

William (Billy) James Hole



Nº7552/S
Stoker - Royal Naval Reserve
HMS Temeraire (Jutland)
HMS Lion

William James Hole was born on the 1st November 1897 in Swansea to John and Catherine Hole. He was their 1st of 7 children, his father a Coal Tipper.
In 1901 William was aged 3, one of 2 children, 2 cousins, a grandmother and his parents living on Jockey Street Swansea.

Administrative County Glamorgan				The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the																190 Page 15								
Civil Parish				Ecclesiastical Parish				County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District				Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District				Parliamentary Borough				Town or Village or Hamlet								
Swansea Reg.				St. Matthew Reg.				Swansea				St. David's Reg.				Swansea Reg.				Swansea								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Uninhabited		Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family		Age last Birthday		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION		Employer, Worker, or Own account		If Working at Home		WHERE BORN		If Married		If Single		If Widowed		If Deceased		If Deceased		If Deceased	
Swansea Reg.				1 X		John Hole		Head M 28		Coal Tipper		Worker				Swansea		Glamorgan										
						Catherine do		Wife F 27								Swansea		Glamorgan										
						William do		Son M 3								Swansea		Glamorgan										
						Elizabeth do		Daughter F 11								Swansea		Glamorgan										
						Margaret do		Daughter F 7								Swansea		Glamorgan										
						Nelly do		Daughter F 6								Swansea		Glamorgan										
						Elizabeth do		Daughter F 5								Swansea		Glamorgan										

By 1911 William was aged 13 and at school. He was one of 6 children, his parents, grandmother and a cousin all living in 4 rooms at 15 Jockey Street Swansea (demolished).

1	John Hole	Head	38	Married	17	8	6	2	Coal Tipper	Worker					Swansea	Glamorgan														
2	Catherine Hole	Wife	37	Married											Swansea	Glamorgan														
3	William Hole	Son	13	Single					School						Swansea	Glamorgan														
4	Elizabeth Hole	Daughter	11	Single					School						Swansea	Glamorgan														
5	Christopher Hole	Son	8	Single					School						Swansea	Glamorgan														
6	John Hole	Son	5	Single					School						Swansea	Glamorgan														
7	Maggie Mayhole	Daughter	4	Single											Swansea	Glamorgan														
8	James Hole	Son	1	Single											Swansea	Glamorgan														
9	Elizabeth Hole	Daughter	1	Single											Swansea	Glamorgan														
10	Catherine	Daughter	17	Single					Spinner						Swansea	Glamorgan														

Little else is known of Williams early years though he was a proficient footballer going by the name 'Billy' Hole. He beginning his football career with junior club Hillside in 1914 but this was interrupted by the out break of war on the 4th August 1914, William aged just 17. Despite his youth William like many would be called to serve.

William enlisted into the Royal Navy Reserve on the 31st May 1915 aged 18. He was 5 foot 6 inches with a fair complexion and blue eyes. He was given a service number S/7552.

FOR PERIOD OF WAR ONLY																							
Letter	S	Number	4552	Town and County where Born	Swansea Glam.	Name of Father and Mother	John Hole Kate	Date of Birth	17 Nov 1896														
Name	Hole, William James																						
Height	5	Feet	6	Complexion	Fair	Build	Slender	Colour of Eyes	Blue														
Registration (for changes, see back)	15 Jockey St. Swansea																						
Address	15 Jockey St. Swansea																						
District and Number	Swansea 16																						
Date	28 5. 18																						
Reported by	Secretary, Admiralty																						
Remarks	Discharge, in order to take up civil employment, approved by Admiralty, letter N dated 2nd March 1918																						
Date of Enrolment	31st May 1915																						
CHARGES OF DISTRICT AND ADDRESS	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>DATE OF ENROLMENT</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>ADDRESS</th> <th>COMMITTEE NO.</th> <th>NAME</th> <th>LETTER</th> <th>NUMBER</th> </tr> <tr> <td>31 5 1915</td> <td>4 24 1915</td> <td>15 Jockey St. Swansea</td> <td></td> <td>Hole, William James</td> <td>S</td> <td>4552</td> </tr> </table>									DATE OF ENROLMENT	DATE	ADDRESS	COMMITTEE NO.	NAME	LETTER	NUMBER	31 5 1915	4 24 1915	15 Jockey St. Swansea		Hole, William James	S	4552
DATE OF ENROLMENT	DATE	ADDRESS	COMMITTEE NO.	NAME	LETTER	NUMBER																	
31 5 1915	4 24 1915	15 Jockey St. Swansea		Hole, William James	S	4552																	

On the 1st June 1915 he was posted to the Shore Establishment HMS Vivid at Devonport as a Stoker. 'D' = Devonport

D	26	15	Vivid	15 6 15	Stoker	Sat	17	18	Temeraire
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On the 16th June 1915 he was posted to HMS Temeraire as a Stoker remaining with her for the rest of the year.

Swansea	1	6	15	Temeraire	D	16	6	15	Temeraire	31	12	16	do	Sat	17	18
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HMS Temeraire was a Bellerophon Class Dreadnaught Battleship launched in 1907 and in 1915 Part of 4th Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet .

Temeraire was undergoing a refit in Devonport in mid 1915, almost certainly when William joined her she re-joined the 4th Battle Squadron in August 1915 in the Firth of Forth . As a Stokers William worked in the engine-rooms stoking the boilers with coal and tending the furnaces.



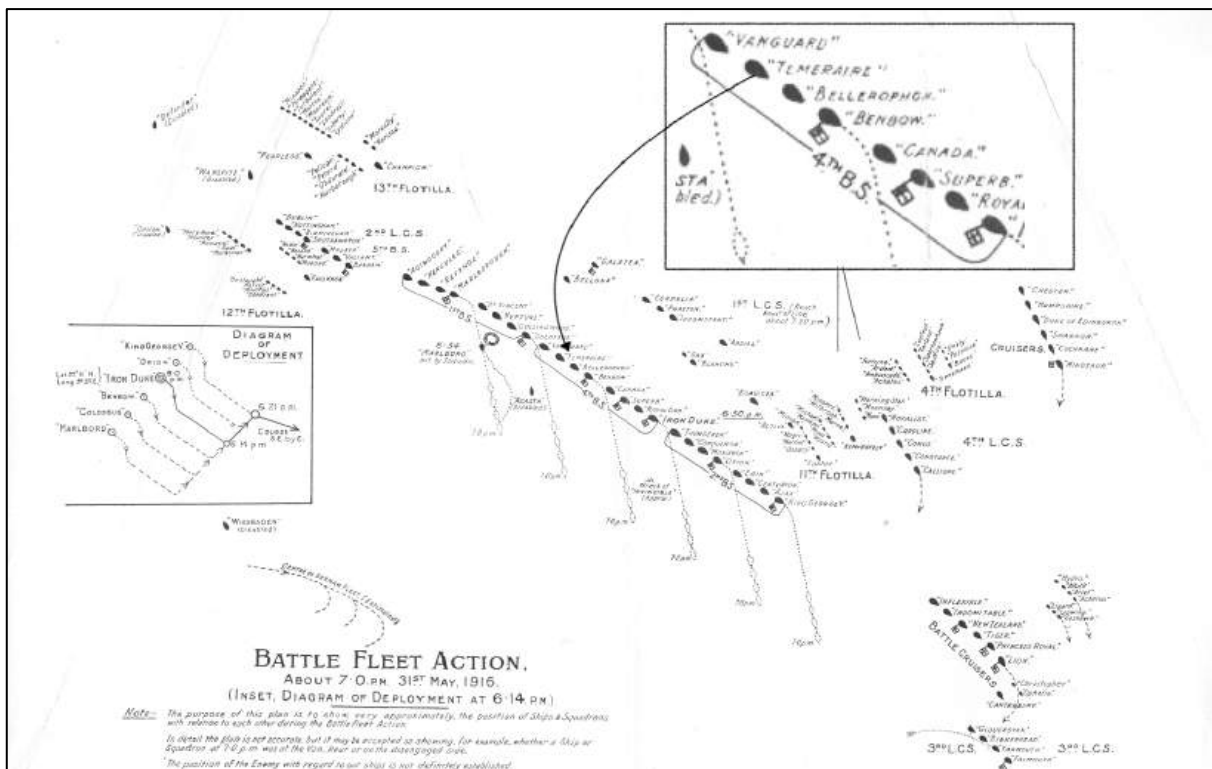
The Grand Fleet Firth of Forth



From the 2nd to 5th September 1915, the fleet went on a cruise in the northern end of the North Sea and conducted gunnery drills. Throughout the rest of the month, the Grand Fleet was performing numerous training exercises before making another sweep into the North Sea on from the 13th to 15th October. Almost three weeks later, Temeraire participated in another fleet training operation west of Orkney during 2nd to 5th November 1915.

Battle of Jutland - In an attempt to lure out and destroy a portion of the Grand Fleet, the German High Seas Fleet, composed of 16 dreadnoughts, 6 Pre-Dreadnaughts 5 Battle Cruisers and supporting ships, departed early on the morning of 31st May 1916.

On the 31st May 1916 the Temeraire was the fifteenth ship from the head of the battle line after deployment. During the first stage of the general engagement, the ship fired five salvos from her main guns at the crippled Light Cruiser SMS Wiesbaden at 18:34 claiming two or three hits. At 19:17, the ship fired seven salvos at the battlecruiser SMS Derfflinger but did not make any hits. About ten minutes later, Temeraire engaged several German destroyer flotillas with three salvos from her main armament without result. This was the last time that the ship fired her guns during the largest ever naval battle. She received no damage and fired a total of 72 twelve-inch shells and 50 shells from her four-inch guns.



Subsequent activity - The Grand Fleet sortied on the 18th August 1916 to ambush the High Seas Fleet while it advanced into the southern North Sea, but a series of miscommunications and mistakes prevented intercepting the German fleet before it returned to port. Due to the prevalence of German submarines and mines it was stipulated that the Grand Fleet would not sortie unless the German fleet was attempting an invasion of Britain or there was a strong possibility it could be forced into an engagement under suitable conditions.

William remained with HMS Temeraire until the 1st April 1917

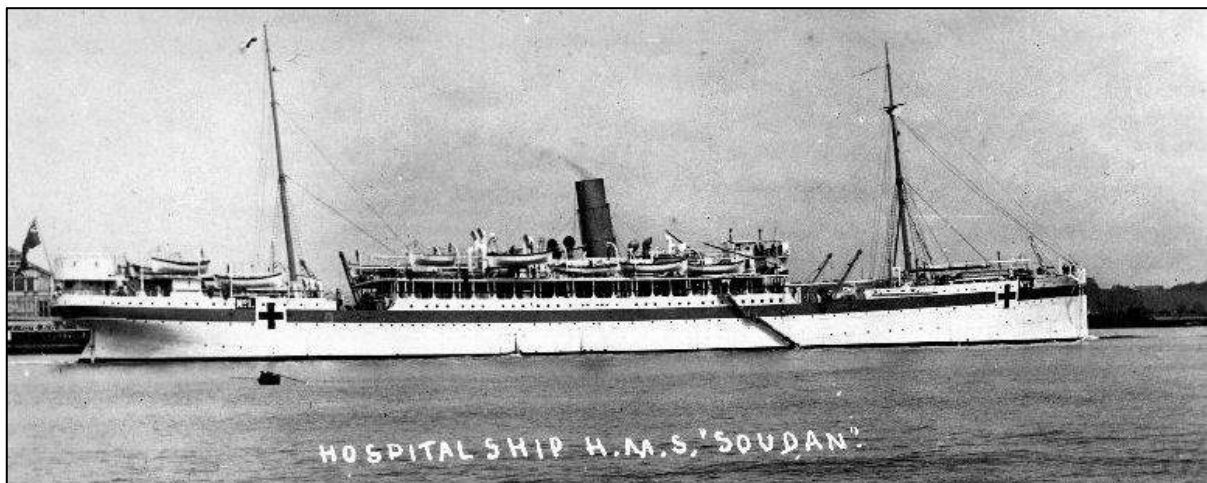
Temeraire 1.1.17 Temeraire 1.4.17 do Sat 1.9

From the 1st April 1917 to the 14th July 1917 he returned to the book of HMS Vivid.

** Voids from Temeraire 1.4.17 Vivid 14.7.17 do Sat 1.9 To Lion*

From the 16th May 1917 he was on the Hospital Ship (HS) Soudan 'from Temeraire'

Sigs HS Soudan 16.5.17 (171324) from Temeraire 2.6.17 *Sigs HS Soudan 16.5.17 (Y83Y)*



From the 23rd1917 he was 'to HMS Imperieuse' a receiving ship destined for 'Vivid'

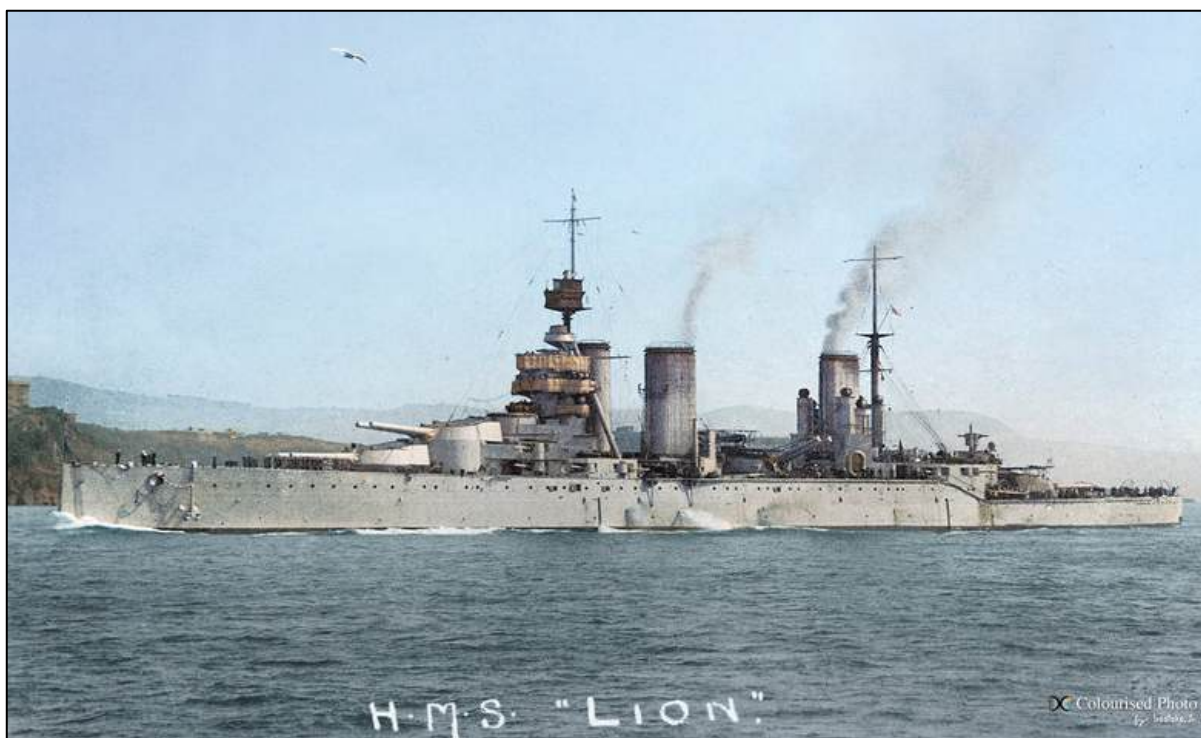
To Imperieuse for Vivid 23.6.17

Form the 15th July 1917 to the 3rd April 1918 William was posted as a Stoker to HMS Loin from Vivid.

Lion from Vivid 15.7.17 1918 Lion 3.4.18 do Sat 1.9 to Vivid

HMS Lion was a Battle Cruiser launched in 1910 and Flag ship of the Grand Fleets Battlecruisers.





HMS Lion provided support for British light forces involved in the Second Battle of Heligoland on the 17th November 1917 but never came within range of any German forces. The 1st Battle Cruiser Squadron, including Lion, sailed on 12th December in a futile attempt to intercept the German destroyers that had sunk the convoy en route to Norway earlier that day, but returned to base the following day.

Lion, along with the rest of the Grand Fleet, sortied on the afternoon of 23rd March 1918 after radio transmissions had revealed that the High Seas Fleet was at sea after a failed attempt to intercept the regular British convoy to Norway. However, the Germans were too far ahead of the British and escaped without firing a shot

On the 3rd April 1918 William was posted back to Vivid from HMS Lion 'Shore to return to Civil(ian) Employment.

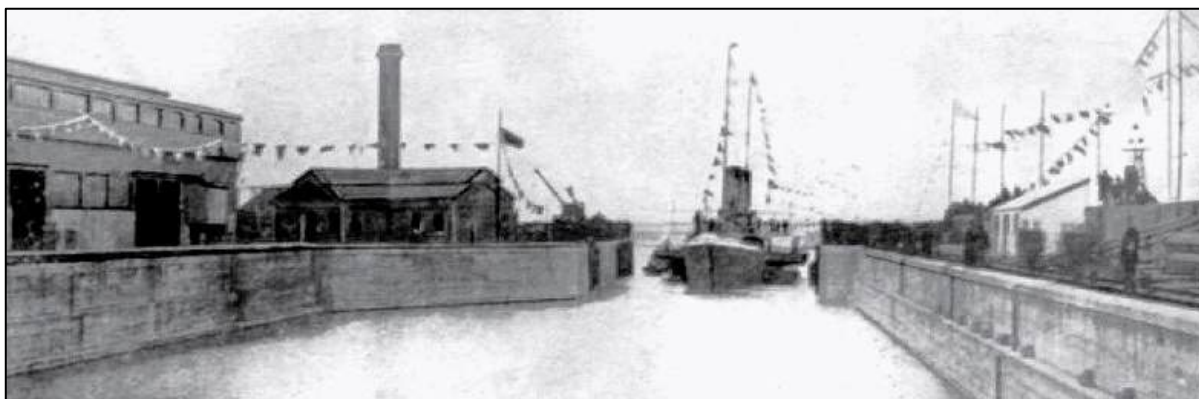
Vivid from Lion:	3. 4. 18	Vivid II	3. 4. 18
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Vivid II	3. 4. 18	don	Sat. 7 th	Shore to return to civil employment (A.L. 2 nd of 23 Mar 18)
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William was discharged on the 23rd March 1918 to be employed at the Prince of Wales Dry Dock Swansea. (pictured) he returned to Devonport depot on the 4th May 1918 for discharge and top Swansea on the 21st May 1918.

* R9.15558/25. 3. 18. To be employed at Prince of Wales Dry Dock, Swansea			FINALLY DISPOSED OF	
Date	Reported by	Cause		
R9.15558 25. 3. 18.	Secretary, Admiralty.	* Discharge, in order to take up civil employment, approved by Admiralty letter N° dated 23rd March, 1918.		
R.I. 2 Recd				

Min to D. Depot	Min to Swansea	Strength, together
4. 5. 18 for report of	21. 5. 18 notifying	with R.V. 8.
discharge	removal from	discharge



William saw hostilities come to an ended on the 11th November 1918 working in Swansea.

William made an application for a Silver War Badge which was refused on the 6th January 1919. The SWB was for those medical discharged suggesting he was not.

APPLICATIONS FOR				WAR BADGES.			
NAME	O.N.	Rating	Pension Papers	Badge Issued		Badge Refused	
				No.	Date	Cert. No.	Date
Hole, W. J.	4552 (S)	Sto R.N.R.		—	—	5506	6.1.19.

On the 19th February 1919 he put in a War Gratuity Claim thus £16 10s 0d was paid on the 16th March 1919.

R/L 8955/ 6.2.19. RV-8 paid by Hole in connection with form recd from Min. of Munitions. return requested to Swansea with "RV-8, 10.2.19 X (endorsed as to character)	W. G. Claim No. 17148 To A.G. 11.19/2/19	PAID W. G. £ 16 10 0 Refd 14/3/19
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William went back to his football having been discharged and joined his hometown professional club Swansea Town after the in 1919 when they were still playing Southern League football, and when they joined the new Third Division at the start of the next season, he played in their inaugural Football League match at Portsmouth in August 1920.

William received an interim payment of £12 10s 0d Naval Prize Money on the 22nd November 1920 and a final award of £18 15s 0d in July 1922.

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY Interim Award £ 12. 10. 0d T. Swansea D. 22.11.20		No. H3089 Charged to Schedule 34 Port of Swansea Date 25.11.20
Final Award £ 18. 15. 0d T. Swansea D. 18.7.22		Charged to Schedule 34 Port of Swansea Date 18.7.22
H. of H. Mocher Kate 5a.		

For his war service William received the 1915 Star, British War and Victory Medals.

568						
Roll: R.N.R.						
REGISTRY HONORARY W & Sons Ltd TOWN/003						
Name	Rank or Rating	No.	Medals, etc., earned			How issued or disposed of
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HOLE, Wm. J.	Sto.	7552/B		St. V. C.		



In 1920 William married Mary Josephine Sullivan.

The same year, 1920 William opened a Newsagent Shop on St Helens Road Swansea, professional food ball at this time did not pay well.

Billy Hole opens his first newsagents in Swansea

Yes 1920 was certainly a good year, not only did Queen Mary visit Swansea to open The Queens Dock, but Mr Billy Hole opened his first newsagents in Swansea! Mr Hole an ex Welsh and Swansea town football player established his newsagents in St Helens Road, Swansea.

In the 1921 Census William is notes as a 'Professional Footballer Swansea Town Football Association Ltd. He and Mary were living at 4 Tample House Mayhill.

1	William James Hole	Head	23-4-1874	Swansea	Professional Footballer	Swansea Town Football Association Ltd	The Victoria Field Swansea	English
2	Mary Hole	Wife	20-7-1878	Swansea	At home		93rd-DB	English

Professional Footballer	Swansea Town Football Association Ltd	The Victoria Field Swansea
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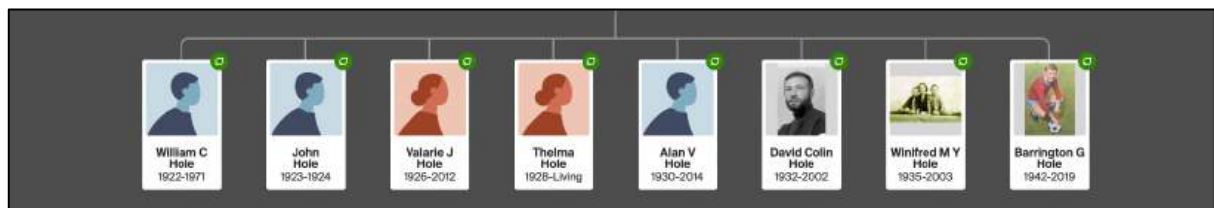
Name of person responsible for making the return.	William James Hole
Postal Address	4 Tample Houses Mayhill

William in 1921 and bottom left on the Swansea team photo.



William was awarded his first Wales international cap against Ireland at The Vetch Field on 9th April 1921, scoring the first goal in a 2-1 victory, his only goal for his country, and played his last match of 9 caps for Wales on 17th November 1928 against England.

In 1922 William and Mary had their first child, one of 8 over the next 20 years.



In the 1922-23 season William missed only one match for Swansea Town scoring a career best 15 goals – pictured in 1923 Wales v England



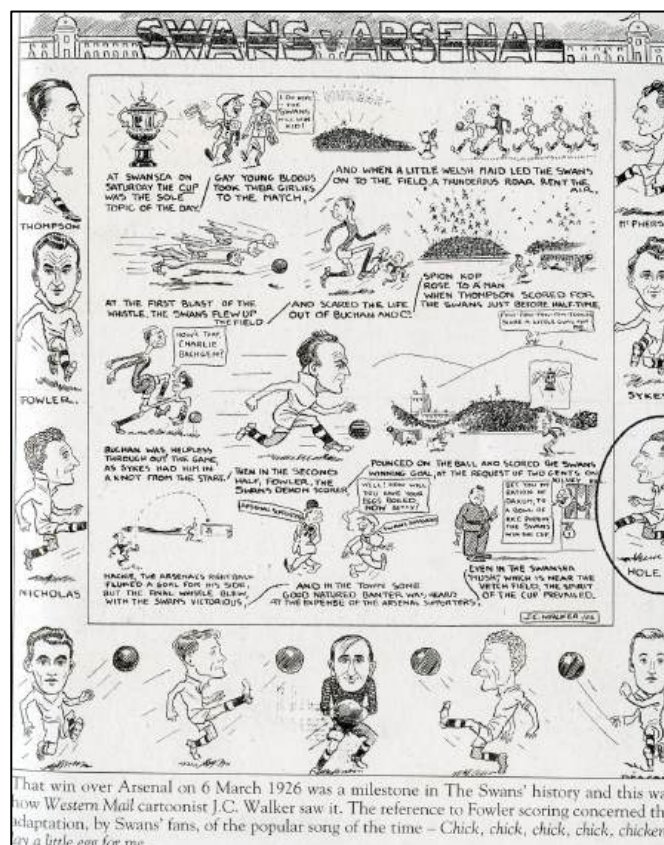
Swansea town 1926, William 3rd from left centre row.

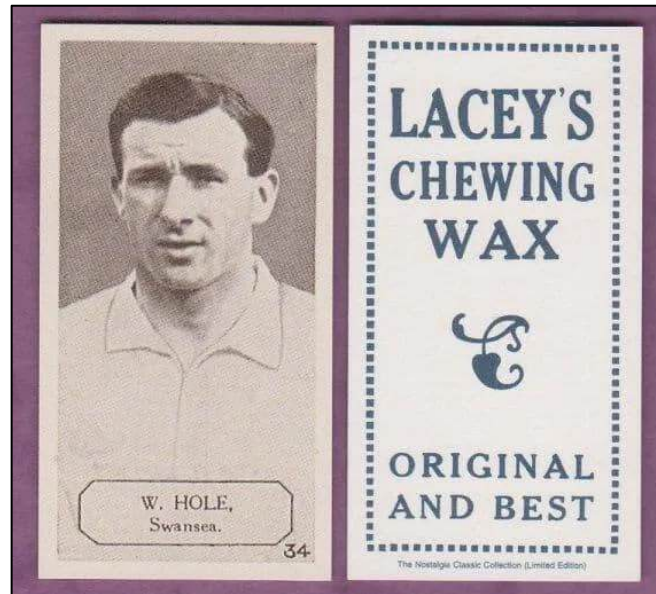


Back row, left to right: Hart (Groundsman), Edwards (Trainer), W. Milne, H. Bellamy, R. Booth, E. R. Robson, J. Logie, A. Davies, J. Collins, J. Fowler, J. Denoon, E. Bennet, W. J. Corkindale, T. Whithead, L. McPherson, Wishert (Assist. Trainer).

Middle row: B. Humphries, J. Miller, W. Hole, H. Deacon, W. Lewis, W. Lamb, Thompson, J. Spottiswode, J. Eadshaw (Manager).

Sitting: A. E. Langford, J. Holland, J. Sykes, E. Wood, and Morley.





William scored 44 goals in 378 appearances for The Swans, his last match coming at Bradford Park Avenue in April 1931, before he joined non league Llanelly in the 1931 close season ahead of his eventual retirement.

His sons were also professional footballers. Alan made 25 appearances for Swansea in the 1950's; Barrie featured almost 100 times for the club in the early 1970's having previously played for Cardiff, Blackburn and Aston Villa, and played 30 times for Wales. Another son, Colin, was on Swansea's books but never made a first team appearance

In the 1939 Register William having long retired from professional football is a Newsagent Tobacco & Sweet Dealer. He still maintained an interest in football coaching various teams.

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		PERSONAL OCCUPATION		See INSTRUCTIONS.
ADDRESS	SCHEDULE		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	Date		S. M. W. or D.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day	Year	
66. Bitts	272	1	Hole, William	M	1897	27	11	Newsagent, Tobacco & Sweet Dealer
		2	Hole, Mary	F	20	1897	11	Housewife
This record is officially closed.								
	31	4	Hole, Helara	F	24	1901	3	Do.
		5	Hole, Alan	M	26	1901	3	Do.
		6	Hole, Colin	M	14	1901	3	Do.
This record is officially closed.								

William passed away on the 7th December 1983 aged 87