



George Joseph Tucker (7 January 1886-15 October 1914)

George was the son of Alfred and Annie Rebecca Tucker (nee Dark) who married in Kensington in May 1875. His father was a jeweller's assistant who came from Lancashire. His mother, Annie, was born in Brentford. In 1886 George was born as the sixth of ten children and he had five brothers and four sisters. They were all born in the Paddington area. In the 1891 Census the family were living in Victoria Place, Paddington. George's father died in 1898 at the early age of 47 when George was just 12, leaving Annie as a widow. The youngest child in the family, Henry, was only four at that time. That same year, 1898, George's elder sister Esther married Frederick Conway, who was a toll collector on the Grand Union Canal in Brentford. In 1901 Annie and seven of her children were still living in Victoria Place, Paddington. Elder brother Alfred was working as Jewellery Repairer, Ernest as a Locomotive Fireman, Charles as a Provision Porter and George, then aged 15, as a Baker's Shop Boy.

George enlisted in the Royal Navy at Chatham on 15 November 1904 when he was aged 18. Before joining up he had been an engine cleaner. Initially his rank was Stoker 2nd Class but by 1908 he had risen to become Leading Stoker. In January 1911 he transferred from the regular service to the Royal Fleet Reserve. In the 1911 Census he was living in a Metropolitan Police Force section house in Lambeth while serving a probationary period to join the Force.

At the age of 26 George married Mary Thomson in Fulham in April 1912. At that time, he was a serving police officer. George and Mary had two daughters, Mary Winifred born in 1913 and Annie Elizabeth in 1914. George is listed on the Electoral Register at 36 Talbot Road, Isleworth.

As a reservist, George was called back to naval duty on 7 August 1914 and joined the crew of HMS Hawke. This ship was an Edgar Class Cruiser which had been launched in 1891. In October 1914 HMS Hawke was part of the 10th Cruiser squadron undertaking blockade duties in the North Sea. On 15 October the ship was off Aberdeen and stopped at 9.30am to pick up mail and then proceeded to regain her station out of the sight of the rest of the



HMS Hawke



36 Talbot Road, Isleworth

squadron. At 10.30am a single torpedo fired from a German submarine U9 hit her and she sank. There were only 70 survivors and 524 died that day, including George. He was aged 28. He left his widow Mary with two very small children.

He is remembered on the Chatham War Memorial as well as at St Bridget's and All Souls Churches in Isleworth.