

William BALLS



- Born:** 2nd July 1895, Irstead
- Baptised:** no record
- Parents:** Samuel Balls (born 1862) and
Elthea (Martha) Allard, Neatishead
married 11th April 1888, Irstead
- Siblings:** Evelyn Ellen Lottie (born 1889)
Samuel (born 1891)
Robert (1893-1914) **fallen WW1**
Elthea (born 1899)
- Schooling:** Not known, presume Neatishead
- Occupation:** Farm labourer, aged 15 (*1911 census*)
- Address:** Nr The Broad, Irstead (*1901 census*)
Irstead (*1911 census*)
Stalham (*1918 NM Register of Electors*)

Marriage: Ethel Gaze (from Stalham), died 1922
Remarried March 1971

Children: Beryl (born 1922)
Ben
Billy (Leonard)

Military & War service:

Petty Officer, served 1915-1919, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Devonport. No: K29396. Service as follows:

2nd Class Stoker, Vivid II: 19th November 1915 – 27th March 1916

2nd Class Stoker, King Alfred: 28th March 1916

1st Class Stoker, King Alfred: 1st Aug – 8th August 1916

1st Class Stoker, Vivid II: 9th August 1916

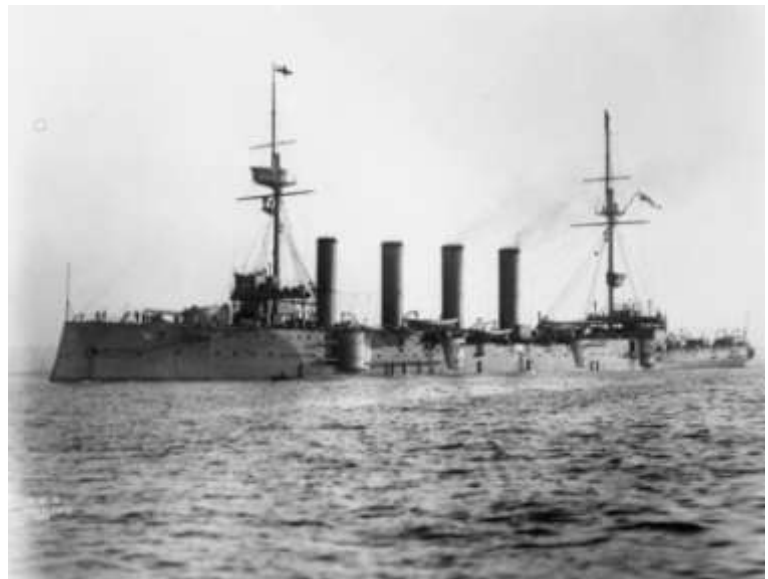
1st Class Stoker, Blake: 24th October 1917 – 31st March 1918

1st Class Stoke, Apollo: 1st April 1918 – 25th February 1919

See individual folder for details of HMS Vivid II and HMS Blake

HMS King Alfred

was one of four [Drake-class armoured cruisers](#) built for the [Royal Navy](#) around 1900. She served as [flagship](#) of the [China Station](#) from 1906 until relieved in 1910. Upon her return home that year, she was placed in [reserve](#) before being [recommissioned](#) in mid-1914. She was assigned to the [6th](#)



[Cruiser Squadron](#) of the [Grand Fleet](#) at the beginning of World War I. She was transferred to the [9th Cruiser Squadron](#) in 1915 and assigned to convoy protection duties by the end of the year. *King Alfred* participated in the unsuccessful searches for the German [commerce raider SMS Möwe](#) in 1916–17 before beginning to escort convoys later that year. The ship was [torpedoed](#) by a German [submarine](#) in 1918, but returned to service. She was sold for [scrap](#) in 1920. (source: Wikipedia)

Death: 21st March 1973, aged 78, Stalham