

**Undercliffe Cemetery,
Bradford, Yorkshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



H. F. ONIONS

ABLE SEAMAN RN. J/3176

H.M.S. "PEMBROKE"

1ST DECEMBER, 1918 Age 27

He Gave His Life For Others

Horace Frederick ONIONS

Horace Frederick Onions was born at Bradford, Yorkshire, England on 4th February, 1892 to parents William & Beatrice Onions (nee Parkin).

The 1901 England Census recorded Horace F. Onions as a 9 year old, living with his family at 54 Orchard Street, Bradford, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as William Onions (Piece Dyer Clerk, aged 31, born Bradford, Yorks) & Beatrice Onions (aged 32, born Eccleshill, Bradford, Yorks). Horace was the eldest of five children listed on this Census (all born Bradford, Yorks) – Horace then Cyril W. Onions (aged 7), Gertrude A. Onions (aged 5), Clara C. Onions (aged 3) & Clarence L. Onions (aged 1).

Horace Frederick Onions joined the Royal Navy for a period of 12 years. He was an Assistant Newsagent & was given a service number of J/3176 (Chatham).

Boy 2nd Class Horace Frederick Onions was posted to H.M.S. *Ganges* on 30th September, 1903 & promoted to Boy 1st Class on 25th August, 1909.

H.M.S. *Ganges* was a training ship for the Royal Navy, & was established as a boys' training establishment in 1865.

Boy 1st Class Horace Frederick Onions was transferred to H.M.S. *Berwick* on 21st September, 1909. He was posted to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 22nd December, 1909 & promoted to Ordinary Seaman on 4th February, 1910 having attained the age of 18 years.

H.M.S. *Pembroke I* was the name of the shore barracks at Chatham. It was commissioned in 1878 & moved ashore in 1903.

Ordinary Seaman Horace Frederick Onions was transferred to H.M.S. *Magnificent* on 28th February, 1910 then transferred on 27th September, 1910 to H.M.S. *Agamemnon*. He was promoted to Able Seaman on 1st December, 1911.

[The 1911 England Census recorded Horace's parents – William Onions (Clerk (dyer), aged 41) & Beatrice Onions (aged 42) & seven of their children living at 46 Cordingly Street, Bradford, Yorkshire, England. William & Beatrice Onions had been married for 21 years & had nine children. The children on this Census were listed as Cyril William Onions (House Painter, aged 17), Gertrude A. Onions (Shop Assistant, aged 15), Clara Onions (At School, aged 13), Clarence L. Onions (At School, aged 11), Alice A. Onions (At School, aged 9), Louis A. Onions (At School, aged 7) & Dorothy E. Onions (aged 4).]

[William (Labourer, aged 39) & Beatrice Onions (aged 41) & their seven children – Cyril (aged 15), Gertrude (aged 13), Clara (aged 11), Beatrice (aged 7), Dorothy (aged 2), Clarence (aged 9) & Louis (aged 5) were all listed as passengers on *Torilla* which departed from the port of London on 16th August, 1911. The family had contracted to land at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.]

Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions was transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 19th February, 1913 then transferred to H.M.S. *Lord Nelson* on 1st July, 1913. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Victorious II* on 21st January, 1918 then transferred to H.M.S. *Tenessa II* (?) on 1st April, 1918. Able Seaman Onions was transferred back to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 1st July, 1918.

Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions died on 1st December, 1918 from Influenza, Pneumonia & Pleurisy. His death was reported to his sister at 58 Orchard St, Bradford, Yorks. According to information in the death notice posted in an Australian Newspaper – Able Seaman Onions died in Bradford Military Hospital, Yorkshire, England.

A death for Horace F. Onions, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bradford, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions was buried in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England – Plot number I. "U". 379 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions – service number J/3176, aged 27, of H.M.S. "Pembroke, Royal Navy. He was the son of William and Beatrice Onions, of Australia.

Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

(Note: It appears that Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions' name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian. His parents & family moved to Australia in 1911 & Horace was already serving in the Royal Navy at that time)



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

(1 page of Able Seaman Horace Frederick Onions' Service record is available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

ONIONS – On December 1, at the Bradford Military Hospital, England, Horace Frederick Onions, late H.M.S. Lord Nelson. (By Cable.)

“He nobly did his duty.”

(*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 December, 1918) & (*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 14 December, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs W. ONIONS and Family, of Brisbane, wish to THANK their many kind friends for messages and letters of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

(*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 December, 1918) & (*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 14 December, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 service personnel to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter).

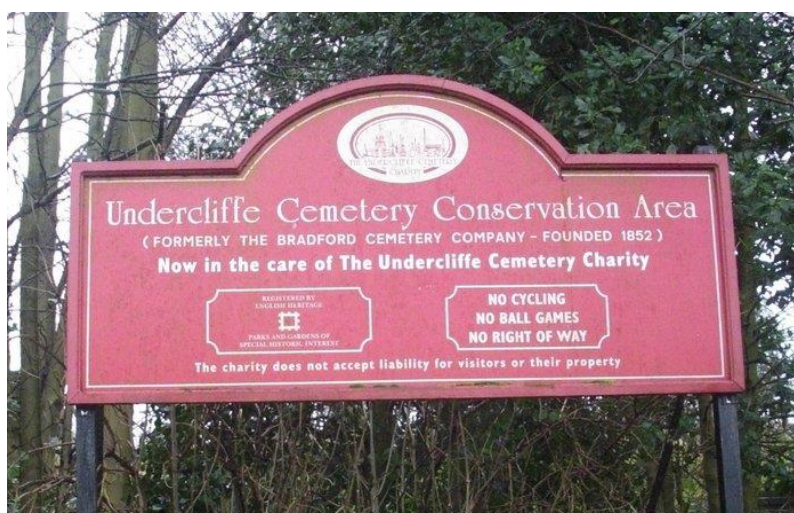
Able Seaman H. F. Onions does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life For Others

Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England

Military hospitals were opened in Bradford in both wars and many of the 91 First World War burials in Bradford (Undercliffe) Cemetery were from the 1,200 bed Bradford War Hospital. The cemetery also contains 43 Second World War burials. The graves are scattered throughout the cemetery but it was not possible to mark a small number of them individually; a low memorial kerb behind the Cross of Sacrifice bears the names of the casualties buried in these graves.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by js – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice – Undercliffe Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Undercliffe Cemetery (Photo by Mark Stevenson)

Photo of Able Seaman H. F. Onions' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)