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Nathan Churchill
World War I
Royal Naval Reserve
Service No. 1748X

Born: 16 Jul 1893

Died: 20 Sep 1942

Place of Birth: Frenches Cove, Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: John and Jane Churchill

At 22 Nathan enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve as a seaman for one year. This happened on April 15th, 1915. Single at the time, Nathan stood 5 ft 10 inches tall, with dark hair and blue eyes. He signed his enlistment paper in very good handwriting form.

The service record for Nathan covers the period from 15 April 1915 to 1 June 1916.

During the service period, Nathan was assigned as follows:

1. **HMS Briton** (16 April 1915 – 29 May 1915)
2. **HMS Victory 1** (30 May 1915 – 13 August 1915)
3. **HMS Excellent** (14 August 1915 – 229 October 1915)
4. **Victory 1** (30 October 1915 – 24 April 1916)
5. **Pembroke** (25 April 1916 – 2 May 1916)
6. **Briton** (3 May 1916 – 1 June 1916)

It is on this date, 1 June 1916 that the service record contains the notation “completed engagement” and Nathan is discharged.

Nathan returned home as indicated by the 1921 census of Bay Roberts, showing him now married to Jessie J. of (Shearstown) Bay Roberts. However, the couple had moved to Nova Scotia in 1917 where Nathan was injured in a mining accident.

The only record of Nathan found after the 1921 census is a gravesite located in the Trinity Anglican Cemetery in Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The stone indicates that Nathan died on September 20th, 1942.

Here is a copy of his obituary as published in The Guardian Newspaper of Bay Roberts on 03 October 1942:

Nathan Churchill

FLORENCE, N.S., Sept. 21—Nathan Churchill, retired Florence miner, passed away in Harbour View hospital at 8 o'clock Sunday night. The deceased had been in poor health for a number of years and a stroke suffered on Saturday morning caused his death.

In his 48th year, the late Mr. Churchill was born at Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, the son of the late John and Jane Churchill, and came here 25 years ago. Due to injuries received in the mine, he has not worked for the past 21 years.

The deceased was a veteran of the Great War and his passing is regretted in this community where he has been favourably known over the years.

Surviving are three sisters: Mrs. John French, Florence, where the remains are reposing; Mrs. John Kennedy, Spaniard's Bay, Nfld., Mrs. Ronald Blackmore, Clarendville, Nfld.

The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon to Trinity Anglican church, Sydney Mines. Interment will take place in Sydney cemetery.

Letter From The Front

Gibraltar, Jan 12th, 1916.

Dear Sister,—Just a few lines to let you know I am well, hoping you and mother are the same. Well, Annie, it is 21 days ago since we left England. We got in Gibraltar the 10th of January. I am on board a tugboat. We are bringing her to Malta, and then I am expecting to go back to Portsmouth again. If we do I will write to you again as soon as I get back.

I haven't any strange news worth telling you at present. While I was at Gibraltar I have seen some of our Naval boys which came across with me on the Calgarian. Two of them belong to Bay Roberts, Alex Mercer and Ted Russell, and Joe Barrett belonging to Bishop's Cove, and several other fellows.

I was very glad to meet them, I am the only Newfoundlander on this ship. We are getting very hot weather over here. I suppose you are anxious to hear from me for it is so long that I wrote to you, but I know you will be glad when you get this letter. I am enjoying myself fine and enjoying good health.

I have been at Whale Island nearly all the time since I've been over here, and I am expecting to go there again after we bring our ship to Malta. I will tell you all the news the next time I write. The war is just as bad as ever, but we are expecting it to be over soon, and I am expecting to be with you all again by next Christmas. This is all the news for this time. Don't forget to write and tell me all the news. Give my love to mother and all the friends around. I remain, your loving brother,

NATHAN CHURCHILL.

(Reservist Churchill is a son of the late John and Jane Churchill, of French's Cove.)

Below is a letter to his sister, Annie dated 12 January 1916 and published in The Guardian on 31 March 1916: