

## **HARRY THOMAS STRAWBRIDGE, Acting Captain, Royal Navy**

Harry was one of the four children of dairyman Harry Strawbridge and his wife Annie of Whatley, Winsham. Harry senior died early, aged only 31, in 1894. In 1901 Harry was living with his Grandparents George & Rhoda Farrant in Street Ash. He attended Buckland School, and is on their Roll of Honour.

In January 18 1909 Harry signed up for 12 years with the Royal Navy. He was 18, and had been working as a Baker. He had light brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion; he was still growing – he went from 5ft 5<sup>1/4</sup> in 1909 to 5ft7in. He began on HMS Impregnable as a Boy, Class 2. By October 1915 he was a Petty Officer, having progressed through Ordinary Seaman, Able Seaman and Leading Seaman. By 1921 he was a Lieutenant; his Certificate of Service as Master of a Foreign-going Ship survives. By 1926 he was confirmed as Lieut Commander, retiring as Commander in 1935; he served as Acting Captain in WW2, retiring in 1945. In 1944 he was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours. He appears, as far as is apparent, to have gone through both World Wars without injury.

His Statement of Service (ADM/196/154) writes of him in mostly glowing terms. In June 1918 his Captain assesses him as 'Sat[isfactory]. Above Av[erage]. Specially recommended for promotion.....is both zealous and capable.' And in 1922 'Sat[isfactory]. Ab[ove] av[erage]. Has acted as the Exec[utive] Off[icer] & in that capacity has been very zealous & capable. As CO on a certain occasion, when a body of seamen refused duty, he showed commendable firmness and restraint.'

All the ships on which he served are listed, starting with training ship HMS Impregnable, in 1909.



Harry married early; this marriage ended in divorce in 1933. He married Violet King in 1934. He died in December 1981 in Rhodesia, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

*HMS Impregnable*

*HMS Pandora  
(Second ship)*



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List of Officers, Crew, and Royal Marines on Board at midnight on Sunday, April 2nd, 1911.

13.	NAME AND SURNAME.	AGE on 1st Birthday.	CONDITION of MARRIAGE.	RANK or RATING and BRANCH of SERVICE.	PORT OF ORIGIN.	ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS for 11. M. Ships in Stations or Colonial Waters.
1	William George Leachman	20	Single	A.B.	Executive	Devon, W. Water, Newton 150
2	Eli John Dixon	23	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 360
3	James Edmund Ryder	35	"	Stoker	Engineer	Devon, Devonport 150
4	John Keirchell	23	"	Stoker Petty Officer	"	Devon, Newton 150
5	William Thomas	26	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
6	William Valentine Jones	25	Married	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
7	Alfred Hickman	22	Single	A.B.	Executive	Devon, Newton 150
8	Thomas Bernard Davis	33	Married	Stoker Petty Officer	Engineer	Devon, Newton 150
9	Richard Woodcock	24	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
10	Michael Rowe	29	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
11	John Stanley Thompson	21	Single	A.B.	Executive	Devon, Newton 150
12	Edmund William Brown	24	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
13	James Brown	28	"	Leading Seaman	"	Devon, Newton 150
14	George Hennessy	24	"	A.B.	"	Devon, Newton 150
15	George Pearce	28	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
16	Robert Hobson	29	"	Signaller	"	Devon, Newton 150
17	James Hughes	24	"	A.B.	"	Devon, Newton 150
18	Alfred Jeff	30	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
19	Frederick George Bennett	23	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
20	Albert Charles Woodward	19	"	2nd Writer	Accountant	Devon, Newton 150
21	Patrick Joseph Sullivan	25	"	2nd Writer	"	Devon, Newton 150
22	Red George Moore Cooper	24	"	A.B.	Executive	Devon, Newton 150
23	David Deschamps	20	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
24	Harry James Strickland	20	Married	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
25	Alfred John Fox	41	"	Chief Petty Officer	Artisan	Devon, Newton 150
26	James Charles O'Connell	31	"	Painter	"	Devon, Newton 150
27	Charles W. O'Connell	35	Single	Plumber	"	Devon, Newton 150
28	John Robert Bourne	23	"	A.B.	Executive	Devon, Newton 150
29	John W. Gilroy	22	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150
30	Frank Edward Johnson	27	"	"	"	Devon, Newton 150

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Name in full } Harry Thomas Strawbridge
 Date of Birth 18 January 1891  
 Place of Birth Barnard, Somerset  
 Occupation Baker

Date and Period of C. S. Engagements.	Age.	Height. Ft. in.	Hair.	Eyes.	Complexion.	Wounds, Scars, Marks, etc.
18 January 1909-12 yrs.	18	5' 5 1/2	Dark Grey	Grey	Fresh	

Ships, etc., served in.	List and No.	Rating.	Sub-ratings.			Badges.	Period of Service.		Character.	If Discharged, Whither, and for what Cause.
			Rating.	From	To		From	To		
Impregnable	15 <sup>th</sup> 702	Boy	15.12.11	18.1.12	15	18.1.12	15	15		
"	15 <sup>th</sup> 1245	" I	25.9.11	26.2.15	15	28 Oct 07	25 May 08			
Sulley	15 <sup>th</sup> 9	"				26 May 08	10 Sep 08			
Vivid	15 <sup>th</sup> 1000	"				11 Sep 08	14 Oct 08			
Pandora	5 <sup>th</sup> 59	"				5 Oct 08				
"	15 <sup>th</sup> 51	Ord.				18 Jan 09	14 Oct 10	VG 3.12.09		
"	15 <sup>th</sup> 1577	U.B.				18 Oct 10	22 Nov 10	VG 3.12.10		
Dido	15 <sup>th</sup> 161	"				22 Nov 10	22 Jan 11	VG 3.12.11		
"	5 <sup>th</sup> 186	"				22 Jan 11	22 Feb 11	VG 3.12.11		
"	5 <sup>th</sup> 110	Ord.				24 Feb 11		VG 3.12.11		
"	5 <sup>th</sup> 30	PO (NS) (1)				1 Aug 11		VG 3.12.11		
"	15 <sup>th</sup> 132	"				1 Mar 15	25 Oct 15	VG 3.12.15		
"		"				2 Oct 15	18 May 16	VG 3.12.16		

Class for Conduct.

Clothing and Bedding Gratuities.	REMARKS.
16 1/2 1 1/2 1/2 1/2 23 1/2 1/2 1/2 PAID WAR GRATUITY. H.M.S. "Pamphlet 2" (Officer's Voucher No. 16.)	Passed educationally for Petty Officer on 4.3.11 and granted Educl. Certs. vide 22/3.11 (1) per Fox June 15 945/16 6075 Paid per PO (NS) 11.10.11 R2058/16. Promoted to Actg PO (NS) 11.10.11 with comm. 19 May 16. Applied for pay.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE  
 ADM/188/423  
 1 2 1 2









(OFFICE DUPLICATE.)

## Certificate of Service as Master of a Foreign-going Ship

N<sup>o</sup>. 44068

Name Harry Thomas Strawbridge  
 Born at Wimsham, Devon in the year 1891,  
 having attained the rank of Lieutenant  
 in the Royal Navy is granted this  
 Certificate of Service as Master of a Foreign-going Ship.

By order of the BOARD OF TRADE,  
 this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 19 21.

*W. H. Arnold*  
 Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen.

Owner's Signature Harry T. Strawbridge

Issued at London

this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 19 21

by Ernest E. Robert

Title of Officer Pro Registrar General

\* \* \* Any Person Forging, Fraudulently Altering or Using this Certificate, or Fraudulently Lending or Allowing it to be Used by any other person than the Owner, shall be guilty of a MISDEMEANOR.  
 Any person other than the Owner thereof becoming possessed of this Certificate should transmit it forthwith to the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen, London, E.C.1.

Ship.	Station.	Date of Appointment.	Date of Discharge.	REMARKS.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Harry Thomas Strawbridge</i></p> <p> Date of Birth <i>18 Jan'y 1891</i>  Date of Passing <i>2.9.15</i>  Class of Certificate <i>2nd</i>  Depôt <i>Devonport</i> </p>				
		<p> Acting <i>Summer 19th May, 1916</i>  (Confirmed )  Seniority as  Chief  Lieutenant </p>		
<i>Unit by</i>		<i>19.5.16</i>	<i>13.6.16</i>	
<i>Devonshire for instel duties</i>		<i>13.6.16</i>	<i>9.9.16</i>	
<i>M. 33</i>		<i>9.9.16</i>	<i>18.2.17 Supd</i>	
<p> Promoted to ACT. MATE 13.10.16  <i>see M/204</i> </p>				



(Deconfort.)

Name Harry Thomas Strawbridge Born 18 January 1891  
 Rank and Seniority prior to Acting Mate Act. Gunner 19-5-16 Entered .....  
 Acting Mate 13 October 1916 Qualified in Gunnery 20.10.21 1st class 431  
 Confirmed 13 October 1916 for Acting Mate ..... 500  
 Watchkeeping Certificate 3rd May 1918 Qualified in Torpedo 20.8.21 1st class 442  
 Lieutenant (Act.) 13 September 1919 for Acting Mate ..... 500  
 (Confirmed) 13 September 1919 Completed Greenwich 1st Cl. - 200/1000  
 Pilotage 2.7.22 1st Cl. 831/1000  
 Seamanship 2.9.15 2nd Cl. 650  
 out torpedo 13 October 1918 BL 19.5.22

[illegible]