



**Gilbert Mercer**  
**World War I**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Royal Navy**  
**Service No. 2545X**

**Born:** 25 Feb 1894

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

**Parents:** Samuel and Fanny Mercer

It was late in the war when Gilbert enlisted. He travelled to St. John's and enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve on 14 July 1918. His documentation shows that he was 25 at the time. He enlisted for the duration of the war, was 5' 10", single, a Methodist and a fisherman by trade.

His service record contains only three entries as follows:

1. 17 Jul 1918 – 16 Sep 1918: **HMS Briton** (the training vessel in St.

John's Harbour, formerly named the Calypso)

2. 17 Sep 1918 – 10 Jan 1919: **HMS Vivid 111**

*(HMS Vivid was the Royal Navy designation for the barracks at Devonport in England and for other nominal bases in Cornwall, Ireland and Wales. HMS Vivid was commissioned in 1890 and operated as a training unit until 1914. The base was renamed HMS Drake in 1934, which today refers to all of Her Majesty's Naval Base Plymouth.)*

3. 11 Jan 1919 – 31 Mar 1919: **HMS Briton** and then shore demobilized and discharged.

Gilbert's service had lasted only nine (9) months.

Back in civilian life, Gilbert appears in the 1921 Newfoundland census living at home with his parents in Bay Roberts. He is now 27 and single.

At the time of the next census in 1935, he is still living at home in Mercer's Cove (Bay Roberts) with his parents. Gilbert is now married to Sophie.

By 1945, Gilbert and Sophie are still in Mercer's Cove. They do not have any children.

Gilbert passed away in 1964 at age 70 and Sophie in 1992 at 94. They are buried in Bay Roberts at the United Church Cemetery there.