H.M. SUBMARINES

## "Ted" Edmund (Edwin) Tilley

### Leading Stoker K10609 Royal Navy

### Died 31st January 1918 aged 28

Although named Edwin on the Shipley War Memorial, his baptismal record, censuses and military records name him as Edmund. His name on the Shipley Roll of Honour published in the Parish Magazine in November 1914 was given as Ted. This is probably how his family and friends knew him and would account for the incorrect name being inscribed on Shipley Memorial.

Edmund was born on 22nd July 1890 and baptised in Shipley Church. He was the youngest of James Tilley and Jane Rhodes' ten children. Births spanned 20 years and all but one were baptised in Shipley Church. The children were Michael (1870), James (1873), Elizabeth (1875), Caroline (1877), Henry (1879), Ann (1881), Frank (1882), Raymond (1886), Maurice (1887) and **Edmund** (1890).

The 1891 Census shows the family was living at Patmans Cottage, Coolham, Shipley. James was employed as an agricultural labourer; Edmund was a baby of eight months and six of his siblings were living in the family home. It is probable that Edmund attended Shipley Boys School as the Headmaster, Mr Bacon, wrote in the school log book that 'members of the Tilley family, old boys of the school, visited in uniform in 1917'. This was a big event for a small village school where the headmaster took a keen interest in the progress of the war. He recorded with compassion those boys whose loved ones were fighting in France or being held as prisoners of war. However, there was more than one branch of the Tilley family in Shipley at this time. Three brothers, Frank, Maurice and Raymond appear on the Returned Voters list of 1918, having survived service in the Army. Edmund's mother Jane died in 1908.

Edmund joined the Royal Navy on 6th March 1911 as a stoker 2nd class. He completed training at Naval Barracks at Portsmouth and completed sea training on *HMS Renown.* He joined the battle cruiser *HMS Princess Royal* in November 1912 and saw active service during the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 before joining *HMS Dolphin* at Gosport in July 1916 to undertake submarine training. He was on active service aboard Submarine *K17* when it collided with *HMS Fearless* during night time exercises. *K17* was at the head of a long line of submarines and after being hit sank in about eight minutes. All 59 sailors aboard were lost, Edmund among them. The site is now a war grave.

Edmund is commemorated on the Portsmouth Royal Naval Memorial and in Shipley Church. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

In Memory of

Leading Stoker

# Edmund Tilley

K/10609, H.M. Submarine K.17., Royal Navy who died on 31 January 1918 Age 28

Son of James Tilley, of Coolham, Shipley, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour

Portsmouth Naval Memorial



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**