

Address For 22 June 2015 - Thomas Frederick Jarman

My great-grandfather, Thomas Frederick Jarman, was born in Holcombe on 4 April 1868. His father was Charles Abraham Ware Jarman, a ship's Master and, later, a market gardener. Charles married Agnes Honour from Plymouth in the Dawlish Parish church (*now St Gregory's*) on Xmas Day 1864.

Thomas grew up as the 2nd eldest of the 11 children that Agnes bore to his father in their cottage here in Holcombe. In 1896 Thomas married Sarah Dorrofield from Poltimore, a widow with 2 small children. They subsequently had 3 daughters of their own, the middle one being my maternal grand-mother Gladys who was born in 1898 and died in 1977 when I was 33.

My Grandmother always talked fondly and with pride of her father Thomas Jarman. She often spoke with especial pride of the fact that he was a CPO.

Like many of his time, Thomas had started his working life as a general labourer and groom but he soon joined the Royal Navy. He joined in 1883 at age 14 but having given his date of birth as 12 October 1866, 18 months earlier than the actual date, so claiming to be 16 yrs old when he was still just 14½; maybe that gave him early access to the rum ration. After training in HMS Impregnable and HMS Lion, he served in a number of Queen Victoria's operational ships, including 6 months in the armoured frigate HMS Agincourt, 3 years in the battleship HMS Iron Duke, 18 months in the gunnery ship HMS Cambridge and 3½ years in the gunboat HMS Plover.

In 1894 Thomas moved into the Coastguard and spent the next 21 years in various stations around the British coast especially in the Harwich, Eastern and Scottish divisions, reaching the rank of PO. In June 1914, he was recalled to the RN as a CPO, where he served until his medical discharge in April 1915 with cancer of the tongue, to which he succumbed 2 months later at 6 Queen Street, Dawlish and 100 years ago today after a very painful demise. He was just 47 years old and had given 32 years service to his country's Navy and Coastguard.

Whilst Thomas had not died in action during the Great War, the Dawlish WW1 Project decided that it was right that he should be included in these centennial commemorations along with others who died in service at the time but are not named on any memorial. On behalf of CPO Thomas Jarman's surviving descendants I want to say a heartfelt thank you for your magnanimity in honouring CPO Thomas Frederick Jarman in this fine and respectful way.

In particular, I should like to record my personal gratitude to the Project team for their very kind and detailed help to me in assembling the data on Thomas and advising me in several ways. Lastly, the family would like to thank the Reverend Roger Whitehead and all present for attending this centennial memorial service today. Thank you all so much We will remember Thomas Jarman and all of you.

Roy Gamblin