



**George Atkins**  
**World War I**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Service No. 2062X**

George was born to parents Richard and Sarah Atkins of North River on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1897.

He would enlist in the Royal Naval Reserve as a seaman on the 10th of April 1916. He was just 18 and rather small in stature, being listed as 5' 2" tall at that time. Following the usual medical examinations, he was pronounced medically fit for service and assigned the Service No.2062X.

He had enlisted for the duration of the war and over the next three years saw postings on various ships, including the Vivid 1, Attentive 111, Vivid 111 (twice) and the Attentive again.

The Vivid was in fact a naval base or barracks at Devonport, England.



**HMS Attentive** was one of two *Adventure*-class scout cruisers built for the Royal Navy during the first decade of the 20th century. Completed in 1905 the ship was placed in reserve until she was commissioned in 1907 as part of the Home Fleet. She then spent the next seven years moving on and off of active service in British waters. The ship sank one destroyer and damaged two others in collisions. *Attentive* was assigned to coastal defence duties when the First World War began in 1914, and spent most of the war assigned to the Dover Patrol. She played a minor role in the Zeebrugge Raid in early 1918 and was then assigned to escort convoys to Gibraltar. The ship was sent to the White Sea later in the year to support the unsuccessful North Russia intervention in the Russian Civil War. *Attentive* paid off at the end of 1918 and was sold for scrap in 1920.

An excerpt from the 1935 census shows, George now 37 living in North River married to Elsie and they have a girl, Lillian who is 4 years old.

George passed away at the age of 87 in July 1985. He is buried in North River in St. George's Anglican Cemetery.