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Robert Bradbury
World War 1
Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)
Service No. 1253X

Robert was born on July 3rd, 1894, to parents Charles and Emma Bradbury of Shearstown.

At age 20, Robert made his way to St. John's and enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) as a seaman. The date was October 29th, 1914. The enlistment paper is signed simply with an "X".

Following the routine physical examination, the next day (30th October 1914) Robert was declared medically fit for service. He was issued a uniform and assigned Service No. 1253X.

Robert's training took the usual course consisting of a three-week basic training on the training vessel Calypso in St. John's harbour. The off to the Pembroke base in England for further training.

Once complete, Robert was assigned tours on at least 5 ships over the next several years. These assignments were interspersed with rest & relaxation stints at the naval bases.

Robert was stationed on the HMS Attentive on two occasions and the HMS Seagull twice as well.



HMS Attentive

HMS Attentive was one of two *Adventure*-class scout cruisers built for the Royal Navy during the first decade of the 20th century. Completed in 1905 the ship was placed in reserve until she was commissioned in 1907 as part of the Home Fleet. She then spent the next seven years moving on and off active service in British waters. The ship sank one destroyer and damaged two others in collisions. *Attentive* was assigned to coastal defence duties when the First World War began in 1914, and spent most of the war assigned to the Dover Patrol. She played a minor role in the Zeebrugge Raid in early 1918 and was then assigned to escort convoys to Gibraltar. The ship was sent to the White Sea later in the year to support the unsuccessful North Russia intervention in the Russian Civil War



HMS Seagull was a Sharpshooter -class torpedo gunboat of the British Royal Navy.

She was built at Chatham Dockyard from 1888–1891. She was converted to a minesweeper in 1908–1909 and continued these duties during the First World War. Seagull was sunk in a collision with a merchant ship on 30 September 1918.

Robert served a total of four and a half years in the Navy. He was one of the fortunate ones to return home.

1921 sees Robert at home in Shearstown, with his widowed mother and younger brother John but things have changed since now he is married to Isadora (Dora), a young lady from Spaniard's Bay.

Robert passed away on June 21st, 1943, and is buried in The Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bay Roberts.