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Ralph Wilcox

British Merchant Marine

Service # 150574

World War I

Born: March 1887

Died: 19 Aug 1949

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents:

The 1921 Newfoundland general census lists Ralph at 34 and single.

The following census of 1935 has Ralph at age 54 and married to Annie who is just 32. They have three (3) children: Dorothy 12, Fanny 10 and Edward 3.

By 1945, Ralph and Annie now have their son (Edward) at age 13 at home, Fanny is married to Frederick Moore. They have a child, Annie M (1) and they are living with Fanny's parents. There is no mention of

Dorothy, so it is presumed that she has married and has moved out.

It is interesting to note that Ralph was part of the GWVA (Great War Veterans Association) in Bay Roberts. In fact, he is mentioned several times in meeting minutes of the group. This in itself is surprising since Merchant Mariners were not considered part of the military for service purposes until 1941, yet here was Ralph part of the GWVA in 1928, a forward looking organization with views of service ahead of its time. [You can view or download copies of "The Veteran" magazine here.](#)

According to the British Museum archives, Ralph would have been a recipient of the Merchant Mariners Medal (pictured below)



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Ralph passed away in August 1949 and is buried in the Central United Church Cemetery at Bay Roberts.