



Maxwell Mercer

Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)

Royal Navy

Service No. C/173333

World War II

Born: 29 Jul 1917

Died: 21 Sep 1995

Place of Birth: Shearstown, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: John and Susannah Mercer

Maxwell (Max) appears in the 1921 Newfoundland general census for Shearstown on page 271 of the enumeration ledger. He is 5 years old, and one of the nine

children born to John and Susannah. According to that record, Livinia is 22, Susannah 20, Wilfred 15, Thomas 14, Marion 10, Witmore 7, Maxwell 5, Bertram 1, and Herbert just 8 months.

By the time of the next census in 1935, John at 70 and Susannah 58, now have only five (5) children at home with them. Thomas is 25, Witmore 20, Maxwell 18, Bert 15, and Herbert 13.

Maxwell enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve of Newfoundland in the fall of 1939 and was a member of the 1st Naval Contingent from Newfoundland to ship overseas to Great Britain. This contingent composed of two hundred (200) men embarked Newfoundland on 27 November 1939 and arrived Liverpool, England via Halifax, Nova Scotia. The ship pictured below, SS Newfoundland was the troop ship Maxwell and the other 199 were transported aboard.



HMHS Newfoundland was a British Royal Mail Ship that was requisitioned as a hospital ship in the World War II. She was sunk in 1943 in a Luftwaffe attack off southern Italy.

The C notation in Maxwell's service number (C/173333) indicated that his home base depot assigned was Chatham, England.

**Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham
(HMS *Pembroke*)**



*“The **Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham**, also known as **HMS Pembroke**, was a UK naval barracks that was built between the Victorian Steam Yard and Brompton Barracks from 1897 to 1902. It was built on the site of a prison built in 1853 to house over 1,000 convicts, with the intention that they would be used to build the Dockyard extension.”*

July 1942 finds Maxwell on board the SS *Argentia* sailing from Scotland to Newfoundland. The ships' log clearly shows Maxwell from Shearstown and gives his occupation as “Royal Navy.”

Back home in Newfoundland, the 1945 census shows Maxwell now 28 and married to Effie Pearl 21 (nee Hussey). They had married at Clarke's Beach on December 29th, 1944.

They made their home in Shearstown and raised their family there. Maxwell, being a veteran became quite involved with the Royal Canadian Legion of the area and was

the president of Branch 32, Bay Roberts for a period of time.

Maxwell passed away in September 1995 at the age of 78. He is buried in St. Mark's Anglican Cemetery at Shearstown. Effie passed in 2012 and is buried at St. Mark's as well.