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**John Francis Quinlan**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Royal Navy**  
**Service No. 247975**  
**World War II**

**Born:** 1922

**Died:** 14 Sept 1957

**Place of Birth:** Otterbury, Clarke's Beach.  
Conception Bay, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Peter and Bridget Quinlan

Peter was thirteen (13) by the time of the 1935 Newfoundland general census. Entries in that census year show the Quinlan family living in Otterbury, Conception Bay, adjacent to Clarke's Beach.

The family consists of parents, Peter (53), wife Bridget (42) and eight children, Raphael (20), Peter (18), Gertrude (16), Margaet (15), John (13), Kathleen (8), Francis (6) and Bernard (3).

John's service during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War began in late 1940. He is listed as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Naval Contingent from Newfoundland to ship overseas to

Great Britain and subsequently be assigned to vessels as part of the Royal Navy.

According to ship records, John was on board the SS Baltrover that arrived at Liverpool, England via St. John's, Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1940. This fits with the time frame for the 13<sup>th</sup> Contingents crossing to the UK.



**SS Baltrover**

Out of the service and back home, the 1945 general census finds John in Otterbury with his mom, Bridget (who is now a widow) and his other siblings including Peter, Kathleen, Francis, Bernard, and Gertrude. There is also a grandchild noted, Mary Bishop at three (3) years old. John is not married.

Sometime after 1945, John married a lady by the name of Angela. John is working as a miner and they have three children, Gerard born in 1953, Loyola in 1955 and Angela in 1957.

1957 would not be a good year, as John had developed cancer and died in September of that year at the youthful age of thirty-five (35).

He is buried in the All Hallows Roman Catholic Cemetery at North River, Newfoundland.

Wife Angela was now a widow and single mother with eight (8) children. Then in 1960, just two years after her husband's passing, tragedy strikes the Quinlan family again, when three of the children, Gerard (6), Loyola (5) and Angela (2) are lost in a horrific house fire. Newspaper articles regarding the fire are reproduced on the next page. The children are buried in the same plot as John and later in 2006 Angela is buried there as well.

## 3 Children Die In Fire

CLARKE'S BEACH, Nfld. (CP)—Three children of a widow's family of eight died Friday night when fire believed caused by an electric heater scuttled the upstairs bedroom where they were sleeping.

Names of the victims were withheld until relatives in other parts of the province were notified.

First reports told of a heroic effort by an unidentified man to reach the trapped children by entering the flaming room. He managed to reach one of the victims, a six-year-old boy who died later.

The other victims were a two-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy. The nearby Bay Roberts volunteer fire department confined the flames to the one bedroom of the two-storey frame home at Otterbury on this community's outskirts about 60 miles from St. John's in east coast Conception Bay.

The mother and five children who escaped the fire are staying with relatives in nearby Carbonear. Her husband died two years ago.

## Victims Identified

CLARKE'S BEACH (CP)—The three victims of a Friday night fire at nearby Otterbury were identified Saturday as Gerald, 6, Loyala, 5, and two-year-old Angela, children of Mrs. Angela Quinlan, a widow. The bodies have been sent to the Morgue in St. John's. The children were trapped when fire, believed caused by an electric heater, destroyed the upstairs bedrooms where they slept. One of the victims, Gerald, died after being rescued by an unidentified man who entered the flaming bedroom.

Mrs. Quinlan and five other children escaped the fire. The deaths brought to 11 the number caused by fires so far this year in Newfoundland.