

George Powell.

Royal Navy.No. L7958. Officer's Cook 1st Class.

By the time of the declaration of war on Germany in 1918 George Powell had left his home county of Warwickshire. The Census of 1911 records that he was recently married and living with his wife Emily in Basingstoke but little is known of his movements thereafter, apart from what follows.

George was born on the 7th April 1883 in the hamlet of Walton, as was his siblings Amelia and William. His father William predominantly worked as a Carter on a Farm and the family moved to Wellesbourne, initially to Chapel Street and later to School Road. George attended the local Church of England school and after completing his education he trained to become a Baker.

A local newspaper report¹ towards the end of the war appeared to suggest that George had served as a soldier in France. There is however more compelling evidence in the form of his Royal Naval service record to refute this suggestion.

On the 2nd December 1915, prior to the introduction of conscription into the British Armed Forces, George perhaps decided that volunteering for the Royal Navy was perhaps a lesser evil to that of service in the Army and the trenches of Flanders. He was initially sent to Vivid 1, a training establishment within the Devonport Training Base. His rank was given as Officer's Cook, Grade II.



HMS Donegal

New Years Day of 1916 saw George join his first ship, the H.M.S. Donegal, a Monmouth Class Cruiser involved in mid Atlantic convoy escort, before the ship joined the 4th Cruiser Squadron in 1917 on further convoy duties in the North America and West Indies Stations. During early 1918 George became Officer's Cook, Grade 1. With the war now over, a return to Vivid 1 for a six month period in May 1919 was followed by reassignment to H.M.S Revenge, a Revenge Class Battleship that had been present at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. On the 21st October 1920 he was demobilised.

George was awarded the British War and Victory medals and in addition, at the end of December 1918, a Good Conduct Medal.

Researched by Grev Hudson (July 2016) (grev.hudson@btinternet.com)

¹ Stratford upon Avon Herald 15/11/1918 records T. Mann, H. Butcher, E. Smith and **G. Powell** are home from France.

Other sources: George Powell Service record National Archives ADM188/1003/7958

HMS Donegal - [wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Donegal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Donegal).

HMS Revenge - [wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Revenge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Revenge).