



# Thame Remembers

## Stoker Wilfred Harry Clark



Wilfred Harry Clark was born in May 1895, the son of Harry & Esther Clarke of 17 Chinnor Road, Thame.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy in September 1913, declaring his previous employment as a cycle repairer, and spent five months in training at HMS Pembroke, Chatham, before joining the battleship HMS Formidable in February 1914 as a Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

On the night of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1915, in rough seas off Lyme Regis in the English Channel, the Formidable took two direct hits from torpedoes fired by the German U-Boat 24, foundering quickly and sinking in 180ft of water about 37 miles off the Devon Coast.

Only 199 men were saved out of a complement of 780, and unfortunately Wilfred was not amongst them.

He is commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial and in Thame he is remembered on Thame War Memorial and on St Mary's, Christchurch and All Saints' Memorial boards.



**The Thame Remembers  
Cross was delivered  
to his memorial on  
29th June 2015  
by Margaret Skinner  
Thame Resident**

