

Jacob Bussey

World War I

Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)

Service No. 1182X

Born: 22 August 1894

Died: 30 December 1971

Place of Birth: Port de Grave,
Newfoundland

Parents: Esau and Lavinia Bussey

On August 22nd, 1894, proud parents Esau and Lavinia of Port de Grave had a boy who they called Jacob.

Jacob would at the age of nineteen make his way to the Port of St. John's and enlist in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) as a seaman for a five year period.

Jacob's official enlistment document dated January 22nd, 1914, gives some indication of Jacobs physical stature. He was 5 feet 5 ¼ inches tall with dark hair and blue eyes. In

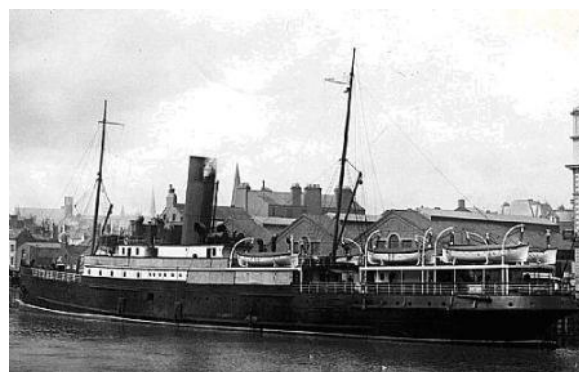
the space provided for his signature, there is only a drawn line (no signature), perhaps an indication that he could not write.

As was the routine with all naval recruits, Jacob underwent training, right there in St. John's harbour aboard the training vessel, HMS Calypso. Once training was complete, it was off to England and the HMS Pembroke base for additional training.

Over the time period between his enlistment, 22nd, January 1914 and his demobilization, 7th, April 1919, Jacob would serve on a number of British war ships and be provided periods of rest at the naval barracks (bases) for that purpose.

The official Service Record for R.N.R. 1182X Jacob Bussey reads as follows:

1. 13 Oct 1914 – 05 Nov 1914: HMS Calypso
2. 06 Nov 1914 – 29 Nov 1914: HMS Pembroke
3. 30 Nov 1914 – 11 Aug 1917: HMS Hazel



HMS Hazel

Official Number: 124188

Builder: Greenock &
Grangemouth Dockyard Co, Cartsdye Mid
Yard, Greenock

Pennant No: M00 / M1.10

Launched: 13 April 1907

Into Service: 14 November 1914

Out of service: 11 May 1919

4. 17 Aug 1917 – 25 Oct 1917: HMS Pembroke
5. 20 Oct 1917 – 16 Dec 1917: HMS Briton
6. 17 Dec 1917 – 31 May 1918: HMS Pembroke
7. 01 Jun 1918 – 20 Dec 1918: HMS President 111
8. 28 Dec 1918 – 18 Feb 1919: HMS Vivid 111
9. 19 Feb 1919 – 07 Apr 1919: HMS Briton
10. 07 April 1919: Demobilized

Following his release from naval service, Jacob returned to his former life and is found living with his parents at Port de Grave in 1921. His younger brother, Wilfred, is also there. Both are single.

The 1935 census entry lists Jacob at age 45. He is living and working, as a fisherman in Port de Grave. He is now married to Janie Porter of Harbour Grace, and they have three children: Elsie Gwendolyn 12, Norman 10 and Lewis 6.

At the enumeration time of the 1945 census, the Bussey's now have four (4) children with the addition of Rossiter at age 2.

Jacob passed away in 1971 and Janie followed ten years later in 1981. They are buried in the United Church Cemetery at Port de Grave.

Jacob's obituary from The Compass dated 20 January 1972 is included below:

OBITUARY BUSSEY

Passed away suddenly at his home, Port de Grave, on December 30, Jacob (Jake) Bussey, in his 78th year. Uncle Jake was a member of the Royal Naval Reserve before the outbreak of World War I. During that war he served as a gunner with the British Navy and saw action in the Mediterranean Sea, taking part in the British attempt to make a landing at Gallipoli. He served with the British Navy until the end of the war. After returning home to Port de Grave he took an active part in the Loyal Orange Lodge, Enniskillen No. 7, and the Royal Black Preceptory, Sunrise No. 791. He also became a member of the Masonic Lodge MacKay No. 1129, at Bay Roberts and the Canadian Legion. He worked as a superintendent with the Federal Department of Public Works from 1949 until he retired from that department in 1960. He spent the years of his retirement in his residence at Port de Grave. He leaves to mourn his loving wife Janie, one daughter and three sons, Gwendolyn (Mrs. Nelson Grimes of Gander), Norman, residing at Gander, Louis, residing at Bay Roberts and Ross, at home, also 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The funeral took place from his late residence to the United Church and cemetery at Port de Grave Jan. 1. Reverend W. A. Butt officiated at the Church and graveside. The organizations of which he was a member escorted his remains to their last resting place.