



## Yarmouth and Thorley People of the First World War

**Name** **Charlie Lansdowne** **Ship, regiment or home front**

d.o.b 1887 Place of birth: Warminster, Wilts.

m. Agnes Rosa May ( Rose) 1920

Parents: George and Annie m

Family: 1 sister, 5 brothers all in Navy,

Edwin, Harry, Willie, George, Frank

Children : Eileen Rose

Address pre 1914: given as Solent  
View, Yarmouth

Address post 1914: Alma Place,  
then South Street, Yarmouth.



*Charlie on right wearing medals,  
Rose wearing Red Cross Nurse's uniform*

Job pre 1914: Royal Navy Signaller

Job post 1914: Left Navy 1923

Worked for Robert May ( father-in-law) carpenter, coffin  
maker in Ommanney Road, Yarmouth.

Signalman on Yarmouth's first Lifeboat B.A.S.P. for 23  
years.

WWII West Wight Civil Engineer i/c pump Alum Bay

*Photo : Eileen Smith, also shows Chrissie May, Rose's sister, front left,  
Frank Lansdowne back left. Chrissie , courted by brothers George and  
Frank Lansdowne, married George, and lived in Yarmouth.*

**Royal Navy.** Official Number: 230772

served on **H.M.S. Magpie** stationed off Yarmouth 1916 .

Enlisted 1904 aged 12 or 14 as Stoker Boy, became  
Signaller, medal for service in Persian Gulf 1909 -14,  
served at Battle of Jutland on H.M.S. Iron Duke.

H.M.S. Magpie in WW1 was a torpedo gunboat of  
Redbreast Class. Launched in 1889, became a defence  
vessel in 1902, then a depot ship in October 1915



Charlie was Signaller and taught Rose semaphore so that  
they could exchange messages from ship to town. This was  
especially useful if the Naval police were on their way,  
looking for illicit tobacco and alcohol. Rose's parents'  
dining table had a hollow leg for hiding contraband!

More Info at.....[Town or Parish website, school website,](http://voices.onthewight.com)  
<http://voices.onthewight.com>  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>