



**John Charles Tucker**

**Seaman**

**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**

**Royal Navy**

**Service # 895X**

**World War I**

**Born:** 22 March 1886

**Died:** 25 January 1917

**Place of Birth:** Ship Cove, Port de Grave, Newfoundland

**Parents:** John George and Sarah Fanny Tucker

John was in his mid to late 20's when he enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve Newfoundland and subsequently served in the Royal Navy of Great Britain.

He was married to Mary Ann French of Coley's Point, Newfoundland and they had a son, Lewis born in August 1913.

As a seaman, John was posted to the HMS Laurentic, a passenger liner that in 1914, mainly due to its speed was converted to an armed merchant cruiser (AMC) and fitted with eight 6-inch and two 6-pounder naval guns. As an armed troop ship Laurentic saw service in the Kamerun Campaign, and also the African theatre.



**HMS Laurentic**

In 1917 German mines sank *Laurentic* off the northern coast of Ireland. Her crew successfully abandoned ship, but 354 of them died of hypothermia in lifeboats. The *Laurentic* was carrying about 43 tons of gold bars when she sank. Most of the 3,211 bars were salvaged by 1924.

Account of the sinking:

*"At 1700 hrs Laurentic left Buncrana in a bitterly cold blizzard. There were reports that a U-boat had been sighted near the mouth of Lough Swilly. Laurentic was due to rendezvous with a destroyer escort off Fanad Head, but her commander, Captain Reginald Norton, chose to proceed without it.*

*At 1755 hrs, just north of the lough, Laurentic struck a mine that had been laid by SM U-80. It exploded abreast*

John is commemorated on the Newfoundland Plaque at Beaumont-Hamel, France. There is also a Memorial Stone in his memory at St. Luke's Old Anglican Church Cemetery in Port de Grave.

1935 and 1945 census entries find Mary Ann living in Ship Cove, Port de Grave. She never remarried and then on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1964, passed away at her residence of a heart attack.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS

CLAIMANT

Surname TUCKER  
(First Letter)

Christian Name Mary Anne

Husband's Name TUCKER John Charles  
(Surname first - In full name)

Regimental } No. 875 Rank } Serjeant  
Official }

Regiment } R N Relationship } Widow  
Ship }

Locality once per RNY  
MPR 51

Registered No. 75006

/OS/W

GPO : WASHINGTON : 1918 U.S.G.P.A. 242