

## **Alfred MOULD**

Born Burton-on-Trent, Q2 1893, died 17 October 1914, Dawlish, aged 21  
Able Seaman, Royal Naval Reserve, No 4291.A (Dev) H.M.S.VIVID

**Alfred** was the son of Daniel and Rose Mould and was born in Burton-on -Trent. His life appears to have been disrupted by the health of his parents.

In 1871, grandparents, John and Hannah Mould were living in Hanbury, Staffs, where he was an agricultural labourer. At that time they had four children of which Edward J was the older son at 10 and Daniel the third child, 3 years old.

Daniel had been born in Mayfield (Q1,1867), and the census of 1891 shows him married, aged 23 and a general labourer, to Rose,22, and living at 69 Park Street, Burton on Trent. At that time they had two children, both recorded with the name Daniel, one being one year old and the other 2 weeks.

There is a BMD entry for an **Alfred Mould** born in Q3, 1893 at Burton, Staffs. The possibility is that the younger Daniel was renamed Alfred, but there is no traceable BMD entry. Only a copy of the Birth Certificate will finally confirm his parentage.

In 1901, Rose Mould, wife of a chimney sweep, is a patient at the District County Lunatic Asylum, Burntwood, Staffs, but there is no census entry for her husband, Daniel.

At this time his older brother, Edward J is married to Ellen and they live at 26 Church Street, Longton, Staffs, with a nephew **Alfred Mould**, aged 8. This would appear to be the Alfred of the BMD entry. Edward/Edwin J Mould was a slip maker in china manufacturing.

It is speculation to imagine that Daniel, father, ran off to sea for his son, **Alfred**, has a Royal Naval Reserve record deposited with the National Archives at Kew that shows he signed on as a merchant seaman in April 1912 in Liverpool.

He was living at 38 Price Street, Birkenhead. His record shows him with 'father unknown', but his mother is Rose, and his birth date is shown as 18 April 1890, which is at odds with other evidence.

**Alfred Mould** was an able seaman in the merchant marine, sailing in ships such as the 'Lusitania' and 'Empress of Britain' between Liverpool and North American ports over the next two years. His RNR service number is 4291 A.

He married Margaret Doyle in Birkenhead in Q4, 1912, when he may have been living at 30 Russell Street, Liverpool. After his death she remarried in Q3, 1918 to William Broadfield and her address is shown in the RN&RM War Graves Roll as 29 Edgar Street, Birkenhead.

At the time of his death Seaman **Alfred Mould** was serving on the books of H.M.S.VIVID, The Royal Navy Base and Barracks, Devonport.

The '*Western Times*' of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October reported:

"On Saturday, **Alfred Mould**, a Royal Naval Reserve man, an Able Seaman stationed at Devonport, fell out of a Great Western train near Black Bridge, Dawlish. He was picked up and conveyed by P.C.Shaplund and a party of railway men to the Dawlish Cottage Hospital, where he was attended by D.Cunliffe. He is in a very critical condition and is not expected to recover."

An inquest was held on Monday evening and the next day the *Western Times* carried an account.

"An inquest was held at the Vestry Hall...concerning the death of **Alfred Mould**, 24, a Royal Naval Reservist, of Birkenhead, who was found lying badly injured and unconscious on the railway between the Warren and Dawlish stations. The deceased belonged to H.M.S. *Illustrious*, and had been absent on leave to visit his wife at Birkenhead."

"Reginald Walter King, of the Naval Police, Devonport, Royal Naval Barracks, stated that the deceased, whom he identified, was granted leave from October 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. No extension of the period was afterwards granted him. He did not return on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and was logged as an ordinary absentee, and was then liable to arrest."

"William Stanley Crispin, a lad residing at the Warren, stated that he saw a carriage door open of a train passing about 1 o'clock. Harold Crispin, brother of the last witness, said that he discovered the deceased lying unconscious on the railway with one foot across the line and the shoe off the right foot..... With his father, he helped to lift the man away from the line to prevent the trains passing over him."

"Dr Montagu Cutcliffe of Dawlish stated that he saw the deceased at 1.30 lying on the side of the line unconscious. He died at 4 o'clock in the Cottage Hospital. The deceased had several wounds and abrasions. The skull was fractured and the bone had penetrated into the brain, portions of which were protruding from the wound."

"The jury, of whom Mr Ferris was foreman, returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

The funeral was reported, again by the *Western Times*, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

"The funeral took place yesterday morning. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was carried out of the Cottage Hospital and placed in the hearse by a bearer party from the R.A.M.C.

The principal mourners were a brother and sister-in-law of deceased. "

"Among the floral tributes was one which bore the following, "With deepest sympathy from the G.W.R. Staff, Dawlish Station."

Commonwealth War Graves entry:/ Royal Navy and Royal Marines War Graves Roll  
Died Dawlish, 17 October 1914, buried in Dawlish Cemetery, grave 668.

References: BMD and census records Grave headstone National Archives RNR service record  
naval-history.net RN&RM War Graves Roll

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