

Lorenzo Roberts

World War I

Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)

Service No. 1161X

Royal Canadian Navy

Service No. 1748

Born: 07 Aug 1893

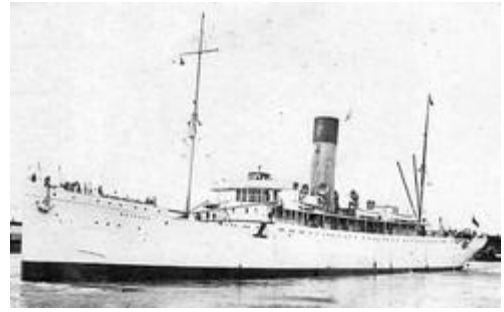
Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: Abraham and Mary Roberts

Lorenzo enlisted in the summer of 1914. He was 21 years old at that time.

Service Record:

1. 24 Aug 14 – 05 Nov 14: **HMS Calypso**
2. 06 Nov 14 – 28 Dec 14: **HMS Excellent**
3. 29 Dec 14 – 11 Apr 17: **HMS Motagua**



HMS Montagu

HMS MOTAGUA – December 1914 to May 1918, Northern Patrol (10th Cruiser Squadron, including mined and damaged), Central Atlantic convoys (including collision with USS Manley)

4. 12 Apr 17 - 09 Nov 17: **HMS Victory 1**
5. 10 Nov 17 – 15 Jan 18: **HMS Brilliant**



HMS Brilliant

HMS Brilliant was an *Apollo*-class cruiser of the British Royal Navy which served from 1893 to 1918 in various colonial posts and off the British Isles as a hastily converted minelayer during the First World War.

6. 16 Jan 18 – 04 Feb 18: **HMS Wellington**
7. 05 Feb 18 – 11 Apr 18: **HMS Victory 1**
8. 12 Apr 18 – 24 Apr 18: **HMS Pembroke**
9. 25 Apr 18 – 13 Jul 18: **HMS Briton**

Transferred to the RCN (Royal Canadian Navy) as AB (able seaman). Service No. 1748

10. 14 Jul 18 – 03 Sep 18: **HMCS Niobe**
11. 04 Sep 18 – 06 Sep 18: **Patrol Depot**
12. 07 Sep 18 – 30 Nov 18: **HMCS Seagull**
13. 01 Dec 18 – 20 Dec 18: **HMCS Niobe**

Transferred back to the RN (Royal Navy)

14. 21 Dec 18 – 07 Apr 19: **HMS Briton** and shore demobilized in Apr 1919.

Upon Release from the navy, Lorenzo returned to Bay Roberts and according to the Newfoundland general census of 1921 is found living in Country Road, Bay Roberts. The census entry has him as Lorenza (29), but this is a simple spelling error. He is married to wife Jessie (29), and they have two children, (both girls,) Elizabeth and Dana.

The 1935 census contains no record of Lorenzo or his family but the 1945 census lists him, now at 52 years and living in Country Road, Bay Roberts. His wife's name is Marion, she is fifteen (15) years his junior and his second wife (?). There is one child listed, Arthur is 19.

Lorenzo passed away in 1982 and Marion in 1994. They are buried in the St. John the Evangelist Anglican Cemetery in Coley's Point, Newfoundland.

Picture of Lorenzo taken at Branch 32



From Bay Roberts Guardian 09 April 1915.

**Letter from a
Naval Reservist**

**From Lorenzo Roberts, Country
Road**
H. M. S. Motagua,
No. 2 Mess,
Care of G. P. O., London,
March 12, 1915.

Dear Mother,—I received your letter and was very glad to hear from you. Well, I am in the best of health. I suppose father is at the icefields by now. We heard of a sealing steamer going down with over 400 men on her. I don't know what time this war will cease. I expect it will last a long time. It was very sad about these Newfoundlanders who went down in the Viknor, Clan McNaughton and the Bayone.

We are in port now for awhile. I don't know what time we will be going out. I will be sending you my photo soon. Give my love to all friends. I must close now as we are not supposed to say anything about what we are doing. So good-bye, from your loving son,
LORENZO ROBERTS.

Clipping from The Daily News dated 13 August 1968 of a birthday celebration held at Branch 32 of The Royal Canadian Legion in Bay Roberts for two Comrades – Arthur Somerton DSM and Lorenzo Roberts who both celebrated their birthdays on 07 Aug and are both Veterans of World War I.

Celebrate birthdays

A birthday party was held in the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 32, Bay Roberts, in honour of Mr. Lorenzo Roberts and Mr. Arthur Somerton D.S.M. They celebrated their birthdays on August 7th. Both are veterans of World War I.

They were presented with gifts of Legion membership links by Past President Arch Bad-

William Bursey, President, praised them for the work and interest they have always shown in the Branch.



Mr. Arthur Somerton D.S.M. and Mr. Lorenzo Roberts shown cutting their birthday cake.