



James (Jim) Francis Neville
Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)
Royal Navy
Service No. JX277314
World War II

Born: 01 Jan 1923

Died: 24 Jan 1981

Place of Birth: North River, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Richard (Dick) and Mary-Grace (Reid) Neville

James was baptised on the 4th of January 1923 at All Hallows Roman Catholic Parish, North River. His Godparents were Daniel and Bridget Neville.

Born into a family of boys, James was the youngest of four at the time, but that number would eventually become six, all boys.

According to record, James was a member of the 4th draft of men and one of the 15th Naval Contingent. The exact date of this

contingent's sailing is unknown, but had to be between August 1940 and August 1941.

Jim's service record indicates that his first posting was 21 August 1941. His official service record is as follows:

1. 21 Aug 1941 – 31 Jul 1942: HMS Welbeck as ordinary seaman.
2. 02 August 1942, seaman Neville is awarded anti-submarine Minesweeper badge
3. 01 Aug 1942 – 25 Aug 1942: HMS Europa as seaman
4. 26 Aug 1942 – 24 Dec 1942: BYMS 269 as seaman



BYMS- Class Minesweeper

5. 25 Dec 1942 – 25 Jan 1943: HMS Asbury as seaman
6. 26 Jan 1943 – 25 Mar 1943: HMS Avalon.
7. 26 Mar 1943 – 01 Nov 1943: HMS Montgomery as seaman.



HMS Montgomery

8. 02 Nov 1943 – 17 Jan 1944: BYMS 2210 as seaman
9. 18 Jan 1944 – 15 Feb 1944: HMS Seaborn as seaman
10. 16 Feb 1944 – 05 Jul 1944: HMS Stadacona
11. 06 Jul 1944 – 27 Aug 1944: HMS Seaborn
12. 29 Aug 1944 – 22 Jan 1945: HMS Liscomb
13. 23 Jan 1945 – 25 Jan 1945: HMS Avalon
14. 26 Jan 1945 – 23 Feb 1945: HMS Liscomb
15. 24 Feb 1945 – 26 Feb 1945: Duty
16. 27 Feb 1945 – 31 Mar 1945: HMS Liscomb
17. 01 Apr 1945 – 20 Jun 1945: HMS Europa
18. 21 Jun 1945 – 29 Jun 1945: Passage
19. 30 Jun 1945 – 03 Sep 1945: HMS Avalon

James service in the Royal Navy spanned a total of four (4) years.

Once demobilized and released, James returned to North River and is found in the 1945 Newfoundland census at home with his dad, Richard at age 59 and a widower. Brother Thomas and Augustine are there too.



In November 1946, James married Mary (Molly) McCabe. By 1953, the couple are living on Victoria Avenue in Hamilton, Ontario. The couple would have seven children.

It is here in Hamilton that James passes away in January 1981. He is buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington, Ontario. Mary passed away just two years later and is buried alongside her husband.

Additional Note:

James was one of Five (5) Neville brothers who enlisted in service during World War II. Older brother Ronald was member of the Black Watch, while Gus (Augustine), Arthur, and William all enlisted in the Royal Navy.

Of the five, only three returned home. Both William and Arthur did not return. They were lost at sea. Arthur died 15 Nov 1942 with the sinking of the HMS Avenger. William was lost on 19 January 1942 while serving on the SS Lady Hawkins. They are both memorialized on the Chatham Naval Memorial at Chatham, Kent, England.