



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

William was born in Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts on 29th of October 1892 to George and Ellen Parsons.

William travelled to St. John's on 13th 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 reproduced and is on the page below.

On 25 December 1918, William was awarded the D.S.M. or Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry.

Distinguished Service Medal (D.S.M.)

The D.S.M. was established on 14th 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

After discharge, William went home with the 1935 census showing his 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.

