David Butler
World War I
Royal Naval Reserve
Service No. 1167X

David was born on October 4ᵗʰ, 1891, in Londonderry, Ireland to parents John and Mary Butler.

Sometime between David's birth and 1914 the family moved to Bay Roberts, Newfoundland. It was from Bay Roberts that David travelled to St. John's to enlist in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) on January 8ᵗʰ, 1914. He was 22 years old at the time.

The copy of his enlistment papers gives Bay Roberts as the "usual place of abode when ashore." David stood 5 feet 4 ¾ inches tall, had light hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion. It also notes that he was single. The enlistment document is not signed but he was accepted as a seaman and assigned the Service No. 1167X.

The official service record is rather short but reads as follows:

1. Basic training on board the Calypso August 8, 1914 – November 5, 1914.

2. Vivid 1 November 6, 1914 – December 16, 1914

Note: **HMS Vivid**

HMS Vivid was the Royal Navy designation for the barracks at Devonport in England and for other nominal bases in Cornwall, Ireland and Wales. HMS Vivid was commissioned in 1890 and operated as a training unit until 1914. The base was renamed HMS Drake in 1934, which today refers to all Her Majesty's Naval Base Plymouth.

Seaman David Butler died in hospital of influenza and of the ensuing pneumonia on December 16, 1914. He is buried in the Ford Park (formerly Plymouth Old) Cemetery, Pennycomequick, in the English County of Devon.

British War Medal

With the information in David Butler's record, it is likely that he was entitled to the British War Medal for service in World War One. This British Empire campaign medal was issued for services between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918.
The medal was automatically awarded in the event of death on active service before the completion of this period.