

WILLIAM BROWN SR.  
W.W. I

William John Brown was born in Bay Roberts on the 6<sup>th</sup>. of February 1897 to parents William and Elizabeth Brown of Bay Roberts.

As a young boy, grandfather enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve of Newfoundland as a seaman. He was very much in fact a boy upon his enlistment at the port of St. John's on the 7 October 1913. His enlistment papers note his birthdate as 1897 but the seven is crossed out and 5 written in. This change from 1897 to 1895, made it look like he was 18 when in reality he was only 16 years old. My conclusion is that he lied about his age in order to enlist.

On that enlistment paper, where the applicant normally signs, I notice that grandfather did not sign but simply made a mark. An indication that he could not write

perhaps, or he didn't wish to put his name to the lie he had just told, who knows for sure?

Either assumption is entirely possible since I was just 7 when he passed, and I do not remember very much about him at all, but I do know that when he worked away as a carpenter in Toronto particularly, he would write Nan faithfully.

From his picture and the ship name written on the tally of his hat, it appears he served on "The Duchess of Devonshire", a paddle steamer class ship requisitioned into the war effort. See the picture and notation on this ship on the next page.

Grandfather returned home after his service and married Elsie (Mercer). Together they would have a family of 8. Four girls, Lorraine, Ruth, Olive, and Elaine and four boys William John (jr), Paul, Walter and Dennis. Two of the eight, William and Paul, would subsequently follow in their father's footsteps by enlisting for service in WW2, my father being one. William (Dad) in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Paul in the Royal Naval Rescue Tug Service.

Grandfather passed away suddenly while ice fishing with grandmother on the second pond in Shearstown on 4 Feb 1960. He was sixty-three.

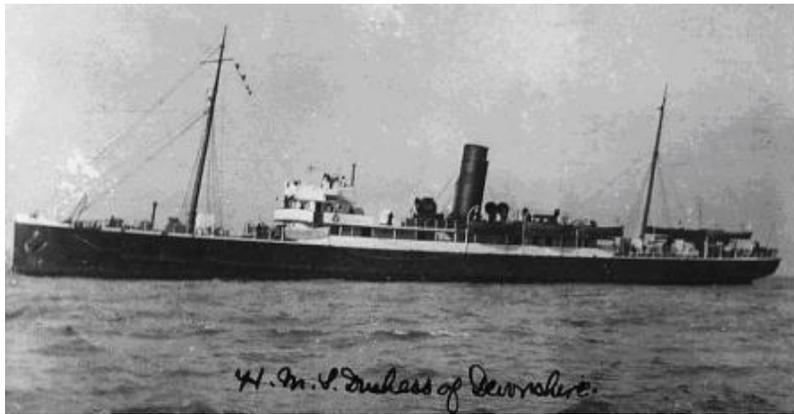
#### Grandfather's Medals



## Ships that have been requisitioned as auxiliaries

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### Requisitioned Auxiliary - Duchess of Devonshire



Official Number:	99941
Laid down:	
Builder:	Naval Construction & Armaments Co., Barrow
Launched:	21 January 1897
Pennant No:	M.09 / M 1.03 / M 1.02
Into Service:	30 October 1914
Out of service:	6 November 1919
Fate:	1949 Broken up



R. V. 1.  
N.  
SEAMAN.

Port of St. Johns N.F.

To be filled in by Registrar-General  
Number 1643 Letters X



ISSUED BY THE  
ADMIRALTY.  
Form No. \_\_\_\_\_  
To be filled in by Regr.-Gen.

APPLICATION TO BE ENROLLED  
IN THE  
**ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE** (Newfoundland),  
**AS SEAMAN.**

(A.)  
DESCRIPTION, &c., OF APPLICANT.

Names of Applicant in full		Where born	Day, Month, and Year of Birth	Age next Birthday	Usual Place of Abode when Ashore
Surname	Christian Names				
<u>Arrows</u>	<u>John</u>	<u>Bay Roberts</u>	<u>6 Oct. 1897</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>Bay Roberts</u>

Height* Feet and Inches	Girth of Chest in Inches	Complexion	Colour of		Personal Marks or Peculiarities (if any)	Married, Single, or Widower	Christian Names of Father and Mother (to be given, whether living or dead)
			Hair	Eyes			
<u>5</u> <u>4 1/2</u>	<u>32 1/2</u>	<u>Fresh</u>	<u>Dark</u>	<u>Blue</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Father: William John</u> <u>Mother: Elizabeth</u>

(B.)  
DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT.

I hereby declare as follows:—

- That I thoroughly understand the Conditions under which Seamen are at present enrolled in the Newfoundland R.N.R., and the services they are required to perform;
- That I am a British subject and desirous of being enrolled as a Seaman in the Royal Naval Reserve, in accordance with those Regulations, and I hereby make application for the purpose of being enrolled;
- That I have no disease or infirmity that will incapacitate me from serving in the Royal Naval Reserve;
- That (a) \*I have never served, and am not serving, nor am I bound or required to serve in the Navy, Army, Marines, Special Reserve or Militia, or in any Territorial Regiment, Yeomanry or Volunteer Corps, or in any Reserve Force;  
(b) That I have never been rejected for any of H.M. Forces on account of unfitness;  
(c) \*Having served in one of H.M. Forces, I now produce my Certificate of Discharge therefrom;
- That I am not in receipt of any pension, or allowance from, or in respect of services in the Navy or the Army;
- That I have not already been rejected as ineligible for the Royal Naval Reserve;
- That it is my intention to follow the sea service for a period of at least five years from the present time;
- That the particulars contained above are correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And, if approved, I undertake to undergo 28 days' drill immediately on board H.M.S. \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this 7th day of October 1913.

[Signature]

Signature of Applicant.