

# NELS VICTOR HERBERT NELSON



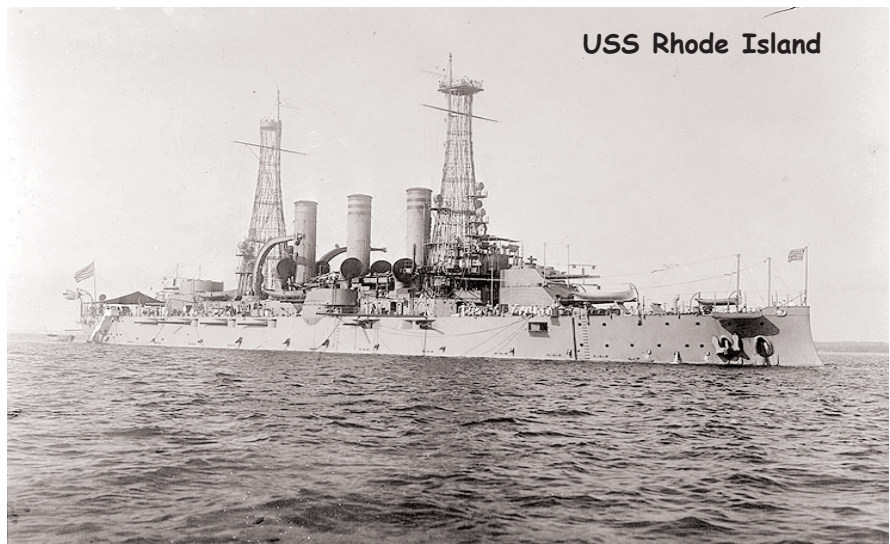
Nels Victor Herbert Nelson was born on 11 September 1895. At the time of World War I, he was living near Kandiyohi MN. He enlisted in the US Navy on 25 January 1918 as an Apprentice Seaman.

He was sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Station for Boot Camp. At boot camp he learned his basic seamanship, along with uniform issue, and military traditions and practices. Herbert graduated from Boot Camp on 6 May 1918, and was sent to the Training Station in Norfolk Virginia. He was assigned to the USS Rhode Island (BB-17) on 24 May 1918.

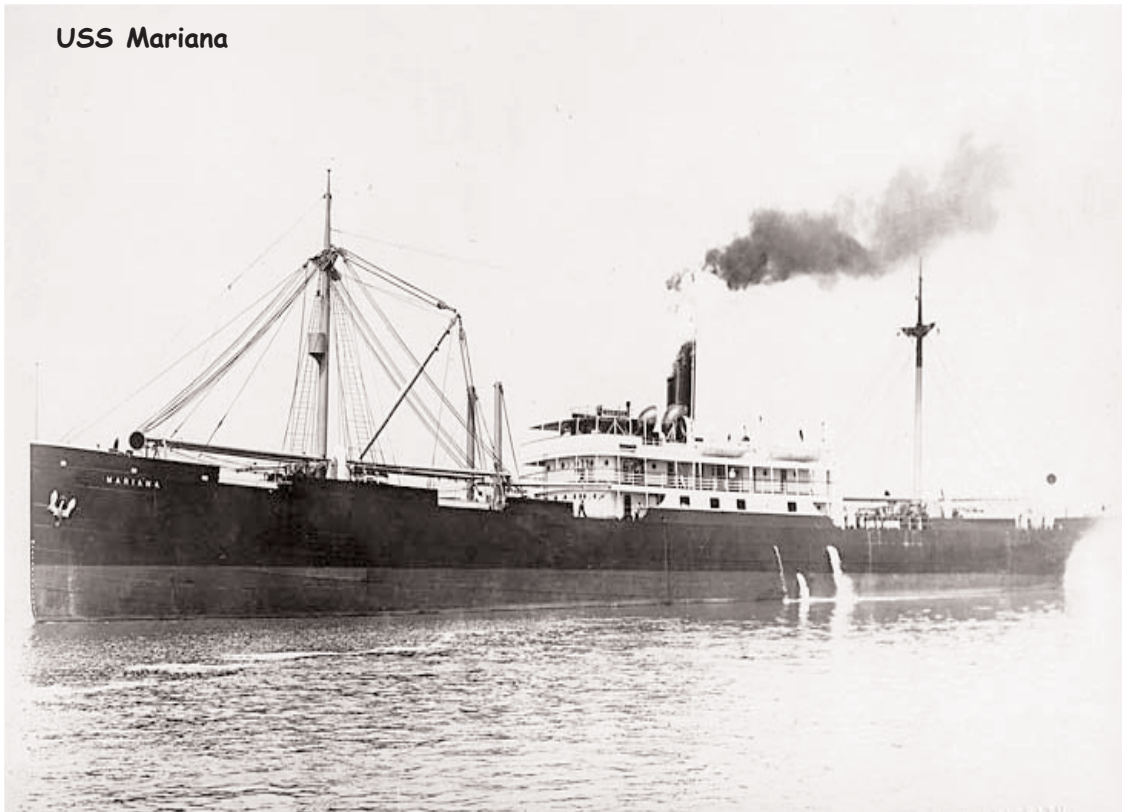
The Rhode Island had been returned to service in 1917, with the objective of Anti-Submarine duty off the eastern seaboard, specifically Maryland.



When Nelson arrived to the Rhode Island, it was part of Battleship Division 2. It was preparing for overseas deployment. In June, shortly after Herbert's arrival, they undertook special torpedo proving trial missions.



## USS Mariana



Nelson was transferred off of the Rhode Island on 13 July 1918 to the receiving ship in Norfolk Virginia.

On 30 September, Nelson was assigned to the USS Mariana. The Mariana left the US on 30 September 1918, for passage to Europe in support of the War.

They were carrying supplies for the Army personnel in Europe fighting World War I. He arrived in Brest France on 11 November 1918, Armistice Day.

Nelson stayed in France serving for three months. Being he arrived when the

war was over, he never saw any combat. In early 1919 he sailed home for the United States.

He was sent to Receiving Ship in New York where he was discharged as a Seaman on 12 November 1919.

In 1942, Nelson's last ship, the Mariana, was sunk by German U-boats. After World War I it had been converted to a commercial vessel and was attacked by the rampant U-boat attacks in the Atlantic during WWII.

In the years following World War I, Herbert lived in Central Minnesota before moving to Waban MN. At a young age, he fell ill with cancer and passed away at 40 years old. He was survived by his wife and adopted son.



Nelson's World War I Navy Jumper.  
Donated by his Grand Niece, Dana,  
17 October 2010.