

Malcolm French
Merchant Navy
Second Steward
SS Caribou

Born: Sep 1906

Died: 14 Oct 1942

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Richard and Annie (nee Parsons) French

Malcolm appears in the enumeration records of the 1921 Newfoundland general census as thirteen (13) year's old. His family is living in Bay Roberts with dad (Richard) 44, mother (Annie) 38 and siblings Graham 12, Robert 10, James 7, and Milicent 2.

Richard (senior) is a fisherman by trade but also a butcher in his spare time.

The 1935 census lists Richard at 66, Annie 56, Malcolm 28, Graham 26, Robert 24, James 21, and Milicent 15. The census noted that Malcolm is employed as a steward on a steamboat, while Graham is a fisherman.

On October 14th, 1942, Malcolm was the second steward on the ill-fated passenger ship the SS Caribou.



The SS Caribou was a passenger and train ferry that operated in the Cabot Strait between Port aux Basques, Newfoundland and North Sydney, Nova Scotia. On 14 October 1942, the German submarine U-69 sank the vessel, causing the worst loss of life in Canadian waters during the Second World War.


Malcolm was one of two from Bay Roberts lost that day, Bridget (Bride) Fitzpatrick being the other.

A total of 167 were lost when the Caribou sank, including 31 crew and 137 passengers.

Note of Interest: In Port aux Basques Memorial Park, a memorial to *Caribou's* victims stands between two pillars, which lists the community's wartime casualties. The town's annual Remembrance Day service includes a memorial for the *Caribou*.

Malcolm is memorialized on the Halifax Memorial and is buried the Central United Church Cemetery in Bay Roberts.

REMEMBER THE "CARIBOU" AND HER GALLANT CREW



1. E. TAYLOR, Master	10. C. HANN, Stewardess
2. A. TAYLOR, 1st Officer	11. W. GARDNER, 2nd Officer
3. J. MALCOLM, 3rd Officer	12. G. GIBSON, 3rd Officer
4. G. DODD, 4th Officer	13. H. GIBSON, 3rd Officer
5. H. HANN, Chief Steward	14. A. HANN, 3rd Officer
6. W. HANN, 3rd Officer	15. G. HANN, 3rd Officer
7. W. HANN, 3rd Officer	16. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
8. W. HANN, 3rd Officer	17. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
9. W. HANN, 3rd Officer	18. J. HANN, 3rd Officer

19. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	28. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
20. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	29. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
21. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	30. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
22. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	31. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
23. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	32. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
24. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	33. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
25. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	34. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
26. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	35. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
27. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	36. J. HANN, 3rd Officer

37. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	46. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
38. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	47. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
39. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	48. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
40. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	49. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
41. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	50. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
42. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	51. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
43. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	52. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
44. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	53. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
45. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	54. J. HANN, 3rd Officer

55. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	64. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
56. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	65. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
57. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	66. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
58. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	67. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
59. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	68. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
60. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	69. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
61. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	70. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
62. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	71. J. HANN, 3rd Officer
63. J. HANN, 3rd Officer	72. J. HANN, 3rd Officer

S.S. "CARIBOU"
Worked in Canada before, October 11th, 1912.
 With a Loss of 127 Lives 11 of Crew Drowned
 Built in Baltimore in 1912
 Length 286 Feet Width 18 Feet Tonnage 2,200

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 Halifax Memorial Fund, Halifax, N.S.

Malcolm's name appears in the Merchant Navy Book of Remembrance on page 138.
His name is given as Maywell/Malcolm French (see below)

2nd Mate, 2 ^e lieutenant Fraser, Lionel PRESCODOC	42-07-29
Surgeon, Chirurgien Fraser, William Elliot PESHAWUR	46-09-15
Able-Bodied seaman, Matelot qualifié Frechette, Roland MONTROLITE	42-02-04
Chief Cook, Chef cuisinier Fredericksen, William KAWARTHA PARK	44-11-17
Fireman, Chauffeur Fregault, Ovíla THALIA	40-10-18
2nd Steward, 2 ^e steward French, Maywell CARTBOU	42-10-14
Seaman, Marin French, Thomas EMPIRE ALBATROSS	41-02-18
Fireman, Chauffeur Fry, Hubert LIVINGSTON	44-09-03



Here are some clipping from the Guardian, a local newspaper in the Bay Roberts area. The date is late 1942

REMAINS ARRIVE

The remains of the late Miss Bride Fitzpatrick and Mr. Malcolm French, victims of the Cabot Strait tragedy, arrived here by special train on Monday afternoon. The funeral of Miss Fitzpatrick took place direct from the Railway Station to the R.C. Church and cemetery. Rev. Msgr. M. F. Dinn officiated. The funeral of the late Malcolm French took place from his home at Bay Roberts East on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. to the United Church and cemetery. Rev. J. L. Reynolds officiated.

IN MEMORIAM

FRENCH—In loving memory of Malcolm French, who was drowned October 14th, 1942, when the S.S. Caribou was sunk by enemy action.

On that sad and fatal day,
At one cruel stroke of hate,
All helpless sank the "Caribou"
And sealed our dear ones fate.
Like her brave and gallant crew
His dear, young life he gave,
Standing firmly at his post
He sank beneath the wave.
When all earthly strife shall
cease

We shall meet with him again.
God shall wipe away our tears
Where there is no death nor
pain.

—Inserted by his mother,
brother and sister.