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Jacob Dawe

Royal Canadian Navy

Service No. 597

World War I

Born: 29 Oct 1883

Died: 07 Nov 1934 (Age 51)

Place of Birth: Ship Cove, Port de Grave,
Newfoundland

Parents: Esau and Rhoda Dawe

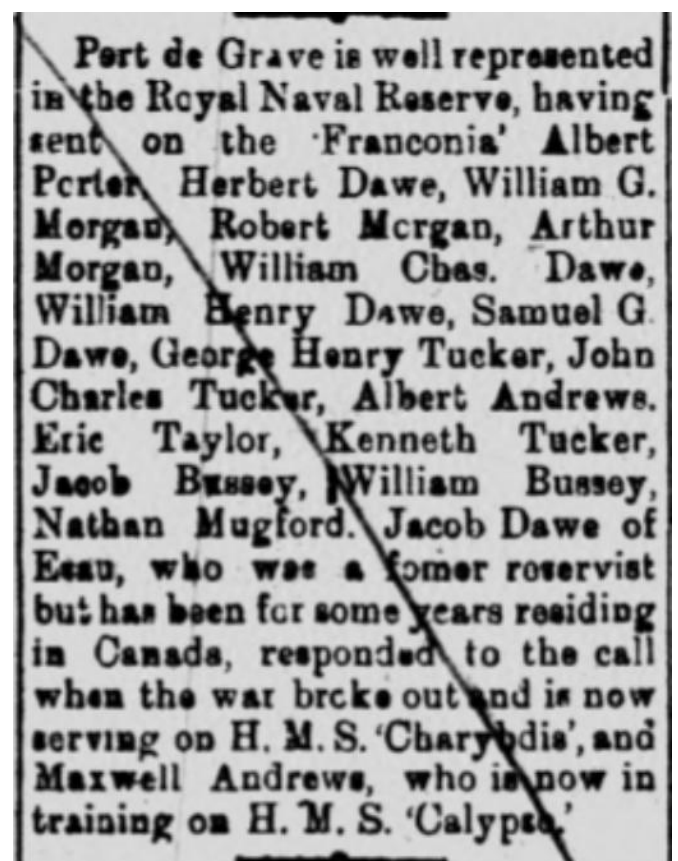
Jacob enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in Canada during World War I, giving his occupation as coal miner. Given this fact and his enlistment in the RCN, it is a reasonable assumption that he was working as a miner in Nova Scotia at the time.

A record of ships passengers of 1907 indicates that Jacob is on board the vessel Bruce with final destination being Cape Breton.

The first vessel constructed as part of the 'alphabet' fleet, the SS Bruce had the ability to travel through the ice of the Cabot Strait and was recognized as a reliable ice-breaking vessel.

The SS Bruce was the first vessel to make the Port aux Basques-North Sydney crossing serving from 1898 to 1911.

This newspaper clipping from The Guardian dated 20 November 1914 provides proof of this assumption that indeed, Jacob had moved to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and was working as a coal miner there prior to enlistment in the Royal Canadian Navy.



Below is a letter from Jacob that was published in The Guardian on 19 November 1915:

Thanks Women of Port de Grave

(Editor the Guardian).

Dear Sir:—I wish through the columns of your valuable paper to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Women of Port de Grave for the great honor conferred on me on the evening of Nov. 15th. When I think of all the kindness I received that evening my heart is filled with gratitude and happiness. For surely there is no greater happiness than, after tossing on the ocean for months, to be at home in one's own country with their own people.

Both myself and family will never forget that night, and it will stand out in my life as the most memorable event in it. The beautiful and unexpected gifts I cannot thank the women enough for. The socks will be appreciated as only a soldier and sailor on active service can appreciate such comforts, while the lovely Bible and prayer book tells me my people are all praying for me.

And as I stood under the Grand Old Flag that night I thought how good it is to be a Briton, and how proud I am to do my "bit" to keep the Union Jack flying.

My time is getting short, but I cannot leave without again thanking also the speakers for their kind words to me, and everyone who helped to give me such a warm welcome. Good bye. "God save our King."

JACOB DAWE

Port de Grave,
Nov. 17, 1915.

[Reservist Jacob Dawe is a seaman on board H. M. Canadian ship Margaret. He had leave of absence for a couple of weeks to come home and see his friends.—Editor]

Passengers listing of the Florizel dated November 1915 lists Jacob Dawe as a member of the Royal Navy.

Here is a link to RCN Service ledger 1910 – 1941 which contains some information about Jacob.

<https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=roynavled&id=1595&lang=eng>

The 1921 Newfoundland general census shows Jacob at age 27 living at home in Ship Cove, Port de Grave with his father Esau, age 68 and stepmother Julia 58. Jacob's wife Blanche (nee Cable) age 26 is there too, the couple having married at St. John's in May of that year.

Jacob and Blanche would have six (6) children. Ralph was born in 1923, Hettie in 1926, Ethel in 1926, Maxwell in 1931, Vera in 1942, and Jacob in Feb 1935.

The 1935 census shows Blanche, a widow at age 39 living in Ship Cove with children Ralph 11, Ethel 9, Maxwell 4, Vera, and Jacob just several months old. Jacob had died of Typhoid Fever in November 1934. Blanche was pregnant at the time.

This is the obituary for Jacob that was published in The Guardian on 10 November 1934:

D I E D.

DAWE—At Port de Grave on Wednesday, Nov. 7, Jacob Dawe, aged 50 years. Leaving to mourn father, wife, four children and three sisters, Mrs. John Barrett of Verdun, P.Q., Miss Hettie of Toronto, Ont., and Mrs. Roland Peddle of St. John's.

Jacob is buried at Port de Grave in St. Luke's Anglican Churchyard Cemetery, Port de Grave, Newfoundland and Labrador.