

Denis Glanton

Story from: Larry Glanton

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Denis Glanton, my great grandfather, was born in Carrigillihy in 1881. Like many other Irish men at that time, he joined the Royal Navy in 1902 at the age of 21. His records state he was born in 1884, though it is unlikely he lied about his age, as this would only have made him younger.

He trained as a diver and served on various ships and shore bases until 1922. In October 1918 he came home on leave. He travelled from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire on the RMS Leinster. When the ship was returning to Holyhead the next day, she was torpedoed and sank in Dublin Bay with the loss of 501 lives. She was one of the last ships to be sunk in World War 1, which finished a couple of weeks later.

Admiral Jellicoe was the First Sea Lord of the navy at that time. After the war, in 1919 and 1920, Jellicoe went on a voyage to India, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. My great grandfather was also on the voyage.

Denis retired on pension in 1922, after marrying Mary Hayes in 1920. He lived the rest of his life in Carrigillihy until he died in 1961 at the age of 80.