

## **Mark Thompson**

Mark was a Stoker First Class who was part of the Hawke Battalion from 17th September 1914. Captured when Antwerp surrendered to the Germans on 9th October 1914 he became a POW. He died 18th October 1918 in the Reserve Hospital at Borna from pneumonia, and is buried in Berlin South Western Cemetery at Stahnsdorf (Germany 4).

### Historical Note:

Soon after the outbreak of war it became apparent that there was a large surplus of mobilised manpower in the Navy, and on 17th August Winston Churchill (First Lord of the Admiralty) decided to form eight battalions, in 2 Naval Brigades, which with a Royal Marine Brigade of 4 battalions would form a Royal Naval Division. The 8 battalions were named after past naval commanders, Drake, Benbow, Hawke, Collingwood, Nelson, Howe, Hood and Anson. The division participated in the defence of Antwerp in late 1914. When Antwerp surrendered some 1500 sailors of the division fled to neutral Netherlands where they were interned for the duration of the war.



SS/108738 STOKER 1ST CLASS  
M. THOMPSON, R.N.  
HAWKE BATTN. R.N.D.  
18TH OCTOBER 1918