



Mat FINDERLING

Able Seaman. H.M.S. "Minto", Royal Navy

At KES:

Mat was a foundling, found on a door mat in Exmouth, hence his name. Via St Margaret's, a convent orphanage in East Grinstead, he came to KES in 1904. His occupation was 'tailor'. He was described as "lively" and "troublesome" yet also said to be a "likeable lad". When he left in 1908 he went straight into the Navy.

Date of Death: 4th February 1916

Place: Yemen

Buried: Maala Memorial No. 2

Minto was a troop ship. The circumstances of Mat's death are unclear.

Naval activities in the Red Sea were to protect Aden and the Suez Canal, vital to the British Empire. In early 1916, the Red Sea Patrol consisted of two old cruisers, four Royal Indian Marine ships, two sloops, six armed boarding steamers, an armed tug and a launch. This small fleet not only protected the sea communications through the Red Sea and maintained an open blockade of the Turkish Red Sea coast; it enabled the British to decisively project maritime power ashore in the Red Sea littoral. During the early part of 1916, the Red Sea Patrol was utilised for the transportation of arms, munitions, provisions and money from Suez and Port Sudan to the Arabian coast, and to carry secret agents back and forth.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

Mat Finderling was killed by a shot from the shore while at his post on board his vessel. Mat joined the Royal Navy on his leaving School and had seen much service since the outbreak of the war. We remember him as a happy-go-lucky lad, full of spirit, and one who represented his dormitory in all the competitions. He has left no relations; but to the East Grinstead Sisters who had him under their care for so many years, we tender our sympathy.