

In Memory of  
Leading Seaman  
**Sidney Swan**

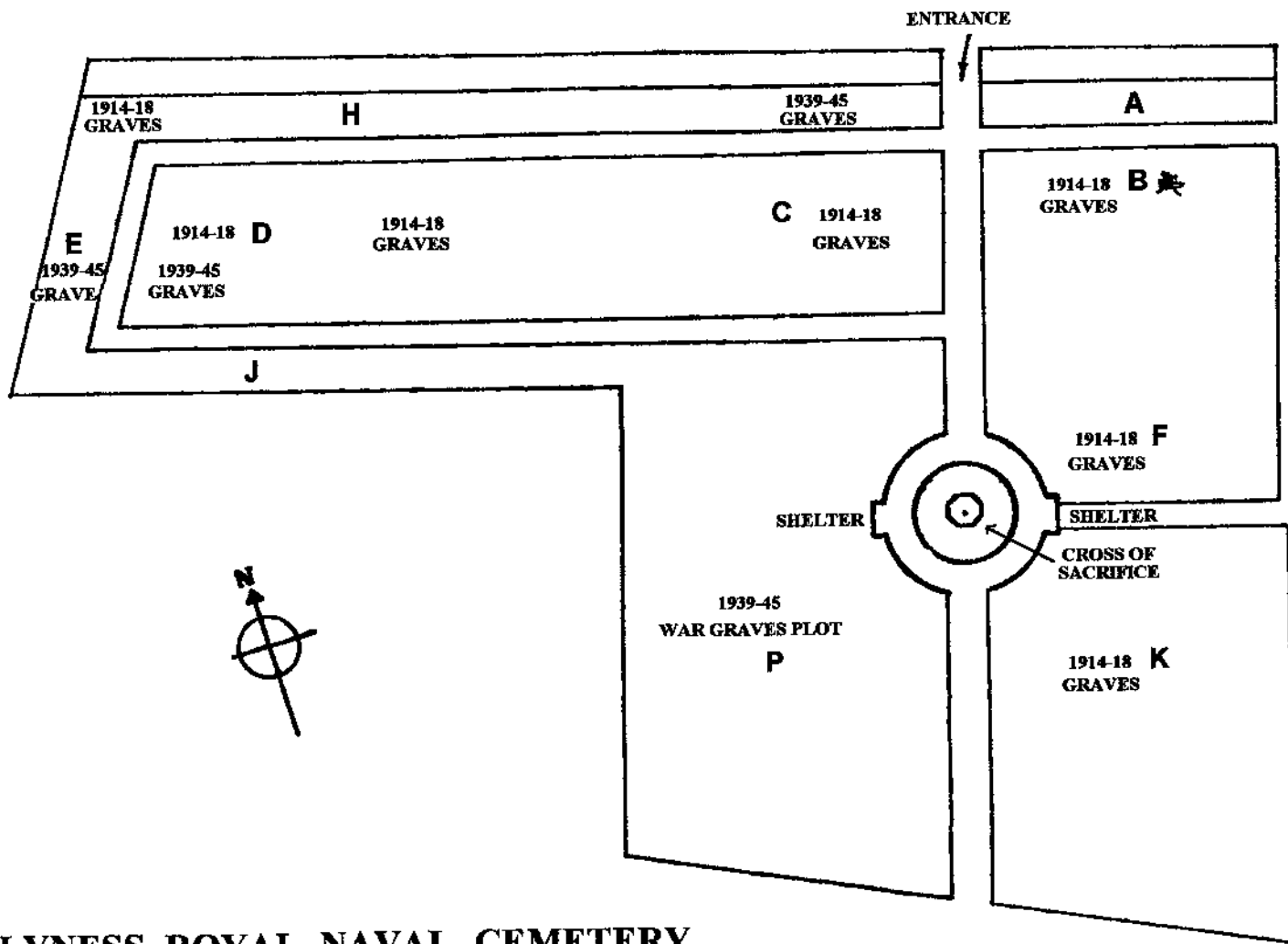
J/10667(CH), H.M.S. "Tirade.", Royal Navy who died on 02 November 1918 Age 23

Son of Elizabeth Swan, of 159, High St., Easington Lane, Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham, and the late John  
Dunsford Swan.

Remembered with Honour  
**Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



**LYNESS ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY**

### Great War Ancestor – Record of research

Surname	SWAN
Forenames	SIDNEY
Home address	159 HIGH STREET EASINGTON LANE CO. DURHAM
Regiment	ROYAL NAVY HMS TIRADE
Notes	UNMARRIED, PARENTS - JOHN DUNSFORD SWAN + ELIZABETH LAUDER * DIED IN HOSPITAL IN THE AREA OF, AND JUST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE SCAPA FLOW, ORKNEYS.

JOINED AT AGE 12 YEARS ~~in 1902~~. 5ft 8 1/2 ins, chest 34 ins DK br/own EYES + HAIR  
2 small MOLES ON RIGHT FACE CHEEK, ALSO TATTOO BETWEEN THUMB + FINGERS.

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website

Rank	LEADING SEAMAN
Age at death	23 YEARS
Date of death	2/11/1918
Service Number	J/10667 (CH)
Cemetery/Memorial	LYNESS ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY, ISLE OF HOY, ORKNEY
Grave/Memorial no	B 151
Additional Information	SON OF ELIZABETH SWAN, 159 HIGH ST, EASINGTON LANE, CO. DURHAM, AND THE LATE JOHN DUNSFORD SWAN

### Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-19

Place of birth	EASINGTON LANE, CO. DURHAM
Place of enlistment	
Death	2 <sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 1918
Other regiments, etc.	HMS GRANDES, BENBUCK, VICTORY I, ILLUSTRIOUS, PEMBROKE I, SHANNON AND SANDHURST



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## Cemetery Details

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### LYNESS ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY



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**Country:** United Kingdom  
**Locality:** Orkney  
**Identified Casualties:** 527

#### Location Information

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy and Graemsay, is on Hoy, between Mill Bay and Ore Bay.

#### Historical Information

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery was begun in 1915 when Scapa Flow was the base of the Grand Fleet. Lyness remained as a Royal Naval base until July 1946 and the cemetery contains graves from both wars.

There are 445 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 109 of which are unidentified. The majority of the graves are of officers, ratings, and members of the land forces lost from H.M.S. "Hampshire," "Vanguard," "Narborough" and "Opal."

The 200 burials of the Second World War in the cemetery include those of 26 men from H.M.S. "Royal Oak", which was sunk off Longhope in Scapa Flow by a German U-boat on 14 October 1939. 8 of these burials are unidentified.

The cemetery also contains the graves of 14 sailors of the German Navy - the High Seas Fleet was interned at Scapa Flow after the 1918 Armistice - 4 further German burials including 2 unidentified airmen and 1 Norwegian war grave. There are 30 non-war Service burials, 2 being unidentified British soldiers.

The features of the cemetery were designed by Ralph Hobday.



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## SWAN, SIDNEY

<b>Rank:</b>	Leading Seaman
<b>Service No:</b>	J/10667(CH)
<b>Date of Death:</b>	02/11/1918
<b>Age:</b>	23
<b>Regiment/Service:</b>	Royal Navy H.M.S. "Tirade."
<b>Grave Reference:</b>	B. 151.
<b>Cemetery:</b>	LYNESS ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY
<b>Additional Information:</b>	Son of Elizabeth Swan, of 159, High St., Easington Lane, Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham, and the late John Dunsford Swan.

### CWGC ARCHIVE ONLINE (5)

Grave Registration Reports (GRRs) are standard forms which detail graves for which the Commission is responsible within a particular burial ground. They provide basic details of the individuals, such as name, service number, rank, regiment, unit and date of death, and are listed in Plot, Row and Grave order.



GRAVES  
REGISTRATION  
REPORTS (FINALS)



REGISTERS

#### Disclaimer

*This collection of documents relating to the First World War was assembled by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its predecessors as part of the processes involved in the commemoration of individuals. As a result, they contain many corrections and alterations which reflect their use as working documents. For further information concerning the history of the collection, please see our [About Our Records](#) page.*

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INDEX Nos. SMITH, Pte. <sup>Frank Henry</sup> ~~F. H.~~, CH/19015. R.M.L.I.  
SCOTL. H.M.S. "Shannon." Died of pneumonia 28th  
887-912 Oct., 1918. Age 23. Son of Mrs. A. R. Kimpton,  
(ORKNEY) of 5, Garden Villas, Woodville Rd., Islington,  
London. F. 21.

SMITH, Offr. Std. 3rd Cl. G. W., L/4881. R.N.  
Drowned in loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire." 5th  
June, 1916. F. <sup>John George</sup> 114A. Spec. <sup>John George</sup> ~~them~~ "C."

SMITH, Smn. <sup>John George</sup> ~~F. G.~~, 5905/A. R.N.R. H.M.S.  
"President III." 2nd Feb., 1918. B. 77.

SMITH, 2nd Cks. Mte. Percy Robert William,  
M/13644(PO). R.N. H.M.S. "Malaya." Killed  
in action 31st May, 1916. Age 19. Son of James  
and Ellen Jane Smith, of North St., Westbourne,  
Emsworth, Hants. B. 50.

SMITH, Sto. 1st Cl. <sup>William Charles</sup> ~~W. C.~~, K/2795(PO). R.N.  
H.M.S. "Trenchant." 6th Oct., 1918. B. 150.

SMITH, A.B. <sup>William Charles</sup> ~~W. C.~~, J/34123(Dev). R.N.  
H.M.S. "Comus." 12th July, 1917. Age 19.  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Smith, of 82, Green  
St., High Wycombe, Bucks. D. 33.

SNELL, A.B. <sup>Samuel Solomon</sup> ~~S. S.~~, 211373(PO). R.N. Drowned  
in loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire." 5th June, 1916.  
Age 33. Husband of Alice M. Snell, of 61,  
Church Rd., Landport, Portsmouth. F. 29A.

SOUTER, Pte. Samuel, PO/18440. R.M.L.I.  
H.M.S. "Malaya." Killed in action 31st May,  
1916. Age 18. Son of Martha Ann Souter, of  
291, Stockport Rd., Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire,  
and the late Hampden Souter. D. 23.

SPARKES, Pte. Sidney John, PO/16416. \*  
R.M.L.I. Drowned in loss of H.M.S. "Hamp-  
shire." 5th June, 1916. Age 22. Son of John  
and Mary Ann Sparkes, of 25, Prince Alfred St.,  
Gosport, Hants. F. 42A.

SPENCER, A.B. <sup>John Henry</sup> ~~W. J. H.~~, J/16315(PO). R.N.  
H.M.S. "Diligence." 29th Oct., 1917. \* B. 72.

STACEY, A.B. Arthur, 3654. Royal Australian  
Navy. H.M.A.S. "Melbourne." Died of pneu-  
monia 18th Oct., 1916. Age 38. Son of James  
and Eliza Stacey, of 27, Cowl St., Shepton Mallet,  
Somerset. B90.

STAFFORD, Boy 1st Cl. William Ernest,  
J/37920(CH). R.N. Drowned in loss of H.M.S.  
"Hampshire." 5th June, 1916. Age 17. Son of  
James and Sarah Drus <sup>John</sup> ~~Willa~~ Stafford, of 1, Belmont  
Avenue, Lower Edmonton, London. F. 28A.

<sup>George Thomas</sup> STALLARD, Carptr. ~~G. T.~~ R.N. Drowned in  
loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire." 5th June, 1916.  
F. 4A.

STANLEY, Sub.-Lieut. Leonard. R.N.R.  
H.M.S. "Alcantara." 2nd March, 1916. Age 28.  
Son of Walter E. Stanley, of St. Cloud, Florida,  
U.S.A.; husband of Kate Stanley. Born at Hull.  
B. 3.

<sup>Ernest Sidney</sup> STARMORE, P.O. ~~E. S.~~, 174814(PO). R.N.  
Drowned in loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire." 5th  
June, 1916. F. 27A.

<sup>Cecil Thomas</sup> STEELE, A.B. ~~C. T.~~, J/19642(PO). R.N.  
Drowned in loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire." 5th  
June, 1916. F. 108.

<sup>William Henry</sup> STEVENS, A.B. ~~W. H.~~, J/8831(Dev). R.N.  
H.M.S. "Albacore." 9th March, 1917. B. 58.

STEWART, Lieut.-Comdr. Francis Gordon.  
R.N. Drowned in loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire."  
5th June, 1916. Age 29. Son of Capt. William  
and Anna Agnes Stewart, of Shambellie, New  
Abbey, Dumfries. F. 12.

<sup>Frederick George</sup> STONADGE, Ord. Sig. ~~F. G.~~, J/39094(PO).  
R.N. H.M.S. "King George V." 3rd March,  
1917. Age 17. Son of Charles Albert and Emily  
Ann Stonadge, of 5, Coleman St., St. Mary's St.,  
Southampton. D. 19.

<sup>James</sup> SUMMERSON, Ord. Smn. ~~J. J.~~, J/79326(PO).  
R.N. H.M.S. "Vivien." 29th June, 1918.  
D. 46.

<sup>John</sup> SUTTON, Pte. J., CH/7764. R.M.L.I. H.M.S.  
"Victorious." 5th Nov., 1918. C. ~~32~~ 33.

SWAN, Ldg. Smn. Sidney, J/10667(CH). R.N.  
H.M.S. "Tirade." 2nd Nov., 1918. Age 23.  
Son of Elizabeth Swan, of 159, High St., Easington  
Lane, Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham, and the late  
John Dunsford Swan. B. 151.

<sup>Frank David</sup> TAVENDER, Boy 1st Cl. ~~F. D.~~, 5729. Royal  
Australian Navy. H.M.A.S. "Sydney." 26th  
Jan., 1918. B. 75.

<sup>Flora Charles</sup> TAYLOR, A.B. ~~M. C.~~, 204375 (RFR/PO1/2103).  
R.N. H.M.S. "Agincourt." 12th March, 1916.  
B. 26.

<sup>Harold Robert</sup> TAYLOR, P. O. ~~H. R.~~ de ~~P.~~, 224364(PO). R.N.  
Drowned in loss of H.M.S. "Hampshire."  
5th June, 1916. F. 9.

<sup>John</sup> TAYLOR, Painter 1st Cl. J., 344896(CH). R.N.  
H.M.S. "Vanguard." 9th July, 1917. F. 125.

\* WILFRED →  
JACK  
\* AGE 21 X



## Sidney Swan in the UK, Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1972

Name:	Sidney Swan
Medal or Award:	Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal
Service Year:	1914-1920
Service Location:	Europe
Campaign or Service:	World War I
Service number:	J 10667

### Source Citation

Class: ADM 171; Piece: 116

### Source Information

Ancestry.com. *UK, Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1972* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

### Original data:

*Admiralty, and Ministry of Defence, Navy Department: Medal Rolls.* The National Archives microfilm publication ADM 171, 202 rolls. The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England.

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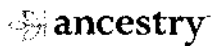
### Description

This database contains lists of more than 1.5 million officers, enlisted personnel and other individuals entitled to medals and awards commemorating their service with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines between 1793 and 1972. The collection includes WWI and WWII medal and award rolls. [Learn more...](#)

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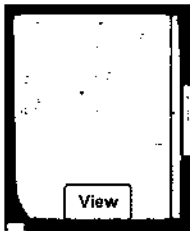




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## Sidney Swan in the UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1900-1928



Name: Sidney Swan  
Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 24 Nov 1894  
Birth Place: Houghton Le Spring, Durham  
Service number: J10867  
First Service Date: 19 Jan 1911  
First Ship Served On: Ganges  
Last Service Date: 2 Nov 1918  
Last Ship Served On: Sandhurst

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### Source Citation

The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England: *Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services*; Class: ADM 188; Piece: 668

### Source Information

Ancestry.com. *UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1900-1928* [database on-line]. Provo, UT USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Original data: Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services. ADM 188 The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England

### Description

Find a history of your Royal Navy seaman's service, including dates and vessels, in these registers. [Learn more...](#)

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
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## Sidney Swan in the UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919

Index-only record

**Name:** Sidney Swan  
**Rank:** Ldg Smn  
**Birth Date:** 24 Nov 1894  
**Birth Place:** Houghton Le Spring, Durham  
**Branch of Service:** Royal Navy  
**Cause of Death:** Died from disease  
**Official Number Port Division:** J.10667. (Ch)  
**Death Date:** 2 Nov 1918  
**Ship or Unit:** HMS Tirade  
**Location of Grave:** Block. B. 151.  
**Name and Address of Cemetery:** Naval Cemetery, Lyness, Island of Hoy, Orkneys  
**Relatives Notified and Address:** Mother: Elizabeth; 159, High Street, Easington Lane, Hetton le Hole, Durham

### Suggested Records

-  1911 England Census  
Sidney Swain
-  UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current  
Sidney Swan
-  1911 England Census  
Sidney Swan
-  1901 England Census  
Sidney Swan
-  1901 England Census  
Sidney Swan

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### Source Citation

TNA Series ADM 242/10; Scan Number: 0615

### Source Information

Ancestry.com. UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

Original data: War Graves Roll The Naval and Military Press Ltd.

### Description

Names of Royal Navy and Royal Marine officers who died in The Great War are listed in this database. While the collection is an index without attached images, it contains a great deal of information about each individual. There are 45,000 records within this collection. [Learn more...](#)





HMS 'TIRADE'

# CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. - The entries should be written in Ink.*

Number of Schedules  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator  
after collection.)


*The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.*

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE last Birthday and SEX.		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.								
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who  (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or  (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.  No one else must be included.  (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as under one month, "one month," etc.		State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of --  Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.  Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.  Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.					Personal Occupation.  The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.  If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.  (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)				Industry or Service with which worker is connected.  This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here.  No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employments. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, &c.) state what body.  (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)				Whether Working at Home.  Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.		Whether Working at Home.  Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.		(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County and Town or Parish.  (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, &c., and of the Province or State.  (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.  (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."  Note.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Roman" or "Yitior" in this Country.	State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile" or "Feeble minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
1 Elizabeth Swan	Head	—	45	Widow	22	4	4	—						Durham, Broomside									
2 Ethel Swan	Daughter	—	25	Single										Durham, Lyons									
3 John Gaspar Swan	Son	21	—	Single					Coal Miner Longwall Timber	20	Market	—		Durham, Lyons									
4																							
5																							
6																							
7																							
8																							
9																							
10																							
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12																							
13																							
14																							
15																							

 1911 England Census for Elizabeth Swan

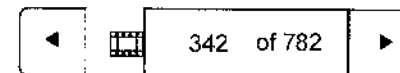


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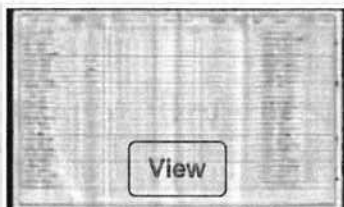


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## Sidney Swain in the 1911 England Census


[View](#)

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Name:	Sidney Swain
Age in 1911:	16
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1895
Relation to Head:	Inmate
Gender:	Female
Birth Place:	Houghton Le Spring, Durham, England
Civil Parish:	Tattingstone
County/Island:	Suffolk
Country:	England
Street address:	His Majesty's Royal Naval Training Establishment, Shotley Nr Ipswich
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Boys Under Training
Registration district:	Samford
Registration District Number:	212

### Suggested Records ?

- UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919  
Sidney Swan
- England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915  
Sidney Charles Swain

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
Thomas Holden	16
Walter Bourne	16
Frank Townend	17
Richard Bland	16
James McCabe	16
Archibald Young	16
Benjamin Vout	16
Charles Parsons	16
Wallace White	16
Joseph Parratt	16
Ernest Gilbert	16
Robert Greaves	16
George Woodhouse	16
James Gulf	16
Charles Bremner	15
James Wilmshurst	16
Henry Wolson	16
Clarence Treweek	16
Herbert Halesworth	16
Henry Williams	16
Harold Mockett	16
Henry Grimsley	16
Charles Fordham	16
David Gardner	16
Joseph Armstrong	16



<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
Sidney Swain	16
Owen Roberts	16
Edwin Jones	16
Frederick Stainstreet	16
Herbert Enfield	16
Herbert Wood	16
George Butler	15
Cecil Mellon	15
Brice Murray	15
Frederick Williams	15
Henry Baker	15
Willie Rees	15
Harry Tuck	16
Albert Bloys	16
Thomas Greg	15
Alexander Patterson	16
Albert Botley	15
Charles Frod	16
John Cope	16
Herbert Londwell	16
John Short	16
Thomas Murphy	15
Samuel Faulkner	16
Hugh Bright	16
William Poore	15

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## Sidney Swan

Birth 24 Nov 1894 in Easington Lane, Durham, England  
 Death 2 Nov 1918

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### Timeline

**1894 Birth** 4 Sources  
 24 Nov Easington Lane, Durham, England

**1901 Residence** 1 Source  
 Age: 7 Helton le Hole, Durham, England  
 Relation to Head of House: Son

**1911 Military** 1 Source  
 19 Jan Service number: J10667 First Ship " Ganges "  
 Age: 16

**1918 Death** 1 Source  
 2 Nov Leading Seaman H.M.S. Tirade Died from an illness  
 Age: 23 Photos (1)

**1918 Burial** 1 Source  
 Naval Cemetery, Lyness, Island of Hoy, Orkneys

View Details

### Comments

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No comments have been added yet.

### Family Members

#### Parents

- John Dunsford Swan**  
1861 – 1895
  - Elizabeth Lauder**  
1865 – 1937
- Show siblings

#### Spouse & Children

- No Spouse**

View Family Group Sheet

### Source Information

- 1901 England Census**  
1 citation provides evidence for Name, Birth, Residence
- England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915**  
1 citation provides evidence for Name, Birth
- UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919**  
1 citation provides evidence for Name, Death, Birth, Burial
- UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1900-1928**  
1 citation provides evidence for Name, Birth, Military

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Joseph Cook  
1796-1860



Margaret Scott  
1796-1856

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Pedigree Family

Margaret Cook  
1824-1849

Alice Cook  
1828-

Jane Cook  
1830-

John D Swan  
1836-1910

Isabella Cook  
1836-1894

Jasper T LAUDER  
1836-1895

Isabella TATE  
1838-1915

Margaret E Owen  
1866-

William E Swan  
1869-1926

Margaret Doxford  
1870-

Emily Gilroy

Sidney D Swan  
1876-1958

Cordelia Mary Clark  
1881-1905

John D Swan  
1861-1895

Elizabeth Lauder  
1865-1937

Ethel Swan  
1886-1960

John Jasper Swan  
1889-1960

Elizabeth Ann Mann  
1884-1953

Isabella Swan  
1892-

Sidney Swan  
1894-1918

M Georse Allen  
July - Sep 1915  
Houston

P.T.O.

# Wartime Scapa Flow

## Discover the wartime heritage of Scapa Flow

### Introduction

Scapa Flow is a natural harbour which has been used over many centuries, from the Viking fleet of King Haakon in the 13th Century, to the present day. It formed an important northern base for the British fleets in both world wars.

### World War I

During the first World War, the British Grand Fleet used Scapa Flow as a northern base. After a German U-Boat managed to enter the Flow early in the war, merchant ships were sent as blockships in strategic places and anti-submarine nets were put in place. From this base, vessels from the fleet made sweeps in search of the enemy.



In 1916, the British Grand Fleet left to fight in the Battle of Jutland. 24

battleships and 3 battlecruisers, plus destroyers and scouting cruisers set out under the command of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. They met the German High Seas Fleet in battle. There was much damage wrought, with many thousands of men losing their lives, but both sides believed they had won. However, after the battle, the Kaiser's fleet never went to sea again.

In June 1916, Lord Kitchener, the Minister of War, arrived in Scapa Flow to visit Admiral Jellicoe and hear his account of the Battle of Jutland, Kitchener left on board the Hampshire, and sailed up the west coast of Orkney. Near Birsay, the Hampshire struck a mine, and only

The first of the German Fleet to sink after the order to scuttle was issued was the Friedrich der Grosse - the flagship of the Jutland Fleet. This battleship sank beneath the surface at 12:16pm.

The British managed to save a few of the German ships by towing them towards shore where they settled in the shallow water.

At 5pm on 21 June 1919, the last ship, the Hindenberg, went under. By this time the surface of Scapa Flow was covered in oil and debris. The environmental damage caused by the scuttling was considerable.

On June 21st 1919, a party of schoolchildren from the town of Stromness were being taken on a trip around Scapa Flow to view the German Fleet. Little did they know when they left home that day what they were to witness.

The following is a piece written by one of the children, James Taylor, one of the pupils who witnessed the scuttling:

*"On Saturday June 21st 1919, I rose very early, as it would never do to be late for a school treat which was to take the form of a cruise on the Flying Kestrel to visit the surrendered German Fleet. The thought of sailing up to them made us boys almost sick with excitement!"*

12 men out of 665 survived. On 1926, money was raised by public subscription to erect the Kitchener Memorial at Marwick Head near Birsay.

After the armistice, seventy-four ships of the German High Seas Fleet were ordered into Scapa Flow to be interned. They arrived in November 1918, and stayed there for 10 months. During this time, they became a tourist attraction, with boat trips to see them. By June 1919, Rear Admiral von Reuter, the German Officer in command at Scapa Flow, knew that Germany would have to accept surrender terms. When the main part of the British Fleet left the flow for exercises he gave the order for the German fleet to be scuttled.

Most of the scuttled fleet did not stay where they had sunk. Those that were beached were removed almost immediately. In the 1920s, the firm Cox & Douglas began salvage operations, lifting many of the ships. This salvage continued until the advent of the Second World War, and only eight scuttled ships now remain in the Flow.

*At long last we came  
face to face with the  
Fleet. Their decks  
were lined with  
German sailors  
who....did not seem  
too pleased to see  
us. Suddenly without  
any warning and  
almost  
simultaneously these  
huge vessels began  
to list over to port or  
starboard; some  
heeled over and  
plunged headlong,  
their sterns lifted  
high out of the water.*

*Out of the vents  
rushed steam and oil  
and air with a  
dreadful roaring hiss.*

*And as we watched,  
awestruck and silent,  
the sea became  
littered for miles  
round with boats and  
hammocks, lifebelts  
and chests....and  
among it all  
hundreds of men  
struggling for their  
lives.*

*As we drew away  
from this nightmare  
scene we watched  
the last great  
battleship slide down  
with keel upturned  
like some monstrous  
whale."*

