WALTER ROBERT HOOPER, K.9742 Stoker R.N.

Walter, born July 14 1892 and baptised on September 11 1892 in Buckland St Mary, was one of the 12 children of Richard and Sarah Hooper. Richard was a farm labourer, born in Combe St Nicholas, as were all but two of the children, while Sarah came from Whitestaunton; they lived at Long Lye.

The children went to school in Buckland St Mary; two of them, Sidney and Walter, appear on its Roll of Honour, and three of the brothers – John, Sidney and Walter - are on the Church Memorial Board; thankfully all survived the War. Walter, the School Roll tells us, was wounded, but we have no further detail about that.

Like his brothers John and Sidney , Walter chose not to stay in Buckland. He had worked as a labourer after leaving school, and then signed on with the Navy in December 21 1910 for 12 years as a stoker, Devonport being his Port Division. His papers give a brief description of him: he had black hair and hazel eyes and was 5ft $6^{1/2}$ in tall. When he signed on again in 1922 he was slightly taller, had lost the first joint of the forefinger of his right hand and had tattoos on both forearms. His Character was 'VG' and his Efficiency mainly 'Sat[isfactory]'. He was still in the Navy at the end of 1941 and must I think have been retired then – he would be 50 in July 1942 – at least to a shore job. The second sheet of his records, from 1929 to 1941 is overstamped with a 'D' – possibly for discharged? The final entry for Character – VG - and Efficiency 'Sat[isfactory]' has 'D/shore' under Date; Possibly 'Discharged to Shore'?

The ships on which he served are all listed in his papers: Pembroke II, Aeolus, Vivid II, Indus, Exmouth, Vivid II, Marlborough, Vivid II, Defiance, Vivid II, Woolwich (Taurus), Woolwich (Sesame), Vivid II, Laburnum, Vivid II, Hood, Tiger, Vivid II, Exeter, Vivid II, Osprey, Drake II, Baldur, Hecla. Vivid II was the Naval Barracks at Devonport. These are all findable on the internet; we picture his first and the Marlborough, mentioned in the Absent Voters List.



Gunboat HMS Trent, aka HMS Pembroke II,

harbour vessel

Walter married Sarah Ann Lee by license at Taunton Register Office on 23 February 1918. They were both living in Pitminster at the time. Between 1919 and 1935 they had seven children: Walter, Bessie, Dorothy, Florence, Ernest, Richard and Stella. All the births were registered in the Chard area, and by the time of the 1939 Register they were living at Stantway in Combe St Nicholas. Walter senior's name is not there – the records appear to show he was at sea.

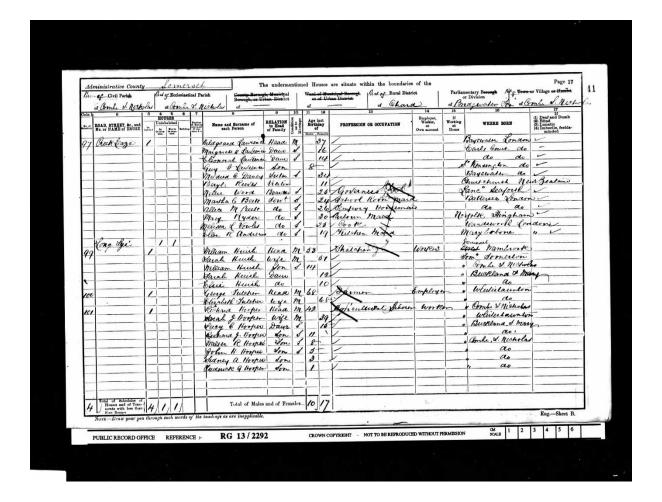
After that we have no further information. Strangely Walter died many miles away in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire aged 88; he was then a retired council worker.



HMS Marlborough, Iron Duke class battleship

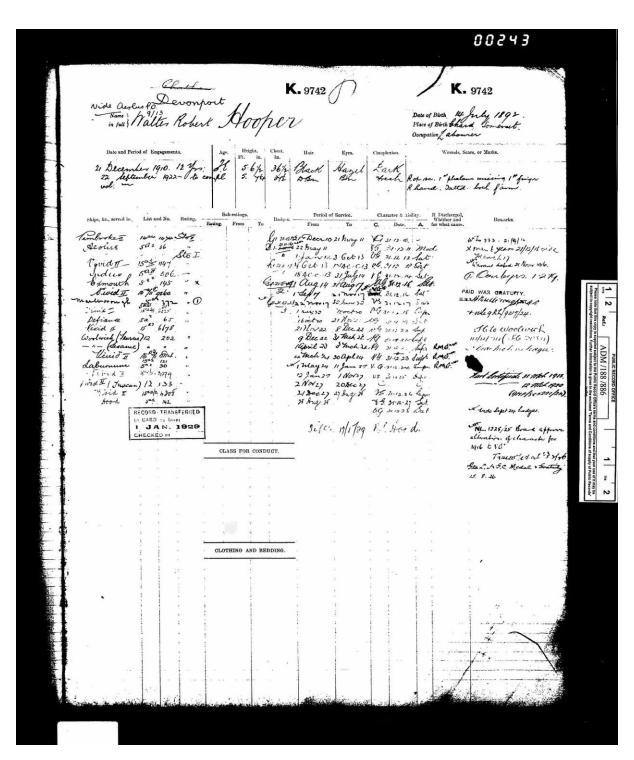
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	Page 16		Page 17					
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NAVAL SERVICE





GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 14576258-1

No.	When Married.	TO DEFICE SINE PALES	3	•	5	6	ICECENERAL RECES	
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Futher's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Fati
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Taunton Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 10th day of January

2024

MXJ 808331

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E.D. Letter Code W/PJ1	Boro	ugh, U.D. or R.D. Schare	e	Regist a	ration Distri	ict 308-1	
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Application Number 10732269-1



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CERTIFIED COPY

OF AN ENTRY

DI	EATH	Entry 278
Registration district CLARO Sub-district CLARO		dministrative area North Yorkshire
	fifth November 1980 eneral Hospital, Hax	
2. Name and surname Walter Robert HOOPER	Sex Maiden a of woma has marri-	n who
5. Date and place of birth 14th July 1 Buckland St	892 . Mary, Somerset	
		orks.
(c) Usual address 3 Windsor Lane, Knar	esborough	
8. Cause of death Ischgemic He	art Disease	
Certified by J. Miles District, a	: Coverdele, Coroner fter Post Mortom wit	
I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief	D. M. Linden	Signature of informant
10. Date of registration Twenty seventh November 1980	11. Signature of registrar J. Richardson	D. J. Lung

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of* a register of Births, Still-births or Deaths in the District above mentioned. Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office on 20th February 2020

*If the Certificate is given from the original Register, the words "the certified copy of" are struck out.

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