

Marian Jarvis would like to share the story of Charles Joseph Agass - the adopted son of her Great Grandfather, Jasper Bayley

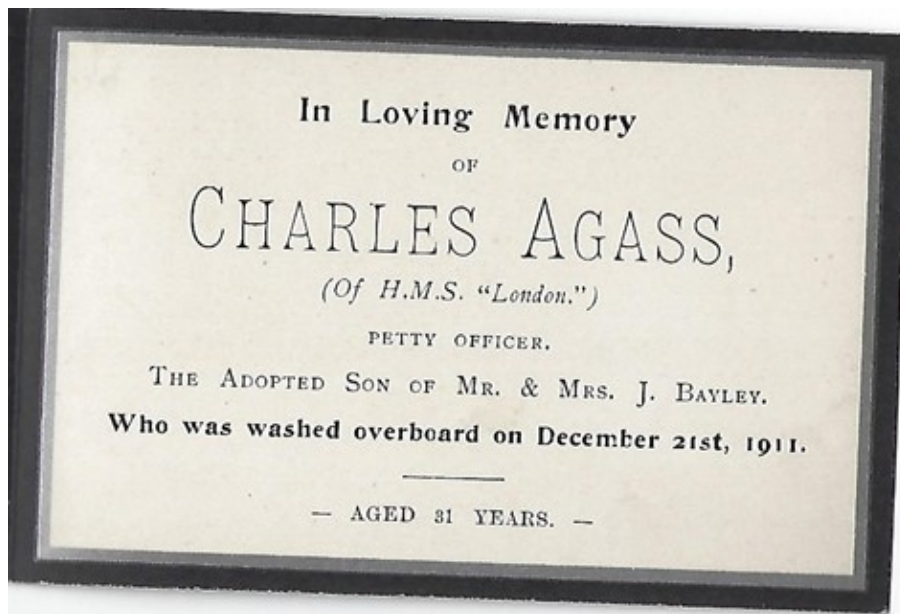


Charles Joseph Agass was born in 1881 in Tower Hamlets, East London. But by 1888 Charles's mother was dead and he was admitted to the Tower Hamlets workhouse along with his father and younger brother.

When he was 8, Charles was sent to a poor law school and then when he was just 11 years old to the Navy Training Ship Exmouth. In 1896 he joined HMS Impregnable as Boy 2nd Class and rose to be a Petty Officer, serving on many ships - not bad for a boy who had such a bad start in life!

On the 1901 census he is found serving on the battleship HMS Ocean in Hong Kong and on the 1911 census he is serving as a petty officer on HMS London in China and the East Indies.

Sadly however, on 21st December 1911 Charles was drowned in the Bay of Biscay (off Ushant) while "fixing torpedo nets". Despite a search by the ship's boats his body was never found. According to the newspaper of the time, the ship was returning from Gibraltar following the rescue of the Princess Royal and family from the wreck of the P & O liner Delhi which sunk on 12th Dec 1911 off of the coast of northern Morocco at the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar.



Marion is very lucky to have lots of original documents in her family history collection, and I am sure we will hear many more stories as she uncovers the family history surrounding them.