



## Albert Charles MATTISON

Boatswain. Royal Canadian Navy. H.M.C.S.  
"Niobe"

### At KES:

Born in 1876, after his father, a shipwright, died in 1887 he came to KES. His occupation was "tailor" and he was described as good. He was a "2 stripe monitor" too. When he left in 1891 he went into the navy.

He married Annie and had 5 children and then the family emigrated to Canada in 1907 where at least another child was born.

**Date of Death: 6<sup>th</sup> December 1917**

**Place: Canada**

### Remembered on the Halifax Memorial

Albert was listed on the crew of the "Niobe" The Niobe was the first Canadian warship to enter Canada's territorial waters and arrived on Oct. 21, 1910. The 11,000-tonne armoured cruiser was purchased by Canada from the Royal Navy and steamed across the Atlantic from Portsmouth, England. After the Niobe was paid off, it functioned as a depot ship from July 1915 until 1920 and was moored in Halifax Harbour.

Albert was killed whilst voluntarily assisting to extinguish the fire on the ammunition ship "Mont Blanc". This ship had struck another in Halifax Harbour. The fire could not be put out and the ammunition ship exploded, with devastating consequences. 2000 people were killed, all objects within half a mile were obliterated and a tsunami followed. Henceforth the incident was known as the Halifax Explosion.

## Obituary

### Obituary KES Magazine April 1918

Mattison is another example of an old KES lad offering his services in the hour of his country's need. He joined the Royal Navy straight from school and studied gunnery. He served through the Chinese War, and also wore another war ribbon. One of a picked crew he sailed round the world on the "Ophir" with the Duke and Duchess of York (our current King and Queen). As a result of a gun accident on the "Dido" he left the Navy 11 years ago and moved with his family to Canada. When war broke out he joined the "Niobe" where his previous experience immediately procured for him his warrant officer rank. He was killed during the terrible disaster at Halifax, Nova Scotia. To his wife and family now at Stone House, Todmorden, N. Scotia, we tender our respectful sympathy.