

STANLEY SADLER

Born: 19th February 1898, Ridlington, Norfolk¹

Enlisted: in the Royal Navy, 26th October 1916, Stoker 1st Class (K/37377)²



Died: 15th August 1918 - killed in action (HMS Scott, Dutch coast)³

Age: 20

Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 29⁴

Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal⁵



Residence: In the 1911 census, the family are living near the Church in Tunstead.⁶ The 1918 Electoral Register lists Stanley as an absent voter, and his residence as Raw Hall, Wood Norton.⁷

Stanley Sadler was born in Ridlington on the 19th February 1898, the fourth son of Robert and Rebecca Sadler's ten children.

Stanley enlisted in the Royal Navy on the 26th October 1916, for the 'hostilities', as his card records. He gave his place of birth as North Walsham (which is about 5 miles from Ridlington), and his occupation as blacksmith. From the 26th October 1916 to the 30th March 1917 he was a Stoker (2nd class) and based at Pembroke II, a shore establishment at Sheerness. On the 31st March 1917 he moved to HMS *Hibernia* (based at Sheerness) and remained there until

¹ UK, Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk); UK, British Army and Navy Birth, Marriages and Death Records, 1730-1960 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, Quarter to March 1898, Smallburgh Vol.4b, p65 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

² UK, Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³ UK, Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org).

⁵ UK, Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1972 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁶ 1911 census, Tunstead (Schedule 47) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁷ First Register of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors, 1918; Polling District: Foulsham, Parish: Wood Norton (Norfolk Heritage Centre, microfilm MF1038).

the 15th October 1917, when *Hibernia* was moved to Chatham Dockyard as an overflow accommodation ship. Stanley had been promoted to Stoker 1st class on the 19th July 1917. He returned to *Pembroke II* until the 27th December 1917, when he was moved to *HMS Dido* (a depot ship), from where he joined *HMS Scott* (see *Figure 1*).

HMS Scott was the first of a new destroyer class built to be flotilla leaders for the V- and W-class destroyers. She was launched on the 18th October 1917, but less than a year after entering service she was sunk off the Dutch coast on the 15th August 1918. It is assumed that a German U-boat torpedoed her, but it is also possible that she hit a mine (the R-class destroyer *HMS Ulleswater* sank in the same incident). The German submarine *U-71* which had been patrolling and mining the area is usually credited with *Scott's* sinking. The wreck of *HMS Scott* lies approximately 20 nautical miles (23 miles) off the Dutch coast, lying upright with the stern in 35 metres (115 ft) of water, and the bow in 28 metres (92 ft).⁸



Figure 1 : HMS Scott

The Naval records for Stanley record that his widow, Agnes, was informed of his death on the 16th August 1918, and the address on the record is given as 8 Langthorne Street, Stratford (East London).⁹

Stanley is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, which records those members of the Royal Navy who died in WW1 (and WW2) and have no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided; 8,517 sailors of the First World War are commemorated on the memorial.

It appears that both Stanley's mother, Rebecca, and his widow, Agnes, applied to the British Ministry for Pensions for a Dependant's Pension (see *Figures 2 and 3*). Rebecca Sadler was awarded a pension of 5s per week in December 1918, backdated to the 6th November 1918. The card notes that there is an application from Stanley's widow, Agnes under 'Widows Case No. RN 4904', but the outcome of that application is not known.

⁸ Wikipedia, *HMS Scott (1917)* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Scott_\(1917\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Scott_(1917))); Wrecksite, *HMS Scott +1918* (<https://wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?4880>).

⁹ UK, British Army and Navy Birth, Marriages and Death Records, 1730-1960 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

DNS. 1073.

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.

Name Sadler, Stanley. Regimental No. K. 37377 (ch) Case No. D.P. 31218. No. 13.

Regiment or Ship H.M.S. 'Scott' Rank Sgt. I.

Documents received from Paymaster

Date and cause of death

Dependant Mrs Rebecca Sadler.

Address Wood Norton, East Denham, Norfolk.

Relationship Mother.

Pension 5/- a week from 6-11-18

Date awarded 4-12-18 If refused

Papers P.A. reason

(11238) Wt 50720/6 30000 1/17 H & J, Ltd
(22056) Wt 8055/763 50000 11/17 H15/1179

Figure 2 : Dependant's Pension card for Stanley's mother

Sadler Agnes. R.N. #904

8 Langthorne St.

Stratford. E.

K 37377 (ch) Sgt Stanley Sadler.

H.M.S. Scott.

Figure 3 : Dependant's Pension card for Stanley's widow

Further research into Stanley's family reveals that his father, Robert Sadler, was born on the 8th August 1865 in Honing, the son of James and Hannah Sadler, and baptised on the 22nd August 1869, in Honing parish church.¹⁰ Robert married Rebecca Bacon in 1893.¹¹ She was born in Honing in 1872,¹² the daughter of Charles and Mary Bacon.¹³ In 1901, Charles and Mary Bacon were living at Raw Hall, Wood Norton; Charles was a farmer.¹⁴ He died in 1901, aged 70, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁵ Mary Bacon continued to live at Raw Hall with her son Robert John Bacon and his family.¹⁶ Robert Sadler died suddenly in 1922, aged 56, and

¹⁰ FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1865, Tunstead, Vol.4b, p.45 (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1911 census, Tunstead (Schedule 47) (www.ancestry.co.uk); Baptisms, Honing, 1869 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹¹ FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1893, Smallburgh Vol.4b, p105 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹² FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1872, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p51 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹³ 1881 census, Honing (p.12) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁴ 1901 census, Wood Norton (p.1) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁵ Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1901 (p.130).

¹⁶ 1911 census Wood Norton (Schedule 195) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

there was an inquest into his death, which returned a verdict of *death from heart failure consequent on over exertion*. He had been trussing hay from 5am on Saturday morning with his son, Fred, when he collapsed and died shortly before 12 noon.¹⁷ Robert is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁸ Rebecca Sadler died in 1955, aged 82, in Hoxne, Suffolk, but is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁹

The 1911 Census for Tunstead records Robert (a farm labourer) and Rebecca Sadler with their nine children:

Name	Born	Died
George	c.1895, Honing. ²⁰ In the 1911 census, George is aged 16, and a farm labourer.	19 th February 1916, aged 20, Carlton, New York, USA. ²¹
Fred	14 th October 1895, Ridlington. ²² In the 1911 census, Fred is aged 15, and a farm labourer. Fred married Anna Tebble in July 1916 in Wood Norton (Stanley Sadler was a witness), and he served in WW1. ²³	1974, aged 79, Essex. ²⁴
Robert	1896, Ridlington. ²⁵ In the 1911 census, Robert is aged 14, and a farm labourer.	1912, aged 16. ²⁶
Stanley	19 th February 1898, Ridlington. In the 1911 census, Stanley is aged 13, and a farm labourer.	15 th August 1918, the Dutch coast.
Arthur	4 th June 1899, Ridlington. ²⁷ In the 1911 census, Arthur is aged 11, and at school. He served with the Royal Navy in WW1, and married Ivy Alice Pointen in October 1929 in Wood Norton. ²⁸	1985, aged 85, Norwich. ²⁹

¹⁷ A report of the inquest was published in the Eastern Daily Press under the heading *Death from Over Exertion*.

¹⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1922, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.120* (www.freebmd.org.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1922 (p.131).

¹⁹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1898 (p.132).

²⁰ 1911 census, Tunstead (Schedule 47) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²¹ U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-current (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²² FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1895, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.56* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²³ War Memorial, All Saints, Wood Norton.

²⁴ England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁵ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1896, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.64* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1912, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.316* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁷ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1899, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.65* (www.freebmd.org.uk); UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk); England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁸ UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1929, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.253* (www.freebmd.org.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1916 (p.105).

²⁹ England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Edward	1901, Salhouse. ³⁰ In the 1911 census, Edward is aged 9, and at school. Edward served with the Royal Marine Light Infantry Division in WW1 and emigrated to Australia in 1922. ³¹	1976, aged 75, Australia. ³²
Elsie Mary	1903, Salhouse. ³³ In the 1911 census, Elsie is aged 7, and at school. She married George Bacon in 1924. ³⁴	1982, aged 79, Suffolk. ³⁵
Sidney	1905, Tunstead. ³⁶ In the 1911 census, Sidney is aged 5. He spent time working in Canada in the 1920s and 1930s. ³⁷	
Charles	1907, Tunstead. ³⁸ In the 1911 census, Charles is aged 3.	1993, aged 85. ³⁹

Their last child, Herbert William Sadler, was born on the 30th August 1912.⁴⁰ He married Gladys M. Warnes in 1937.⁴¹ Herbert died in 2011, in Hindolveston, aged 99.⁴²

Fred, Arthur and Edward Sadler are all commemorated on the war memorial in All Saints, Wood Norton, which records the servicemen who served and died, as well as those who survived, the WW1 conflict. Stanley Sadler's name also appears on the war memorial in Bawdeswell church (approximately 6 miles from Wood Norton), but the link with Bawdeswell is not yet known.

We have been fortunate to be able to contact Stanley Sadler's relatives, who have provided us with information on the Sadler family, including photographs of Stanley and his wife (see *Figure 4*), and his Memorial Plaque (see *Figure 5*).

³⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1901, St. Faiths, Vol.4b, p.105* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³¹ UK, Royal Marines Registers of Services Index, 1842-1925 (www.ancestry.co.uk); Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³² Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1903, St. Faiths, Vol.4b, p.97* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1924, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.626* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³⁵ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1982, Ipswich, Vol.10, p.2308* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁶ England and Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915, *Quarter to December 1905, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.50* (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁷ Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1907, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.49* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³⁹ England and Wales, Death Index, 1916-2005, *Registration August 1993, North Walsham*.

⁴⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1912, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.150* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, Death Index, 2007-2015 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1937, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.639* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁴² England and Wales, Death Index, 2007-2015 (www.ancestry.co.uk).



***Figure 4 : Stanley Sadler and his wife, Agnes.
The hat band bears the name HMS Scott.***



Figure 5 : Stanley Sadler's Memorial Plaque