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Jack Stanley Parsons

Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)

Service No. 1035X

World War I

Born: 04 Aug 1895

Died: 28 Aug 1971

Place of Birth: Country Road, Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: William R. and Selina (nee Barrett) Parsons

Jack was the second of five (5) children born to William and Selina who married in December 1893. There was Winnie 1894, Jack Stanley 1895, Myrtle 1902, William 1904 and Elizabeth (Lizzie) born 1907.

The official name recorded in vital statistics cites the name as John Stanley, his military service record has him as Jack Stanley Parsons, yet throughout his life, he went by the name John Stanley "Jack" Parsons. For the purposes of this biography, his given name will be used.

John enlisted in the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve in August 1914. His enlistment or attestation papers provide a glimpse of him at age nineteen (19). He stood 5' 4 ½" tall, was of dark complexion with dark brown hair and eyes. He gave his occupation as fisherman and his religion as Church of England. He enlisted for a five (5) year period.

The official service record for Jack Stanley Parsons is as follows (a copy of the original is posted as the end of this biography).

1. HMS Calypso: 14 Aug 1914 – 15 Oct 1914 (Note: The Calypso was a training vessel and base in St. John's Harbour).
2. RCN Niobe: 18 Oct 1914 -31 Aug 1915
3. HMS Calypso: 01 Sep 1915 – 22 Sep 1915
4. HMS Pembroke 23 Sep 1915 – 26 Oct 1915
5. HMS Kingfisher: 27 Oct 1915 – 17 Mar 1917
6. HMS Vivid 111: 18 Mar 1917 – 07 Nov 1918
7. HMS Boadicea: 18 Nov 1918 – 31 Mar 1919



HMS Boadicea

Boadicea was converted into a minelayer at the end of **1917** and made three sorties to lay her mines before the end of the war. She was placed in reserve after the war and taken out of service in 1920.

8. HMS Vivid 111: 01 Apr 1919 – 25 Apr 1919
9. HMS Briton: 26 Apr 1919 – 18 Jun 1919
10. 18 Jun 1919: Shore Demobilized

The 1921 Newfoundland general census shows Jack living at home in Country Road Bay Roberts. His father, William is now a widower, having lost his wife in 1917. Jack is 26 and single, although he married Stella Snow in June 1921 at St. John's, just shortly after the census enumeration ended.

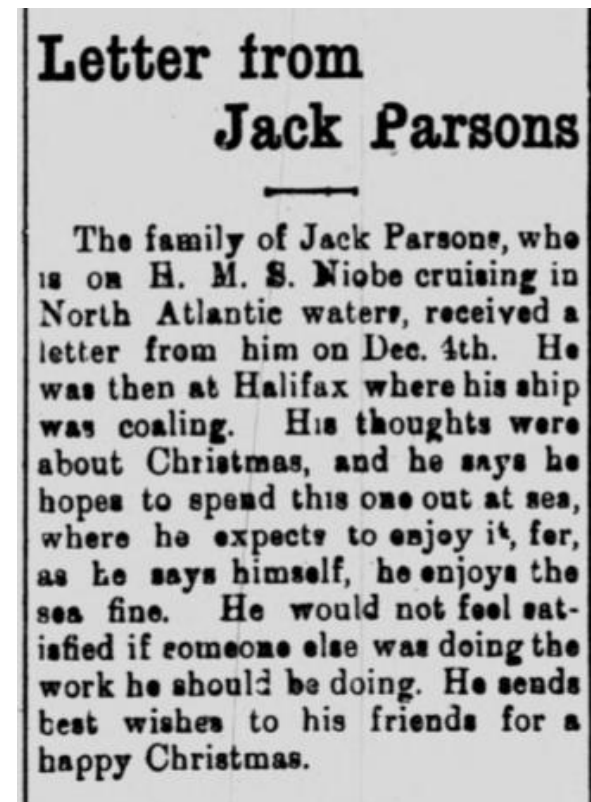
The couple moved to United States and are found in the 1930 U.S. Federal census as living on Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Jack is 34, Stella 30 and they have five (5) children: Selan 7, Stella 6, Thelma 4, Fern 3, and baby Jack just 1. Jack is working with the Railroad as a car inspector.

1940 finds the Parsons family now in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Jack and Stella are naturalized citizens. The family has now grown to include two (2) more children, William and Janet. Jack is still working with the railroad and is now foreman there.

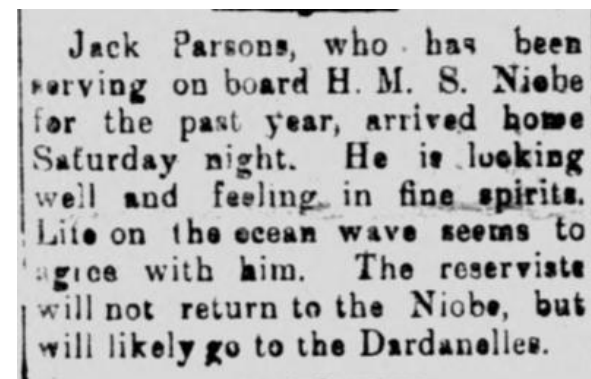
Jack died in Aug 1971 at the age of 77 at Abington, Plymouth Massachusetts. He is buried in the Mount Vernon Cemetery at Norfolk, Mass.

Below are several clippings from The Bay Roberts Guardian that make mention of Jack.

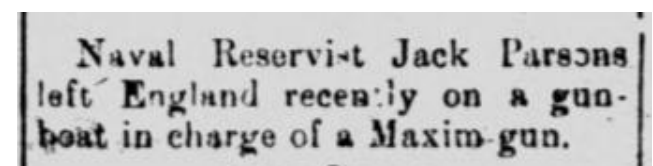
18 December 1914



10 September 1915



19 November 1915



The Social Evening A Great Success

The Social Evening arranged by the Bay Roberts Women's Patriotic Assn. in honor of Naval Reservist Jack Parsons, took place on Wednesday night in the Public Building, and proved to be a great success. The hall was packed with citizens of all classes, who were present to express their thanks and also their appreciation to the representative of our Nfld. Naval Reservists and the British Navy, the only one of our boys so far to return to us after being on active service.

The ladies of the Association had but a few days to make arrangements for the event, and to their credit be it said everything was carried out without a hitch. The chair was occupied by Mr. C. E. Russell, J. P., who referred to the object of the meeting and to our Naval Reservists on board the Niobe. On the platform with him were Rev. Canon Field, Rev. Oliver Jackson, Adjt. Ellsworth, S. A., Mr. John Jardine, J. P., Naval Reservists Jack Parsons and William R. Dawe.

The programme consisted of speeches, choruses, recitation, and gramophone selections by Roy McLeod. Rev. Oliver Jackson delivered a stirring speech on the work of the British Navy and Army and the principles for which we are fighting. Rev. Mr. Jackson has three brothers at the front, one of which is a twin brother. He was followed by Mr. Gus Parsons, who gave a splendid recitation, entitled, "The Last Charge." Adjt. Ellsworth, S. A., followed with a short address on the work of the Patriotic movement in Newfoundland.

The next item on the programme was the presentation to Jack Parsons of two pairs of socks and a safety razor. Wm. Dawe was also presented with two pairs socks. Jack Parsons in accepting the presents thanked the ladies and others for their interest in him.

Rev. Canon Field then addressed

the gathering and spoke in optimistic terms of the final outcome of the war. He dwelt on the good work of the Women's Patriotic Assn. and regretted the apathy of the men. He also referred to the fact that Jack Parsons and Wm. Dawe, who were present, were members of the Bay Roberts Catch Lads' Brigade.

Several young ladies and gentlemen took part in the choruses, while Miss Lynn Butt presided at the organ. The programme was brought to a close by the singing of "Rule Britannia" and "God Save the King." Tea was then served by the ladies. The receipts of the evening amounted to \$37.70.

1035 X

Name
in full

Jack Stanley Parsons

Date of Birth

4 July 1894

Place of Birth

Ray Roberts

Occupation

Boiler

Date and Period of U. S. Engagements.

24 March 1913. Five Years

Age

Height
Ft. in.

Hair

Eyes

Complexion

Wounds, Scars, Marks, etc.

5

5 4 1/2

Dark Brown

Blue

Fair

Ships, etc., served in.

List and
No.

Rating.

Sub-ratings.

Rating.

From

To

Badges.

Period of Service.

From

To

Character.

If Discharged, Whither
and for what Cause.

Calypso 14 7110 *Oldman*
Niobe 14 7110
Calypso 14 7110
Pomorie 14 7110
Winghaker (14) 14 7110
Mind III 15 7110
Boulogne 15 7110
Vigilant 15 7110
Orion 16 7110

9123074 Aug 14 15 Oct. 14 *23rd Oct 14*
16 Oct. 14 21 Aug 15
1 Sep 15 22 Oct 15
23 Oct 15 26 Oct 15
27 Oct 15 17 Nov 17
18 Nov 17 17 Dec 17
18 Dec 17 31 Dec 19
1 Jan 19 25 Apr 19
26 Apr 19 18 June 19 *U.S. Submarine*

PAID WAR GRATUITY.

Class for Conduct.

Clothing and Bedding Gratuities.

REMARKS.

Lt. J. G. Nichols

✓ For statement of services in RCN MP/503/16
13-11-17 discharged to Niobe
per Dec 17 Briton
✓ per Nov 18 ledger
① Per Dec 14-8-14