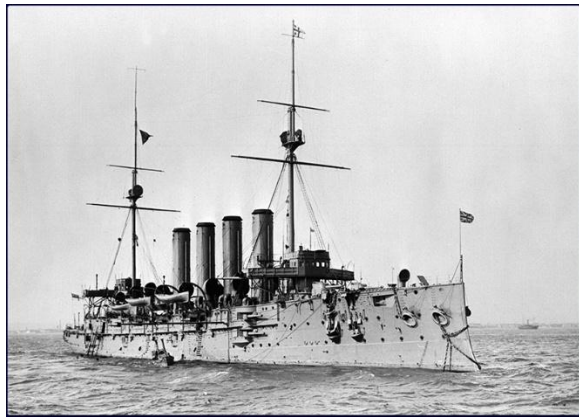
12. **RCNS Guelph**: 01 May 1918 – 20 Dec 1918

13. **RCNS Niobe**: 21 Dec 1918 – 25 Dec 1918

Transferred back to the Royal Navy:

14. **HMS Briton**: 26 Dec 1918 – 30 Apr 1919

Demobilized



**RCNS Niobe**

Following, his service, Edward married Elsie Myrtle Tuck on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1920 at St. John's, Newfoundland. According to records, the couple would have a family of seven (7) children, William, Edward, Kenneth, Harold, Gwendolyn, Reginald, and Donald.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census lists Edward at 23, Elsie at 19. They are married and living in Bay Roberts. In May 1922, the Russell's left St. John's for Halifax on board the SS Rosalind. From there they boarded the SS Prince George bound for Boston, arriving May 31<sup>st</sup> of that year.

In December of 1922, Edward and Elsie applied for naturalization to the United States in a declaration, which was eventually finalized in 1937 at Vermont.

Edward and family appear in the 1930, 1940 and 1950 US census as follows:

1930: Edward is 32 and gives his occupation as Captain in the Salvation Army, while Elsie is 28.

1940: At 42, Edward is listed as adjutant in the Salvation Army, Elise is 38. They have seven children at this point and are living in Lynn, Massachusetts.

1950: Finds the family in Burlington, Vermont. Edward is 51 and listed as the officer in charge of a large rooming house ("John Collins"), His occupation is listed as working for a relief organization. This would be the social services function of the Salvation Army. Elise is 48 and children Edward 25, Kenneth 22, Harold 19, Gwendolyn 17, Reginald 13, and Donald 10 are at home with them.

By 1960, they are living in New London, Connecticut.

Edward died in 1985 at Ashbury Park, New Jersey. He is buried at Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, Westchester County, New York. His obituary can be found on the next page.

On the following pages are two clippings from The Bay Roberts Guardian, the first dated 12 May 1916 is a letter to his mother and the second dated 04 August 1916 is a letter to his father:

# Edward Russell

**ASBURY PARK, N.J. —** Edward Russell, 87, a former Salvation Army officer with the rank of Brigadier, died Thursday at his home.

Mr. Russell, of 210 Fifth Ave., Asbury Park, had been a resident of the United States since 1921.

He was a member of the Asbury Park New Jersey Corps of the Salvation Army, a life member of the Kiwanis Club International and the Salvation Army Retired Officers League.

He was a veteran of the British Navy during World War I.

He was born Nov. 15, 1897, in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, the son of William and Fannie Thompson Russell.

Mr. Russell was married to the former Elsie M. Tuck, who survives.

In addition to his wife, he is sur-

vived by six sons, William G. Russell and Donald F. Russell, both of Wappingers Falls, Edward J. Russell of Holden, Mass., Kenneth C. Russell of Burlington, Vt., Harold C. Russell of Ashaway, R.I., Reginald G. Russell of Peoria, Ill.; one daughter, Gwendolyn S. Tillett of New London, Conn.; three brothers, Chesley Russell of British Columbia, Bramwell Russell of Bishops, Newfoundland, and Carl Russell of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Calling hours will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Ely Funeral Home, Asbury Park, N.J.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in the Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla (Westchester County).

## Letter from Ted Russell

H. M. S. Grangemouth,  
c-o G. P. O., London, England,  
April 4th, 1916.

Dear Mother,—I now am pleased to write you in answer to your welcome letter, which I received the 3rd of April. I was glad to hear that you and all the family were well. I am well at present and enjoying good health.

Well, mother, Alex Mercer left the 3rd of April. He was gone before I got your letter. He left in the morning and I got your letter in the evening and a letter from Maggie and George. I miss Alex very much, as we have been together ever since we left home. He will tell you all about me when he gets home and how he and I enjoyed ourselves together.

Joe Norman, Mark Norman and Joe Snow is on the H. M. S. York. We and they go to sea together and go into harbor together, so you see I get chums from home to go ashore with me. You said you were sorry for me joining on for the end of the war. Well, mother, I thought it was a cowardly thing for me to do to come home when my year was up and the war on at the present time. I thought it my duty to join on to do my best to keep you in safety and to keep peace and happiness in that small colony of ours.

England is determined to gain this war or she will fight till the last man is on the field. Her Navy is ruling the sea to day. Britannia says while she has a ship and a boy in Blue to man

them it is just as well for the Kaiser and the German fleet to be where they were before the War started.

Well, mother, I must tell you not to be worrying and thinking about me for I am all right and expecting to see you and all the family again if I am spared to see this War over. I know it will be a great time for us and all the people at home the day of our return.

You said you had a very frosty winter home. We haven't seen any thing frost past over here this winter. Like summer all the winter months through. Give my love to all friends around. I must now close, wishing you and all the family good health until we meet again. I remain, your loving son,  
TED.

# Ted Russell

## Writes to His Father

H. M. S. Excellent  
Whale Island,  
Portsmouth, England.

July 16, 1916.

Dear Father,—Just a few lines to let you know that I am enjoying good health, and trusting that you and all the family are well.

I have not received a letter from you for a long time. I received one while I was in Gibraltar, and that is the only one I have had from you since I left home. I suppose you have been so busy attending to the gardens and your other duties that you could not take time to write me.

I have not much news to tell you. I am here at Whale Island going through training for seaman gunner. I will be passing out in a week's time. They tell us we will be put on board armed merchantmen.

When I go I am expecting to be made Leading Seaman, and I also expect that I will have charge of the gun.

There are quite a number of Newfoundland boys here at Whale Island. Herbert Russell was here, but he went to London about three weeks ago to join a ship. He and I had a fine time going around together.

Well, father, I must tell you that I had no intention of leaving the ship that I was on at Gibraltar. Just after Alex left five men came to relieve me and four other men who were on the Grangemonth. The Flag Captain told us we had to go home as our twelve months were finished.

When I got in England I did not feel like going home, so I signed on for the duration of the war.

I like the navy all right. It is a service that can build up and put a new heart and soul in any man. I feel that it has made a man of me, and I am trying every day to do the best I can to help keep the good old Union Jack at the masthead.

With love and kind regards to all the family, I remain

Your loving son

TED.