

**Frederick Leonard Cork**

Rank: Stoker

Service No.: LT/KX109889

Enlisted: 31-Jul-1917 aged 26

Royal Navy

Residence: Harbledown & Elham

Before Service:

Fred's parents were George Edward Cork and Louisa Cork nee'Holmes. Fred was born on 30/07/1891 in Harbledown, Canterbury. He married Laura Ada Austin/Austen on the 26/05/1917 in St. Mary's Church, Chilham.

Fred's occupation on enlistment for WW1 is shown as a Farm Labourer.

During Service in WW1:

His Height was recorded as 5'3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Chest 35", Light Brown Hair, Hazel Eyes and a Fresh Complexion. He was attached as follows: HMS Pembroke II (Chatham) on 31/7/1917 – 27/10/1917 as a Stoker II, HMS Conquest 28/10/1917 – 13/7/1918, promoted to Stoker I 8/3/1918, HMS Pembroke II 14/7/1918 – 9/8/1918 and finally HMS Dragon 10/8/1918 – 15/3/1919.

He was commended for "Good Service" on the occasion of the mining of HMS Conquest on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1918.



HMS Dragon was a D class cruiser and was launched in Glasgow, in December 1917.

She was scuttled in July 1944 off the Normandy beaches as part of the Arromanches Breakwater.



HMS Conquest was commissioned into service in the Royal Navy in June 1915.

After Service in WW1:

After WW1 Fred worked as a thatcher, hedger and shepherd. Just prior to WW2 he worked for the Palmer family at Parsonage Farm, North Elham and lived in a tied cottage. The property was divided into two farm workers cottages, Fred and his family of 10 lived in the one on the left-hand side.



Fred and his family enjoying a rest during happier times in North Elham.

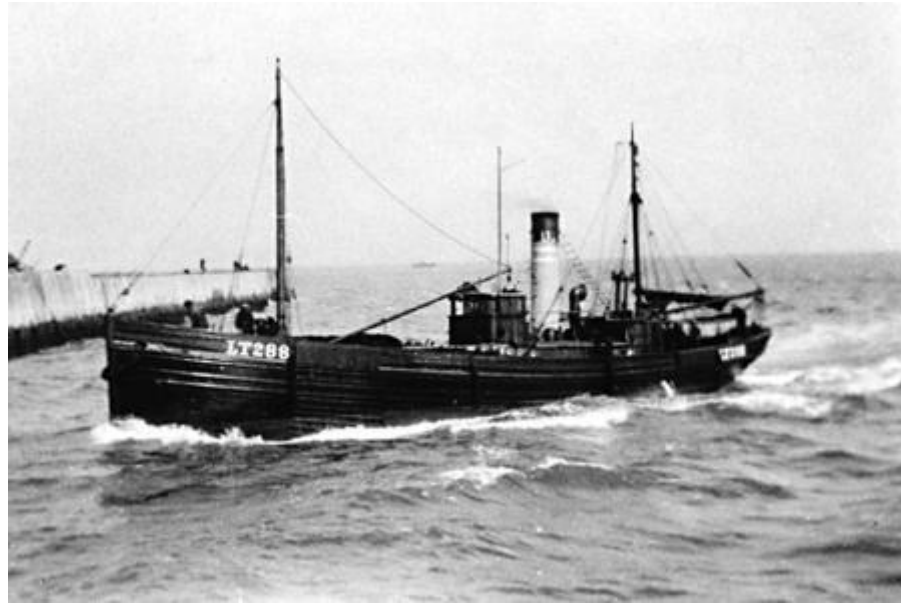
During Service in WW2:

At the outbreak of the WW2, although he was 48, Fred left his protected employment as a shepherd and re-enlisted. As his previous home was a tied cottage the family moved to No.4 Cherry Gardens.



Fred outside 4, Cherry Gardens

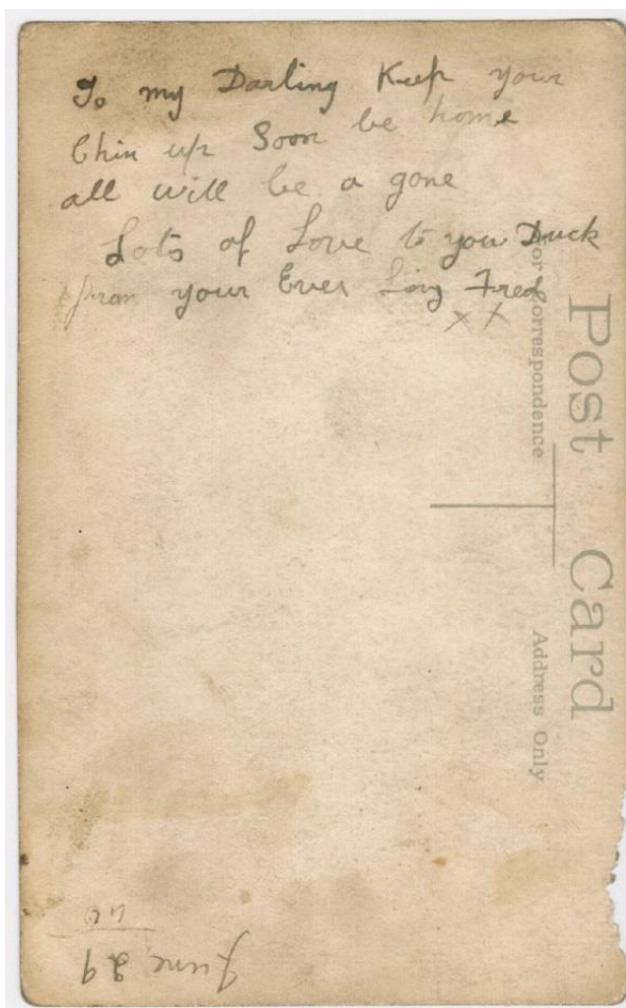
Fred served on H.M. Drifter Receptive which was engaged in mine sweeping operations in coastal waters.



No picture exists of Receptive, however this is a sister ship H.M. Drifter Renascent








Fred Onboard H.M. Drifter Receptive



Possibly his last postcard home dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 41'

It is believed that on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1941 the Luftwaffe dropped acoustic mines in the Thames Estuary and on 3rd July 1941 tragedy struck when Fred's vessel hit a mine off the Isle of Sheppy with the loss of all crew.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>CREW</u>
1.	 <b>CHISHOLM, JAMES ANDERSON</b> , Stoker, Royal Naval Patrol Service, Son of David Scott Chisholm and Margaret Chisholm, of Plaistow, Essex; husband of Ivy Gertrude Chisholm, of Plaistow, <a href="#">Lowestoft Naval Memorial</a>	37	03/07/1941	✓
2.	 <b>CORK, FREDERICK LEONARD</b> , Stoker, Royal Naval Patrol Service, <a href="#">Lowestoft Naval Memorial</a>	?	03/07/1941	✓
3.	 <b>CROSSLAND, ALFRED HAROLD</b> , Engineman, Royal Naval Patrol Service, Son of George and Martha Elizabeth Crossland, of Hull, <a href="#">Hull Western Cemetery</a>	43	03/07/1941	✓
4.	 <b>GARNETT, EDGAR</b> , Ordinary Seaman, Royal Navy, Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Garnett; husband of Ellen Lucy Garnett, of Welling, <a href="#">Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent</a>	31	03/07/1941	✓
5.	 <b>HAWSON, WILLIAM BIRKS</b> , Seaman, Royal Naval Patrol Service, Son of William and Emily Hawson; husband of Kathleen Hawson, of Knightsbridge, London, <a href="#">Lowestoft Naval Memorial</a>	39	03/07/1941	✓
6.	 <b>MCPHERSON, DANIEL</b> , Second Hand, Royal Naval Reserve (Patrol Service), Son of Alexander Topp McPherson and Margaret McPherson, of Hopeman, <a href="#">Duffus Cemetery</a>	26	03/07/1941	✓
7.	 <b>REMINGTON, RAYMOND HARMON ARTHUR</b> , Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Remington; husband of Evelyn Gerrard Remington, of Countess Wear, Exeter, <a href="#">Kenn (St. Andrew) Churchyard</a>	27	03/07/1941	✓
8.	 <b>SHAW, WILLIAM FREDERICK</b> , Engineman, Royal Naval Patrol Service, Son of George Thomas Shaw and Rosanna Shaw, of Lowestoft, Suffolk; husband of Ellen Victoria Shaw, of Lowestoft, <a href="#">Lowestoft Naval Memorial</a>	45	03/07/1941	✓
9.	 <b>WITTRIDGE, RICHARD GEORGE</b> , Cook, Royal Naval Patrol Service, Son of William and Alice Wittridge, of Walthamstow, <a href="#">Chingford Mount Cemetery</a>	29	03/07/1941	✓

## Information from the Commonwealth War Graves Website

Debt of Honour Register  
In Memory of

FREDERICK LEONARD CORK

Stoker

LT/KX 109889

H.M. Drifter Receptive., Royal Naval Patrol Service

who died on  
Thursday 3 July 1941.

Cemetery:                      LOWESTOFT NAVAL MEMORIAL Suffolk, United Kingdom

Grave or Reference Panel    Panel 7, Column 1.  
Number:

### Family Story:

Fred was born on 30-Jul-1891, his father was George Edward Cork an agricultural hop worker, was born in Chartham. His mother Louisa was a fieldworker born in Harbledown, according to the 1901 Census they had 4 children, Fred being the second youngest.



Fred's mother hop picking



Fred, his wife & first child

Every year Fred's family lay a wreath at Elham War Memorial, this was usually done by Mrs Williams one of Fred's daughters. However in 2003 his Granddaughter and Great Granddaughter carried out this honourable duty.



Here you see three generations of Fred's descendants in 2003