

Able Seaman

JAMES HARDWILL

R/3577 Drake Battalion, R.N. Division, Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve

Killed in action 4 September 1918

Aged 26

Buried Moeuvres Communal Cemetery Extension

Grave III.B.17



James Hardwill was born on 2 April 1892 at Merridge, near Spaxton, the third and youngest son of Henry James Hardwill (1850-1927) and Jane Hook. He was universally known as Jim. His father James had moved around a great deal: Farm Bailiff for his father at Cothelstone, Farm Manager at Thurloxton, tenant at Spaxton, Steart and Donyatt, finally coming to Buckland Farm, Buckland St Mary in 1901. He bought Meanwood Farm, Buckland in 1916. Jim's mother died in December 1904 and was buried on the 27th of that month at Buckland St Mary church. James senior was a short, portly and extremely broad man with a large but very tidy three inch long beard. When he died he was only five feet and eight inches tall and yet he weighed eighteen stone!

An Army reservist since 11 December 1915, Jim was called up for service late in 1916. In January 1917, as reported in the *Taunton Courier*, his father appealed to the Chard Rural Tribunal for an adjournment of their decision on call up until Lady Day (25 March) when he intended to take a smaller farm. This was refused, although it was agreed to delay Jim's call-up until that date. In fact it was delayed further, an appeal being heard on 2 June; the appeal was allowed, but the exemption terminated. By this time Jim was working for Thomas Podbury of Buckland as a Farm Carter. The Appeal Chairman (Judge the Hon.W.B.Lindley) was unsympathetic to this, remarking that: 'He ought to have gone into the Army before....His former exemption was terminated when Mr Podbury took him into his employ.' Thus are men's destinies decided.

Just before this, on 14th May, a Resolution was passed by the Somerset War Agricultural Executive Committee: *'In view of the necessity of bringing more land into cultivation and increasing the production of the land at present in cultivation, no more men should be taken from agriculture, without the consent of the War Agricultural Executive Committee.'* This was to be sent to the Prime Minister and the War Office among others; not a position that Judge Lindley would have supported, it seems.

On 20 June 1917 he was taken onto the strength of 2nd Reserve Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Blandford. Because he was in the Navy, Jim's Service Records (unlike many army records) have survived, so we have a full record of his service career. The RND was formed in August 1914 when there was a shortfall in land forces. They served at Gallipoli, but mainly on the Western Front. The RND retained naval traditions, even while on land. They flew the White Ensign, used bells to signal time, used naval language (including "going ashore" and "coming on board"), and continued to use naval ranks rather than army equivalents. Attempts to convert the RND to conform to army practices were tried but were generally unsuccessful!

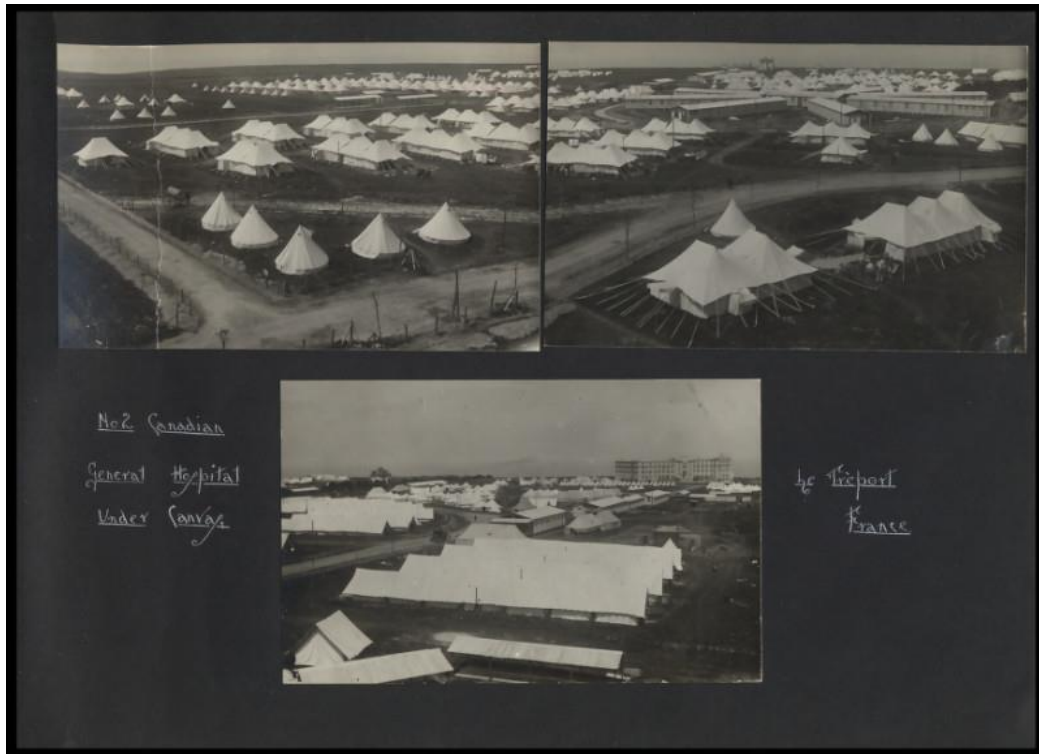
Jim's Service Record shows that on 13 October 1917 he was transferred to the BEF in France from the 2nd Reserve Battalion and on 16 October was promoted from Ordinary to Able Bodied Seaman. Drake Battalion was part of the British XIX Corps which formed in France in February 1917 and fought at the Battle of Passchendaele in Autumn 1917. In Spring 1918 it was driven back 20 miles in five days and found itself in disarray. By November 1918 the Corps, as an element of Second Army, was one of the most northerly British military formations in France.

On 23 November 1917 Jim joined Drake Battalion, some 5 plus weeks after the order sending him to it.

On 1 January 1918 he was admitted to Number 9 General Hospital at Rouen with 'mild bronchitis'. This Base Hospital was part of the casualty evacuation chain, further back from the front line than the Casualty Clearing Stations. In the theatre of war in France and Flanders, the British hospitals were generally located near the coast. They needed to be close to a railway line, in order for casualties to arrive (although some also came by canal barge); they also needed to be near a port where men could be evacuated for longer-term treatment in Britain. In January 1918 Number 9 General Hospital was being run by the Americans. The bronchitis was obviously not that 'mild' and on 14 January he was transferred back to a War Hospital in Reading and the Senior Medical Officer was informed.

On 4 February 1918 he was discharged from hospital and granted furlough from 2nd to 11th March, at the end of which he reported back to 2nd Reserve Battalion, now in Aldershot, presumably after some additional training. He made his Soldier's Will on 30 March; he left everything (£113.11.8) to his father. He was then returned to France, rejoining Drake Battalion on 19 April 1918, having missed the first onslaught of the German Spring offensive.

On 11 May 1918 he was back in hospital again, this time into No 2 Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport. His record shows he was suffering from Pyrexia, the medical term usually applied to Trench Fever. During WW1, Le Treport was an important hospital centre. No 2 Canadian



General Hospital, one of 6, was established there in March 1915. In all they contained nearly 10,000 beds. Discharged on 15 July 1918 Jim was back with Drake Battalion on 23 August.

One can't help but wonder whether all these health problems were a reflection of his inner turmoil at being in France and in the Services at all. By 1917 England was struggling to keep itself fed in the face of highly successful U-Boat attacks on its shipping. War Agricultural Boards had been formed to make sure agricultural production was maximized. From a 21st century perspective one must wonder how sensible it was to remove farmers from the land where they could have done a useful job, and turn them into no more than cannon fodder – see the views of the Somerset War Agricultural Executive Committee quoted earlier.

In early August 1918 the Naval Division moved into the Montigny area, south of the Albert-Amiens road. A new offensive from the north, Bapaume, was planned, and for this the Naval Division was transferred to the IVth Corps which held the Front north of Beaumont Hamel, through Bucquoy. Marching only at night, the Division moved North (15th-19th August) to Souastre in preparation for the attack on the 21st. The first set of objectives were Bucquoy, Ablainzeville and Ablainzeville Spur. The IVth Corps and the Naval Division were assigned to the secondary set of objectives, the Irles-Bihucourt line and further north the Achiet-le-Grand-Arras railway. General Lawrie also set an intermediate objective known as the Brown line slightly to the east of Logeast Wood, which was to be attacked by eight companies, including two from the Drake Battalion.

No 2 Canadian General Hospital



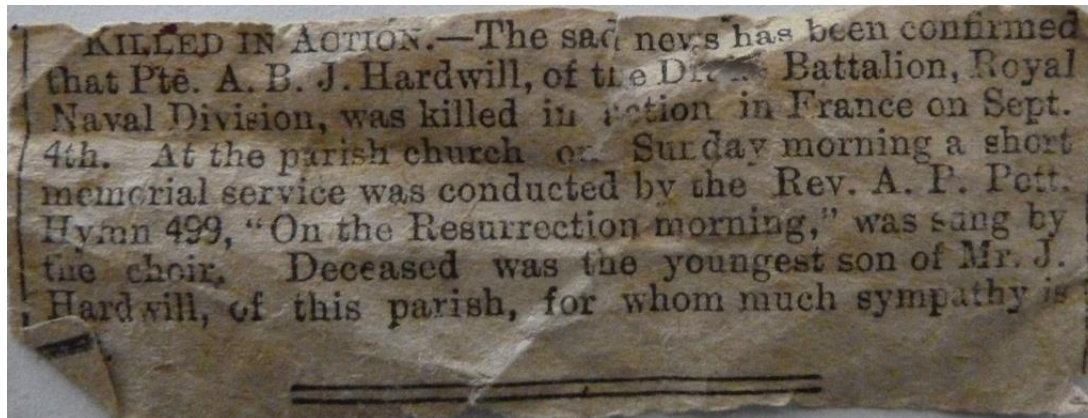
On the 20th all units managed to reach the Brown line having encountered virtually no opposition; the Germans had speedily retreated to a new line of defence further to the east. In attempting to press on, the Drakes found themselves halted on the outskirts of Achiet-le-Grand by well entrenched enemy forces, equipped with anti-tank guns and strengthened by fresh reserves. The British Infantry, without artillery support, made a gallant attack on the German lines, but were beaten back with heavy losses from most of the positions. The advanced posts, however, held firm.

On the 22nd, the British line held against three counter-attacks. The following day, when Jim rejoined the Drakes, saw another German retreat, to a line running through Grevillers, Loupart Wood and Warlencourt. In light of this, an attack was planned for the evening of the 24th which would see the Naval Division work in concert with the New Zealand Division. Drake Battalion was to clear a communication trench, which ran along the right of the Divisional boundary to the German trenches, halfway between Loupart Wood and the Albert-Bapaume Road. Despite early success, heavy resistance was met on the south-west corner of Loupart Wood and both the Hawke and Hood Battalion Commanders became casualties. By midday the enemy resistance broke and the attack was now taken to the villages of le Barque, Thillois and Ligny Thillois. Here the Germans' strength in depth proved too much for the attacking forces and they were unable to reach the final objective, Riencourt. Despite this, the rest of the operations had proved to be a great success, the enemies' communications had been cut and Bapaume was effectively isolated.

August 30th saw the Naval Division in action again, this time at the Second Battle of Arras with Sir Charles Fergusson's XVIIth Corps. The immediate object was to seize the northern end of the Hindenburg system and the Drocourt-Queant system behind it, ideally forcing the enemy to retire east of the Somme and relinquish their hold on Lys falling back to the lines of the Canal du Nord and Canal St.

Quent. The intermediate objectives were met with rapid success and the next step was to advance on Inchy. Before these instructions had, however, reached the Battalions Commander Beak had made on his own initiative a deeply penetrating advance across the railway to Pronville (south-east of Queant), capturing on the way a substantial part of the Hindenburg support line.

There then followed another attack in the area of Logeast Wood on 4 September when Jim was killed, just two months before the end of the War. He is buried in Moeuvres Communal Cemetery near Cambrai, his body having been exhumed from its battlefield burial site SW of Cambrai in April 1920.



[This account is almost entirely the work of the Hardwill Family Historian, Graham Bone. Any errors introduced are mine! My grateful thanks to him and to Philip Hardwill.]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Reference:- | | PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | |
| RG12/1880 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Administrative County of SOMERSET The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the Parish of St Mary Page 18

Civil Parish of St Mary Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of St Mary Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District of St Mary Rural District of St Mary Parliamentary Borough or Urban District of St Mary Town or Village or Hamlet of St Mary

| House No. | ROAD STREET No. and Name of HOUSE | HOUSES | Name and Surname of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family | Age last Birthday | PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION | Employer, Worker, or Own account | Where BORN | (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Insane (5) Feeble-minded |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 19 | Crook St. | 1 | James Hardwell | Head | 50 | Farmer | Employer at home | Somerset, Kingston | |
| | | | Jane | Wife | 24 | | | Suffolk | |
| | | | Harry | Son | 14 | Farmer's son | Worker | Somerset, Hurleston | |
| | | | John | Son | 16 | | | Sharnon | |
| | | | Grace | Son | 8 | | | | |
| | | | James | Son | 4 | | | Stear | |
| | | | Martha | Son | | | | | |
| | Horseshoe | 1 | | | | | | | |
| End of the Parish of St Mary | | | | | | | | | |
| Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Houses | | 1 | Total of Males and of Females | | 3 | 5 | | | |

Note—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

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ON SCALE 1 2 3 4 5 6

1901 CENSUS FOR HARDWILL FAMILY

CENSUS

OF

ENGLAND AND WALES,

1911.



SCHEDULE.

Prepared pursuant to the Census (Great Britain) Act, 1910.

This space to be filled up by the Enumerator.

Number of Registration District.....

Number of Registration Sub-District.....

Number of Enumeration District.....

Name of Head
of Family or
Separate Occupier. }

Mr Hardwell

Postal Address.....

Buckland Farm

*Buckland St Mary
Church*

NOTICE.

This Schedule must be filled up and signed by, or on behalf of, the Head of the Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of the dwelling (house, tenement or apartment).

If the dwelling is let to two or more occupiers each

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

Number of Schedule 65
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

| NAME AND SURNAME | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family | AGE (Date of Birth and Sex) | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE | | | | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards | | | | BIRTHPLACE of every person. | NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. | INFIRMITY. |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| | | | State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of— | Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," opposite the present name of the person, aged 15 years and upwards. | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) | | | |
| 1. James Henry Hardwell | Head | 60 | Married | | | | | | Farmer | 150 | Worcestershire | Spencer | Resided Lydney |
| 2. Ethel Hardwell | Daughter | 28 | Single | | | | | | Housekeeper | | Worcestershire | Spencer | Resided Lydney |
| 3. James Hardwell | Son | 19 | Single | | | | | | Worked in Home Father's occupation | | Worcestershire | Spencer | Resided Lydney |
| 4. Martha Hardwell | Daughter | 14 | | | | | | | | | Worcestershire | Spencer | Resided Lydney |
| 5. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

| | | | |
|--|-------|---------|---------|
| I certify that— | | Total | |
| (1) I have entered the names and surnames in Column 1 and 2 respectively, and have assigned them one with the usual number of persons. | Males | Females | Persons |
| (2) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous. | 2 | 2 | 4 |

Signature James H. Hardwell
Postal address Lydney, Gloucestershire

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1911 CENSUS, AND COVER, FOR HARDWILL FAMILY

JANUARY 17, 1917.

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CHARD RURAL TRIBUNAL.

SINGLE MEN TO BE SUBSTITUTED.

MEDICAL BOARD TO SIT AT CHARD.

TUESDAY.—Mr. J. Lean presided. Mr. C. J. S. King represented the military, Mr. W. Salter Bevis, the representative of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, being absent through severe illness.

SINGLE MEN AND SUBSTITUTION.—James Hardwill, jun. (24), single, Class A, of Shepton Beauchamp, was appealed for by his father, who asked for adjournment till Lady-day, when he intended taking a smaller farm.—Refused, not to be called till March 25th.—Walter R. Wride, single (24), Class A, cowman with his father at Horton Farm, Ilminster (who farms 200 acres, with practically no help but the applicant), was exempt till April 1st, pending the supply of a substitute.—Fred Perrott, married (24), single until two months ago, Class A, employed as cowman by Mr. R. Podbury, of Buckland St. Mary, who holds 150 acres, and is himself partially crippled, had his case adjourned for substitution.—W. H. J. Austin (18), Class Bii, carter with his uncle at Howley, was exempt till April 1st, a substitute to be found meanwhile.—Charles Harris, single (22), Class A, carter with his father (who is partially crippled), at Whitestaunton, was similarly dealt with.—It was stated there was a good supply of substitutes as farm carters available.—A similar decision was given in the case of Tom Hurford, single (23), Class A, Combe St. Nicholas, carter on his father's farm of 330 acres.—Charles Phillips (34), single, Class Cii, cowman

THE COURIER, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1917

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SOMERSET APPEAL TRIBUNAL

CHARD AND WILLITON CASES.

The Somerset Appeal Tribunal, at Taunton, on Saturday, dealt with twenty-four applications, seventeen of which were military appeals. The cases were mainly from the Chard and Williton districts. Judge the Hon. W. B. Lindley presided, and Mr. F. S. Copleston acted as military representative, whilst Mr. R. R. C. Vernon, D.S.O., attended on behalf of the Board of Agriculture.

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The local tribunal had exempted to July 1st (for substitution) Frank Pring (21), single, Class A, cowman, of Peasmarsh, Ilminster, in the employ of Mr. J. Lawrence, farmer.—Against this the military appealed, and their application was dismissed.

Similar exemption had been granted to Arthur Rowley (21), single, Class A, carter, in the employ of Mr. W. E. Reed, of the Manor Farm, Whites-taunton, who farms 500 acres (250 arable); Robert Alfred Hellier (24), single, Class A, carter, in the employ of his father, Mr. John Hellier, of Combe St. Nicholas, who farms 102 acres; James Hardwill, jun. (24), single, Class A, carter, in the employ of Mr. Thomas Podbery, of Buckland St. Mary, who farms 156 acres.—The military appealed in each case, and their applications for Rowley and Hellier were dismissed, but the tribunal allowed the appeal for Hardwill, and terminated his exemption.—The Chairman remarked that Hardwill ought to have gone into the Army before. His former exemption was terminated when Mr. Podbery took him into his employ.

Wilfred William Stone (28), single, Class A.

SECOND APPEAL JUNE 1917

JAMES HARDWILL SERVICE RECORD

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <div>Ordinary Seaman Able Bodied Seaman</div> | | <div>Discharged, Dead</div> | | <div>Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve</div> | |
| | | <div>Reservist</div> | | <div>Blandford</div> | |
| <p>DISCHARGED. DD.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Name and Number</p> | | <p>James HARDWILL.R/3577.</p> | | <p>[104] 1151A/M 1523 5000 (2) 4/17 1345 G & S 110</p> | |
| | | <p>Branch of Service R.N.V.R.</p> | | | |
| <p>Rank or Rating</p> | | <p>O.S. A.B.</p> | | | |
| <p>Dates</p> | | <p>1.10.17.</p> | | | |
| <p>Next of Kin</p> | | <p>Father.</p> | | | |
| <p>Name</p> | | <p>James Hardwill,</p> | | | |
| <p>Address</p> | | <p>Meanwood Farm, Buckland St Mary, NR.CHARD.</p> | | | |
| <p>Date of Entry</p> | | <p>ARMY RESERVE 11.12.15. RNVR for R.N.D.18.6.17.</p> | | | |
| <p>Date of Birth</p> | | <p>2.4.1892.</p> | | | |
| <p>Badges</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Religion</p> | | <p>C.of E.</p> | | | |
| | | <p>Where Serving</p> | | | |
| | | <p>18.6.17.2nd Reserve Battalion B'ford.</p> | | | |
| | | <p>13.10.17. Drake Battn.RND.,B.E.F.</p> | | | |
| | | <p>1.4.18. Drake Battn.RND.,B.E.F.</p> | | | |
| | | <p>Royal Naval Division British Expeditionary Force</p> | | | |

Joined the Army Reserve first in 1915 and then transferred to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1917 to serve in a Royal Naval Division where he would effectively be a soldier anyway!

21.6.17.D0/172(2nd Res.Bn)Reported and taken on strength 20.6.17.
 13.10.17.Drafted to Drake Battn.B.E.F.from 2nd Res.Bn.B'ford.(RB).
 23.10.17.BEF.D.O.79. From Base Depot,Calais, 19.10.17. to join Unit.
 16.10.17. D0/288.(2nd Res:Battn) Rated A.B. commencg: 1.10.17.(3034)
 2.11.17.BEF.D.O.88. Joined XIX Corps Reinforcement Camp,19.10.17.
 23.11.17.BEF.D.O.88. Joined Drake Battn. 13.11.17.
 1.1.18.HA/17840.Adm 9 GH,Rouen 25.12.17.Bronchitis Mild.AFB/104-80a.
 14.1.18. AFW3026a Adm: Reading War Hospt: Reading, 11.1.18. Bronchitis.
 14.1.18. SMO informed. (Also HB/9810)
 26.1.18. BEF.D.O.6. To Field Amb. 21.12.17. Bronchitis. Invalided 9.1.18.
 4.2.18. Recd. AFB/103, 14.10.17, emb.Folkes.disemb.Boul;15.10.17, jd. BD.
 13.2.18. Form forw. to SCO.B'ford.
 4.3.18. AFW.3016 recd. Furlough. 2/11.3.18. Class I.
 12.3.18. D.O/61,(2nd Res.Bn) Reported ex/"Drake" Battn. 11.3.18.(C
 1.4.18. Drafted to Drake Battn.BEF.from 2nd Res.Bn.Aldershot.
 19.4.18. Drake 32. Joined Battn.,8.4.18.
 11.5.18. HA/23012.Adm 2. Can GH.Le Treport 3.5.18. PUO .AFB.104-80a.
 10.5.18. Drake 58. To field amb.,2.5.18.
 28.6.18. HA/25245. Adm.3 Con.Dep.Le Treport 21.6.18.
 15.7.18. HA/26062. Dis.to Base Dtls.ex 3 Con.Dep.Le Treport 7.7.18.
 16.7.18. Drake.59. From Hospt: to L.BD, 8.7.18. S.
 23.8.18. Drake 70. Rejoined Battn.from Base. 13.8.18.
 20.9.18. Drake 82. Killed in Action,4.9.18.NOK.inf.25.9.18.RND.List No.1295.
 26.9.18.C/1693"Killed in Action" 4.9.18.

21 Jun 17 - Drafting Order 172 (2nd Reserve Battalion) - as above

13 Oct 17 - Transferred to Drake Battalion British Expeditionary Force from the 2nd Reserve Battalion, Blandford (Rifle Brigade (?))

23 Oct 17 - British Expeditionary Force Drafting Order 79 - order sending him to his unit

16 Oct 17 - Drafting Order 288 - 'promotion' from ordinary to able bodied seaman to indicate greater experience

2 Nov 17 - Joined XIX Corps reinforcement camp on his way to Drake Battalion

(British XIX Corps was formed in France in February 1917 and fought at the Battle of Passchendaele in Autumn 1917. In Spring 1918 it was driven back 20 miles in five days and found itself in disarray. By November 1918 the Corps, as an element of Second Army, was one of the most northerly British military formations in France.)

23 Nov 17 - joined Drake Battalion some 5 plus weeks after the order sending him to it

1 Jan 18 - Hospital Admission 17840. Administration Number 9 General Hospital at Rouen with mild bronchitis. AFB (Army Form Book) 104-80a was the form used for hospital admissions

(The Base Hospital was part of the casualty evacuation chain, further back from the front line than the Casualty Clearing Stations. They were manned by troops of the Royal Army Medical Corps, with attached Royal Engineers and men of the Army Service Corps. In the theatre of war in France and Flanders, the British hospitals were generally located near the coast. They needed to be close to a railway line, in order for casualties

to arrive (although some also came by canal barge); they also needed to be near a port where men could be evacuated for longer-term treatment in Britain. In Jan **18 No 9** GH was being run by the Americans)

14 Jan 18 - The bronchitis was obviously not that 'mild' as he was transferred back to a War Hospital in Reading and the Senior Medical Officer (SMO) was informed

26 Jan 18 - a belated BEF Drafting Order recording that James had been invalided on 27 Dec 17 with bronchitis via the Field Ambulance. The Field Ambulance was part of the chain back to the General and Stationary Hospitals

4 Feb 18 - AFB 103 was the Army Casualty Sheet form, here recording discharge from hospital and being sent back to France via Folkestone and Boulogne where he joined British Division (??)

13 Feb 18 - recording form (presumably AFB103) being forwarded to the Senior Chief Officer at Blandford

4 Mar 18 - FW3016 (Furlough Warrant) was the form at that time granting leave, here from 2 to 11 Mar 18. Not sure what Class 1 means but I suspect the class of furlough determined where that leave was to be taken - France or England. In this case Class 1 must have been England as on 11 Mar 18 we see James reporting at the end of his leave to 2nd Reserve Battalion, now in Aldershot.

1 Apr 18 - drafted back to Drake Battalion with the British Expeditionary Force from Aldershot

19 Apr 18 - rejoins Drake Battalion

11 May 18 - Another hospital admission, this time into No 2 Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport

PUO : Pyrexia of Unknown Origin (medical term usually applied to Trench Fever)

10 May 18 - another belated entry to record his transit to No 2 General via the Field Ambulance

28 Jun 18 - Transfer from the hospital to No 3 Convalescent Depot, also in Le Treport (During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre. No.3 General Hospital was established there in November 1914, No.16 General Hospital in February 1915, No.2 Canadian General Hospital in March 1915, No.3 Convalescent Depot in June 1915 and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital in July 1916. These hospitals contained nearly 10,000 beds. No.47 General Hospital arrived in March 1917 and later that year, a divisional rest camp and a tank training depot were established in the neighbourhood.)

15 Jul 18 - discharge from Convalescent Depot to Base Details (This typically included clerks who dealt with admin and looked after effects left at the base and battle casualty replacements)

16 Jul 18 - A Drake Order also recording transfer to Base Details. Not sure what the L or the S mean

23 Aug 18 - Rejoins Drake Battalion

20 Sep 19 - Drake Order recording James was killed in action on 4 Sep 18, that his Next of Kin were informed on 25 Sep 18 and recorded on the Royal Naval Division casualty list

Able Bodied Seaman James Hardwill

26 Sep 18 - placed on the Missing Person (?) List

26 Sep 18 - I believe the AFB 2090a is a record of death

1 Oct 18 - placed on the Royal Naval Division Discharged, Deceased list

2 Oct 18 - AG6 (Adjutant General's Office) used to look after my records so I presume AG14 was an RNVR equivalent

14 Oct 18 - not sure what DC was - a standard Deceased Card, Death Commemoration? The rest is just administration less the recording of James' exhumation from his battlefield burial place to a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery

JAMES HARDWILL'S SERVICE RECORD INTERPRETED (BY GRAHAM BONE)



BUCKLAND FARM TODAY

JAMES HARDWILL'S WILL

It was a service Will, witnessed by a Navy Sub Lieutenant and an Able Bodied Seaman -

HARDWILL, JAMES

"Will. In the event of my death I appoint my father James Hardwill^[2] of Meanwood Farm, Buckland St Mary, Nr Chard Executor of this my last Will and Testament and I give to him the whole of my property and effects -

James Hardwill

A.B. R.3577^[3]

30.3.18

J. S. H. Cole, Sub Lt

H. Woods A.B.

Affidavit that Testator made)

his Will while a seaman in)

actual naval service filed.) On the 4th day of February
1919. Probate of this Will was

granted at Taunton to James Hardwill, the sole Executor.

National Wills Index: Hardwill, James of Buckland St Mary, Somersetshire, able seaman, died 4 September 1918. Killed in Action in France. Probate Taunton 4 February 1919 to James Hardwill farmer. £113-11-8."



JAMES HARDWILL'S GRAVE WITH HIS NEPHEW PHILIP HARDWILL 2014