

William Charles Dale

Able Seaman William Charles Dale

J/20921 Royal Navy



William Charles Dale was born on 7th April 1896. He was the son of Denzil and Frances Dale who lived in Overton High Street in 1901 and later moved to Home Farm Lane, Freefolk.



William trained on TS Mercury and is shown below the cross on the photograph above.

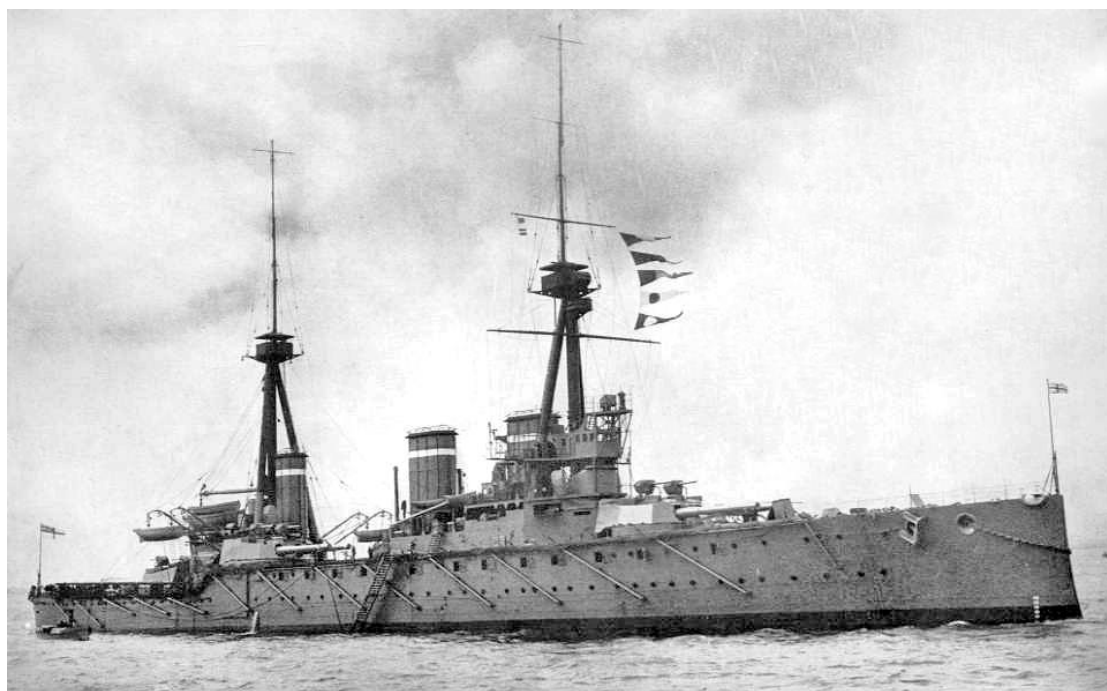
His Naval Record shows him engaged on 7th April 1914 for a period of 12 years, previously having been on HMS Impregnable from 7th October 1912 as a Boy I.

He was photographed with his elder brother, Alan (serving on HMS Cochrane), around this time.

William Charles Dale



William served on several other ships being on HMS Invincible at the outbreak of War and on this ship he lost his life on 31st May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland.



William Charles Dale

Extracts of the report of the senior surviving officer, Commander H.E Dannreuther include:

I report that H.M.S. "Invincible" was blown up and completely destroyed when in action with the enemy at 6.34 p.m. on Wednesday the 31st May. The total number of officers and men on board at the time was 1,031. Of these only six survived.

The "Invincible" was leading the 3rd B.C.S. and at about 5.45 p.m. first came into action with an enemy light cruiser on the port bow. Several torpedoes were seen coming towards the ship, but were avoided by turning away from them.

"Invincible's" fire was effective on the fight cruiser engaged, and a heavy explosion was observed. A dense cloud of smoke and steam from this explosion appeared to be in the same position some minutes later.

"Invincible" then turned and came into action at about 6.15 p.m. with the leading enemy battle cruiser, which was thought to be the "Derfflinger." Fire was opened at the enemy at about 8,000 yards, and several hits were observed.

A few moments before the "Invincible" blew up Admiral Hood hailed the Control Officer in the Control Top from the fore bridge : "Your firing is very good, keep at it as quickly as you can, every shot is telling." This was the last order heard from the Admiral or Captain who were both on the bridge at the end.

The Ship had been hit several times by heavy shell, but no appreciable damage had been done when at 6.34 p.m. a heavy shell struck "Q" turret and, bursting inside, blew the roof off. This was observed from the control top. Almost immediately following there was a tremendous explosion amidships indicating that "Q" magazine had blown up. The ship broke in half and sank in 10 or 15 seconds.

The survivors on coming to the surface saw the bow and stern of the ship only, both of which were vertical and about 50 feet clear of the water.



William is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 12.

He was awarded the Star, Victory and British War Medals.