

## *Archie Gane*

A.B., Royal Navy. Joined the Royal Navy in 1914. Was on *H.M.S. Bulwark* when the ship was blown up, November 26th, 1914.



ARCHIE GANE WAS born in August 1898 in Shepton Mallet in Somerset. His parents were James William Gane and Edith Barnett. In 1911 the family were living at 7 South View, South Street, Corsham; James worked as a stone mason and Archie was at school, as were his sister Hilda and brothers Peter and Charles.

Archie joined the Navy at Portsmouth, possibly before his 16th birthday. Records show that he was on HMS *Endymion* and was then a Boy 1st Class on HMS *Bulwark* in November 1914, which suggests that he had received at least basic training and had been rated as showing 'sufficient' seamanship skills and awarded a good conduct mark.

Archie was on board HMS *Bulwark* on 26th November 1914 in Sheerness in Kent, when there was a massive and catastrophic internal explosion that blew up the whole ship. Out of a complement of over 700 men only 12 survived, and most of the bodies were never recovered. There is a communal war grave in Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham, where 82 unknown ratings are buried, and a memorial record for those lost on HMS *Bulwark* on the Portsmouth War Memorial.

At 16 years and 3 months old, Archie was Corsham's youngest war casualty.