



**Gilbert Batten**

**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**

**Service No 1569X**

**World War I**

**Born:** 17 January 1897

**Died:** 1985 in Ipswich, England

**Place of Birth:** “Dock” Bareneed, Newfoundland

**Parents:** William and Sarah Jane Batten

Gilbert travelled to the Port of St. John’s for the sole purpose of enlisting in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) in January 1915.

On January 18, he did that very thing and attested or enlisted in the Navy. This seemed almost a natural progression, him being a fisherman by trade. He was just nineteen (19), stood 5 feet 4 inches tall and was reported as having light hair with blue eyes.

The routine for his enlistment was the attestation followed by the medical exam that determined whether he was fit for service. Gilbert easily passed and according to his official service record was assigned as follows:

1. 18 Jan 1915 – 06 Feb 1915: HMS Calypso for mandatory initial training
2. 05 Feb 1915 – 17 Apr 1915: Assigned to HMS Pembroke 1

3. 18 Apr 1915 – 18 Jan 1916: Assigned to the HMS Ceto
4. Mar 1916: Transferred to the Trawler Sector of the Royal Naval Reserve as a deck hand.

Although there is no other official record of Gilbert during his time in service, there is documentation that places him in England in 1918/1919. He married Jessie Winifred Palmer (born 22 September 1899 in Islington, London) in 1918 and together they have a son Herbert G. J. born in 1919 in Thanet, Kent, England.



**Jessie Batten**

The 1921 Newfoundland general census places the Batten family in Bareneed, and it is here that their second son, Harold Royston was born in 1922.



The Batten’s disappear from all official Newfoundland documentation and then appear in the 1930 U.S. Federal census. They are living in the Cristobel District, Panama Canal Zone.

Following this small piece of information, the Batten’s go missing once again; however it is quite possible that they went to England. Credence is given to this theory by their sons Harold and Herbert (Gilbert) who enlisted in the RAF (Royal Air Force) during WW II and were killed less than a month apart in late 1943.

Gilbert died in 1985 and is buried in Ipswich, Suffolk, England. Jessie died in 1997 and is buried in the same location. Unfortunately their final resting place could not be found.

Additional information on the Batten family can be found at the following addresses:

<https://www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk/herbert-gilbert-mcdonald-batten/>

<https://www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk/harold-royston-batten/>