

Frank MORRISH

Born 15 September, 1873, Dawlish

Died, 31 May 1916, Battle of Jutland, aged 42

Chief Armourer, Royal Navy, Service No: 175632

H.M.S.DEFENCE

Frank was the oldest son of William Morrish (1847-1892, born in Crediton) and Ann (nee Way, 1850-1925, born in South Tawton) of Brook Street, Dawlish.

William had been apprenticed to John Ashplant and became a blacksmith. He married Ann Way on 12 July, 1871 in Bow.

William was working in Dawlish in 1891, and their son **Frank** was working as a coachbuilder's apprentice. They had six more children, Lucy Jane (1872-1920), Kate A (1875-1949), Bessie Mary (1876-1946), William George (1879-1947), Mabel Grace (1882-1947), and Herbert J (1885-1937). *(see Appendix for family history)*

Frank Morrish enlisted in the Royal Navy on 28 August 1893 for 12 years service, and re-enlisted on 28 August 1905 "to completion". He was 5'4" tall, with light brown hair, blue eyes and fair complexion and was described as a coach smith.

He trained as an Armourer at H.M.S.CAMBRIDGE, the gunnery training ship and after service on various ships became an Armourer's Mate in 1899.

Frank married Emma Louisa Woodley in December 1900 in the Newton Abbot registration district. The wedding was possibly held in Teignmouth, the home of the Woodley family. Emma Louisa was the daughter of Thomas, a carpenter, and Louisa Woodley who had nine children.

By 1911 Emma Louisa Morrish was boarding at 11 Commercial Road, Teignmouth with a son Frank (1905-1974) (see appendix below).

Frank's mother, Ann, was widowed by the 1911 census when she was working as a certified midwife and living at 4 Brook Street, with daughters Kate, 35 and Mabel, 29 and an adopted son Thomas Ford, 5.

(His full name was THOMAS HERBERT FOSTER FORD, and was Ann's great nephew, grandson of Mary Ann Ford nee Way (her sister) and John Ford. He was the illegitimate son of their daughter Lilian. Lilian was to marry William John Hutchings who was also killed at Jutland. *(see Appendix for family history)*

In the 1911 census **Frank** was an Armourer in the Royal Navy and serving aboard H.M.S.VANGUARD at Portland. He was promoted to Assistant Chief Armourer in January 1913. He joined H.M.S.DEFENCE in September 1913 and was made up to Chief Armourer.

Frank Morrish joined H.M.S.DEFENCE which was a Minotaur-class Armoured Cruiser, launched in April 1907. She was 519 feet overall with a displacement of 14,600 tons and a speed of 22.5 knots. Her armament was 4-9.2in, 10-7.5in, 16-12pdr, 5-18in torpedo tubes.

DEFENCE Joined the 1st Cruiser Squadron as flagship in 1913, and took part in the hunt for Goeben and Breslau in August 1914. Stationed off Dardanelles in September but sent to South Atlantic to reinforce Rear-Admiral Cradock's squadron; diverted to Cape of Good Hope in November 1914.

Became flagship 1st Cruiser Squadron, Grand Fleet, in January 1915.

She was sunk by gunfire of German battleship Friedrich der Grosse at Jutland, 31 May 1916. All hands (893 officers and men) lost as a result of cordite charges catching fire in the ammunition passages.

(Conway's *All the World's Fighting Ships 1860-1905 and 1906-21*) www.naval-history.net

Extract from the Official History; " Naval Operations" by Sir Julian S. Corbett. 1923

.....Both the *Defence* and *Warrior* had already hit the doomed *Wiesbaden*. Still Admiral Arbuthnot, in spite of straddling salvoes, held on till within 5,500 yards of his prey he turned to starboard. Both ships were now in a hurricane of fire, which the Germans were concentrating with terrible effect to save their burning ship, and there quickly followed another of the series of appalling catastrophes which so tragically distinguish this battle from all others. Four minutes after crossing the *Lion's* bows the *Defence* was hit by two heavy salvoes in quick succession, and the Admiral and his flagship disappeared in a roar of flame (6.20). The *Warrior* barely escaped a similar fate..... www.northeastmedals.co.uk

Commonwealth War Graves entry: MORRISH, Frank Chief Armourer, 175632, 31/05/1916
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Defence." Panel Reference 17. Plymouth Naval Memorial
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Son of Ann Morrish, of Dawlish, and the late
William Morrish; husband of Emma Louisa Morrish, of 11, Commercial Rd., Teignmouth.
Frank Morrish is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour but date and location are not shown.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: MORRISH FRANK C^H AR^{MR} R.N.

He is also shown on Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour

Devon Heritage site info:

175632 Chief Armourer Frank Morrish of the Royal Navy, H.M.S.DEFENCE (formerly served on H.M.S.DUKE OF EDINBURGH). Son of Ann Morrish of Dawlish and the late William Morrish; husband of Emma Louisa Morrish of 11 Commercial Road, Teignmouth. Born in Dawlish 15 September 1871. Died 31 May 1916 in the Battle of Jutland aged 45. Held Long Service and Good Conduct medals.

(His naval record shows his date of birth as 1871 but this appears to be an error from checks with Birth Registration and census returns. Nor does the naval record list H.M.S.Duke of Edinburgh among the 32 ships on which he served. He was 42 at his death - ed)

References: BMD and Census naval-history.net northeastmedals.co.uk Bell and McPaul family history (Ancestry.com), Kemp family history and Clarke family tree Ford Family Tree(June Snell)

APPENDIX MORRISH family

William Morrish (1846-1892) was born in Crediton and married **Ann** (nee Way, 1850-1925) on 12 July, 1871 in Bow church. (Clarke tree)(BMD William Morrish Crediton Q4,1846 Vol 10, p 81). Ann Way was born in Bow and so the family had started from a rural background. William's father, John Morrish was born in Witheridge ca 1829 and was a labourer when living with them in Commercial Road, Dawlish in 1891.

William had been apprenticed to John Ashplant and became a blacksmith. By 1881 they had moved to Dawlish and William is described as a "Gen Labourer".

They had the following **Morrish** children:

Frank born 15 September 1873 in Dawlish. See above.

Lucy Jane (1872-1920), was born in Q2, 1872 in Bow. She married Robert Shelston (?-1937), a gardener, in Q3, 1896 and died in June 1920 (N.A. distr)

Kate Annie (1875-1949), was born in Dawlish in Q3,1875. She married George Henry BELL in Exeter in Q3,1897. They had three sons Harold George W H Bell (1898-1961), Clifford Tremayne M Bell (1903-1970) and Orlando Claude T M Bell(1910-2004). Kate died in June 1949, aged 75 (ancestry tree)

Bessie Mary (1876-1946), was born in Dawlish in Q4, 1876 and married Harry Parsons in N.A. district in Q4, 1904. He was a Chief Armourer, Royal Navy, born in Teignmouth. She died in March 1946.

William George (1879-1947), was born in Q1,1879 in Dawlish. He married Maud Tank (1879-) in the Wesleyan Chapel, Dawlish on 20 March, 1903. Maud was one of eleven children of William James (1844-1910) and Elizabeth Vosper Tank (1842-1913) of Lower Bore Street, Bodmin. **William** enlisted with the Labour Corps on 13 February 1917 and served with the B.E.F. from 27/2/17 to 14/3/18. His Army record is one of few to survive the WW2 Blitz and it shows that his wife's allowance was paid to her at 11 Hamilton Street, Devonport in May 1918, and to her at 5 Higher Bore Street, Bodmin in October 1918. After appearance at a Military Medical Board in August, 1918, **W G Morrish** was given a discharge for disability due to "neurasthenia". After a further period in hospital and being sent on a month's leave he was discharged with a pension on 8th November 1918. William and Maud had two children, Gwendoline Rose Morrish born 30 April 1904 and Lucy Louise Vesper Morrish born 29 April 1916.

William married again to Rosina Charlotte Elizabeth Sommers in Q2, 1946 in N.A. district. He died less than a year later on 24 January 1947 in Elmgrove Road. (his address was shown as 3 King Street, Dawlish)

Mabel Grace (1882-1947) was born in N.A. district in Q1, 1882. She married Thomas Glass in N.A. district in Q3, 1916 and died in September 1947.

Herbert J (1885-1937)

Frank and Emma Morrish had a child, **Frank Woodley Morrish**, born in Devonport in August 1904 (Devonport, vol 5b, p 325). Frank was at the time appointed to H.M.S.CAMBRIDGE, the naval gunnery school at Devonport. After the death of his parents FWM moved to London and appears in the Electoral Registers in Haringey in 43 Curzon Road (1931), 38 Crouch End Hill (1935), 57 Cedar Court, Muswell Hill (1936 &1937) and in Hendon in 1939. In the Navy List of October 1942 he is shown as a Chief Petty Officer and Temporary Lieutenant with seniority of 11 March 1941. Little more has been found until his death in Exeter district in December 1974 (vol 31, page 0990)

WAY family

Ann Way was one of nine children of Francis WAY (1827-1910) and Grace BAKER (1824-1880). Francis/Frank was born in North Tawton and became an agricultural labourer. Grace was from a Spreyton family and became a dressmaker (1871 census).

Francis and Grace had married Q1,1849 in the Okehampton district, and they had the following children:

Richard, born ca 1846 in Spreyton

Ann, born 1850 (BMD reg Q1, 1851, vol 10, p 292) in South Tawton, married **William Morrish**, see above. She died in Q1, 1925, aged 75.

Mary, born 1853 in Bow. She worked as a cook and domestic servant of Samuel Standeland, Surgeon of Winsor House, Bow at the time of the 1871 census. She married **John Ford** in Q1, 1874, and by 1881 they were settled in Dawlish.

n.b. North Tawton, Bow and Spreyton form three sides of a triangle of about 7km each and lie east of Okehampton in Central Devon.

Francis/Frank, born 1856 in Bow. He died in July 1886 (Clarke tree)

John, born 1857 in Clannaborough, a short distance east of Bow. He married (1) in Jan 1878 in Dawlish and had a daughter Rhoda Francis Way in 1879. He became a blacksmith in Littleham, Exmouth (1881) and married (2) Emma Clift (1862-). They moved to Dawlish by 1891 and his daughter died in 1897, aged 18. He died in Sept 1935 (Clarke tree).

William, born 1859 in Clannaborough. He worked as a Labourer and married Jane Brown in Q3,1880 (Newton Abbot district) and died in 1898. They had four children, the eldest William Richard Way (q.v.) was born 1881 in Dawlish. He was killed on 14 February 1918 in France and Flanders and is on the Dawlish War Memorial with details on the Devon Heritage Site :

27046 Private William Richard Way of the 7th Battalion, the Somerset Light Infantry. Son of Jane Way and the late William Way. Born in Dawlish in 1881. Died 14 February 1918 aged 37

A soldier's Will for him left his effects to his youngest brother Frederick of 7 Queen St, Torquay.

William's widow was a lodger in 3 Perrotts Buildings, Pimlico, Torquay in 1911 and working as a charwoman.

Bessey/Bessie, born in Bow in 1861, married George Shelston in Q4,1882 (N.A.district). They were shown in 55 Monument Street, Devonport in the 1891 census as Bessie Shelston,(incorrectly transcribed as Brickwood) 30, married, Ellen, her daughter,1, and Alice Way, 8, born in Maryport, Cumberland, a neice of Bessie.

George Shelston was in the Royal Navy and a Petty Officer, 1st Class when the 1901 census shows them living at 12 Municipal House, Devonport with two children, Ellen G, born 1890 in Dawlish and George, born 1893 in Dawlish. They went on to have two more children, Frederick, born 1902 in Devonport and Francis, born 1905 also in Devonport.

By 1911 George was a Naval Pensioner and Public House Keeper of the Carpenter's Arms, Old Town Street, Dawlish. He died on Christmas Eve, 1913 in Dawlish and Bessie died in 1936.

Lucy, born 1865 in Bow was shown to be crippled in the left leg on the 1871 census. In 1891 she was staying/living with her sister Ann and William Morrish in Commercial Road, Dawlish and working as a dress-maker. She died in October 1891 (Clarke tree).

Alfred, born Q1 1866 in Bow. He married Mary Lavinia Jane (?)(born 1862, Calstock, Cornwall) in 1889 and in 1891 they were living at 5 Brook Street, Dawlish and by 1911 were at Park Row Cottages with Mabel Hooper, an adopted daughter (1895-). He died on 27 January 1934 and left to his widow £838-17s-10d. (Probate records) They were then living at 12 Stockton Road, Dawlish.

Frederick, born 1867 in Bow, was shown on the 1871 census. He married Ada Martin in March 1909 at St Veep, Cornwall. On the 1911 census Frederick was a Chief Cook in the

Dawlish World War One Project

Royal Navy, living at Devonport with Ada and one year-old daughter Grace. The same year the family moved to Dawlish, and they had four children in all:

Grace Way (1910-1972), married Archibald Perring and had five children

Hedley Martin Way (1911-2008), married Ethel Blanchard and they had two children, Elizabeth and John - N.B. The Hedley Way Centre (recently known as the Riverside Centre in the Manor House grounds) was named in his honour.

Francis Thomas Way (1912-2003), married Phyllis Symes in 1936 and had one son, Mervyn.

Wilfred Percival Way (1918-1999), married Lilian Sarah Maile in 1945 and had one son, David.

Frederick Way died in N.A. district in June 1946 (Clarke tree).

Grace Way died in Q2, 1880 in the Newton Abbot district.

Francis Way married for the second time to Elizabeth Martin in Q1, 1881 in Okehampton district. She had been born in St Sidwells, Exeter.

They lived at Roseberry, North Tawton at 1881 year's census with two of her sons from an earlier marriage to William Martin, a chimney sweep. The household included Francis, 53, his new wife Elizabeth, 44, William Martin, 19, a chimney sweep, Charles Martin, 13, Alfred Way, 15 and Frederick Way, 13.

By 1891 Francis had become a Grocer, at Waterloo in North Tawton and ten year's later he and his wife were living alone at the Grocer's Shop, High Street. He died in Q4, 1910.

Mary Way born 1853 in Bow. She worked as a cook and domestic servant of Samuel Standeland, Surgeon of Winsor House, Bow at the time of the 1871 census. She married **John Ford** in Q1, 1874, and by 1881 they were settled in Dawlish.

See biographies for Frederick G Ford (1896-1915) and William John Hutchings (1886-1916)