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Chesley George Pye

Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)

Service No. 2070X

World War I

Born: 21 Sep 1896

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: George and Elizabeth Pye

Background:

Chesley Pye has an unusual background in that he was born in Brooklyn, Bonavista Bay, the son of George Pye of Bareneed and Elizabeth of Brooklyn; he enlisted from Long Island, New York, U.S.A. where he was working at the time; moved back to Bareneed in the late 1920's or early 1930's where he lived with wife Mary; passed away in 1985 and is buried in the United Church Cemetery at Bareneed.

Chesley enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) on April 13th, 1916. He signed up for the duration of the war that day at the age of 20. Physically, he stood 5' 4 ½ " tall, was of fresh complexion with dark brown hair and blue eyes.

Entries from his service record are as follows:

1. 13 Apr 1916 – 18 Jun 1916: **HMS Briton**
2. 19 Jun 1916 – 12 Aug 1916: **HMS Victory 1**
3. 13 Aug 1916 – 08 Nov 1916: **HMS Excellent** and DAMS (Defensively Armed Merchant Ships)
4. 09 Nov 1916 – 31 Jan 1917: **HMS President 111**
5. 01 Feb 1917 – 29 Aug 1917: **HMS President 111**
6. 30 Aug 1917 – 27 Jan 1918: **HMS Briton**
7. 28 Jan 1918 – 29 Jan 1919: **HMS Pekin**
8. 30 Jan 1919 – 11 Apr 1919: **HMS Vivid 111**
9. 12 Apr 1919 – 27 May 1919: **HMS Briton**
10. 27 May 1919, Shore demobilized and discharged.

Following the war, Chesley disappears for a while and is not located anywhere in the 1921 Newfoundland general census. He may have returned to the United States but that cannot be confirmed.

Chesley does appear in the 1935 Newfoundland census. He is married to wife Mary, and they are living in Bareneed and have a family of four (4). George 12 (named after his grandfather), Wesley 11, Jean 7 and Eileen 3.

The 1945 census shows both Chesley and Mary both 49 and with three children at home with them in Bareneed.

Both Chesley and Mary lived well into their late eighties, Chesley passing away in 1985 and Mary following just 2 years later in 1987. They are buried in the United Church Cemetery at Bareneed.