



**Peter P. Franey**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Royal Navy**  
**Service No. D/173618**  
**World War II**

**Born:** 14 Dec 1918

**Died:** 1997

**Place of Birth:** Shearstown, Conception Bay, Newfoundland.

**Parents:** John and Ellen (nee Butler) Franey

Peter enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Navy on November 25<sup>th</sup>. 1939 at the age of 20 and served until March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1946.

As was the case with WW I Royal Naval Reserve Volunteers, Peter was transferred to the Royal Navy of Great Britain and as such was given a British service No. D/1736178.

Peter was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Contingent from Newfoundland to go overseas. This initial Contingent consisted of 200 men, several of which came from Shearstown, included Graham Mercer, Heber Mercer, and Max Mercer. So, Peter was

among enlistees he knew. Additionally, there were another dozen men from the Bay Roberts area.

The Contingent Departed for Britain on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1939 and arrived in Liverpool, England on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

Records indicated that on the first four Naval Contingents from Newfoundland, totalling 627 men, almost all were designated to be boatsman on Royal Navy Ships. It is safe to assume that this is what happened to Peter and his mates.

Peter's Service Record is as follows:

1. 25 Nov 1939 – 12 Jan 1940: HMS Drake  
*During World War II, HMS Drake was not a seagoing ship, but a shore establishment located at the Devonport Naval Base in Devon, England. It provided accommodation for crews of ships stationed at the base and served as a central hub for naval training and administrative functions.*
2. 13 Jan 1940 – 29 Dec 1941: HMS California
3. 30 Dec 1941 – 23 Feb 1942: HMS Venture (Tadoussac)
4. 24 Feb 1942 – 11 Mar 1942: HMS Drake
5. 12 Mar 1942 – 20 Jun 1942: HMS Venture (Parrsboro)
6. 01<sup>st</sup> Jul 1942 – 21 Oct 1942 ; HMS Boscawen (Parrsboro)
7. 22 Oct 1942 – 14 Nov 1942 : HMS Drake
8. 15 Nov 1942 – 02 Jun 1943 : HMS Cheshire
9. 03 Jun 1943 – 28 Jul 1943 : HMS Drake
10. 29 Jul 1943 – 27 Nov 1943 : HMS Asbury
11. 28 Nov 1943 - 31 Aug 1944 : HMS Empress
12. 01 Sep 1944 – 07 Déc. 1944 : HMS Drake
13. 08 Dec 1944 – 31 Jan 1945 : HMS Avalon  
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14. 01 Feb 1945 – 10 Mar 1945 : HMS Drake
15. 11 mar 1945 – 03 Jul 1945: HMS Eaglet (Defender)
16. 04 Jul 1945 – 24 Sep 1945: Drake
17. 25 Sep 1945 – 03 Mar 1946: HMS Victory

The 1921 Newfoundland census for the District of Harbour Grace shows Peter at 2 years old. He has an older sister Mary (4) and a younger brother David who is just 2 months old. Parents John and Ellen are both 24. The surname is spelled

'Pharyne,' just as it sounds in the census entry. This appears to be incorrect/error entry on the part of the census enumerator.

Although records are unusually difficult to find, Peter does appear in the 1935 Newfoundland census as one of 7 children of John Franey, who is now a widower. Peter is the second oldest child at 16 according to this census.

Peter married Emily Butler and together they had ten (10) children, six boys and four girls. The children are: Ron, Theresa, John, Mary, Leo, William, Patrick, Raymond, Elizabeth, and Pauline.

Peter died in 1997 and is buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bay Roberts (Cable Avenue).

Emily died in February 2017.

Below are several newspaper clippings that mention Peter.

***From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
02 December 1939***

## Local Boys For Royal Navy

The following young men from Bay Roberts and Shearstown have offered their services in the Royal Navy and form part of the First Newfoundland Overseas Naval Contingent: Edward Trenchard, Edward L. Snow, George Brown, Robert J. Mercer, Arch Parsons, Bay Roberts; Graham Mercer, Peter P. Franey, Max Mercer and Heber Mercer, Shearstown.

We wish each of these young men the best of luck as they go to serve their King and Country.

***From The Bay Roberts Guardian  
10 February 1940***

### PICTURE OF NFLD. LADS IN DAILY NEWS

In Monday's issue of the Daily News there appeared a picture of a group of Newfoundland lads who are serving in the Royal Navy. One of those shown in the picture is Peter Franey of Shearstown. The other three lads are W. R. Dawe, Jr., son of Mr. W. R. Dawe, of St. John's formerly of Coley's Point; Andrew George, of New Harbor, T.B., and Nelson Harnum, of Green's Harbor, T. B.

***From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
28 December 1940***

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Birthday greetings are extended to the following: Mrs. James G. Baggs, Tuesday, Dec. 24th; Master James Roland Baggs, Tuesday, Dec. 31st; Samuel White, Tuesday, Dec. 17; Clayton Russell, Monday, Dec. 16; Everett John French, Coley's Point, age 3 years, Friday, Dec. 13; Marina Snow, Coley's Point, aged 4 years, Wednesday, Dec. 11; Peter P. Franey, Shearstown, now serving in the Royal Navy, Saturday, Dec. 14.

*From The Bay Roberts Guardian*  
22 February 1941

## NAVAL LAD HOME ON LEAVE

Peter Franey, of Shearstown, who went overseas with the first naval draft in November, 1939, arrived here by Tuesday's train and will spend a few days with relatives at Shearstown.

*From The Bay Roberts Guardian*  
01 March 1941

## Entertainment At Shearstown

The N. P. A. of Shearstown held an entertainment in the L. O.A. Hall on Tuesday night, in honor of Peter Franey, R.N., who was home on leave, and John Mercer, naval volunteer.

Speeches were delivered by Rev. H. Torrville, Capt. L. T. Stick, Messrs. John Ploughman, and W. C. Mercer.

A presentation was made to the young men, on behalf of the N.P.A. and their friends, by V. C. Sparkes. The L.O.A. Band were present and rendered appropriate musical selections.

A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Alex Badcock and seconded by W. J. Baker. The chairman, James Holmes, Vice President of the N.P.A., then asked the gathering to tender same by acclamation. This being done Capt. L. T. Stick replied on behalf of the speakers.

Teas were then served by the ladies. The entertainment concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.—Com.

*From The Bay Roberts Guardian*  
04 October 1941

## Navy Boys Home—

Heber Mercer, Graham Mercer and Peter Franey, three Naval boys on active service overseas, returned to their homes recently to spend a few days leave with relatives and friends. This is Graham's and Heber's first visit home after spending nearly two years in the Navy, and Peter Franey's second visit. His first leave was in February last.

A Reception is being given the boys in the L.O.A. Hall on Wednesday night, October 8th. They will be leaving for their posts of active service on October 11th.

***From The Bay  
Roberts Guardian  
11 October 1941***

**Shearstown Notes**

**Reception Held For  
Naval Boys—**

In spite of the very rainy weather which prevailed on Wednesday night, Oct. 8, a large number of citizens gathered in the L.O.A. Hall to give a royal welcome home to the naval boys, Heber Mercer, Graham Mercer and Peter Franey, who were home on furlough. Unfortunately Seaman Peter Franey was unable to be present. Two pals of the boys, Seamen Hennessey and Moores of Avondale were also present, as well as two members of the Home Defence.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Jas. Holmes, Vice-President of the N.P.A., the function began with the singing of the ode "Newfoundland". After this, short addresses were delivered by Messrs. W. S. Bradbury, J. P., Robert Earle, Herbert Sparkes, W. E. Mercer, Capt. L. T. Stick, and Rev. J. L. Reynolds. Community songs were sung between the addresses.

A presentation of a sum of money was made to each of the boys by Mr. V. C. Sparkes, Secretary of the N.P.A., and on behalf of the W.P.A. Mrs. (Rev.) Reynolds in the absence of Miss R. F. Parsons, the President, presented a parcel of knitted goods to each of the Naval Boys. After all present had partaken of the tasty teas which the good ladies had prepared, the gala event concluded with the singing of National Anthem.

***From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
25 April 1942***

**Home On Leave—**

A.B. Peter Franey, R.N., who has spent the past month at his home on leave, returned to duty this week. He wishes to express his thanks and appreciation to the W.P.A. for parcels and Christmas money which he received while overseas, and also for the receptions given him when home on leave; also Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dawe for carton of cigarettes, and the N.P.A. Shearstown Branch, for \$10 during his recent leave.

# Newfoundlanders Serving The Empire

*From The Daily News - 05 February 1940*



Above is pictured a group Newfoundland lads who have gone overseas to aid the Mother Country in her hour of trial and to help keep the seas safe for the commerce of peace-loving nations. Left to right they are:—Andrew George, New Harbour; W. R. Dawe, St. John's; George Nelson Harnum, Green's Harbour. Peter Franey, Shearstown. W. R. Dawe is following in the footsteps of his father, Mr. W. R. Dawe, who served King and Country during the last war as a member of the Senior Service.