



**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. His obituary from The Evening Telegram dated 21 September 1957 follows:



## JOHN QUINLAN

The community of North River, C.B. was saddened by the passing Sept. 14 after a short illness of John Francis Quinlan at the age of 35. A native of this community the late Mr. Quinlan was a veteran of the Second World War having served with the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946. Upon his return from war service Mr. Quinlan moved with his family to Buchans where he was employed by the Buchans Mining Company as a miner until he became ill early this summer. At Buchans Mr. Quinlan was active in the interests of his fellow workers and, for a number of years, served as president of the Miners Union in which post he proved himself to be an able labour leader.

A practising Catholic, an exemplary husband and father, Mr. Quinlan was well known and highly respected by the people of both Buchans and North River. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Buchans Council and the Holy Name Society.

He leaves to mourn their sad loss his beloved wife, Angela, five sons and three daughters also mother, four brothers, Raphael at Bay Roberts, Peter and Francis at Buchans, Bernard at home and three sisters, Gertrude, Mrs. Michael Dejaney at North River, Margaret, Mrs. William Hammond at Bell Island and Kathleen, Mrs. Augustus Dicks at Humbermouth. The funeral took place with solemn Mass of Requiem at the

R.C. Church, North River, Sept. 17. The remains were accompanied to the graveside by a guard of honour from the Canadian Legion.

The writer, on behalf of his many friends and associates, extends to his bereaved family sincere sympathy. May he, with all his fellow workers, rest in peace.

—(Contributed)

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.

Excerpts from The Daily News from the 23 and 25 January 1960.

From The Daily News  
23 January 1960

## 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 an 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.

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

From The Daily News  
25 January 1960

## 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.