

Frederick Pepler

Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry. Previous service 12 years. Was in Royal Fleet Reserve at outbreak of war. Mobilised July, 1914. Served in German East Africa, and at the Dardanelles. Torpedoed on H.M.S *Goliath* at the Dardanelles, May 13th, 1915. 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



FREDERICK PEPLER was born in Bradford on Avon in 1885 to Frederick and Mary. His father died when he was only two and his mother married Jacob Hancock. Frederick grew up in Chippenham, going to school there and then taking a job at the local cloth works, where in 1901 he was employed as a cutter. It appears that he then decided to join the services and in December 1902 he signed up for the Royal Marine Light Infantry in Plymouth.

There are no details of his service at that time, but in 1909 he married Annie Townsend from Corsham and clearly established a link with the town, though by 1911 he and Annie were living in Glamorgan where he was employed as a colliery worker. Frederick and Annie had three children, Stanley in 1911, Violet in 1913 and Frederick in 1914, and the births were registered in Chippenham.

War Records of Corsham suggests that Frederick was part of the Royal Fleet Reserve, which was mobilised in July 1914 as war became inevitable. There are no further military records until the details of Frederick's death as a Private in the Royal Marines Light Infantry on board HMS *Goliath* on

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES



The battleship HMS Goliath was sunk by an enemy torpedo boat during the early hours of 13th May 1915 off the Dardanelles, with the loss of many of its crew.

13th May 1915, when over 500 men lost their lives as the ship was torpedoed and sunk off the Dardanelles. The *Goliath* was part of the convoy supporting the landings at Gallipoli.

Private Frederick Pepler, aged 30, is remembered on the Naval Memorial in Plymouth. His wife Annie is recorded as his next of kin, living in Chapel Hill, Gastard.