

Lieutenant Commander Thomas Hallett

16th February 1918

Dawlish Gazette – 23rd February 1918

Obituary.

THE LATE LIEUT.-COMMANDER T. HALLETT.

We regret to record the death of Lieut. - Commander Thomas Hallett, R.N., which took place at his residence, Meadowcroft, Barton Crescent, on Saturday last, after an illness of over three months. Deceased was in his 64th year. He came of a Devonshire yeoman family, and retired from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant about 11 years ago, after long and honourable service, having worked himself up from the lower ratings. During his residence in Dawlish, Lieut. - Commander Hallett identified himself with local affairs. He was at one time an enthusiastic bowler and acted as hon. secretary of the Dawlish club for one season at least. He was also a staunch supporter and worker for Unionism.

The outbreak of war found him keenly desirous of adding his quota to the nation's effort. He offered to rejoin the Navy three years ago last January and was accepted for service, being appointed to the command of a supply ship in the North Sea, and promoted to the rank of Lieut.-Commander. Undoubtedly, the exposure of active sea service proved too much for deceased's constitution at his age. As a result, a few days after arriving home on leave on Oct. 3rd last, he was taken ill and never properly rallied again. He died in his country's service just as much as many a gallant sailor who has made the great sacrifice at sea. Much sympathy is felt with the widow, who is the second daughter of the late Mr T Shapter, builder, etc., of Dawlish, and with deceased's niece, Miss G Shapter, who has lived with him as his adopted daughter, he having no family.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon. The naval authorities at Plymouth wrote regretting that owing to war conditions it was not possible to accord naval honours to deceased. The Rev F Simmons (vicar) officiated. The panelled coffin, of polished oak with brass fittings, was covered with the Union Jack and on it was placed the deceased's hat and sword. Six bearers carried it from the

house to the parish church, close at hand. The chief mourners were Messrs J and T Shapter and Mr T Smith (Newton Abbot), brothers-in-law; Messrs W Hallett (Lympstone) and J Hallett (Cullompton), cousins.

Amongst those attending were Major-Gen J H Laye, C.B., C.V.O., Messrs J Pursloe, R.N. (chief-boatman-in-charge, Dawlish Coastguard Station), T N Lewis, D Anderson, J H Lamacraft, J.P. (chairman, D.U.D.C.), F J H Cann, J M Houghton, J W Garnham, J P Smythe, F G Avant, W Knowles (Guardian), W H Watling (representing Dawlish Constitutional Club), T Salter, J E Lock, M Robins and E V Tozer.

Wreaths, etc., were from the following: His sorrowing widow ("His life for King and Country"); his loving niece, Gladys; in loving remembrance, J and M Shapter; deepest sympathy, etc., Auntie and A.B. (London); with sympathy from Fred and Emily; loving sympathy from Lidy and Vera; his affectionate sister, E S Dunsford (Pinhoe); affectionate remembrance of dear Tom from Mother, E.S. ("He answered the last call"); loving memory from Anna and Tom and family ("He answered his country's call"); his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mrs and Mr Smith (Newton Abbot); sympathy and kind remembrance of an old friend, from Mr and Mrs Doley (London); deepest sympathy, Fred Franklin (London), also Mr and Mrs J E Lock and family.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Tapper.

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The late Lieut.-Commander T Hallett served as boatswain of the Monarch at the bombardment of Alexandria on July 11, 1882, and during the Egyptian war, and received the medal with Alexandria clasp and Khedive's bronze star.