

Archibald Victor Maslen

died at sea 13 Jun 1918

age 30 years



In 1911, at the age of 24, Archibald Victor Maslen signed up for 12 years in the Royal Navy. He was a trained fitter and turner, and entered service as an Engine Room Artificer 4th Class. He remained in the Navy until his death at sea from a mine on 13th June 1918.

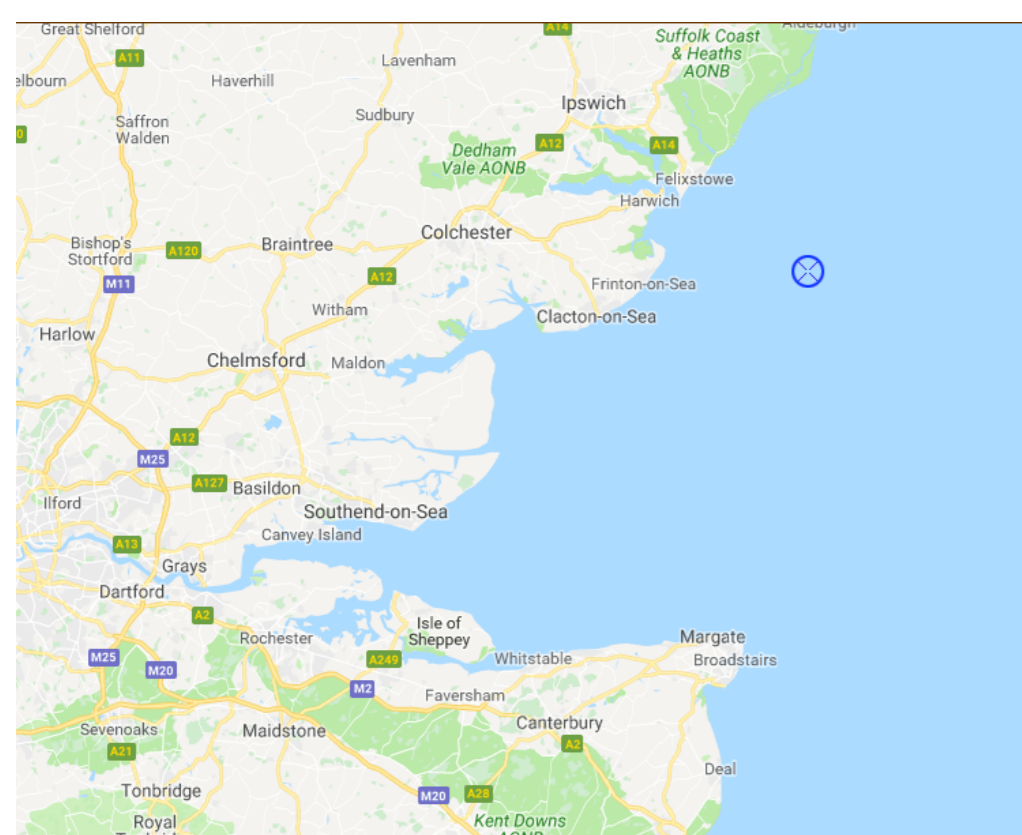
He had qualified as an ERA 2nd Class on the 20th December 1917 but at his death was still working as an ERA 3rd Class. According to his reviews, his performance had been very good every year of his service.

In 1917 Archibald had married Frances Emily Hazell in Hartley Wintney, and as she remained there during the last year of the war, he is buried in the cemetery there.

The Maslen family originally came from Wiltshire but in 1887, when Archibald was born, his father was working as a farm bailiff and the family were living at Kennel Farm House, Dummer. Archibald's mother Eleanor died in 1902 and his father, William remarried a couple of years later. Archibald's will names both his father and his stepmother Eliza Duthie Maslen.

By 1918 his father had returned to his roots in Wiltshire but Archibald's brother Alfred Joseph settled in Dummer working as the farm bailiff at Manor Farm. In 1919 Alfred and his wife Beatrice had a son who they named Archibald Victor Maslen in memory of his brother.

Sadly, history repeated itself when their son, who would have been Archibald's nephew, was killed on 2nd April 1944 whilst a Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force.



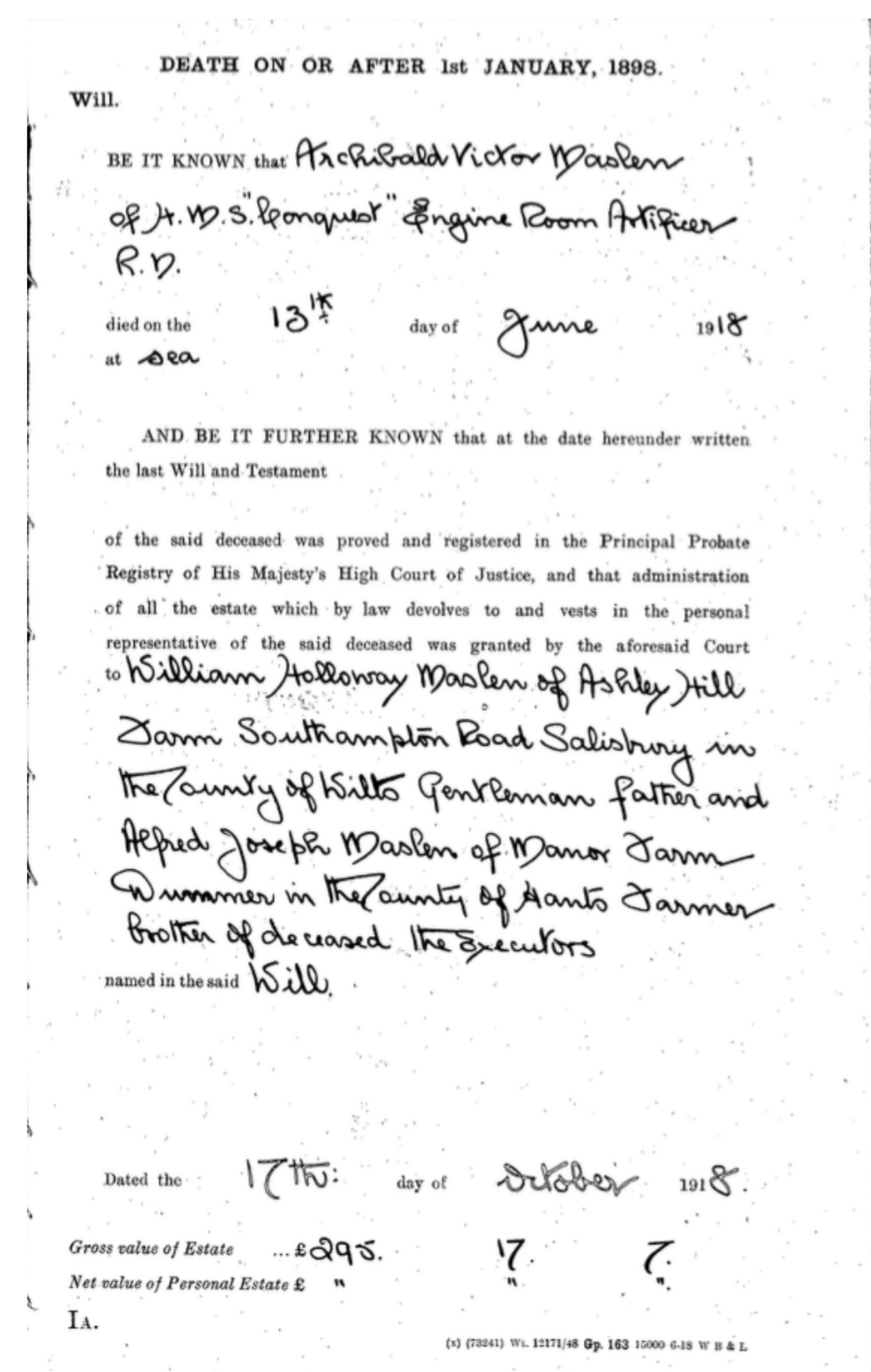
Position of HMS Conquest when she hit the mine



Archibald Victor Maslen's gravestone in Hartley Wintney Cemetery. His wife Frances Emily died on 23rd April 1966. She had not remarried.

List of ratings killed, owing to mining of H.M.S. 'Conquest'. 13 June '18.

| Name | Rating | Official No |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| Maslen A.V. | ERA. 3. | M 3628 |
| Pearcy, Bertie | ERA I. | EA 1709 |
| Holloway, John W. | Ldg. St. | K 9211 |
| Madder John J. | Ldg. St. | K 19615 |
| Pearcy, Samuel | St. I | 117427 |
| Clifton, Henry J. | Ldg. St. | K 17545 |
| Todge, Jack J. | St. | K 24447 |
| Gray, Charles | St. | K 25288 |
| Woolham, Fred | Ldg. St. | 303106 |



The probate declaration for Archibald Maslen's will giving the executors

Chatham M. 3628 M. 3628

Name: Archibald Victor Maslen Date of Birth: 12 September 1887

| Date and Period of Engagements | Age | Height | Build | Complexion | Wounds, Scars, or Marks |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--------|---------|------------|-------------------------|
| 21 September 1911 to 12 June 1918 | 27 | 5'9" | Slender | Dark | None |

| Ship, Ac., served in | List and No. | Rating | Sub-rating | Period of Service | Character & Ability | If Discharged, Where and for what cause | Remarks |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| Conquest | 15 | ERA 3 | | 12 June 1918 to 13 June 1918 | ERA 3 | | PAID WAR GRATUITY. |

Archibald Maslen's Service Record

HMS Conquest

HMS Conquest was a C-class light cruiser, laid down at Chatham Dockyard on 3rd March 1914 and launched 20th January 1915. She was commissioned in June of that year, and assigned to the 5th Light Cruiser Squadron, Harwich Force, guarding the eastern approaches to the English Channel. Her main armament consisted of four 6" guns and one 4" gun. Conquest was damaged on 25th April 1916 by German battlecruisers during the German raid of Lowestoft. On 5th June 1917, Conquest sank the German destroyer S20, but in June 1918 she was damaged by a mine and needed to be repaired. She survived the war, but was considered obsolete before the outbreak of WWII and was sold on 29th August 1930 as scrap.



The 13th June 1918 on board the HMS Conquest

A transcript of the original ship's log for a scheduled sailing from Harwich to Chatham

- 6am Cleaning ship
- 10.35am Slipped anchor and proceeded out of harbour. Course and speed as requisit to carry out full calibre firing
- 11am Had travelled 15 nautical miles
- 11.40am Struck mine Port side under after torpedo tubes. Loc 51° 50' 45"N 1° 34' 45"E. Ship steaming 22 knots under 20 degrees of Port Helm. Engines out of action. Hoisted N.U.C balls. [not under control]. Cockchafer [a RN Insect-class gunboat] took ship in tow and cast off about 12.20
- 12.40pm HMS Curacoa [a C-class light cruiser] took ship in tow and proceeded towards Chatham via Black Deep and Oaze Deep. Speed 7 knots. Hands employed as required shoring up bulkheads, shifting weights, putting out fires, turning out boats and carley floats
- 1.55 Sunk Head buoy
- 4.00 Edinburgh Light Vessel abeam.
- 4.06 Tug Sandboy from Sheerness came alongside
- 4.15 Tug Security from Sheerness came alongside
- 4.42 Tug Succour from Sheerness came alongside
- 4.55 Long Sand Head bell buoy abeam
- 5.54 W Oaze
- 6.30 Curacoa cast off tow off Outer Dan buoy. Ship proceeded in tow of tugs towards Chatham. Speed about 5 knots.
- 8.18 Passed through Sheerness boom.
- 10.10 Secured alongside Swiftsure [battleship] off Folly Point. Tugs remained alongside pumping out ship.
- Lost as a result of explosion - 9 men
- 4.5 tons of coal and 302 tons of oil fuel
- 5 stop watches and 2 thermometers.