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**Alexander Joseph Porter  
(Sandy)  
World War 1  
Royal Naval Reserve  
Service No. 2712X**

Born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1899, Alexander (Sandy) to parents Samuel and Sarah Jane Porter of Hibbs Hole, Port de Grave, would enlist in the Royal Naval Reserve on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1917.

He was 18 when he enlisted. Details from his enlistment papers paint a picture of an 18-year-old who stood 5'4" tall, was single, able to read and write, was Church of England by faith and had now enlisted to fight for the duration of the war.

Sandy underwent to usual medical and other examinations, was declare fit for service, assigned service No. 2712X and trained on the HMS Briton in St. John's Harbour from February 8<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917.

He was then shipped overseas where he was assigned to the HMS Implacable for a year and a half (14 November 1917 – 28 March 1919).



**HMS Implacable** was a **Formidable-class battleship of the British Royal Navy**, the second ship of the name.

Upon the outbreak of World War I, *Implacable*, along with the squadron was assigned to the Channel Fleet. After operations with the Dover Patrol, she served in the Dardanelles Campaign in support of the Allied landings at Gallipoli. She participated in the Landing at Cape Helles on 25–26 April and supported ANZAC forces ashore over the course of the following month. In late May

1915, she was withdrawn to reinforce the Italian fleet at the southern end of the Adriatic Sea after Italy joined the war on the side of the Allies. She remained in the Mediterranean until June 1917, apart from a brief return to Britain in March and April 1916 for a refit. After returning to England, she was laid up until March 1918, when she was converted for use as a depot ship for the Northern Patrol. After the war, she was decommissioned and eventually sold for scrap in 1921.

Sandy was shore demobilized on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1919, he had served a total of 2 years and 3 months.

1921 finds Alexander, now 22 at home in Port de Grave (Hibbs Hole) with parents Samuel and Sarah.

By 1935, his mother had passed and Alexander, along with wife Effie and their daughter, Dorothy, were living with his dad.

1945 shows a distinct change in circumstance. Alexander's father, Samuel is still living but Alexander is now married to Clara and the child Dorothy is part of the family. The assumption here is that Alexander's first wife Effie had passed, and he remarried.

Alexander passed away in 1990. His obituary read as follows:

**PORTER, Alexander Joseph (Sandy) -**

Passed peacefully away at the Grace General Hospital, on **Monday, August 27th**, of Port de Grave, aged 91 years, Veteran of World War 1, Royal Navy no. 2712X. Predeceased by wife Clara in 1988. Leaving to mourn one daughter Dorothy and husband Cecil Smith at Sunnyside; on stepdaughter Ruby Mercer, Mount Pearl; eleven grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; also, a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. Resting at Moore's Funeral Home, Clarkes Beach, until 12 noon Wednesday. Funeral services on Wednesday, August 29, at 2:00 p.m. from the United Church, Port de Grave. Interment at the United Church Cemetery, Port de Grave. Flowers gratefully accepted or donations may be made to the United Church, Port de Grave or the Canadian Diabetic Association. - *PORTER, ALEXANDER JOSEPH 27 Aug 1990*