



**Robert Parsons**  
**World War I**  
**Royal Naval Reserve**  
**Service No. 2066X**

Robert was born on 14<sup>th</sup>, of September 1892 in Shearstown, Bay Roberts. He was the son of Mary Parsons and her first husband. In 1901, Mary, widowed and at 40 years old married Thomas Kearley, also a widowed and 50 years old. Thomas was a fisherman by occupation and now stepfather to Robert.

In April of 1916, Robert enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve as a seaman. He enlisted for the duration of the war; he was 23 at the time.

Written on his enlistment papers is the notation that he wanted an allotment of 60 cents per pay period sent to his mother Jane, who by this time had now lost her second husband.

Roberts service record spans the time from 11 April 1916 to 7 April 1919, a three-year period.

During his time in the service, Robert was assigned as follows:

1. HMS Briton (Training vessel, formerly HMS Calypso)
2. HMS Vivid 1
3. HMS Hercules
4. HMS Vivid 111
5. HMS Briton
6. HMS Vivid 111
7. HMS Briton

After being demobilized and discharged from service, Robert went back home where in 1921, he is found living at home with his mother (who is now 70 years old) and he is married to Eliza J.

The 1935 census shows the family living in Shearstown. Albert and Eliza have a daughter, Marion who is 14.

The 1945 census shows a dramatic change for Albert and family, as he is now married to Mary, a lady from Lamaline, Placentia Bay and stepfather to Roland, who is 19 years old. There is no mention of his first wife or family.

Robert died in 1964 and is buried in St. Mark's Anglican Church Cemetery in Shearstown.



### **HMS Hercules**

**HMS *Hercules*** was the second and last of the two *Colossus*-class dreadnought battleships built for the Royal Navy at the end of the first decade of the 20th century. She spent her whole career assigned to the Home and Grand Fleets, often serving as a flagship. Aside from participating in the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 and the inconclusive action of 19 August, her service during World War I generally consisted of routine patrols and training in the North Sea. The ship was deemed obsolete after the war and was reduced to reserve. *Hercules* was sold for scrap in 1921 and broken up the following year.