

George John PESSELL

Born Dawlish, 3 October 1879
Chief Ship's Cook, 345096,

Died 16 April 1915, aged 35
H.M.S.DUKE OF EDINBURGH

George John Pessell was one of twins born to Walter C Pessell (1849-1916), a town porter, and Mary Stone Prideaux (1855-1938).

George's twin was named after his father, Walter Charles Pessell, but a family history shows that he died in 1881, aged two. They were living at Beach Street, Dawlish, and their father worked for the Great Western Railway as a town porter, following in his father's footsteps.

By 1891 **George** has lost his twin, but there is a further son, Thomas (1885-1953) and the family was living at that period at Warren Road, Dawlish, with father-in-law, John Prideaux (1821-).

George took up the occupation of a baker.

By 1901 they have moved to 4 Commercial Road, Dawlish, but **George** has left home and is not shown elsewhere, and Thomas, 16, is a grocer's apprentice.

***Thomas** joined the Royal Navy and in 1911 at Census he is shown serving as a Sick Berth Attendant aboard a sloop, H.M.S.ALGERINE. The ship was small, with ship's company of 93 including six officers and was on station off the West coast of America. Thomas' name develops into William Thomas Prideaux Pessell in later times and he married Ada Jessie Clements and they had a son Joseph Pessell (1914-1987).*

George John Pessell's Naval record shows that he joined the Royal Navy on the 17 April, 1902, as an assistant cook.

He was based in the R N Barracks, Devonport (.H.M.S.VIVID) in 1904 when he married Prudence Dowell (1881-1956) in Plymouth.

They had three children, William Walter Prudence Pessell (1904-1976), Sarah Jane Mary Pessell (1908-) and Prudence L Pessell (1914-1915).

While **George** was away from home his wife Prudence, son William Walter Prudence and daughter Sarah Jane Mary stayed with his parents at 4 Commercial Road, Dawlish at the time of the 1911 census.

William Walter Prudence Pessell married Gwendoline May Sloman (1905-1988) on 9 July 1927.

Sarah Jane Mary Pessell married Robert Edgar Percy Philpott on 16 February 1931.

George was rated Leading Cook's Mate in January 1908.

In the 1911 census returns, **George John Pessell** is living in Naval Barrack accommodation at Portland Dorset, and was posted to H.M.S.BELLEROPHON (18,000 ton British Dreadnought), from February 1911 to April 1913.

In March 1914 he joined H.M.S.DUKE OF EDINBURGH (13,500 ton cruiser, built in 1903) and in November 1914 he was rated Chief Ship's Cook.

His Naval record shows that he died at home on 16 April, 1915, from a ruptured aneurysm in the Aorta. His last known address is 3 Ainslie Terrace, Camels Head, Devonport.

George is buried in Plymouth (Weston Mill) Cemetery, Plot Naval Con.C.3801.

Dawlish World War One Project

George and Prudence's daughter, Prudence, also died in 1915 and **George's** father, Walter, died in the following year. The parents were living on Strand Hill, Dawlish when the father died on 21 October 1916, aged 67.

George's widow married Courtney Albert Warren in St George's, Stonehouse on 11 September 1919. Courtney and Prudence Warren had a daughter, Joan, born in 1920.

George John Pessell is recorded in the Devon Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscribed: PESSELL G.J. CH CK HMS DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

He is named on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour. (Kept in Dawlish Community College)
(The Devon Heritage site gives his birth date in 1878)

References:

Free Birth Marriage & Death records

Naval Record for George John Pessell – National Archive, Kew.

Plymouth marriage records (Devon Family History Society)

Refs via subscription services:

Census records

Horne Family Tree

RN and RM War Graves Roll 1914 -1919

PESSELL G J text rev 17/4/15 rbv