

Individual Report for Ernest Skingley

Individual Summary: Ernest Skingley

Sex: Male
Father: James Skingley
Mother: Susannah Collyer



Individual Facts:

Birth: 07 Jun 1882 in Highwood, Essex
Census: 1891 in 1 Road Side, Edney Common, Writtle, Essex (living with parents)
Census: 1901 in 143 Hanover Building, Horsleydown, London (boarder aged 18)
Physical Description: 1909 in Royal Navy Records; Hair light brown, eyes blue and fresh complexion
Death: 02 Oct 1917 in HMS Brisk at sea whilst serving with the Royal Navy
Occupation: Railway Porter, Carpenter prior to Enlisting and Sailor (stoker) in Royal Navy
Height: 5ft 5ins
Military Service: Royal Navy - regular sailor - Stoker 1st class - signed on for 5 years + 7 years
Military Serial Number: SS 108634

Shared Facts: Edith Maud Knight

Marriage: 19 Dec 1915 in Church of St Mary, Loughton, Essex (His address was shown as HMS Brisk)
Children: Living

Notes:

Person Notes: Ernest was one of nine children born to James Skingley, (born 9th June 1844 in Writtle, Essex) and Susannah Collyer, (born 1844 Latchingdon Essex). His father's occupation was noted on Ernest's birth certificate as Beer House Keeper.

In the Census of 1891, Ernest lived with his parents in 1 Road Side, Edney Common, Writtle, Essex.

In the Census of 1901 Ernest was living as a boarder at 143 Hanover Building, Horsleydown, London and his occupation was shown as carpenter.

Ernest enlisted in the Royal Navy on the 6th May 1909 for 5 years, then for another 7 years. His Navy Record shows he had light brown hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion and his height was 5ft 5ins. He was a railway porter prior to enlisting and his character is shown as very good. His service number was SS108634 and he was a Stoker 1st class. The Navy Record for Ernest also shows he was killed by a mine explosion.

Ernest's residence at the time of his marriage was HMS Brisk. The marriage certificate for Ernest shows his father as James Skingley, occupation coachman.

Whilst in the Royal Navy, Ernest served on the following ships:

HMS Acheron
HMS Attentive
HMS Foresight
HMS Pembroke II
HMS Blonde

Individual Report for Ernest Skingley

Individual Summary: Ernest Skingley

Sex: Male

Father: James Skingley

Mother: Susannah Collyer



Notes:

HMS Blake
HMS Vivid II
HMS Hecla
HMS Brisk

Ernest died 2-10-1917 (WW1) whilst serving on HMS Brisk (destroyer) which historians now think hit a mine that had recently been laid in the area by a German U-boat (U79). This happened 1.5 miles south-west of Bull Point, County Antrim in Rathlin Sound.

The family have confirmed that Ernest received WW1 medals but these have been misplaced over the years. The UK Naval Medal & Award Rolls 1793-1972 show Ernest as having received the Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

History

On the morning of October 2nd 1917, HMS Brisk was part of a convoy HH24 inbound from America which was accompanying HMS Drake. U-Boat (U79), a mine laying submarine, was on active duty around the north west of Ireland and the western Scottish Isles at the time. The captain of U79 was Otto Rohrbeck. The U-boat located the convoy and fired one of four torpedoes, the result killed 19 seamen aboard HMS Drake but the cruiser remained afloat.

After the attack the convoy dispersed and HMS Brisk, a type H (Acorn) destroyer, was deployed to follow up on SS Lugano which was loaded with cotton and steel from Virginia. HMS Brisk hit a mine, the blast broke the ship in two, the bow section sank and the stern section was eventually towed into Londonderry.

The incident happened 1.5 miles south-west of Bull Point, County Antrim in Rathlin Sound. 31 sailors on HMS Brisk died in the explosion and one died later that month of his injuries. After the explosion of HMS Brisk, the SS Lugano also hit a mine and sank but with no loss of life.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Birth Certificate for Ernest Skingley
Marriage Certificate for Ernest Skingley & Edith Maud Knight
Navy Service Record for Ernest Skingley
www.northantrim.com/HMSDrake.htm
www.irishwrecksonline.net
www.wrecksite.eu
Royal Navy War Deaths 1914-1921 - Vol RN, page 3582
Military-Genealogy website
Section Scan No: 10/0367
Surname: Skingley
Ratling: Sto 1st
Branch of Service R.N
Official No Port Division: SS 108634 (R.F.R CH.B 10605) (CH)

Individual Report for Ernest Skingley

Individual Summary: Ernest Skingley

Sex: Male

Father: James Skingley

Mother: Susannah Collyer



Notes:

Date of Death: 2/10/1917

Ship or Unit: HMS BRISK

Date and place of birth: 7-6-1885 Chelmsford, Essex
(year has been corrected on CWGC records to 1882)

Relatives notified and their address:

Wife Edith Maud, 139 Smarts Lane, Loughton, Essex