

Jonathan REMICK

Petty Officer 188412, HMS "Monmouth", aged 34

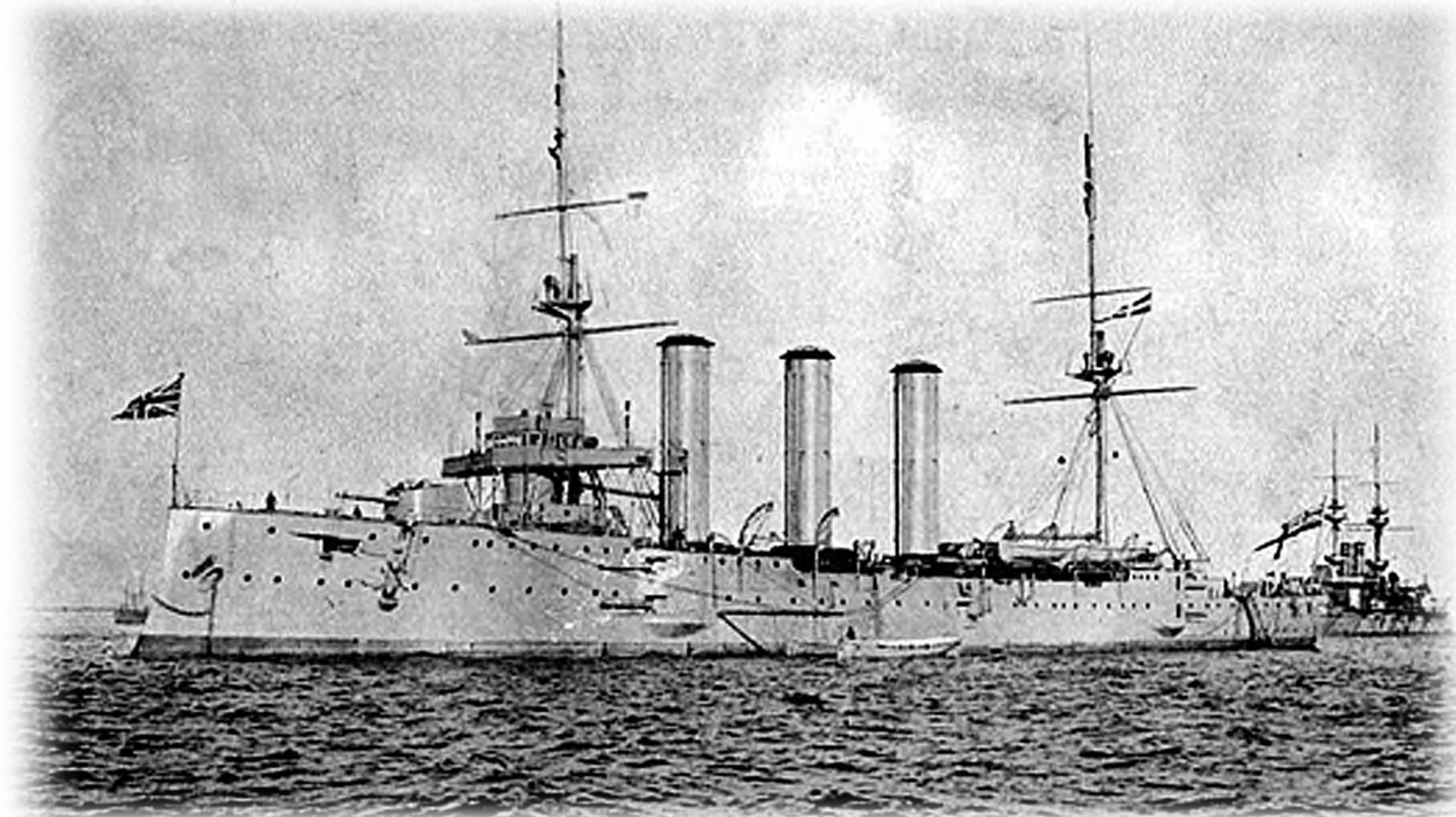
Richard CURTIS

Able Seaman Ldg Boatman 148477 C G, HMS "Monmouth", aged 40

Both lost November 1st 1914 when HMS Monmouth was sunk in the Battle of Coronel
Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial

Jonathan Remick: He was the son of Thomas Remick and Mary Jane, nee Lakeman, born in Port Isaac in 1880. He was the cousin of *Isaac Broad Remick* and his brother *Stanley Remick*, who were also killed in the First World War. He married Emily Maud Fletcher in 1907, and they lived in Saltash. When war broke out he was a Petty Officer on the armoured cruiser HMS *Monmouth*.

Richard Curtis: He is the father of *Garfield Curtis*. He was born in Lansallos in 1874, and was a coastguard at Par, then he transferred to Port Isaac shortly before the war broke out. He was a Royal Navy reservist, called up to serve on HMS *Monmouth* immediately she was mobilised on August 4th 1914.



HMS Monmouth: 10,000 tons, 453ft 6in long, 66ft beam, 25ft draught

HMS Monmouth was completed December 2nd 1903, but on return from the China Station in 1913 was mothballed. When war broke out she was recommissioned and assigned to the 5th Cruiser Squadron in the Central Atlantic to search for German Commerce Raiders and protect Allied shipping. In mid-September 1914 she was ordered to join Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock's squadron in their search for Vice-Admiral von Spee's German East Asia Squadron in the Pacific, which led to the action known as the Battle of Coronel off the Chilean coast.

Battle of Coronel: As they sailed up the coast of Chile, Cradock's squadron comprised the armoured cruisers HMS Good Hope (*his flagship*) and HMS Monmouth, the modern light cruiser HMS Glasgow and a converted liner HMS Otranto. Glasgow went on ahead, entering Coronel harbour on October 31st to collect messages and news from the British Consul. Glasgow was spotted by the German supply ship Gottingen, which was already in the harbour. They radioed von Spee, whose squadron was in Valparaiso 250 miles to the north. In order to confuse the British, the East Asia Squadron had all been ordered to use the same call sign, that of the German Cruiser Leipzig. Glasgow was monitoring the German radio traffic and notified Cradock. Neither side realised how close their opposite number's squadron was, so von Spee sailed south expecting to catch the single ship Glasgow, and Cradock raced north expecting to catch the single ship Leipzig.

On November 1st Glasgow met up with Cradock and they all sailed north in stormy seas. At 16.20 the two squadrons were surprised to see each other. Cradock was in a serious position, as he was facing five modern German vessels with superior armaments. The Germans had sixteen 8 inch guns against Good Hope's two 9 inch guns (*one of which was hit in the first five minutes*) and the 6 inch guns of Monmouth and Glasgow, most of which were in casements on the sides of the ship and were liable to flood in high seas. Otranto, which only had 4 inch guns and was a much larger target, retired west at her maximum speed of 16 knots.

At 17.10 Cradock decided he must fight and attempted to close on the Germans, who turned away but maintained a distance of 14,000 yards. The Germans thwarted other attempts to close the distance, but at 18.50 the sun set and von Spee closed in to 12,000 yards. The British 6 inch guns could not match the range of the Germans, so under heavy fire Cradock closed the gap. By 19.30 it was down to 6,000 yards, but this opened up Good Hope and Monmouth to devastatingly accurate salvos and both were soon on fire. They were easy targets in the darkness, with Monmouth the first to fall silent. By 19.50 Good Hope was also silent, and a short while later her forward section exploded before the ship broke apart and sank.

Glasgow had been engaged by two light cruisers, whose 4 inch guns left her relatively unscathed. Glasgow's captain realised that each time he fired his guns their flash was used as an aiming point, so he also ceased firing and avoided the Germans in the dark. He returned to Monmouth, which was afloat but sinking slowly and was going to attempt beaching on the Chilean coast. He could do nothing for them, so turned south and departed.

The Germans continued firing towards Monmouth, but it appears they could no longer see her, nor the Good Hope, which they did not see sink, and began to search. The Monmouth was eventually sighted listing and badly damaged, but still moving. After directing his searchlights at Monmouth's ensign, an invitation to surrender which was declined, the Germans opened fire and sank the ship. The Germans incorrectly concluded the Good Hope had escaped and gave up their search.

There were no survivors from either Good Hope or Monmouth, a total loss of 1,600 officers and men, including Petty Officer Jonathan Remick and Leading Able Seaman Richard Curtis. Their names are on the Plymouth Naval Memorial on Plymouth Hoe.

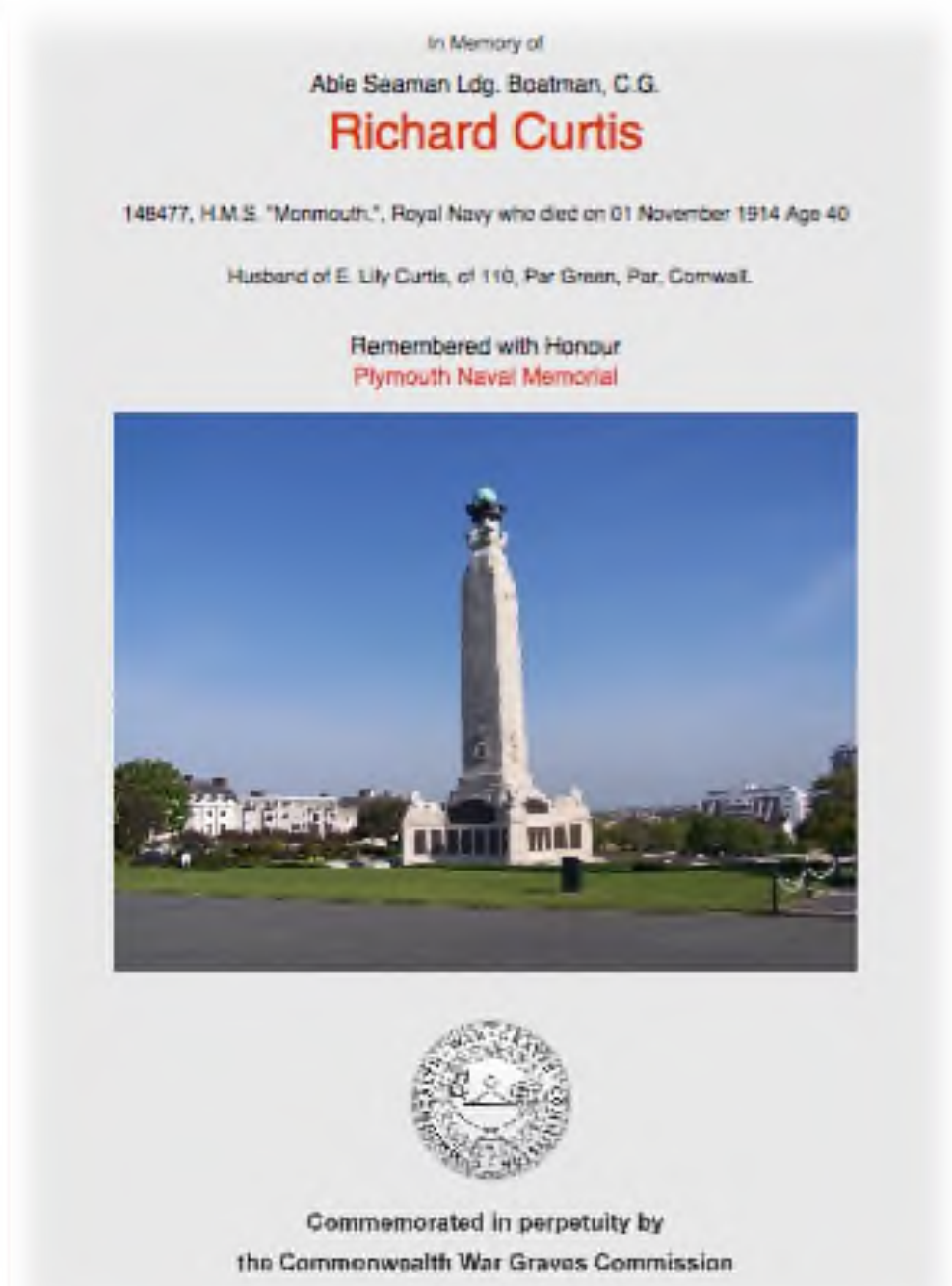
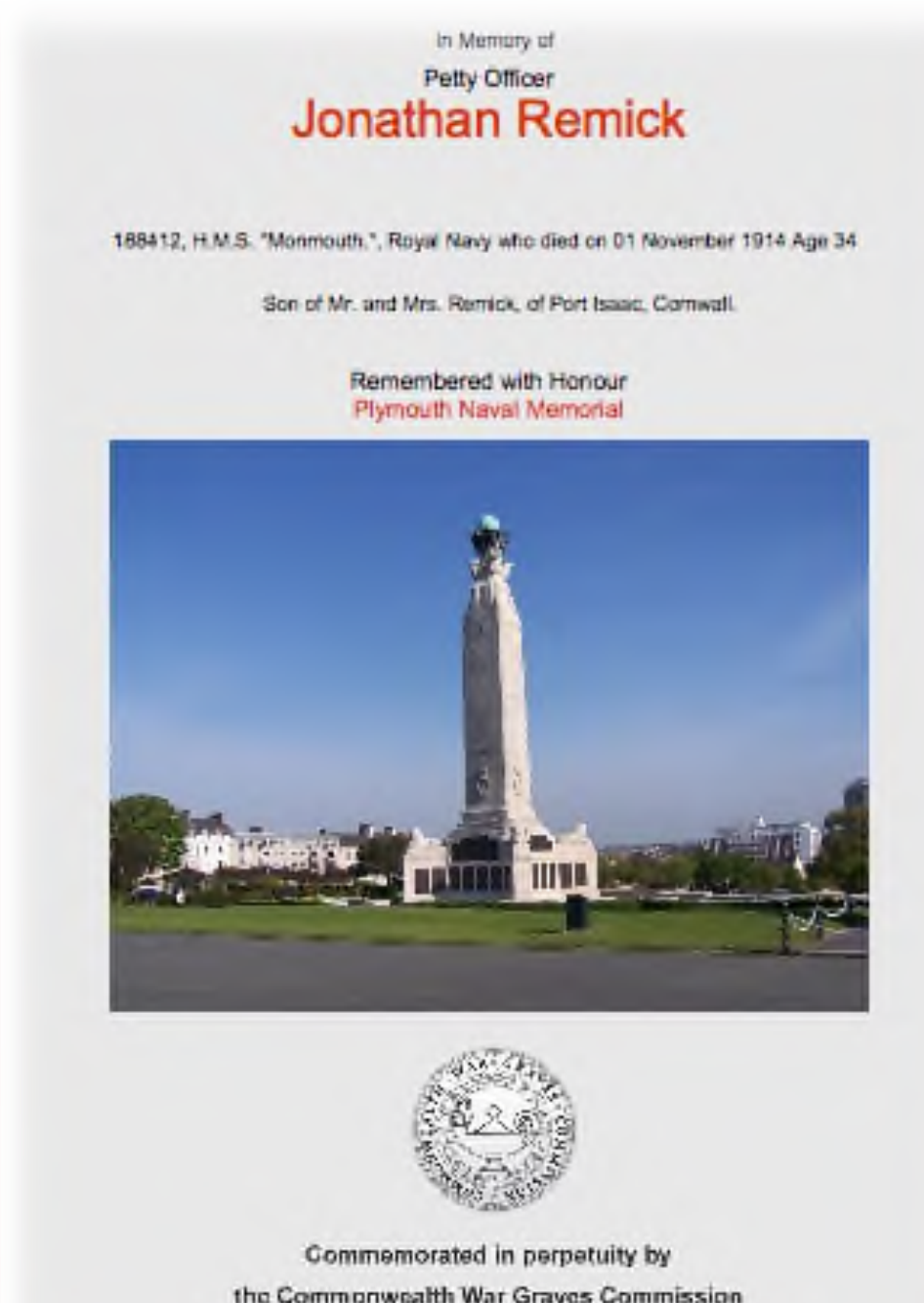


LEADING BOATMAN RICHARD COURTIS, Who lost his life on the foundering of the ill-fated Monmouth off the Chilian Coast on November 1st. Before the outbreak of war he was one of the Coastguards at Port Isaac. He is a native of Polperro, and joined the Navy at the age of 15. He had served on H.M.S.'s Lion, Buzzard, and Phaeton; subsequently, at the age of 28, he joined the Coastguards, being stationed at various places, including Port Isaac and Par. He was 41 years of age, and could have retired on pension a couple of years ago, but preferred to remain in the service, as he was a comparatively young man. He held good conduct medals, and was made leading boatman seven years ago.

Cornish Guardian, December 4th 1914



Petty Officer Jonathan Remick and Leading Able Seaman Richard Curtis on the Plymouth Naval Memorial on Plymouth Hoe



Sources

HMS Monmouth: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Monmouth_\(1901\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Monmouth_(1901))

HMS Monmouth image: <http://www.coronel.org.uk/monmouth.php>

Battle of Coronel: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Coronel

Casualty Information: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/3045353/REMICK,%20JONATHAN>

Family Information on Jonathan Remick: Courtesy of Janet Townsend, Jonathan Richards and Elizabeth Broughton, relatives of Jonathan Remick