

Raynor Henry Leonard Charles

1896-1917

Royal Navy Able Seaman J 47206

Raynor Charles was the 20 year old son of tinsplate worker Leonard George Charles and his wife Matilda Howells, from Aylburton who were married in 1894.

Raynor was a tin-plate worker from the age of 14 till he joined the GWR in March 1915. When enlisting with the Royal Navy in December 1915 his record shows that he had been employed as a fireman.

He joined HMS Vala on May 1st 1917. On 20th August 1917 it was torpedoed and sunk about 120 miles south-west of the Scilly Isles by German submarine UB-54.



The submarine's war diary indicates survivors made it to the boats, but it appears they were lost in the weather conditions following. Raynor has no known grave and is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

In Memory of
Able Seaman

Raynor Henry Leonard Charles

J/47206, H.M.S. "Vala.", Royal Navy who died on 21 August 1917 Age 20

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Charles, of Aylburton, Lydney, Glos.

Remembered with Honour
Plymouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission