

## Frank BROOK

Born Dawlish, 26 July 1890

Able Seaman, Royal Navy service no: 234952

Died 30 June 1920

Discharged 15 March 1919

**Frank Brook** was one of ten children of Frank and Mary Brook of Ivybank, Dawlish. He died at home after a long illness and is buried in Dawlish Cemetery.

His father, Frank Brook, was one of eight children of George Brook (1826- ) and Jane Lovell (1834-1885) and was born in Broadwood Kelly in 1857 (GRO ref 1857 Jan-Mar, Okehampton, vol 5b, p 369). George Brook is described in the 1861 census as a 'Cordwainer, Boot & Shoe Maker.'

Frank Brook married Mary Stoneman in 1877 (GRO ref 1877, July-Sept, Okehampton, vol 5b, p 699). Mary was a wool spinner and the daughter of Philip and Grace Stoneman who lived at Hatherleigh Street, North Tawton.

Frank and Mary moved to Dawlish where he was an agricultural labourer living at Luscombe Home Farm, Dawlish, in 1881 with their first two children, George H Brook (1878-1894) and Arthur Brook (1880-1904).

By 1891 they had settled again, at 6 Queen Lane, Old Town Street, Dawlish. There were five additional children, all born in Dawlish:

Alice, dau 8, (1883- )

Charles son 6, (1885- )

Ida, dau 4, (1887- )

William son 3, (1888- )

**Frank son 8 mths (1889-1920)**

**Frank** was already working as an errand boy for a dairy by 1901 when the family had moved along the street to 10 Queen Lane, and two more children had been added:

Mary dau 8, (1893- )

Linda dau 4, (1897- )

Further along Queen Lane at this time was the Harris family at No 3. John Harris had been born in Dawlish, ca 1864, and had married Loveday Stoneman, a serge weaver born in North Tawton ca 1859. They had four children the second of which was Winifred Ivy Harris (1894-1958).

**Frank Brook** left home in October 1905 and joined the Navy at Devonport as a Boy Seaman, 2<sup>nd</sup> class for training aboard the wooden hulk, H.M.S.IMPREGNABLE. He was then 15. He had given his birth year as 1889 but a registration for him appears in 1890 (GRO ref 1890 July-Sept, N.A., vol 5b, p 103) and this accords with the inscription on his coffin which showed his age as 29 at his death.

He progressed to Boy Seaman, 1<sup>st</sup> class in June 1906 and served until 26 July 1907 (theoretically aged 18!) when he was made up to Ordinary Seaman and signed on for 12 years.

He was posted to H.M.S.VIVID (R.N.Barracks, Devonport) for a week in May 1914, and he married Winifred Ivy Harris in this period (GRO ref 1914, Apr-June, N.A., vol 5b, p 370). Winifred was a sister to Henry John Harris (q.v.) who died of wounds on 26 August 1918. (Harris and Stoneman Census extracts are documents in Henry John Harris profile)

He joined H.M.S.CUMBERLAND in May 1914 and was at the Spithead Review of the Fleet in July 1914. At the outbreak of war he was aboard until 30 November 1915 when he returned to barracks. He was next posted to H.M.S.DILIGENCE (OBEDIENT). H.M.S.DILIGENCE was a Depot Ship to the 12<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Flotilla and the OBEDIENT was an M Class Destroyer within the 12<sup>th</sup>

## Dawlish World War One Project

Destroyer Flotilla, and he was on the books from 2 February 1916 to 14 May 1918, which included action in the Battle of Jutland.

He ended his war service with H.M.S.KILMAINE which was a *Kil* class patrol gunboat and based in the English Channel. He was given a free discharge on 15 March 1919 as an Able Seaman.

**Frank Brook** died just over a year later 'after a long and painful illness' (*Dawlish Gazette*) but there is no indication of war injuries ending his service.

His funeral is reported in detail in the newspaper where members of the Brook, Stoneman and Harris families are recorded.

He is inscribed on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour as Brook. F. A.B. H.M.S.ATTENTIVE.

Dawlish War memorial supplementary panel inscription: BROOK F. A.B. ROYAL NAVY

Commonwealth War Graves entry: BROOK, FRANK Able Seaman 234952

30/06/1920 Age: 29 Royal Navy H.M.S. "Kilmaine."

Grave Ref: 72. Dawlish Cemetery

Husband of Winifred Ivy Brook, of Shiverstone Cottages, Dawlish Water, Dawlish.

Last known address: Shiverstone Cottages, Dawlish Water (This address is also that of John Harris and family in 1911 census – See Henry John Harris)

Next of kin: Winifred Ivy Brook, wife

### References:

Dawlish Gazette

Free BMD

Royal Navy Service Record (National Archives, Kew)

Refs from subscription websites:

Census records

Marriage and other refs