

AUGUSTUS GILES SIDDALL

Navy Number R239

Able Seaman, 63rd Royal Naval (Infantry) Division

Killed in action in France on 25 March 1918, aged 20

Address: 1 Southfield Villas, 345 Old Bath Road

He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Arras Memorial and also on the Leckhampton War Memorial.

Augustus (“Gussie”) Siddall was born in Leckhampton, the son of Albert Giles and Emily Augusta Siddall of the above address. (Siddall’s Caravan factory was opened in 1930 on a site next to Southfield Villas by a brother of his.) Augustus had at first been in the Army Reserve but signed up in the Royal Navy in September 1916 and was posted to one of several units in France made up of sailors acting as infantrymen. In February 1917 he received a gunshot wound to his right thigh and was returned to hospital in Liverpool. Rejoining his unit in the following month he was diagnosed with impetigo and again returned to England, where he remained until he was posted back to France in November.

During the 1918 German Spring offensive the 63rd Division was in the front line opposite Cambrai. It came under a heavy gas attack, which caused many casualties, and was withdrawn on 21 March to new positions. During the fighting that followed, Able Seaman Siddall was killed, though it was not until after the war was over that his death was officially confirmed.

Bronze medallion commemorating Augustus Siddall.

Britannia is portrayed holding a trident, standing with a lion, and holding an oak wreath above a tablet bearing the name of the deceased.

See Percival Ballinger’s page for more details.

Photo – Anthony Siddall

