

## Able Seaman William Henry Burch

9<sup>th</sup> November 1918

Dawlish Gazette – 16<sup>th</sup> November 1918

### THE PRICE OF VICTORY.

DAWLISH SAILOR LOSES HIS LIFE ON  
THE EVE OF PEACE.

Very tragic and sad is the news that a Dawlish sailor lost his life with forty others in the sinking of H.M.S. Britannia at the Straits of Gibraltar on the 9th inst. The deceased bluejacket is Able Seaman William Henry Burch, aged 20, the youngest son of Mr Harry Burch, of High Street, Dawlish, a smart and capable young sailor, who joined the Navy as a lad. The news was conveyed in an Admiralty message received on Tuesday, stating that he was among the number missing when the ship's roll call was made. Their loss just on the eve of the cessation of hostilities has evoked the keenest sympathy with the family.

The first Dawlish naval victim of the war was William John Criddle, 1st class P.O., and the first of the Army, Jack Wills, Pte., Devonshire Regt., a Reservist, and one of the "Old Contemptibles."