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**Robert James Mercer**

**Royal Naval Reserve Newfoundland**

**Royal Navy**

**Service No. C/173345**

**World War II**

**Born:** 14 Aug 1918

**Died:** 14 Oct 1993

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Harry and Emily Elizabeth (nee Parsons) Mercer

Enumeration notes in the 1921 Newfoundland general census have the Mercer family living in Bay Roberts. Harry is 49 years old and wife Emily is forty-four. Children, Bernard 17, Emmie 14, Myrtle 10, Frank 8, and Robert James is 3.

1933 brought the sudden passing of Emily in January and just two years later Harry died at the age of sixty-three.

Robert enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve of Newfoundland in late 1939. Record shows that he was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Contingent from Newfoundland to England in November 1939. This contingent consisted of two hundred men (200), having departed St. John's, then to Boston and on to Liverpool arriving on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1939 on the HMHM Newfoundland.



**HMHS Newfoundland**

HMHS Newfoundland was a British Royal Mail Ship that was requisitioned as a hospital ship in the World War II. She was sunk in 1943 in a Luftwaffe attack off southern Italy.

As part of the Royal Naval Reserve of Newfoundland, the men of the contingent automatically became members of the Royal Navy of Great Britain. From Robert's service number, we learn that his home base was Chatham, England. He would achieve the rank of Leading Seaman at demobilization.

August 1946 brought marriage to Delphine Hyde of Corner Brook. The couple married at Corner Brook left by train for their honeymoon in Bay Roberts.

The couple would make their home in Corner Brook and would have a family of six children, five boys and one girl.

Robert passed away in October 1993 and is buried in Mount Patricia Cemetery at Corner Brook, Newfoundland.