

Nathan Mugford
Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)
Royal Navy
Service # 1171X
World War I

Born: 28 Jun 1892

Died: 29 Feb 1916

Place of Birth: Port de Grave,
Newfoundland

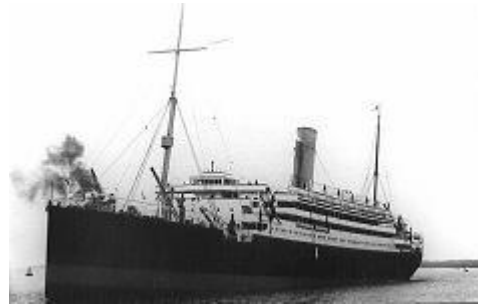
Parents: Nathaniel and Elizabeth Ann
Mugford

Nathan enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve in June 1914 for a period of five (5) years. At the time, he was described as being 5' 5 ¼" tall, of a fresh complexion and having brown hair with blue eyes. He was 22 years old.

Nathans' service record is as follows:

1. 12 Aug 1914 – 05 Nov 1914: HMS Calypso

2. 06 Nov 1914 – 22 Mar 1915: HMS Calyx
3. 28 Mar 1915 – 14 Apr 1915: HMS Victory 1
4. 15 Apr 1915 – 29 Feb 1916: Alcantara. Lost on the Alcantara when it was sunk.



S.S. Alcantara

“On the afternoon of February 29, 1916, both the British armed merchant ship Alcantara and the German raider Grief sink after engaging each other in a close-range battle on the North Sea.

The German raider Grief was in disguise, flying under the Norwegian flag and with Norwegian colours displayed on its sides, when it attempted to run a British blockade. The Alcantara, still under the impression that the Grief was a Norwegian shipping vessel, was sent to investigate. The Grief did not respond to repeated attempts at communication from Captain Thomas E. Wardle of the Alcantara and continued heading northeast. When Captain Wardle ordered the ship to stop in order to be inspected, the crew of the Grief quickly lowered the Norwegian colours and raised the German flag before it opened fire on the surprised crew of the Alcantara, who quickly returned fire.

The battle raged for 12 agonizing minutes at close range. The Alcantara lost 74 men in the battle; the Grief lost nearly 200. By the time a second British armed merchant ship,

the Andes, arrived on the scene, both ships had been badly damaged. On fire and sinking quickly, the desperate Grief fired one final torpedo, striking the Alcantara. Both ships eventually sank. The crew of the Andes picked up the survivors of both ships, taking more than 120 German prisoners.”

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**Newfoundland Reservists
Killed on the Alcantara**

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
St. John's, Nfld., March 28.—Word was received by the Government tonight that four Newfoundland naval reservists, members of the crew of the British auxiliary warship Alcantara, were killed in the recent fight between that vessel and the German raider Grief in the North Sea. The men were John C. Tucker, Alfred Andrews, Nathaniel Mugford and William Dawe, all of Port de Grave, Conception Bay.

Since Nathan has no final resting place, he is commemorated at the Beaumont-Hamel (Newfoundland) Memorial, France.



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