

**St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery,  
Taunton, Somerset  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**L. F. TUCKER**

**DECK HAND, RNR. 14894/DA**

**H.M.S. "VIVID"**

**28TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 20**

*Called To Higher Service*

## Leonard Francis TUCKER

Leonard Francis Tucker was born at Taunton St. James, Somerset, England on 29th August, 1898 to parents Arthur and Frances Ellen Tucker (nee Cavill).

The 1901 England Census recorded Leonard F. Tucker as a 2 year old living with his family at 37 Elm Terrace, Taunton, Somerset, England. His parents were listed as Arthur Tucker (Tailor's Cutter, aged 27, born Taunton St. James, Somerset) & Frances E. Tucker (aged 26, born Taunton St. Mary's, Somerset). Leonard was one of three children listed on this Census (all born Taunton St. James, Somerset) – Stanley A. Tucker (aged 3), then Leonard & Ivy D. M. Tucker (aged 1).

The 1911 England Census recorded Leonard Francis Tucker as a 12 year old Schoolboy, living with his family in a 5 roomed dwelling at 108 Goldsmith Street, Nottingham, England. His parents were listed as Arthur Tucker (Master Tailor, aged 37) & Frances Ellen Tucker (Housewife, aged 36). Arthur & Frances Tucker had been married for 15 years & had 7 children, with 1 having died. The 6 children were listed on this Census – Stanley Arthur Tucker (Schoolboy, aged 13) then Leonard, Ivy Dorothy Tucker (Schoolgirl, aged 11), Doris Vera Tucker (aged 6, born Leicester), Cyril Bernard Tucker (aged 5, born Leicester) & Gladys Mabel Tucker (aged 2, born Nottingham).

Leonard Francis Tucker joined the Royal Naval Reserve with a service number of 14894/DA (DA denoting Deckhands). He was posted to H.M.S. *Vivid*.

### Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.)

The Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.) is the volunteer reserve force of the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. The R.N.R. was a reserve of professional seamen from the British Merchant Navy and fishing fleets, who could be called upon during times of war to serve in the regular Royal Navy. The R.N.R. was originally a reserve of seamen only, but in 1862 this was extended to include the recruitment and training of reserve officers. From its creation, R.N.R. officers wore on their uniforms a unique and distinctive lace consisting of stripes of interwoven chain.

On mobilisation in 1914, the R.N.R. consisted of 30,000 officers and men. Officers of the permanent R.N.R. on general service quickly took up seagoing appointments in the fleet, many in command, in destroyers, submarines, auxiliary cruisers and Q-ships. Others served in larger units of the battle fleet including a large number with the West Indies Squadron who became casualties at the Battle of Coronel and later at Jutland. Fishermen of the R.N.R.(T) section served with distinction on board trawlers fitted out as minesweepers for mine clearance operations at home and abroad throughout the war where they suffered heavy casualties and losses.

### H.M.S. *Vivid*

H.M.S. *Vivid* (shore establishment 1890) was the Navy Barracks at Devonport. It was commissioned in 1890 and operated as a training unit until 1914.

*(R.N.R. & H.M.S. Vivid information from Wikipedia)*

Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker died on 28th September, 1918 at 10 Westgate Street, Taunton, Somerset, England from Pneumonia. His next-of-kin was listed as his father – Arthur Tucker of 10 Westgate Street, Taunton, Somerset, England.

A death for Leonard F. Tucker, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Taunton, Somerset, England.

Frances Ellen Tucker, mother of Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker, died on 29th September, 1918 at 10 Westgate Street, Taunton, Somerset, England.

Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker was buried in St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery, Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, England – Plot number (Old Ground 1069) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

*(Note: the 2 War Medals awarded in regards to the service by Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker were up for auction in July, 2017 by Noble Numismatics, Sydney, NSW. The estimated value of the 2 medals was placed at \$100. They sold for \$160.)*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker – service number 14894/DA, aged 20, of H.M.S. "Vivid", Royal Naval Reserve. He was the son of Arthur and Frances Tucker of Ross St., Bentleigh, Melbourne, Australia. Born at Taunton.

Deck Hand Leonard Francis Tucker 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.



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** *(Capital Photographer)*

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives*



## Newspaper Notices

### DEATHS

TUCKER – Sept. 28th at 10, Westgate-street, Taunton, Leonard Francis Tucker, aged 20.

TUCKER – Sept. 29th at 10, Westgate-street, Taunton, Frances Ellen Tucker, aged 44.

*(Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser, Taunton, Somerset, England – 9 October, 1918)*

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### **St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery, Taunton, Somerset, England**

St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery, Wellington Road, Taunton contains 94 Commonwealth War Graves – 37 from World War 1 & 57 from World War 2.



**St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery, Taunton** *(Photo by Mike Berrell)*

Photo of Deck Hand L. F. Tucker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's Cemetery, Taunton, Somerset, England.



*(Photo by Littlelucya - Find a Grave)*