

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.

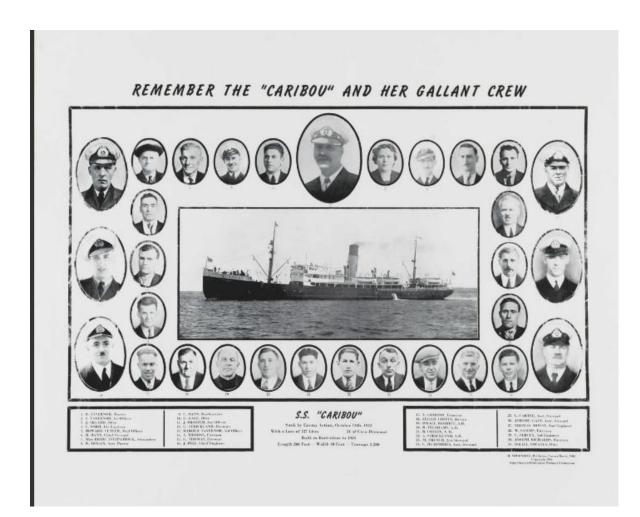


The SS Caribou was a passenger and train ferry that operated in the Cabot Strait between Port aux Basques, Newfoundland and North Sydney, Nova Scotia. On 14 October 1942, the German submarine U-69 sank the vessel, causing the worst loss of life in Canadian waters during the Second World War.

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.

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

2 nd Mate, 2º lieutenant Frascr, Lionel PRESCODOC	42.07.29
Surgeon, Chirurgien Frascr, William Elliot	46.09.15
Able-Bodied Seaman, Matelot qualifié Frechette, Roland MONTROLITE	42.02.04
chief Cook, Chef cuisinier Fredericksen, William	44.11.17
Fireman, Chauffeur Fregault', Ovila	40.10.18
2nd steward, 2° steward French, Maywell	42.10.14
Scaman, Marin French, Thomas	41.02.18
Fireman, Chauffeur Fry, Hubert'	44-09-03
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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 Fitzpatrick and Bride 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. Lke 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.