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Home (/) > Marine name plate artefact enforces HMS Tamar find in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour

Marine name plate artefact enforces HMS Tamar find in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour (<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1815526/navy-name-plate-artefact-enforces-hms-tamar-find>) [1]

Submitted by calum.gordon on Jun 2nd 2015, 11:32pm

News › Hong Kong › Education & Community HISTORY

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Marine historian traces brass label found in Victoria Harbour back to first world war marine



A baggage name plate that

appears to have been dropped by a British marine during the first world war a century ago has recently been found at the bottom of Victoria Harbour, and may enrich the story behind Hong Kong's most famous military ship - HMS Tamar.

A copper label bearing the characters and numbers "PLY 11217 E. Goodman", measuring 24cm long, 7.9cm high and 2mm thick, was found along with the shipwreck discovered by workers dredging the harbour seabed near the old Wan Chai Pier for a reclamation project in March.



(<https://cdn2.scmp.com/sites/default/files/2015/06/03/hmstamar-pier.jpg>) [2]The name plate has provided the strongest evidence yet suggesting the wreck is the remains of the historic ship - once an icon of Britain's naval power in Asia but later scuttled by the Royal Navy as the empire could no longer protect her far-flung colony against Japanese invasion in 1941.

The Civil Engineering and Development Department announced on March 27 that workers found a large metal object believed to be a shipwreck during reclamation for the construction of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and the Exhibition Station of the MTR's Sha Tin-Central line.

The discovery of the name tag was not revealed.

Attachment 2: Edgar Charles Goodman's service record

Name Edgar Charles Goodman Register No. 11217 Division Hydrographical

Date of Birth 11 March 1885 When engaged 8 July 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 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3104 3105 3106 3107 3108 3109 3110 3111 3112 3113 3114 3115 3116 3117 3118 3119 3120 3121 3122 3123 3124 3125 3126 3127 3128 3129 3130

According to archives found by the historian, Goodman was born in 1885 in the village of Bleadon, near the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare where his death was registered in 1959.

Since his enlistment at the age of 16, he had travelled to China, the Middle East and South Africa. His military career ended in his retirement in 1922, when he was 37.

Goodman was an exemplary serviceman, records show. He was awarded four good-conduct stripes throughout his 21 years of service, the maximum possible he could earn.

A corporal when he was in Hong Kong, he was later promoted to lance sergeant in 1916.

He was a survivor of HMS Triumph when the ship was sunk by a torpedo from a German submarine off Gaba Tepe, the present day Turkey, in 1915, an incident that killed 55 of his colleagues.

During his outpost job on the Atlantic island of St Helena, he met islander Elizabeth Maria Flagg, who was 15 years younger than him.

They got married in 1920, when he was 35 and she 26. They had two sons, Henry and Herbert, who have both since died. His daughter-in-law Joan, widow of Herbert, now lives near Bleadon.

More on this:

- Preservation of presumed HMS Tamar shipwreck could take years, historian says (<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1806475/preservation-presumed-hms-tamar-wreck-could-take>) [5]
- Shipwreck found in sea bed off Wan Chai most likely famous Hong Kong ship HMS Tamar (<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1805939/shipwreck-found-sea-bed-wan-chai-most-likely>) [6]

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Links

[1] <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1815526/navy-name-plate-artefact-enforces-hms-tamar-find>

[2] <https://cdn2.scmp.com/sites/default/files/2015/06/03/hmstamar-pier.jpg>

[3] <https://cdn2.scmp.com/sites/default/files/2015/06/02/goodman-0602-27.jpg>

[4] <https://cdn2.scmp.com/sites/default/files/2015/06/02/goodman-0602-28.jpg>

[5] <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1806475/preservation-presumed-hms-tamar-wreck-could-take>

[6] <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1805939/shipwreck-found-sea-bed-wan-chai-most-likely>