

No Picture Available



Joseph Alvan Norman
World War I
Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)
Service No. 1762X

Born: 05 Feb 1895

Died: 20 Jan 1958

Place of Birth: Beachy Cove, Bay Roberts,
Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Samuel and Sarah Norman

On May 7th, 1915, Joseph would enlist in the Royal Naval Reserve as a seaman. He was 20 years old at the time.

His official enlistment papers show he listed his occupation as Lighthouse Keeper. It also notes that he had requested that an allotment of 50 cents a week be deducted from his pay and sent to his mother Sarah in Bay Roberts. It also states that if he is accepted that "...I will undergo 28 drill immediately on-board HMS Calypso."

Joseph was accepted into the Royal Naval Reserve, assigned Service No.1762X. His enlistment document describes the 21 year old as being 5' 3", of fresh complexion with dark brown hair and blue eyes. He underwent basic training on board the HMS Calypso and then shipped to England for additional training and/or assignment.

From his service record covering the four-year period from enlistment on May 7th, 1915, to demobilization on June 23rd, 1919, Joseph was assigned to seven or eight different vessels and on shore base locations.

His official Service Record reads as follows:

1. **HMS Calypso:** 07 May 1915 – 30 May 1915
2. **HMS Victory 1:** 30 May 1915 – 21 Aug 1915
3. **HMS Cormorant (?):** 22 Aug 1915 – 31 Jul 1916
4. **HMS Pembroke:** 01 Aug 1916 – 13 Feb 1917
5. **HMS President 111:** 14 Feb 1917 – 30 Dec 1917
6. **HMS Pembroke:** 31 Dec 1917 – 10 Jan 1918 and 11 Jan 1918 – 03 April 1918. It seems somewhere around this time, Joseph was demobilized and then remobilized almost immediately.
7. **HMS President 111:** 04 Apr 1918 – 02 Oct 1918
8. **HMS Pembroke:** 03 Oct 1918 – 13 Feb 1919
9. **HMS Vivid 111:** 14 Feb 1919 – 09 May 1919
10. **HMS Briton:** 10 May 1919 – 23 June 1919

Once the war ended, Joseph returned to civilian life in Bay Roberts. The 1921 census shows that Joseph is living at home with his parents, and he has a wife, Rosina, all the way from Rotherhithe (South-East London) England.....his war bride.

They both appear in subsequent 1935 and 1945 census reports for Bay Roberts. There is no notation or record of any children.

Joseph passed away at 62 from heart problems on January 20th, 1958, just 5 months after Rosina passed in late 1957.