

Name	Leslie Andrew DODS
Birth Place	Bugbrooke
Occupation 1911	Telegraphist, Merchant Navy (SS <i>Saxonia</i>)
Date of Birth	18 February and baptised 10 May, 1891
Date Enlisted	By 23 September 1910 (Merchant Navy)
Parents	Louis Ferdinand DODS and Lilian Florence DODS (née MacLEAN)
Married	Blanche Maude REYNOLDS on 3 February 1917 in Camden, north London

Information from National Roll of the Great War

No entry found.

Additional Information

Leslie DODS was one of five children of Louis DODS, a Medical Practitioner (GP?) [Declared as 'Surgeon' in the 1911 census] and his wife Lilian, all living in north-west London by 1901. Sadly, Lilian died in August 1904 and Louis married again the following spring, Victoria Marguerite HAMPTON, a local midwife.

Leslie joined the Merchant Navy by/in September 1910, already a qualified telegraphist and 'Marconi Operator'. Was this in part at least a result of his early exposure to wireless telegraphy at school in Bugbrooke? At this time, the Marconi Company provided all telegraph and wireless operators for merchant ships. Leslie probably went straight into training with Marconi on leaving school.

He had served on SSs *Saxonia* and *Derbyshire* before taking an appointment ashore with the GPO (General Post Office, responsible for the postal system, emerging telephone systems and wireless telegraphy) from 1 September 1915 as a 'Certified Wireless Operator'. Though Conscription was known to be imminent, 'Marconi Operators' were in short supply and were declared exempt from military service. Interestingly, Marconi had developed a system of direction finding and in February 1915 Naval Intelligence had established five stations (later expanded to 12) to make use of this capability, employing experienced operators such as Leslie.

Leslie married Blanche REYNOLDS in early 1917 and they had twins, Auckland and Charles, in early 1919.

Immediately post-war, the family was living back in north-west London, though they had moved to the south coast by 1939, when Leslie was working as a wireless engineer for Marconi. It is assumed that he remained in similar employment until his early death on 14 December 1945 in Southampton, aged 54.

Leslie's First World War service earned him the British War Medal and the Mercantile Marine War Medal (awarded by the Board of Trade for voyages through a war zone), both issued to him in 1924.

His widow, Blanche, left Southampton in May 1947 for Southern Rhodesia, via Cape Town in South Africa, returning to England via Southampton in May 1952, destined for Chard in Somerset. Her death has not been traced.

