



William French
Royal Naval Reserve Newfoundland
World War I
Service No. 1386X

Born: 3 Sep 1894

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: William and Caroline French

At 20 years old, William travelled to St. John's and enlisted as a seaman for a one-year period in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland). He gave his address as Hamilton, Ontario. His Attestation papers dated 19 Oct 1914 describe William as having blue eyes, dark hair, 5 ft 8 inches in height and being able to read and write.

William's service record shows that he fulfilled his one-year commitment, and he did not re-enlist.

The Official service record has the following entries of ships and/or naval bases where he served:

1. HMS Calypso 19 Nov 1914 – 17 Dec 1914.
2. HMS Vivid 18 Dec 1914 – 24 Feb 1915
3. HMS Vivid 11 25 Feb 1915 – 08 Mar 1915
4. HMS Vivid 1 09 Mar 1915 – 11 Apr 1915
5. Unknown 20 Apr 1915 – 21 May 1915
6. HMS Ceto (Duke of Edinburgh 22 May 1915 – 16 Nov 1915
7. HMS Pembroke 17 Nov 1915 – 02 Dec 1915
8. HMS Calypso 03 Dec – 17 Dec 1915
9. Shore demobilized upon completion of service 17 Dec 1915.

William did not return to Newfoundland as many who served did. There is no documentation as to what may have happened to him following the war but since he gave a Hamilton, Ontario address in his file, he was located in Ontario.

He passed away at 74 on 31 Jul 1969, followed in 1975 by his wife Lena. They are buried in the Woodland Cemetery, Hamilton, Ontario. William in section 5 reserved for veterans and Lena is Section 2 Urn Garden.