



William Henry Ludlow Gale - 1854 to 1888

William Henry Ludlow Gale was the eldest child of the vicar of Milton Lilbourne and local Justice of the Peace John Henry Gale and his wife Augusta (nee Ludlow Bruges). He was born on 15th August 1854 in Milton Lilbourne and baptised there on 12th December 1854. His paternal grandfather Thomas Hinxman Gale was also vicar of Milton Lilbourne from 1812 to 1846.

William was schooled in his early years at the Royal Free Grammar School in Marlborough. In 1867, he entered the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth, as a cadet and graduated from there as a sub-lieutenant in 1874.

In his twenty-one years with the Navy he served on eleven ships with twelve tours of duty:

Served Aboard H. M. S.	Year	Station	Rank
Britannia	1867	Dartmouth	Cadet
Bristol	1868	Mediterranean	Cadet
Galatea	1868	Round the World	Midshipman
Agincourt	1870	Channel	Midshipman
Active	1874	Cape Coast	Sub Lieutenant
Argus	1874	North America & West Indies	Sub Lieutenant
Defence	1877	Channel & West Coast of Ireland	Lieutenant
Vestal	1878	Indian Ocean, Zanzibar	Lieutenant
Daphne	1878	From Indian Ocean to Devonport	Lieutenant
Thetis	1879	Pacific	Lieutenant
Rapid	1884	West Coast of Africa	Lieutenant
Rapid	1884	Cape, Australia	Lieutenant
Thalia	1888	From Sydney for Home	Lieutenant

In the 1881 census, William was listed as Lieutenant, Royal Navy, aged 26 and single, serving aboard H.M.S. Thetis, a 4th Class corvette later converted in 1886 to a ten-gun troop ship, in the Pacific Ocean.

William was listed as short-sighted in his naval records and, in his early years with the Navy, was considered "in need of correction in temperament". Maturity and training soon changed him and he was

listed as "temperate, zealous, of considerable judgment, with very good professional knowledge and very good command". He had the makings of a fine naval captain.

In 1888, William was a lieutenant on board H.M.S Thalia, sailing from Sydney, Australia, bound eventually for England, when he was taken ill. On 11th April, he was described as having "no energy" and six weeks later on the 22nd May he died of Bright's disease, which affects the kidneys. He was buried at sea in the Indian Ocean.

A Memorial Stone to the memory of Lieutenant Gale can be found in St. Peter's Churchyard, Milton Lilborne