

117: John William Bedson

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: John William Bedson

Rank: Deck Hand H.M. Trawler "Euston"

Battalion / Regiment: Royal Naval Reserve

Service Number: 157DA

Date of Death: 12 February 1917

Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon

Additional information given by CWGC: None

John William Bedson was a son of Parkgate fisherman John and Mary Bedson and it is believed that he was born on 6 January 1883.

John Bedson married Mary Swift at St Peter's Church, Liverpool, in 1870 but Mary died, aged 44, and was buried at Neston on 9 June 1884 less than 1½ years after daughter Clara died.

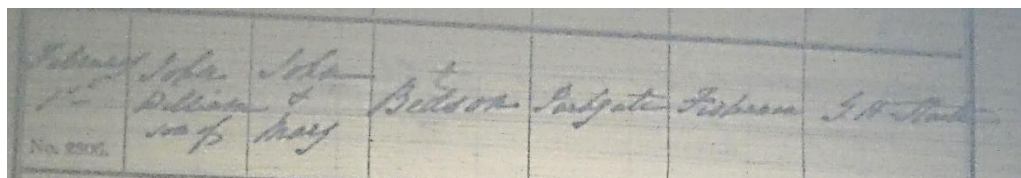
John Bedson	Head	42	Fisherman	Cheshire Parkgate
Mary do	Wife	40		do Neston
Susan do	Daughter	9		do Parkgate
Charlotte do	Daughter	8		do do
Mary do	Daughter	6		Liverpool
John W do	Son	3		Cheshire Parkgate
Clara do	Daughter	5 mths		do do

1881 census (extract) – Parkgate

John Bedson	42	fisherman	born Parkgate
Mary	40		born Neston
Susan	9		born Parkgate
Charlotte	8		born Parkgate
Mary	6		born Liverpool
John W.	3		born Parkgate
Clara	5 months		born Parkgate

The known baptisms at Neston Parish Church for the children of John and Mary Bedson are:

Susan	31? March 1872	(baptised and registered as Susannah)
Charlotte	20? May 1873	
Mary	3 January 1875	
John William	1 February 1878	
Clara	14 January 1881	(died and was buried, aged 2, 29 January 1883)



The baptismal entry for John William Bedson at Neston Parish Church

Although, in 1891, John Bedson (50, fisherman) was still living in Parkgate, only Mary (16) was recorded with him in the household at the time of the census and no record has been found anywhere of John William Bedson.

By the time of the 1901 census John (60, fisherman) had moved to live with his unmarried brother, George (48, fisherman) in Parkgate. Also in the household was unmarried daughter, Charlotte (27) together with her two (presumed) illegitimate children, James (7) and Clara (1).

Charlotte married Neston stonemason Thomas William Norman at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in late 1905 and at the time of the 1911 census John Bedson was living with them and their family (James retained the name Bedson but Clara had become Clara Norman) at Poplar Weint in Neston.

John William Bedson married Ada A Barker at St George's Church, Everton, in mid-1900 and in the 1901 census he (recorded as William J Bedson, a general labourer) and Ada were living in Everton:

William J Bedson	Head	M	23	General Labourer		Parkgate
Ada A	Wife	M	22			Liverpool

1901 census (extract) – 23, Priory Green, Everton

William J. Bedson	23	general labourer	born Parkgate
Ada A.	22		born Liverpool

The location of Priory Green is unknown; the road no longer appears to exist.

By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to Fleetwood and John was employed on the trawlers:

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)											(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)				
I certify that—											I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
1	John William Bedson	Head	33	Married	11	6	2	4	Fisherman (Seagoing)	Worker	Parkgate Cheshire	126			
2	Ada Abigail Bedson	Wife	32	Married							Liverpool Lane	058			
3	Ada Abigail Bedson	Daughter	7						Daughter		Liverpool Lane				
4	Frances May Bedson	Daughter	2								Liverpool Lane				
<small>(1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column. (2) I have entered the male and female in Column 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their ages with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on this Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have approved such as appeared to be erroneous.</small>											<small>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchen, Parlor, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.</small>				
<small>Total</small> Males 1 Females 3 Persons 4											3 rooms				
<small>Signature</small> John William Bedson											I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief. <small>Signature</small> John William Bedson Postal Address 25 Gordon St Fleetwood				

1911 census – 25 Gordon Road, Fleetwood, Lancashire

John William Bedson	33	fisherman (seagoing)	born Parkgate
Ada Abigail	32		born Liverpool
Ada Abigail	9		born Liverpool
Frances May	2		born Liverpool

John and Ada had been married for 11 years and only two of their six children had survived.

The newspaper report of his death - where John Bedson is incorrectly named as *Bedsome* (*Birkenhead News*, 19 May 1917) - notes that he had four children at that

time. Although it is known that another daughter, Elsie, was born in Fleetwood in mid-1912 it has not been possible to determine the name of the fourth child.

John Bedson was a Deck Hand, part of the Royal Naval Reserve, on the naval trawler *Euston* - it was formerly a Fleetwood trawler which had been converted to a minesweeper - which struck a mine and sank in Tees Bay, off Hartlepool, at 10.30 am on 12 February 1917. Eleven of her crew died; only two were saved.

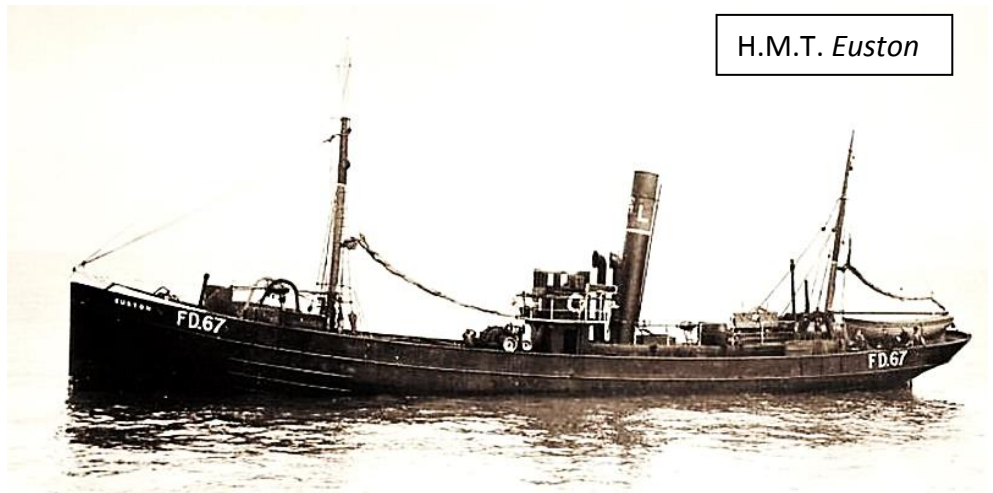
The vessel, a steel screw ketch of 117 feet, was built in September 1906 by R. Scott & Sons, Bowling, Glasgow, for the Lune Steam Fishing Co., Fleetwood and was requisitioned in June 1915 to be converted to a minesweeper of 209 tons. It was armed with a single 3-pound gun and given the Admiralty number 1589.

The mine struck by the *Euston* was part of a field laid earlier that day by German U-Boat *UC30*, commanded by Heinrich Stenzler; between 26 November 1916 and 4 April 1917 this submarine (launched 27 Jul 1916) sank 5 British ships (the *Euston* was the smallest), a total of 5,867 tons. The *UC30* itself struck a mine on 21 Apr 1917 off Horns Reef off the west coast of Denmark with the loss of all 27 crew.

At the time that John died, his address was recorded as 20 Percy Street Fleetwood, a road of similar (although rather larger) houses a short distance north of Gordon Road.



25 Gordon Road, Fleetwood
[Google StreetView]



H.M.T. *Euston*

20 Percy Street, Fleetwood
[Google StreetView]



PARKGATE MAN LOST AT SEA.

Mrs. Amer, of the Farmer's Arms, near Heswall, has received word that her brother, John W. Bedsome, a native of Parkgate, has been lost at sea through his ship



JOHN W. BEDSOME.

striking a mine. As a Royal Naval Reservist he was called up for service on the outbreak of war. His father, Mr. John Bedsome, lives in Parkgate. Deceased leaves a widow and four children.

Birkenhead News – Saturday 19 May 1917

BEDSON, Deck Hand John William, 157.DA, R.N.R. H.M. Trawler "Euston." Killed by mine explosion off Hartlepool, 12th Feb., 1917. 24.

Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921 and 1939-1947

A John Robert Bedson, possibly John's father, died in the Bebington area in mid-1918 aged 78.

Ada A Bedson, John William Bedson's widow, died in the Abercromby district of Liverpool in mid-1925 aged 46.

Little is known of John William Bedson's family:

Ada Abigail Bedson, John's daughter, was born in the West Derby of Liverpool in late 1901. She probably married John Woolfall at St Peter's Church, Rock Ferry, in late 1926 and they seem to have had at least two children:

Elizabeth - born mid-1928

Louis Raymond - born mid-1933

Frances Bedson, John's daughter, married John James Bass at the Old Fylde Registry Office in late 1929 but it is not known if they had children.

Elsie Bedson may have married Norman J Wynne at St Thomas' Church, Wavertree, in late 1934 but it is not known if they had children.

No record has been found in the 1939 Register (29 September) of anyone with the surname Bedson living in Neston.