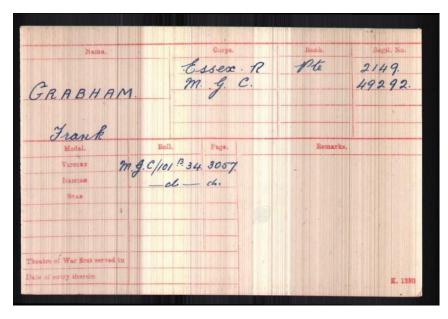
# FRANCIS CHARLES GRABHAM, ?Private 2149 Essex Regiment ?Private 49292 Machine Gun Corps ?Able Seaman J43718, HMS Pembroke

Francis, or Frank, was the youngest surviving son of Abraham Grabham, retired Marine. He was born in Buckland St Mary in 1900, and baptised on March 4, so is there at just one year old in the 1901 Census, the youngest of the whole family. In 1911 he was a patient in the Taunton & Somerset Hospitals in East Reach, Taunton (we don't know why), so is on their Census return.

Discovering the details of his Army career is more problematic. Born in January 1900 he would not have been called up till 1918. His Service Records don't survive, and the only possible record found so far is of a Private in the Essex Regiment and then the Machine Gun Corps. At that stage of the War service in one's Home Regiment was unlikely – recruits were sent to whichever Regiment had a need. However, Forces War Records dates these records to 1914, which is impossible, given Frank's age.



This leaves only the record of Frank Grabham, Ordinary Seaman J.43718 on HMS Pembroke, which is dated to 1918.

He's listed in Buckland St Mary School's Roll of Honour as one who served, but without any detail. He's not in the Absent Voters Register for 1918 or 1919, but at 18 he would have been too young (21 was the

minimum voting age at that time).

He married Emily Blackmore in 1923; they had three sons. The family appears on the 1939 Register of England and Wales; they were farming at Whitty Farm, Curland – Francis was a dairy farmer and wheelwright. There's a brief report in *The Taunton Courier* of a dramatic farm accident he had in 1940.

Taunton Courier, May 18 1940

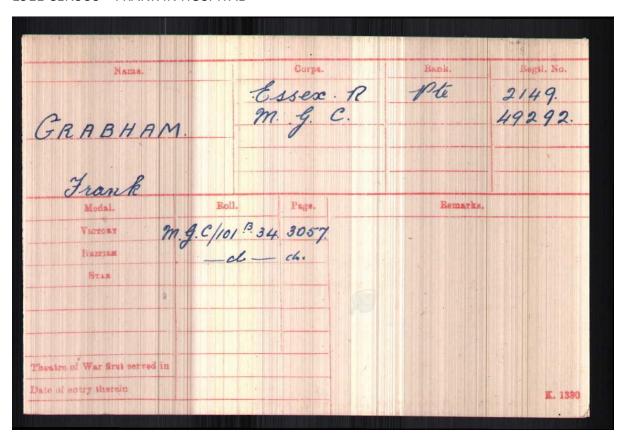


Frank died in 1962, leaving his estate to Emily.

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### 1911 CENSUS – FRANK IN HOSPITAL



**First Name:** 

Frank

Surname:

Grabham

Information:

Medal Entitlement issued to HMS Pembroke.

Rank:

Ordinary Seaman

**Service Number:** 

J.43718

Service:

Royal Navy

Ship:

**HMS** Pembroke

**Archive Reference:** 

ADM 171/103

## HMS Pembroke during World War 1

More information about HMS Pembroke

#### **Collections:**

Roll of Naval War Medals 1914-1920

Royal Navy Medals 1914-1919

ANOTHER POSSIBLE SERVICE RECORD FOR FRANK GRABHAM

E.D. Letter Code. W.P.W. W	1	Boroug	th, U.D. or R.D. Yaunter	, k		Regist	ration nd Sub	Distri -distri	ot 305//	
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## Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser - Saturday 18 May 1940

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