



**Cyril Porter  
World War I  
Royal Naval Reserve  
Service No. 1924X**

Cyril was born on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1896 to parents Robert and Sarah Jane Porter of Port de Grave.

Cyril enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve at the Port of St. John's on 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1915. Originally, he enlisted for one year as noted on his enlistment paper, but this is crossed out and "for the duration" is written in.

The length of Cyril's service would be about 3 years and 9 months, covering the time from 22 October 1915 to 12 May 1919. His service record reads as follows:

1. Calypso
2. Victory 1
3. Duke of Clarence
4. Victorian 111
5. Pembroke
6. Briton
7. Vivid 111
8. Gunner
9. Wallington
10. Vivid 111
11. Briton

All of these postings lasted several months at a time. One ship among his posting was the HMS Duke of Clarence. The following is information on this particular ship.



*Duke of Clarence* was a passenger vessel operated jointly by the London and North Western Railway and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (LYR) from 1892 between Fleetwood and northern Irish ports. In 1906 the LYR bought her outright and transferred her to their summer service from Hull to Zeebrugge, returning to the Irish Sea in winter. During the First World War *Duke of Clarence* served as an armed boarding steamer. She resumed passenger service in 1920, passing through changes of ownership in the reorganisations of Britain's railway companies in the 1920s, until she was scrapped in 1930.

Tracking Cyril following his discharge in May 1919 has proven quite difficult, but he does appear in the 1935 census in a small community of Bear Cove in the St. Barbe district. He is now 36 years old and married to a lady by the name of Marion, who hailed from New England. In fact Cyril was married three times. His first wife was Mary, the second Marion and the third Johanna.

The 1945 census for Bear Cove, shows him now married to Johanna of Anchor Point and they have a son Robert.

According to a death certificate from the hospital in St. Anthony, Cyril passed away on 16 June 1967 at the age of 69 years, 5 months. He is buried at Anchor Point in the old Anglican Cemetery there.



Cyril with wife Johanna