

# William Josiah BLAKE

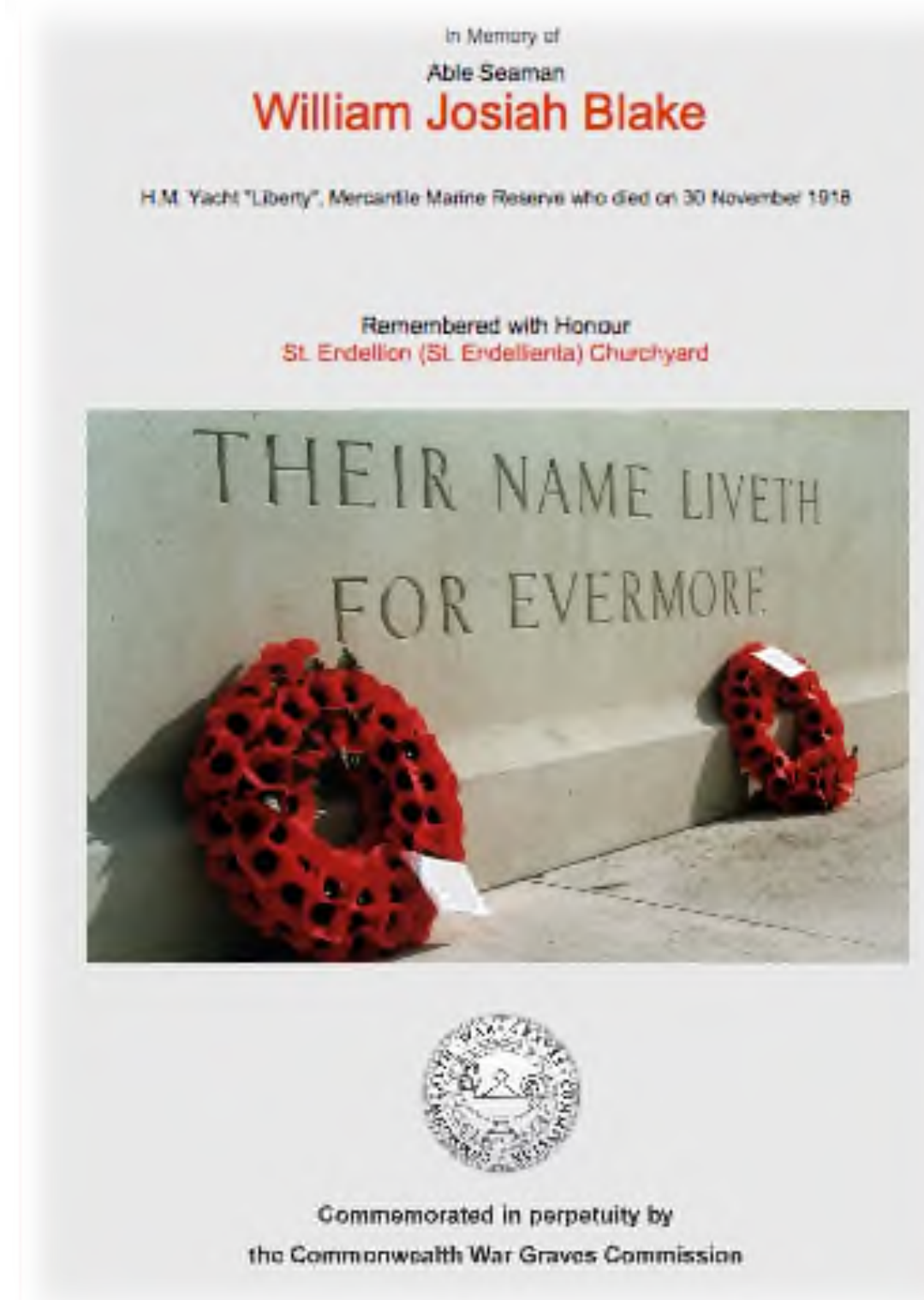
**Able Seaman, HM Yacht "Liberty"  
Died November 30<sup>th</sup> 1918, aged 23  
Memorial in St Endellion churchyard**

William Blake was born in 1895 to Nicholas and Mary Blake. The 1901 census records Nicholas (51) as a fisherman to his own account, and Mary (46) was born in Calstock. William was living with his parents and his elder sister Bessie (17). In the 1911 census, William was recorded as a coast fisherman, as was his father.

William was in HM Yacht Fleet, in HMY Liberty. This was originally the yacht Curityba and was hired by the Admiralty to become an armed auxiliary patrol yacht. She was built in 1907 by Ramage and Ferguson in Leith, and commissioned in September 1915. At 1,607 tons she was a large vessel, and became a hospital transport ship in 1917.

William died in hospital on November 30<sup>th</sup> 1918, only a few weeks after the end of the war. Working on a hospital transport ferrying wounded from France to the UK, William would have had an increased risk of exposure. November 1918 was the peak month in the UK for flu deaths and this is most likely the cause of William's death.

Able Seaman William Josiah Blake has his grave in St Endellion Church.



## Sources

HM Yacht Liberty: [http://www.navypedia.org/ships/uk/brit\\_aux\\_ay1.htm](http://www.navypedia.org/ships/uk/brit_aux_ay1.htm)