

Charles LAKE

Born CREDITON, 25 April 1884

Died 22ND August 1916, aged 32

Petty Officer, Royal Navy, Service No: 206229 (Dev)

H.M. SUBMARINE E 16

Charles was the youngest child of James Lake (1836-1914), born in Sandford, who married Ann Cleave (1838-1892). James was an agricultural labourer in the 1891 census when they lived at 96 Jollys(?), CREDITON.

They had three children, all born in CREDITON; Caroline M (1872-) a boot machinist, Walter G (1876-) a tinplate worker, and **Charles Lake** (1884-1916).

Charles joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman on 28th September 1899 and on reaching the age of 18 on 25 April 1902, became an Ordinary Seaman and signed on for 12 years service. He was based in Devonport.

He married Mary Ann Cundy (1882-) of Dawlish in Q1 1906 in Devonport.

Mary Ann was the daughter of Richard Cundy, a builder, and Hannah who lived at 3 King Street, Dawlish (1891 census).

Charles and Mary Ann had three children, born in Dawlish; Frank (1907-), Joyce (1909-1984), and Leonard (1912-1913).

In 1911 census Mary Ann Lake was living with her widowed mother, Hannah Cundy, at 8 King Street, with her first two children, Walter Lake, her brother-in-law, and two Cundy grandchildren of Hannah. **Charles** was recorded staying with a relative, George Thomas Trewin at 99 Victory St, Keyham, Devonport while he was on the books of H.M.S. VIVID, the Devonport Naval Barracks.

Charles was rated Leading Seaman in April 1912 and then Petty Officer in May 1913. On concluding his 12 years service, he signed on again on 6 April 1914 – to completion. In September 1915 he was posted to H.M.S. ARROGANT, acting as Depot ship to the 4th Submarine Flotilla at Dover, and in November 1915 he went on to H.M.S. MAIDSTONE, a submarine depot ship at Harwich. His character was shown as VG (very good) throughout his naval service

Submarine E 16 was commissioned on 27 February 1915 and sank U-boat U6 off Stavanger, Norway on 15 September 1915. E 16 was based at Harwich and was one of 33 submarines there.

Harwich was an important naval base for control of the southern North Sea and the entrance to the English Channel. Following the Battle of Jutland, the command of approaches to the German naval base at Wilhelmshaven assumed greater importance. However, the shallow waters of the North Sea made it possible to lay minefields as a deterrent to enemy shipping and it appears likely that submarine E 16 was sunk by hitting a mine in an unrecorded minefield. Submarine E 16 was mined in the Heligoland Bight and sunk off the German Coast. There were no survivors.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: LAKE, Charles Petty Officer 206229 22/08/1916
Age: 32 Royal Navy H.M. S/M. "E16." Panel Ref:11. Plymouth Naval Memorial
Son of James and Ann Lake, of CREDITON, Devon; husband of Mary Ann Lake, of 8, King St., Dawlish, Devon

Dawlish War memorial inscription: LAKE CHARLES P.O. SUB^M E.16

Dawlish World War One Project

Charles Lake is listed on the Devon Roll of Honour, but the location (North Sea) is not shown.

Devon Heritage site info:

206229 Petty Officer Charles Lake of the Royal Navy., H.M.SUBMARINE E.16. Son of James and Ann Lake of Crediton,; husband of Mary Ann Lake of 8 King Street, Dawlish. Born 25 April 1884. Died 22 August 1916 aged 32. The wreck of E 16 was discovered in Heligoland in 42 metres of water in 2001.

Last known address: 99 Victory Street (East), Keyham, Devonport (census 1911)

Next of kin: Mary Ann Lake, wife, of 8 King Street, Dawlish

References:

Wikipedia.org

naval-history.net

BMD

Subscription site for census records

Mann (Ancestry) family tree.

Complete / Davy / Holcombe / Barrett-Tarr-McElboy family trees (Ancestry).

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