

George Noel

"Skipper"



Born on the 7th February 1857 in Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire.
Died on the 13th July 1916 at the Reserve Hospital Emden, section
"Tivoli", Emden, Germany.

George was born in Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire on the 7th February 1857. His father was George Noell (sometimes spelt Nowell) who was described as a wool comber and his mother was Ann Noell nee Beck. Given his father's occupation I have no doubt that he and his wife travelled between farms carrying out his work and this is why they were in Hogsthorpe at the time of his birth. There is also reference to them being in Goole, East Yorkshire, Pockthorpe, Norfolk and Boston, Lincolnshire.

George is shown on the 1871 census as a "Boy", aged 15 onboard the fishing smack "T. Me". This vessel's official number is shown as 20828, its tonnage noted as 38, its port is recorded as Albert Dock and its location was at sea, 30 miles west south west of Spurn Point with five other crew. The captain is shown as George Craig.

The trawler S.S. Era was converted to a minesweeper during the First World War and renamed the H.M.T Era. George was captain when, on the 11th July 1916 off the coast of Aberdeen his vessel and the fishing fleet it was protecting came under attack from two German U-boats. George lost his hand during the attack and was transported back to Germany with the other survivors where he died two days later from blood loss.

George is buried in Hamburg, Germany.

Despite George being Mentioned in Despatches and his address at the time of his death being recorded on his probate as 13 Eton Street he is not remembered on the Eton Street Roll of Honour. He is also not remembered on any fishing memorial that I can find.

He is however remembered on the National United Order of Free Gardeners memorial inside Hull's Holy Trinity Church as he was a member at the time of his death.

SKIPPER'S CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Issued in pursuance of the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1883.



N^o 0129

George Noel

Born at Hogsthorpe County of Lincoln

in the year 1857. Has, before the 1st September, 1883, been employed in the capacity of SKIPPER one years in a TRAWLING VESSEL, and is entitled to command a Fishing Vessel of 25 tons register and upwards, while engaged in trawling.

Bearer's Signature

George Noel

Granted by the REGISTRAR GENERAL OF SHIPPING AND SEAMEN, LONDON.
By Order of the BOARD OF TRADE,

Robert Jackson

Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen.

Issued at

Hull

this

4 day of

Dec - 1883

A. Strowbridge
Dy. Suplt

Any person forging, altering, or fraudulently using this Certificate, or allowing the same to be used, is for each offence to be deemed guilty of a MISDEMEANCH, and liable to Imprisonment with HARD LABOUR for the term of SIX MONTHS. Any person, other than the person to whom it belongs, becoming possessed of this Certificate, is requested to transmit it forthwith to the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen, London.

ss ERA (H461) built by Mackie & Thomson Govan, Clyde

ss ERA (H461), built by Mackie & Thomson Govan.

Yard No: 252

Propulsion: steam, single screw, 40hp

Launched: Tuesday, 14/02/1899

Built: 1899

Ship Type: Steam trawler

Ship's Role: Fishing

Tonnage: 168 grt

Length: 104 feet

Breadth: 21 feet

Depth: 10.7 feet

Owner History:

Great Northern Steamship Fishing Company (James Leyman), Hull.

Status: Sunk - 11/07/1916

Remarks:

O.N. 110720. 13/06/1899: Registered at Hull.

1916: War loss. Sunk by gunfire from U.69 off Aberdeen.

Previous update by Bruce Biddulph

Last updated: by Bruce Allan from the original records by Stuart

Cameron

Register of deaths, city of Emden:

Nr. 224

Emden, July 14th, 1916

Today, the head physician of the local royal reserve-military-hospital, recorded the written notice, that the reserve-officer of english patrol boat S.M.T. "Era", trawler-captain George Noel, about 65 years old, protestant religion, living in Hull in England, born in Hull in England, name of parents unknown, died in reserve-hospital Emden, section "Tivoli", on July 13th, 1916 at 4.45 pm, due to his wounds.

Funeral of an English officer.

This afternoon at a quarter past 2, the funeral of English captain George Noel took place. He had died in captivity. The mortuary at the "Turnplatz" was adorned with flowers and draped in black. The steersman, who had also been taken prisoner, laid wounded on a stretcher in front of it, to say the final farewell in a mutely prayer. Exactly at a quarter past 2, eight marine-soldiers raised the coffin, which was decorated with flowers and the English flag, to the wagon. The

"Landsturmkapelle" and a "Kompanie" infantry stepped forward to the wagon. Eight high-ranking army and marine- officers and a detachment of 150 men followed the coffin to the "Ehrenfriedhof" of the Lutheran Church. Reverend Blanke addressed a moving assembly in front of the open grave, which was decorated with flowers and oak leaves. He said:" Ahead of us, there lies a fallen enemy, in foreign ground, he now shall be laid to rest after the fight. He was no coward! With tough courage and high endurance, he defended what was assigned to him, until he had to surrender to his enemy. Now may he rest in peace." With a prayer, three volleys over the grave and the hymn "How they rest so gently" the soothing military funeral ended.

"Turnplatz" means a place for physical training, next to one of the military hospitals of Emden.

"Landsturmkapelle" means the military music-band of the local unit. Landsturm is the term for a unit of older reserve-soldiers.

"Kompanie" was a part of a German regiment (12 Kompanien in a regiment). I don't know, if "company" would the correct translation.

"Ehrenfriedhof" specially means a cemetery on the ground of the Lutheran Church of Emden. The Ehrendriedhof was built during the war, for the men that died in the military hospital and also citizens of Emden.

HULL SKIPPER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS.



Skipper G. NOEL.

Intimation has been received from the Admiralty by Mrs Noel, 13, Eton-street, Hessle-road, that her husband, Skipper George Noel, R.N.R., has died in a German hospital. The letter states the information was from the German Red Cross Society that he died, from loss of blood from wounds, in the Reserve Lazarette, Emden, Tivoli Department. Skipper Noel was one of the best known skippers at Hull Fish Docks. He had been going to sea ever since he was a boy of 13, and had served in the fishing smacks. He was for many years skipper for Messrs Hamling and Co., and subsequently was with the Great Northern Steam Fishing Co., and Messrs Pickering and Haldane.



SKIPPER
G. NOEL
H. M. T. "ERA"
13TH JULY 1916





Gefangenenlager
zu Brandenburg a/H.
Geprüft F. A.



Crew of
H. M. T. Eka.

Prisoners of War.