

Frederick Albert DAVIS

Born Dawlish, 20 February 1883

Died 1 November 1914, aged 31

Sergeant, Royal Marine Light Infantry 8823 Plymouth Divn

H.M.S.MONMOUTH

Fredrick Albert Davis was one of ten children of John George Davis (1853-), a carpenter's apprentice, who married twice;

first, to Frances Ann Cox Pearce (1851 – 1881) in the April-June quarter of 1871.

They had six children, all boys, one of which was Thomas Pounder Davis (1876 – 1916), another Dawlish War Casualty (*see separate casualty data sheet*);

William b. 1863, John Payne Davis b. 1875, Thomas Pounder b. 1876, Charles a George b. 1878, Henry Payne b. 1880 & Francis William b. 1881. All were born in Dawlish.

second, following the death of Frances, he married Mary Ann Evans (1858 – 1900) in April-June quarter of 1882.

They had four more children, including **Frederick Albert Davis**.

In the 1891 census father, John George Davis, is shown, as a joiner living with wife, Mary, at 2 Manor Cottages, Dawlish with his father, John Davis, 71, a Naval Pensioner born in Sheerness, Kent.

Living with them were seven of the children, William J.G., 18, Beatrice Mary, 15, Thomas Pounder, 14, Charles George, 12, Henry P, 10, **Frederick Albert, 8**, and Ethel Frances, 4. Frances William Pearce Davis, child of the first marriage, was living with his uncle and aunt, William and Mary Cornelius at 13 Manor Row, Dawlish.

By 1901 the family had moved to Church Cottage, Dawlish.

Frederick Albert Davis enlisted at Exeter with the Royal Marines on 1st July 1898 at the age of 15 and four months and eleven days. Until his 18th birthday he was a bugler.

In 1901 he was a Private, aged 18, in the Royal Marines, based at the Barracks, Durnford Street, East Stonehouse.

He was passed for Corporal, 2nd class in March 1905 and then for Sergeant, 1st class in January 1907. He passed for Gun Layer 3rd class in August 1911. He appears to have had a good career in the Royal Marines.

He joined H.M.S.MONMOUTH in August 1914.

Frederick married Edith Bessie Wright in the April-June quarter of 1908 in Plymouth.

They had a daughter, Phyllis Mary Davis, in 1909.

In 1911 **Frederick, 28**, and his wife Edith Bessie, 24, were living at 18 Clarence Place, East Stonehouse, and he held the rank of Corporal in the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

At his death **Fredrick Albert Davis** was a Sergeant, Royal Marine Light Infantry, service no: 8823 (Ply) and serving aboard H.M.S.MONMOUTH, a cruiser. H.M.S. MONMOUTH was one of the British Cruiser squadron that engaged a superior German group at the Battle of Coronel, off the coast of Chile, on 1 November 1914. In the engagement the ship was hit and sank with all hands. The body was not recovered for burial.

The Western Times of Tuesday 17 November, 1914, reported,

Dawlish World War One Project

"Sergeant F.Davies(sic), R.M.L.I., of Dawlish, was on H.M.S.MONMOUTH. He resided at Plymouth"

He is recorded in the Devon Roll of Honour but without date of death or location.
The Dawlish War memorial inscription reads: DAVIS FRED SGT. R.M.L.I. H.M.S. MONMOUTH.
He is remembered also on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, plot 4.

he Devon Heritage site information suggests that he was born the June Quarter of 1883, but the National Probate Calendar gives it as 20 February 1883. This source also shows that he left £110.8s.0d to his widow.

References:

www.naval-history.net The Battle of Coronel

Free Birth, Marriage & Death records

wrecksite.eu

Refs via subscription sites:

Census data

Royal Navy and Royal Marine Roll of Honour

National Probate Calendar

Madge family tree (ancestry.com) Rachel Morris family tree

Fiona Davis family records