



Ralph MacDonald Bradbury
59th Heavy Royal Artillery Newfoundland
Regimental No. 971361
World War II

Born: May 1921

Died: 09 Nov 2015

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

Parents: William Hood and Annie Marie (nee Morgan) Bradbury

The 1921 Newfoundland general census for Bay Roberts lists the Bradbury family as living in part of the town known as Beachy Cove. Parents William and Annie are 32 and 27 respectively. Their children, all boys, are William jr age 3, David 2 and Ralph not a year old at the time of enumeration.

1924 saw the passing of Ann and later the subsequent remarriage of William to Gertrude David. By the 1935 census, the

Bradbury family now consisted of William 44, Gertrude 32, William jr 18, Beatty David 17, Ralph 14, and Laura 13.

Educated at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Ralph worked as a teacher. He enlisted in the 59th Heavy Royal Artillery Regiment as part of the 23rd Battery. His unit was shipped overseas on the SS Nerissa in late 1940.



SS Nerissa

Excerpt from his obituary published in The Telegram Newspaper. (Nov 2015):

“His unit was involved in some of the fiercest battles in the war, including the Falaise Gap, Operation Totalize, and the Ardennes Salient, sometimes called the Battle of the Bulge. He witnessed the horrors of Bergen-Belsen. He carried the burden of those horrors alone - he never spoke of those experiences for the rest of his life. Returning to Newfoundland with Helen, his Scottish war-bride, and infant daughter Helen, he was soon employed by the Customs and Excise service and spent the next 32 years in the public service. His passions were his family, gardening, especially roses, and fly fishing. He took his young daughters on fishing expeditions, often travelling on the Newfie Bullet. Following his retirement, he and his wife relocated to White Rock, BC, where they spent the next 28 years. Several

months ago, they returned to Halifax to live near their daughter and grandchildren. Ralph enjoyed lawn bowling, gardening, salmon fishing, and writing prose and poetry about "The Land of the Tall Redwoods." his "Bonnie Tartan Lass" and - finally - his war experiences. October 29th was their 73rd anniversary. They especially enjoyed visits to their children and grandchildren in Halifax, NS, and Sydney, Australia. Almost to the end, he maintained his daily email conversations with family and relatives. His granddaughter summed his life perfectly: "What can I say that hasn't already been said? A full life, filled with meaning and love. That's all anyone needs, really. That and fishing." Ralph is survived by his loving wife Helen (McRae), his son Ronald "Max" Bradbury, daughters Dr. Helen (Dr. Donald) Morrison and Heather Bradbury, and grandchildren Andrew Bradbury, Helen Elizabeth Lorraine Morrison, and Donald John Bradbury Morrison. There is to be no service, by his request. His ashes will be returned at a later date to his birthplace in Bay Roberts. Tight lines Ralph!"