

James Horace Wainscoat - Leading Seaman J/4716

Age 23

Royal Navy - H.M.S. Southampton

Seriously wounded during the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916
Died on the Hospital Ship PLASSY en-route to Queensferry on 7th June, 1916

Buried - Harthill (All Hallows) Churchyard CWGC Extension.

Commemorated - Chatham Naval Memorial and on Worksop War Memorial.

James was born in Retford, and was the second son of Thomas and Annie Elizabeth Wainscoat, formerly of Dishwell Lane, Harthill, and grandson of Mrs James Wainscoat of Harthill.



Leading seaman Gunner James Horace Wainscoat, serving on H.M.S Southampton, son of Mr Thomas Wainscoat of 184 Gateford Road, Worksop, and Grandson of Mr James Wainscoat of Harthill. Died from his wounds received in the naval engagement on May 31st, 1916. Thomas was notified by the Admiralty that his son had been seriously wounded at the Battle of Jutland, and on Wednesday morning (7th June) he received a telegram from the Fleet Surgeon announcing his son's death, whilst on board the hospital ship PLASSY, and that his body had now been removed to the Naval Hospital at Queensferry.

Gunner Wainscoat joined the Navy 1910. Prior to which he served four years in the Post Office at his home town of Retford. Since joining the Royal Navy, he had seen varied service, and he was at Gibraltar on HMS London when the "Delhi" was wrecked with the Princess Royal, her two daughters and the late Duke of Fife on board. He was chosen to go across the Straits to help in the rescue, which was successfully effected, and for services rendered, he was awarded a medal by the Board of Trade, and was decorated personally by H.M. the King at Buckingham Palace.

Reference is made to the account of the Battle of Jutland by a writer in a leading pictorial paper to the fight put up by HMS Southampton, and incidentally, made reference to the late Leading Seaman James Horace Wainscoat, , who died as a result of wounds received in the engagement. The writer says:

Continued ...

“Leading Seaman Wainscoat one of our gun layers, was ordered to find the range. However, Wainscoat laid his gun so accurately that with the first round from it he plumped a shell right into one of the German destroyers, cutting her in two. I am sorry to say that later in the action, Wainscoat was mortally injured. The Gunner was heard to say, ‘thank God I did for one of them’ – referring of course to his destroyer he had sunk with his first shot. This remark was made when he was suffering much pain through his injuries.”

James was buried at Harthill at the request of his family.