

Alfred MOULD

Born Burton upon Trent, 14 September 1893, died 17 October 1914, Dawlish, aged 21
Seaman, Royal Naval Reserve, No 4921.A (Dev)

Alfred was the second son of Daniel and Rose Mould. They had four children before Rose was admitted to the Burntwood Lunatic Asylum near Lichfield in 1897. As a result Alfred and his surviving siblings had a broken childhood.

Daniel Mould (1867- ?) was the youngest child of John Mould (1827-1907), a farm labourer, and Hannah Robinson (1836-1897). In 1871, grandparents John and Hannah Mould, were living in Hanbury, Staffs, where he was an agricultural labourer. They had six children of which Edward J was the older son at 10 and Daniel the third child, 3 years old.

Daniel had been born in Mayfield, Staffordshire. He married Rosa Dyche (1869-1903) in Ashbourne in 1887. The census of 1891 shows Daniel as a general labourer aged 23 and Rose, 22, living at 69 Park Street, Burton on Trent. At that time they had two children, Daniel being one year old and the other without a name being just 2 weeks old. She became Sarah Jane Mould who died aged two in 1893. After the birth of Alfred in 1893 there was another girl, Lily Mould (1896-1962). Shortly afterwards their mother was committed to the asylum. In 1901 Rose Mould, wife of a chimney sweep, was a patient at the District County Lunatic Asylum, Burntwood, Staffs, but there is no census entry for her husband, Daniel.

The subsequent lives of the family members have been difficult to trace. Their mother, Rose, died at Burntwood on 28 May 1903, aged 33. Daniel, the father, does not appear in further census data. He may have followed his son, Daniel (1889- ?) to Canada.

After the family broke up in 1897, Daniel, 8 years old, may have found himself without a home or sheltering relatives. In 1901 Daniel Mould, age, 11, is at St Vincent's Industrial School, Dartford, Kent where he is shown as being born in Burton on Trent. *In 1857 the Industrial Schools Act was passed which gave magistrates the power to sentence children between the ages of 7 and 14 years old to a spell in one of these institutions. The act dealt with those children who were brought before the courts for vagrancy, in other words for being homeless.* Three years later Daniel Mould was a child passenger on the S.S. PARISIAN, outward bound from Liverpool for Quebec on 28 August 1902 and recorded as being 14 and born in Burton on Trent. He was one of a party of Roman Catholic children from Canadian Catholic Emigration Society, 5 Westminster Bridge Road, London in the charge of Rev. E. Baris and going to New Orpington Lodge, Hintonburg, Ottawa. The Catholic Church united all of their emigration work in 1899 under the Crusade of Rescue and all work was moved to St. George's in Ottawa.

Alfred Mould was more fortunate at this point. His uncle, Edward/ Edwin John Mould (1861-1922) became a potter's slip-maker for much of his working life in Burslem. He married Ellen Phillips in 1885 and had a daughter Florence in 1886. In 1901 Edward and Ellen Mould are shown giving living at 26 Church Street, Longton, Staffs, with their nephew Alfred, aged 8. There is no census entry for Alfred in 1911 but there are records of Alfred Mould, Able Seaman in the Merchant Marine on the crew lists of LUSITANIA from New York to Liverpool arriving 3

September 1912. Two months later he married Margaret Doyle on 23 November in Birkenhead. He had already joined the Royal Naval Reserve in Liverpool on 3 April 1912 and had training for three months aboard H.M.S.KING ALFRED, an armoured cruiser in reserve. Alfred, has a Royal Naval Reserve record deposited with the National Archives at Kew that shows he signed on as a merchant seaman in April 1912 in Liverpool with service number 4291 A. and living at 38 Price Street, Birkenhead. His record shows him with 'father unknown', but his mother is Rose, and his birth date is shown as 18 April 1890, which is at odds with other evidence.

Alfred and Margaret Mould had a daughter, Lilian May (1913-1994) and a son, Alfred (1914-1968). Alfred was born on 28 September 1914, just three weeks before the tragic accident which brought his father's death.

Seaman Alfred Mould was serving on the books of H.M.S.VIVID, The Royal Navy Base and Barracks, Devonport.

The '*Western Times*' of Monday 19th October reported:

"On Saturday, **Alfred Mould**, a Royal Naval Reserve man, an Able Seaman stationed at Devonport, fell out of a Great Western train near Black Bridge, Dawlish. He was picked up and conveyed by P.C.Shapland and a party of railway men to the Dawlish Cottage Hospital, where he was attended by D.Cunliffe. He is in a very critical condition and is not expected to recover."

An inquest was held on Monday evening and the next day the *Western Times* carried an account.

"An inquest was held at the Vestry Hall...concerning the death of **Alfred Mould**, 24, a Royal Naval Reservist, of Birkenhead, who was found lying badly injured and unconscious on the railway between the Warren and Dawlish stations. The deceased belonged to H.M.S.Illustrious, and had been absent on leave to visit his wife at Birkenhead."

"Reginald Walter King, of the Naval Police, Devonport, Royal Naval Barracks, stated that the deceased, whom he identified, was granted leave from October 10th to the 12th. No extension of the period was afterwards granted him. He did not return on the 12th, and was logged as an ordinary absentee, and was then liable to arrest."

"William Stanley Crispin, a lad residing at the Warren, stated that he saw a carriage door open of a train passing about 1 o'clock. Harold Crispin, brother of the last witness, said that he discovered the deceased lying unconscious on the railway with one foot across the line and the shoe off the right foot..... With his father, he helped to lift the man away from the line to prevent the trains passing over him."

"Dr Montagu Cutcliffe of Dawlish stated that he saw the deceased at 1.30 lying on the side of the line, unconscious. He died at 4 o'clock in the Cottage Hospital. The deceased had several wounds and abrasions. The skull was fractured and the bone had penetrated into the brain, portions of which were protruding from the wound."

"The jury, of whom Mr Ferris was foreman, returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

Dawlish World War One Project

A copy of the inquest report is attached as a separate document.

Alfred Mould has no direct connection with Dawlish and his name is not inscribed on the town War Memorial, but he died while in service of his country and he is buried in Dawlish Cemetery and so a service of Commemoration was held in Dawlish on the centenary of his death.

The Western Times of Friday 23 October, 1914, reported on the funeral, "*The funeral of Alfred Mold(sic), who met his death by accidentally falling from a train near Dawlish, on Saturday, took place yesterday morning. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was carried out of the Cottage Hospital, and placed in the hearse by a bearer party from the R.A.M.C. The principal mourners were a brother and sister-in-law of the deceased.....Among the floral tributes was one which bore the following: "With deepest sympathy from the G.W.R. staff, Dawlish Station."*

After his death, Margaret Mould remarried in Q3, 1918 to William Broadfield and her address is shown in the RN&RM War Graves Roll as 29 Edgar Street, Birkenhead.

Commonwealth War Graves entry:/ Royal Navy and Royal Marines War Graves Roll

Died Dawlish, 17 October 1914, buried in Dawlish Cemetery, grave 668.

References: BMD and census records

Grave headstone

National Archives RNR service record

RN&RM War Graves Roll

Ancestry family tree Chriskshelton