

Surname	Gaunt
Forename(s)	John Whitehead
Initials	J W
Age	24
Honours/Awards	
Date died	27/01/1917
Rank	Fourth Engineer Officer
Regiment	Mercantile Marine
Unit/Squadron	S.S. "Artist" (Liverpool)
Service Number	
Cemetery/Memorial	Tower Hill Memorial
Grave Reference	
Further Information	Son of John Oliver and Katie Gaunt (nee Fairhurst), of 12, Zigzag Rd., Liscard, Cheshire. Born at Liverpool.



News Report

On The "Artist"

Three Wallasey Men Missing

Three of Wallasey's young were on board when the "Artist" was ruthlessly sunk without warning by a German submarine, and it is feared that they have been lost.

Albert Houlgrave, third engineer, who was 24 years of age, lived with his parents at 30, Eastcroft Road, Seacombe. He had been at sea for four years, 2½ years of which he was on board the "Artist," of the Harrison Line. Mr. Albert Houlgrave, the father of the young officer, has received many inquiries and messages of sympathy, including one from the Marine Engineers Association, Liverpool, in which the Secretary writes "regretting the untimely end of our member," and tendering their heartfelt sympathy. He adds:- "Although many families are now mourning the loss of dear one's who have been the victims of

the ruthless enemy, it is, nevertheless, a very severe trial to the friends who are suffering from the terrible blow, and we hope you will be given strength to bear up against the loss you have sustained.”

Engineer Houlgrave attended the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Seacombe, and was a great favourite with all who knew him. When recently an appeal was made in the “Wallasey News” for boxing gloves for Wallasey boys with the colours, a set belonging to the young naval officer was sent to our Office and forwarded to the front.

The fourth engineer of the unfortunate vessel, Mr. John Whitehead Gaunt, popularly known as ‘Jack,’ has also been reported as a missing member of the crew.

M. Gaunt, who resided at 12, Zigzag Road, and who served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Wilson, of Dock Road, Seacombe, was 24 years of age, and was aboard the “Wayfarer” when the vessel was successful in eluding capture by a German submarine two years ago.

“Jack” was well known and respected by his seafaring friends, and his loss will be greatly felt, not only by these friends but also by the large circle of associates he had made during his membership of Emmanuel Church.

Cadet Percy Davenport, 17 years of age, and formerly of 33, Rudgrave Square, is also reported as missing. He was employed prior to joining the ship “Matador,” twelve months ago, by Mr. Joseph Owens, timber merchant. This was his first voyage on the “Artist.”

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

[back](#)