



Joseph Batten
Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)
Service No. 1570X
World War I

Born: 02 November 1896

Place of Birth: Bareneed, Newfoundland

Parents: ???

Joseph enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) as a seaman “for one year” according to his enlistment papers dated 18 January 1915. Interesting note on those papers in the space provided for parent’s names, Joseph notes Mrs. Delilah Boone as his mother.

Joseph was just 18 years old when he volunteered for service and after all, it was just going to be one year.

Following basic training on the HMS Calypso, (a training vessel stationed in St. John’s harbour) as was the norm for all naval recruits, Joseph embarked for England and was the stationed at Pembroke training facility for additional training.

His service record provided below gives dates and Ship/naval bases he was station to at the time:

1. 18 Jan 1915 – 04 Feb 1915: **HMS Calypso**
2. 05 Feb 1915 – 17 April 1915: **HMS Pembroke**
3. 18 Apr 1915 – 26 Nov 1915: **HMS Ceto**
4. 27 Nov 1915 – 02 Jun 1916: **HMS Pembroke**
5. 03 Jun 1916 – 31 Jan 1917: **HMS President 111**
6. 01 Feb 1917 – 22 Apr 1917: **HMS President 111**
7. 23 Apr 1917 – 02 May 1918: **HMS Briton**
8. 03 May 1918 – 11 Jul 1918: **HMS Vivid 111**
9. 12 Jul 1918 – 14 May 1919: **HMS President 111**
10. 15 May 1919 – 02 Jul 1919: **HMS Briton**
11. 02 May 1919: Shore demobilized and discharged.

It seems that young Joseph was demobilized in 1916 but then remobilized almost immediately. That one initial year turned into four as he was finally discharged in 1919.

Joseph returned home and although hard to locate, he appears in the 1921 census, living in Bareneed. He is married to Beatrice, a lady who is 7 years his senior. They were married in July 1918.

Sometime between 1921 and 1930, the Batten’s moved to the United Sates and settled in Newton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, in the Boston College area.

According to the entries found in the 1940 U.S. Federal census, the Batten's had been residents of the area since at least 1930. Joseph was working as a carpenter, and they were renting a house at 498 Dudley Road.

Joseph was now 43 and Beatrice 54. They have two children, Charles who is 15 and Stella aged 10. Stella was born in the United States, while Charles was born in "English Canada."

It seems that Joseph passed away on 25th November (US Thanksgiving Day) 1954. According to his daughter Stella in a letter to her Uncle Tom (Joseph's brother), her dad had fell into the water and hit his head. He was found five days later five miles from where he fell in the water. The couple had been married thirty-five (35) years the previous July 6th (1953).

Beatrice passed away in 1993 and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery at Cambridge, Massachusetts.