



HAYWARD MERCER
W.W. I

**Hayward Mercer
Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve
WW1
Service No. 1763X**

In July of 1898, parents Isaac and Sarah Mercer welcomed a baby boy to their family. They named him Hayward.

In 1915, on the 7th of May at the age of 16, Hayward presented himself to enlist in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland). His enlistment documents clearly show a birth date of July 1896 making him 19 in just a couple of months. He lied about his age by changing the birth year in order to appear older than he actually was. This practice seems to have been quite common among underage men in order to serve in during the war years.

Hayward enlisted as a seaman for a one-year period. This time period is reflected on his service record noting a posting to the Briton (training vessel and station in St. John's Harbour) of 9 August 1916 to 22 August 1916 which states "time expired".

During his time of service, Hayward saw postings to the Calypso, HMS Victory (twice), HMS Coleen and the Briton. He was discharged in August 1916.

Special Note: *During WW1, the HMS Coleen was in fact the depot at Queenstown, Ireland. She was the 1883 Corvette Royalist and was commissioned on December 1st, 1913.*

The Newfoundland census of 1921 shows Hayward still single and living in Bay Roberts.

The following 1935 census, however, shows him at 31 with a wife (Mildred) and a family of five (2 sons and 3 daughters).



These are the medals that Hayward would have been awarded by the British government for his service.

Hayward passed away in 1968 and is buried in St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery in Bay Roberts.