Sutton Veny
Roll of Honour



World War I



RMA/12189 BOMBARDIER

S. A. HINTON

ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY

H.M.S. ABOUKIR

22ND SEPTEMBER, 1914 AGE 27

Sidney Arthur HINTON

Sidney Arthur Hinton was born at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire in 1886 to parents John & Caroline Hinton (nee Knee). His birth was registered in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1886 as Sydney A. Hinton. His parents had married in 1877 at St. Denys Church, Warminster, Wiltshire.

The 1891 England Census recorded Sydney A. Hinton as 5 year old living with his family at 8 Dumacks (?) Lane, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, which was a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as John Hinton (General Labourer, aged 35, born Sutton Veny) & Caroline Hinton (aged 38, born Warminster). Sydney was one of eight children listed on this Census – Fred J. (Agricultural Labourer, aged 13, born Sutton Veny), Beatrice S. (Scholar, aged 12, born Heytesbury), William S. (Scholar, aged 9, born Sutton Veny), Albert E. (Scholar, aged 8, born Sutton Veny), Ernest G. (Scholar, aged 6, born Sutton Veny), then Sydney, Daisy A (Scholar, aged 3, born Sutton Veny) & Henry N. (aged 1, born Sutton Veny).

The 1901 England Census recorded Sidney Hinton as a 14 year old Gardener Labourer living with his widowed mother - Caroline Hinton (aged 49) & 5 siblings in a 3 roomed dwelling at Sutton Street, Sutton Veny. The children were – William (Railway Porter, aged 19), Albert (Gardener – Labourer, aged 17), Ernest (Cattleman on a farm, aged 15), then Sidney, Nelson (aged 11) & Daisy (aged 13).

Sidney Arthur Hinton enlisted with Royal Marines on 24th February, 1908 as Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. His age was stated as 18. His religion was listed as Church of England & his address was 41 The Lane, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Sidney's occupation was listed as Baker. He was given the service number of R.M.A./ 12189. (His date of birth was recorded as 21st November, 1889. According to the 1911 Census – Sidney was aged 21 when in fact he would have been 24 or 25 years old).

The 1911 England Census listed Sidney A. Hinton as a 21 year old, Gunner in Royal Marine Artillery at Portland, Weymouth, Dorset.

The 1911 England Census recorded Caroline Hinton (widow, aged 59) living at Sutton Veny in a 5 roomed dwelling. Caroline had a total of 10 children, with 2 deceased at the time of the Census. Only 2 children were listed living with their mother – Albert Hinton (Gardener. aged 27) & Ernest (Farm Labourer, aged 25).

Gunner Sidney Arthur Hinton served with the following Divisions or Ships - Goliath (14 June 1909 – 21 July 1909); R.M. Artillery Headquarters (22 July – 28 February 1909); Vanguard (1 March 1910 – 27 March 1912); R.M. Artillery Headquarters (28 March 1912 – 29 April 1912); King Alfred (30 April 1912 – 217 January 1913); Carnarvon (28 January 1913 – 13 April 1913); R.M. Artillery Headquarters (14 April 1913 – 13 June 1913); Natal (14 June 1913 – 20 March 1914); R.M. Artillery Headquarters (21 March 1914 – 12 July 1914); Aboukir (13 July – 24 July 1914); R.M. Artillery Headquarters (25 July 1914 – 1 August 1914); Aboukir (2 August 1914 – 22 September 1914 – Lost at Sea). His character was always listed as very good.

Acting Bombardier Sidney Arthur Hinton was lost in action in North Sea as a result of enemy action on 22nd September, 1914, aged 27 years. He was aboard the H.M.S. *Aboukir* when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. He is remembered in UK De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919.

Probate details – Hinton, Sidney Arthur of The Lane, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire Bombardier H.M.S. *Aboukir* died 22 September, 1914 at sea. Administration - Salisbury 19 November to Caroline Hinton, widow. Effects £136 11s.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Bombardier Sidney Arthur Hinton, RMA/12189, H.M.S. *Aboukir*, Royal Marine Artillery, as the son of Mrs Caroline Hinton, of 41, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts, and late John Hinton.

Bombardier Sidney Arthur Hinton is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire – Panel 5 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/Cathy Sedgwick/2015

LOSS OF H.M.S. Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue

During the early months of World War 1 the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers, known as Cruiser Force C, in the area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. There was opposition to this patrol from many senior officers, including Admiral Jellicoe and Commodores Keyes and Tyrwhitt, on the grounds that the ships were very vulnerable to a raid by modern German surface ships and the patrol was nick named the "live bait squadron". The Admiralty maintained the patrol on the grounds that destroyers were not able to maintain the patrol in the frequent bad weather and that there were insufficient modern light cruisers available.



HMS Aboukir

In the early hours of September 20th 1914 the cruisers HMS *Euryalus*, HMS *Aboukir*, HMS *Hogue* and HMS *Cressy* were preparing to go on patrol under Rear Admiral Christian in *Euryalus*. Normally the patrol was under command of Rear Admiral Campbell in HMS *Bacchantes* but he was absent so Christian helped fill the gap although he had other duties. The weather was too bad for destroyers to be at sea and unfortunately *Euryalus* had to drop out due to lack of coal and weather damage to her wireless, Rear Admiral Christian had to remain with his ship rather than transfer to another ship as the weather was too bad to transfer. He delegated command to Captain Drummond in *Aboukir* although he did not make it clear that Drummond had the authority to order the destroyers to sea if the weather improved, which it did towards the end of September 21st.

Early on September 22nd 1914 the German submarine U9 under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen sighted the *Cressy, Aboukir* and *Hogue* steaming NNE at 10 knots without zigzagging. Although the patrols were supposed to maintain 12-13 knots and zigzag the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed and the zigzagging order was widely ignored as there had been no submarines sighted in the area during the war.

U9 manoeuvred to attack and at about 6.25 AM fired a single torpedo at *Aboukir*, which stuck her on her port side. *Aboukir* rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned, although only one boat had survived the attack so most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Drummond thought that *Aboukir* had been mined and signalled the other two cruisers to close and assist but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late.

As *Aboukir* rolled over and sank, half an hour after being attacked, U9 fired two torpedoes at HMS *Hogue* that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of *Hogue* had stopped the ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of *Aboukir*, thinking that as he was the other side of *Aboukir* from U9 he would be safe. Unfortunately U9 had manoeuvred around *Aboukir* and attacked *Hogue* from a range of only 300 yards.

The firing of two torpedoes affected the trim of U9 which broke the surface briefly and was fired on by *Hogue* without effect.

It only took *Hogue* ten minutes to sink as U9 headed for HMS *Cressy*. *Cressy*, under Captain Johnson, had also stopped to lower boats but got underway on sighting a periscope. At about 7.20 AM however U9 fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed but the other hit *Cressy* on her starboard side, *Cressy* briefly firing on U9s periscope with no effect.

The damage to *Cressy* was not fatal but U9 turned round and fired her last torpedo which hit *Cressy* sinking her within a quarter of an hour.

Survivors were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch *Flora* and *Titan* and the British trawlers *JGC* and *Corainder* before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. *Flora* returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of which were reservists or cadets.

In the aftermath of the attack the patrol by armoured cruisers was abandoned, the stopping of major ships in dangerous waters banned and the order to steam at 13 knots and zigzag re-emphasised.

A court of inquiry was set up and found that some blame was attributable to all of the senior officers involved - Captain Drummond for not zigzagging and for not calling for destroyers, Rear Admiral Christian was criticised for not making it clear to Drummond that he could summon the destroyers and Rear Admiral Campbell for not being present and for a very poor performance at the inquiry at which he stated that he did not know what the purpose of his command was. The bulk of the blame was directed at the Admiralty for persisting with a patrol that was dangerous and of limited value against the advice of senior sea going officers.

(Information on the Loss of HMS Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue – from World War 1 Naval Combat)



Map of site of wreck of HMS Aboukir (wrecksite)

Sidney A. Hinton is remembered on the 1914 -1919 Roll of Honour located inside St. John the Evangelist Church at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



S.A. Hinton is also honoured in the Casualties of World War 1 Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for the parish of Sutton Veny.

Sidney A. Hinton is also remembered on the Sutton Veny War Memorial located in the foreground of St. John the Evangelist churchyard.





Sutton Veny War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth)

Portsmouth Naval Memorial

The Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade, and is accessible at all times.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.

An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. The memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. The Portsmouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by the Duke of York (the future George VI) on 15 October 1924.

After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial commemorates around 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War. (*Information & photos from CWGC*)

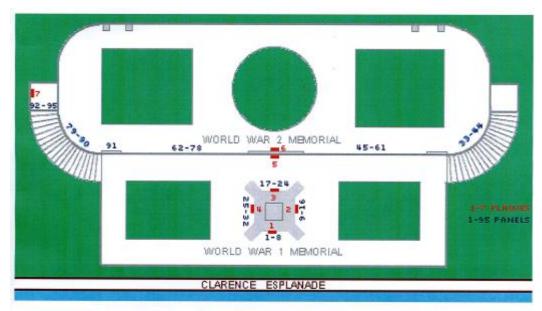






Portsmouth Naval Memorial - Panel 5

(Photo from Tim Backhouse/Geoff Allen – Memorials in Portsmouth)



http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/southsea/naval.htm