

## DEATH DETAILS OF DEACON AND SMITH DIED 1900

**The memorial to deceased Ganges Boys of the period 1900-1901 which stands in St Mary Churchyard, Shotley Suffolk, is incorrect in at least two ways. Firstly, the initials of DEACON are missing and secondly both the ages shown for these two persons is wrong, albeit by one year in either case.**

**Government records [GRO] show that DEACON, whose names were William Henry was 26 when he died and that his death was registered in Plymouth, Devon. His death certificate number is 5b.165, and it is probable that he is buried in the West Country. His title of Band Master is worth amplification.**

**I took this article from the National Archives: -**

1870-1903. Bandmasters [bluejackets, marines and army] are trained at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, near Twickenham. Naval Bands - Many large ships in the Royal Navy possess bands, when the commander bears the rank of post-captain or that of a superior officer. The number of performers ranges from ten to fifteen, consisting of bandmaster, band corporal, and bandsmen, the latter being recruited from the boys bands in training ships, and from land bandsmen. In the summer of 1903 it was resolved that all naval bands should be transferred to the Royal marines, and that a new Royal Naval School of Music should be opened at the Melville Hospital, Chatham.

**DEACON would have been a Royal Marine Band Sergeant seconded to Ganges to train, lead and supervise the boys band.**

**SMITH's names were Charles Lawrence and he died when aged 16. His death was registered at Samford [which is the Ganges Shotley area] and his certificate number is 4a.530. If he is buried in St Mary Churchyard, his grave is unmarked.**