



**William Parsons, D.S.M.  
World War I  
Royal Naval Reserve  
Service No. 1749X**

**Born:** 29 October 1892

**Died:** 11 December 1967

William was born in Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts to George and Ellen Parsons.

William travelled to St. John's on 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1915 to enlist in the war effort. He was a little older than most recruits at the time, being 23 years old.

His enlistment document shows that he signed up for one year. Physically, William was 5' 11" tall, had brown hair and blue eyes. He was single at the time.

William's service record that was supposed to last one year but in fact lasted 4, spanning from 7 April 1915 to 18 March 1919 when he was demobilized from service.

William's service record has been reproduced and is on page 2 below.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1918, William was awarded the D.S.M. or Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry. On page 4 below is an article from The Evening Telegram dated 12 September 1918 that provides some detail in the awarding of the D.S.M.

## **Distinguished Service Medal (D.S.M.)**

The D.S.M. was established on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1914. It was an award for bravery whilst on active service at sea and was for other ranks' Royal Navy personnel, members of the other Services and other Commonwealth countries who held rank up to and including Chief Petty Officer.

On the reverse there was an inscription "For Distinguished Service". Bars were awarded for subsequent actions and the date of the action during the First World War was given on the reverse of the bar. Recipients of the medal are entitled to use the letters D.S.M. after their name.



## **WW I ROYAL NAVY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL**

On page 5 is a letter from William to his mother that was published in The Guardian on 25 February 1916.

After discharge, William went home with the 1935 census showing him married to a lady named Maud. They didn't have children at this time.

William died in 1967 of a heart problem and is buried at Bay Roberts in the New St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery. Maud died in 1964 and is buried next to her husband.

Name  
in full

William Parsons

1749 X

Date of Birth 29 October 1892  
Place of Birth Bay Roberts  
Occupation

18 inch 9

| Date and Period of U. S. Engagements |  | Age | Height<br>Ft. in. | Hair  | Eyes | Complexion | Wounds, Scars, Marks, etc. |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|-------------------|-------|------|------------|----------------------------|
| 10 April 1915                        |  | 23  | 5-11              | Brown | Blue | Fair       |                            |

  

| Ships, etc., served in. | List and No. | Rating | Sub-ratings |           |           | Badges | Period of Service |            | Character | If Discharged, Whither, and for what Cause. |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
|                         |              |        | Rating      | From      | To        |        | From              | To         |           |                                             |
| Calypso                 | 10129        | Ensign | 1st         | 13 Aug 15 | 30 Nov 15 | 1st    | 17 Apr 15         | 29 May 15  |           |                                             |
| Vigilant                | 10140        | "      | 2nd         | 17 Aug 15 | 31 Oct 15 | 1st    | 29 May 15         | 17 July 15 |           |                                             |
| Excellent               | 10140        | "      | 3rd         | 12 Dec 15 | 11 Feb 16 | 1st    | 17 July 15        | 20 Sept 15 |           |                                             |
| Victory I               | 10140        | "      | 4th         | 12 Dec 15 | 11 Feb 16 | 1st    | 17 July 15        | 20 Sept 15 |           |                                             |
| President               | 10140        | "      | 5th         | 12 Dec 15 | 11 Feb 16 | 1st    | 17 July 15        | 20 Sept 15 |           |                                             |
| Barton                  | 10140        | "      | 6th         | 12 Dec 15 | 11 Feb 16 | 1st    | 17 July 15        | 20 Sept 15 |           |                                             |

Discharged 19 Dec 15  
Penalized

Class for Conduct

Clothing and Bedding Gratuity.

REMARKS.

Rated 1st Lt. 12 Dec 15  
Time served in command  
count for increase of pay, pension,  
etc., while C.O. duty  
(1) War 3 yrs 11 mos

Toward War Gratuity 1/2 No. 449

PAID WAR GRATUITY

Repts to Bureau

ROYAL NAVY MEDALS - HONOURS & GALLANTRY AWARDS, Part 7 of 11  
London Gazette editions 30460-30755 (January-June 1918)

30616 - 5 APRIL 1918

*Admiralty, 6th April, 1918.*

Honours for Services in **Action with Enemy Submarines**

The KING (is) pleased to approve of the award of the following honours, decorations and medals to the undermentioned Officers and Men for services in action with enemy submarines:

To receive the **Distinguished Service Medal**

C.P.O. Robert Scott Blair, O.N. 180443 (Po.).

P.O. Walter Christmas, O.N. J889 (Po.).

Ldg. Sea. Percy Edmund Gaymer, O.N. 198799 (Po.).

C.E.R.A. Ernest Ingham, O.N. 269197 (Po.).

Sea. Alexander McLeod, R.N.R., O.N. 4209 B.

**Sea. William Parsons, R.N.R. (Newfoundland), O.N. 1749 X.**

Sea. Richard Peters, R.N.R., O.N. 3065 C.

Ldg. Sea. Henry White Paterson, R.N.R., O.N. 5030 A.

Lce-Cprpl. Herbert Watts Robert, R.M.L.I., No. Po/9615 (Po./B 1105).

Sea. Charles Henry Twaits, R.N.R. ON. 4028 A.

A.B. Frank Webb, O.N. J59755 (Po.).

Dkhnd. William James Wheeler, R.N.R., O.N. 6442 DJA

From The Evening Telegram  
12 September 1918  
(Note: Service No. should be 1749X)

## Wins a D. S. M.

### NAVAL RESERVIST WILLIAM PAR- SONS WINS A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

Another of our Naval Reserve heroes to receive recognition from the British Admiralty for his good work on board one of His Majesty's ships is Reservist William Parsons, X1748, son of John and Ellen Parsons, of Crane's Brook, Bay Roberts. He now wears a Distinguished Service Medal. Just what the special service was that he accomplished we have not been informed, but sufficient is known to be able to state that it had to do with the destruction of German submarines in the Atlantic Ocean, and that Reservist Parsons' work was highly commended, as is evidenced by the medal which he proudly wears. He enlisted in April, 1915, and since that time has seen service all over the world. The whole country, we feel sure, will join with us in tendering Reservist Parsons and his parents warmest congratulations.

From The Guardian  
25 February 1916

## Letter From Reservist William Parsons

S. S. Neleus,  
Royal Albert Dock,  
London, Jan. 20th, 1916.

My Dear Mother,—Just a few lines to let you know that I am well, hoping this will reach you and all the family enjoying the same blessing. I haven't anything strange to write you at present. We will be leaving here in two or three days' time for Swansea in South Wales. I suppose I will see a few more things there, but I wish we were at sea again. We would have a chance to see a U boat. I have seen about all there is on the land to see, now I want to see the U boats. I will try this trip and if I don't have better luck I think I will try and get somewhere else.

It might seem strange, but every time we go through the Mediterranean both outward and homeward, there are two or three ships sunk around us and we haven't seen the sign of anything yet. It is hard when they are within a few miles and we can't get a shot at them. But there is only one chance in a thousand with the merchant ships now against the latest submarines, but I suppose my chance will come yet.

You said that there were some of our fellows coming home but it is better for them to stay over here, because everyone's help is needed at the present time. Don't worry about me. If I can get one U boat I am satisfied to go under.

I am expecting a letter soon. I don't know how much I have written home since I came here, but you can't say what you would like to say, for I don't know how these letters are handled before you gets them. But I can tell you that you don't get all the news in the papers. When you write let me know where our boys are that is over here. I would like to come across some of them. I am thinking that the war will not trouble us much. In fact, it is 'come day go day' with me all the time. I take everything quite cool.

The only time I was troubled about anything was when I never got any letters from home for so long, but I think I am getting them alright now. Don't forget to send the Guardian. I will close with lots of love to you and all the family.

From your loving son,  
**WILLIAM PARSONS,**  
Crane's Brook.