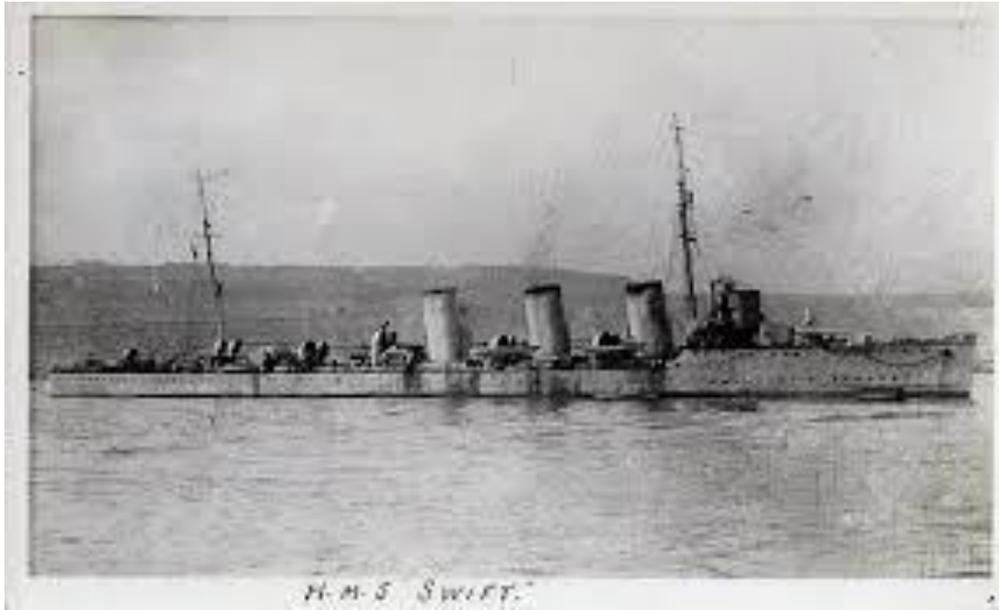


# Charles Ackerley

Cranage Road, Holmes Chapel

## Returned

The ship on which Charles served



### His Story

The eldest son of Samuel and Maggie Ackerley, Charles was born at Statham near Lymm in 1888 the eldest of the three brothers, all who joined the services. He had moved to Rush Green by 1901 but in 1911 he had left home and was in the Navy.

At the 1911 census he was a Royal Navy Able Seaman serving on HMS Thames. At the time his father lived in Holmes Chapel in the room over the hamper maker's workshop behind the existing Sainsbury's shop.

In October 1916 he married Edith Sankey at the Congleton Registry Office. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1917 their daughter was christened Joyce Swift Ackerley. By this time they were living on Cranage Road

There is a report of his death in 1965 aged 76

### His War Record

By 1915 he was reported to be serving abroad on HMS Leviathan. There are no further reports about his war experience until the absent voters returns of 1919 when he is reported to be a seaman aboard HMS Swift. As his daughter was christened Joyce Swift in 1917 he would have appeared to have been serving on the vessel for at least two years. The ship, a destroyer leader, saw action as detailed below:

On the night of April 20-21 1917, while commanded by Ambrose Peck and accompanying HMS Broke she engaged a force of six enemy destroyers in the Battle of Dover Strait. In a confused fight she hit G85 with a torpedo while *Broke* rammed, and became enmeshed with, G42. The remaining German ships fled, *Swift* pursued but took several hits and was compelled to slow. She returned to assist *Broke* and rescue survivors of G42 before returning to Plymouth. Due to the poor performance of the 6 inch gun her armament was reduced to two 4 inch guns.