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Gerald “Jerry” Aloysuis Dawson

Royal Canadian Navy

1949 - 1973

Born: 1931

Died: 17 Jan 2007 (age 76)

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Geoffrey and Johanna (nee Hanlon) Dawson

The 1935 Newfoundland general census lists the Dawson family living in Bay Roberts with the following entries: Geoffrey is 51, wife Johanna 34, George 13, Walter 10, Bridget 9, Mary 7, Gerald 4 and Geoffrey just 1. Geoffrey is working as a labourer.

The next census in 1945 has the following information: Geoffrey is 61, Johanna 42, George 23, Walter 21, Bridget 18, Mary 16, Gerald 14, Geoffrey 11 and newest addition, Michael is 6.

Four years later, in 1949 at the age of 17, Gerald enlisted in the Canadian Navy and began a naval career that would last twenty-four (24) years, retiring in 1973 with the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class.

Gerald (Jerry) would serve on a number of HMCS ships including the HMCS Nootka during the Korean War as a Naval Communicator and at various Canadian Land Units.



HMCS NOOTKA's tours in Korea

1st Tour: Departed Halifax: 25 Nov 1950 // Arrived in Op Area: 14 Jan 1951 // Departed Op Area: 20 Jul 1951 // Arrived Halifax: 21 Aug 1951

2nd Tour: Departed Halifax: 30 Dec 1951 // Arrived in Op Area: 12 Feb 1952 // Departed Op Area: 09 Nov 1952 // Arrived Halifax 17 Dec 1952 *

* Returned to Canada via the Suez Canal thus circumnavigating the globe.

HMCS *Nootka* (2nd of name) (R96 / 213)

“Named after the First Nation’s tribe, the Tribal Class destroyer HMCS Nootka was commissioned on August 7, 1946, at Halifax and served as a training ship on the east coast and in the Caribbean until her conversion to a destroyer escort in 1949 and 1950. Earmarked for Korean duty, she transited the Panama Canal in December 1950 for the first of 2 tours of duty in that theatre of war. Returning to Halifax via the

Mediterranean at the end of 1952, she became the second Royal Canadian Navy ship to circumnavigate the globe. During 1953 and 1954, she underwent further conversion and modernization, afterward resuming her original training duties. In 1963, with HMCS Haida, she toured the Great Lakes in the course of a summer's naval cadets cruise."

Following his retirement in 1973, Jerry worked as a taxi driver for many years.

Gerald passed away in January 2007. His obituary is provided below:

DAWSON, Gerald Aloysuis (Jerry) - 75, Dartmouth. It is with sadness that the family of Gerald Aloysuis Dawson announce his passing on January 17, 2007, after a short, courageous battle with lung cancer and a very short stay in Dartmouth General Hospital. He was the son of the late Geoffrey and Johanna Dawson (Bay Roberts, N.L.). Jerry served in the Royal Canadian Navy from 1949 at the age of 17 until 1973, retiring as Petty Officer 1st Class. He served aboard various HMCS ships including HMCS Nootka during the Korean War as a Naval Communicator and at various Canadian Naval Land Units. After retirement from the navy, he enjoyed working as a cab driver for many years, driving the airport run in "CAR 403" with Blue Bell Taxi, Yellow Cab, and Station "A", finally retiring in 1999. He is survived by daughter, Joan (Kevin), Mount Uniacke; sons, Gerald C. "Jerry" (Theresa), Dartmouth; Geoffrey (Helen), Kingston, Ont.; Richard (Wanita), Edmonton; Michael (Teresa),

Lindsay, Ont. "Popie" will be sadly missed by his 16 grandchildren and nine and a half great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by the love of his life, Dorothy "Dolly", and son, James in infancy. Visitation 6-9 p.m. today, funeral service 10 a.m. Saturday, both in Atlantic Funeral Home, 771 Main St., Dartmouth. Goodbye my family, my life is past. I loved you all to the very last. Weep not for me, but courage take, Love each other, for my sake. For those you love don't go away. They walk beside you every day.



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[HMCS NOOTKA](#)