

J/3523

Leading Seaman



Underwood

Albert Edward

H.M.S. Alert, Royal Navy

Date of Death 6 September 1916.
Place of Death Iraq.
How Died Death from disease..

Birth Registration Born 6 March 1891. Baptised 2 June 1893 at Potterne St. Mary.
Place of Birth Potterne.
Residence Lower Street, Potterne (1891 census).
Lower Street, Potterne (1901 census).
Duchess of Albanys Home for Soldiers and Sailors, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, Hants (1911 census).
Watercress Cottage, Lower Street, Potterne (1911, parents).

Occupation Bakers Boy (1911).
Father Frank Adolphus Underwood.
Mother Louisa Mary Miles.
Siblings Joseph M., Alfred, Ada B., Frank A., Jesse (who also gave his life for his country), George.
Marital Status Single.

Where Buried Baghdad (North Gate) Cemetery, Iraq.
Plot Location XXI. G. 36.
Memorials War Memorial, St Mary's churchyard, Church Corner, Potterne.

Notes Royal Navy date of Engagement 6 March 1911 – for 12 years.

The War Memorial papers noted his Rank as Leading Seaman and Petty Officer.

According to his Royal Navy Register of Seaman's Services, last posting was on H.M.S. Alert, period of service 1915 to 6 Sep 1916. Captured in Kut on 29 April 1916 and believed a Prisoner of War. Bagtsche (Amaris), Turkey and died from Debility (which means that underlying cause of death unknown).

It would seem that HMS Alert was used as a depot ship, anchored off Abadan Island in the Shatt al-Arab waterway, where she was involved with the fitting out of newly-built gunboats.

Some may have been volunteers on board the HMS Julnar which was disabled whilst attempting to reach KUT on 24th April 1916 and the survivors of the ship's company fell into the hands of the Turks.

Royal Navy Death Records state he was originally buried in the War Cemetery, Aleppo and re-buried in Bagdad War Cemetery. Death from disease.

Medals Victory, British, Star.