

CYRIL DOUGLAS WHITLOCK (1918-2013)

Peter, this is the point to tell you that sadly Cyril Whitlock, my father's last brother, passed away in his ninety fifth year on 17th of January. He found the family history fascinating and we spent many happy hours talking about it. In fact he made a sort of pilgrimage to Langtree. Just before he died he saw his father's signature for the first time in his life, sent to me by John Whitlock (Essex), which had appeared on a couple of ships' manifests in 1904/1906.

Cyril, like my father Albert Whitlock, was born (on 1st June 1918) at 3 Alexandra Terrace, Teignmouth, Devon. He attended the local Grammar School and entered local government mainly in London. As a young man he was an excellent swimmer and soccer player who turned down the chance of a professional trial. He served in the war in the Eighth Army and was away for six and a half years. At first he was the youngest Quarter Master Sergeant in the British Army initially in the City of London Artillery providing air defence against German bombing. Then the artillery moved to Egypt as part of the Eighth Army fighting the Italians and Germans. Under Montgomery they trapped Rommel and drove the Axis back till they surrendered in Tunisia. He was awarded the British Empire Medal (Military) for leading a train of lorries out of danger and back to headquarters in preparation for the counter attack at El Alamein. His unit then crossed to Sicily and the Italian mainland where the decision was taken to convert them into infantry, so he completed his military service in the Royal West Kents This new now allied army drove the Germans up the spine of Italy till they surrendered in the Po valley. He witnessed the surrender of many units. He remarked in words that are relish to an Englishman: we were a citizen army and we beat the professionals. He retired early with heart trouble from the London borough of Merton in 1972. On his first wife's death in 1989 he determined to have a heart by-pass, which was so successful that he lived a wonderfully long life, marrying a second time (both his wives were called Joan) and surviving what he called very happy marriages. He died in dignity in his own home having determined that he did not wish to be an invalid in a nursing home. We are very proud of him.

I shall miss him. I hope to take his ashes to Teignmouth in Devon for interment in his mother's grave. *By D.A.Keith Whitlock (East Grinstead)*

Cyril was the son of William Thomas James & Elizabeth (Lamble) (Hook) Whitlock. He married as his first wife Helinor Joan Mary Barton (1916-1989) January 11, 1941. His second wife was Joan Berry Violet (Staddon) Brown whom he married Sep.30,1999 in Weybridge, Surrey. Cyril and his first wife had one son Douglas Alexander Whitlock born just after the War in 1946. Cyril was a long time subscriber and supporter of the Whitlock Family Association and his family is detailed on the WHITLOCK01 chart.