

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Name | Thomas Arthur King |
| Birth Place | Northampton |
| Occupation 1911 | Signaler Navy |
| Date of birth | 1894 |



| | |
|---------|--|
| Parents | |
| Married | |

Additional Information

Thomas Arthur King was born **1 June 1894**.

In the 1901 census, the only one of that name was living in Northampton adopted.

On 25th June 1908, the Bugbrooke School Records state “ Thomas King is on the point of leaving school to go on board the Exmouth training ship” and on the 1st July is states “ Thomas King left today for Grays on the training ship Exmouth”. After training, on the 18th March 1910, at age 16, he joined the Royal Navy as a **Boy** and served until at least **5 July 1928**, by which time his rate was '**Leading Signaller**' with a service number of J7624.

In 1913 we know from the school letter of the 14th February that he was in Malta on HMS Britannia, where he met up with Bugbrooke's Eric Poole. Both had earlier shared a Christmas dinner. On the 21st February he writes about Britannia's movements in the Mediteranean.

It was reported in the school letter of the 2nd October 1914, that they had received a letter from him saying that he was safe and sound, and that they had been involved in the sinking of 3 of the enemy's largest cruisers and several destroyers. They wished that the German fleet would come out and meet them in a fair fight on the open sea. Thomas said that he had lost a cousin in HMS Pathfinder, and that 5 of his family were in the war. His opinion was that when the great naval battle did take place, it would be the most glorious thing the world had ever seen. He firmly believed that Germany must go under, and he was looking forward to the day when they could all sleep peaceably without the continuous strain of watching and waiting. He had not taken off his clothes to sleep for nearly 3 months, and did not expect to for a time yet.

At the end of February 1915, a letter appears in the Northampton Independent from Signalman TA King, describing his experiences on HMS Britannia. (See www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/WW1)



HMS Britannia was a King Edward VII class battleship laid down 4th February 1904, launched 10th Decmeber 1904 and commissioned 1906. She was torpedoed and sunk off Cape Trafalgar 9th November 1918 by German U-Boat UB-50. She was the last Royal Naval vessel to be sunk during World War 1, two days before the Armistice was signed. She first saw service with the Atlantic fleet in December 1906, moving to the Channel Fleet in February 1907, joining the 2nd Division of

Name King, Thomas Arthur. Official Number: J7624. Place of Birth: Northampton. Date of Birth: 01 ...

Admiralty: Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services. Seamen. 7501-8000. Name King, Thomas Arthur. Official Number: J7624. Place of Birth: Northampton. Date of Birth: 01 June 1894.

Other references: Vol No. J7-2

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Held by: | The National Archives - Admiralty, Navy, Royal Marines, and Coastguard |
| Date: | 1906 |
| Reference: | ADM 188/662/7624 |
