

Warrant Telegraphist Henry William Candey of the Royal Naval Reserve is interred in the Old Anglican Cemetery on Forest Road in St. John's: Grave reference, Naval and Military Plot.

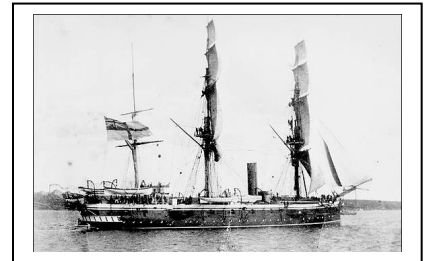
How it was that Henry William Candey came to Newfoundland to serve with the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) training ship, HMS *Briton* (see further below), in 1917 is - Alas! – not to be found among the small quantity of information available about him. What there is, follows below.

(continued)

(Preceding page: *The photograph of 'Henry Candey in 1917 from the 'Clem Scott Collection' is found in the Admiralty House web-site – 'Stories from the Station Henry William Candey, Temporary Warrant Telegraphist'.*)

(Right below: *At the outset of their career, the 'Calypso-class' ships were apparently considered to be superior vessels. Hybrids - powered by both steam and sail - they were able to police the outer reaches of the British Empire most efficiently and economically. The rapid progress in engine technology, however, was to mean that HMS 'Calypso' and her sister-ships would soon be out-classed by newer vessels. – This Royal Navy photograph, taken before 1902 when the drill-hall was reportedly built on her upper deck and the funnel removed, is from Wikipedia*)

Henry William Candey was born at an undocumented date during the first three months of 1896 in the cathedral city of Canterbury, county of Kent, England, to Henry(?) Candey, deceased at some time prior to the documentation of the 1911 Census, and to Jane Candey. The family had apparently moved there only recently to that venerable place since his (apparently) one and only sibling, sister Edith, had been born in the coastal town of Hastings less than two years before.



By the time of that Census, Henry William Candey was attending a grammar school, an academically-oriented stream of learning for which he would have sat a competitive entrance examination. He was also apparently accomplished enough in his studies to win a County of Kent Senior Scholarship – in 1911(?).

He was to become specialized in wireless telegraphy and by 1915, the second year of the War, he had been certified and was working as an operator with the Post Office. Perhaps it was from there that he was to join – or be seconded to, see below – the Royal Navy.

As to exactly when it was that Henry William Candey would join the Royal Navy is not clear. He was to be a warrant officer – these were junior officers who were not to receive a commission and who were usually to be promoted from the status of rating – but whether he was to enter service directly as a warrant officer or to work his way up to that rank seems not to have been recorded.

Whatever was to be the case – at the time the term *Marconi operator* was employed – it was in that capacity that he was to be transferred to serve in the Dominion of Newfoundland; more precisely, he was to serve at a secretive site at Mount Pearl, just to the west of the capital city, St. John's.

The following has been adapted from several articles, primarily from 'Wikipedia', whereas the photographs are by courtesy of the 'Admiralty House Museum', Mount Pearl, where it is housed in original buildings of the wireless station:



(Right above: *The photograph of the 'Construction of HM Wireless Station Mount Pearl 1914' is by courtesy of 'Admiralty House Museum', Mount Pearl.*)

The site having been selected in 1914, a wireless station to be used by Naval Intelligence was constructed there during the following year by the 'Marconi Telegraph Company'. The purpose of the installation was to track icebergs and shipping, to intercept any enemy transmissions and to act as a relay between the United Kingdom and North America.

The facility was designated His Majesty's 'Wireless Station at Mount Pearl' although it appears that the personnel was attached to HMS 'Briton' – The Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) training-ship 'Calypso' was re-commissioned as such in early 1915. It appears that employees of the 'Marconi Company' itself were recruited into the Navy to be transferred to Newfoundland, although it is not clear whether or not this applies to Warrant Telegraphist Candey.*

At its inception the station's equipment was among the most modern and powerful in service anywhere, but as the years passed this became less so – not only that but with the cessation of hostilities the need for the station was not as great. HMS 'Wireless Station at Mount Pearl' was dismantled by the Admiralty in 1925, although some of the facilities and materiel was to be used for local purposes in later years.



**The location was guarded by personnel from HMS 'Briton'.*

(Right above: The photograph of 'Navy Men in front of HM Wireless Station Mount Pearl during the period 1915 – 1922' is by courtesy of 'Admiralty House Museum', Mount Pearl.)

It is suggested in one of the few references to WT Candey found amongst Royal Navy records that his 'temporary seniority' at HMS Briton – and thus also at Mount Pearl – began on February 24 of 1917. Whether this signifies the date upon which he reported to his post in Newfoundland or on which he replaced his predecessor, WT Fred Jeffries, is not clear but it does demonstrate that he was serving in Newfoundland at this time.



(Right above: The photograph of a 'Marconi Operator at HM Wireless Station Mount Pearl circa 1915 – 1922' is by courtesy of 'Admiralty House Museum', Mount Pearl.)

In mid-September of that 1917 there was an early-morning accident in the transmission-room, *fatal* as it transpired. Henry William Candey came in contact with the transformer and was electrocuted.

Warrant Telegraphist Henry William Candey was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service while with the Royal Navy – but was not a Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) Reservist.



**'Admiralty House Museum' is the source as well for some of the above information which is also to be found on the Admiralty House web-site – 'Stories from the Station, Henry William Candey, Temporary Warrant Telegraphist'.*

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – January 22, 2023.