

Richard SAUNDRY

Seaman 8412/A, HMS "Edgar"

Died August 25th 1917, aged 22

Memorial at St Endellion Churchyard

Richard Saundry was born in 1895 at Mevagissey to Richard Saundry senior (born 1867) and Mary Elizabeth (nee Rees born 1868). His mother died in 1900, so he first appears on the 1901 census as a 6 year old living in Port Gaverne with his aunt Maria Brown (42), a mariner's wife, and his younger sister, Mary Elizabeth (2). Richard senior was a mariner and was presumably at sea on census night in 1901. In 1911 he was still living at Port Gaverne with his younger sister and aunt, whose husband William Brown (47) was home census night, as was Richard senior. Both men were described as coast fishermen, and Richard junior, now 16, was shown as a general farm labourer/servant.

Richard's naval records show he enrolled at Padstow on June 8th 1915, and arrived at the Devonport shore establishment HMS Vivid on June 11th, where he was discharged on June 27th to join HMS Edgar. His superior's comments on his time at Vivid record his ability as 'satisfactory' and conduct 'VG'.

HMS Edgar was a first class cruiser, and lead ship of the Edgar Class. She was built at Devonport and launched on November 24th 1890. When the First World War broke out she was in 10th Cruiser Squadron Northern Patrol. After being re-armed and given anti-torpedo bulges in February 1915, she served in the Gallipoli Campaign during the rest of 1915 and into 1916. Richard joined HMS Edgar on June 29th 1915, and would have been serving on the Edgar throughout the main campaign, which ended in January 1916. He was discharged from HMS Edgar on December 21st 1916, still with 'satisfactory' ability and 'VG' conduct. The records show he was then back onshore at HMS Vivid until August 8th 1917, when he was invalided to Royal Navy Hospital in Plymouth suffering from Pyelitis in the left kidney. The surgeon reported that on August 25th 1917 Richard died of pyelitis nephrectomy. Pyelitis is an inflammation of the kidney caused by bacterial infection, principally E coli, but also streptococci or staphylococci. Now easily treatable with sulphonamides or in more serious cases antibiotics, but neither were available at the time. Nephrectomy is the removal of the kidney. Perhaps the death was the result of complications in the surgical procedure.

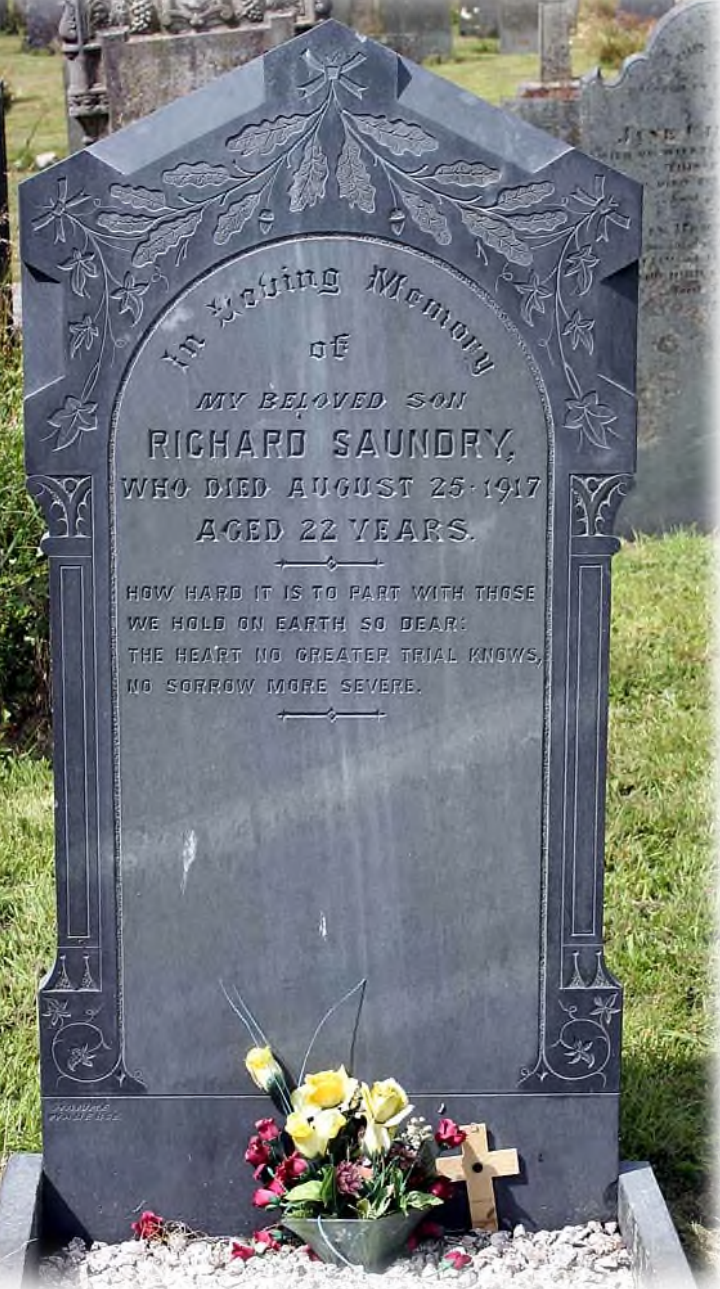
Seaman Richard Saundry is buried in St Endellion churchyard.



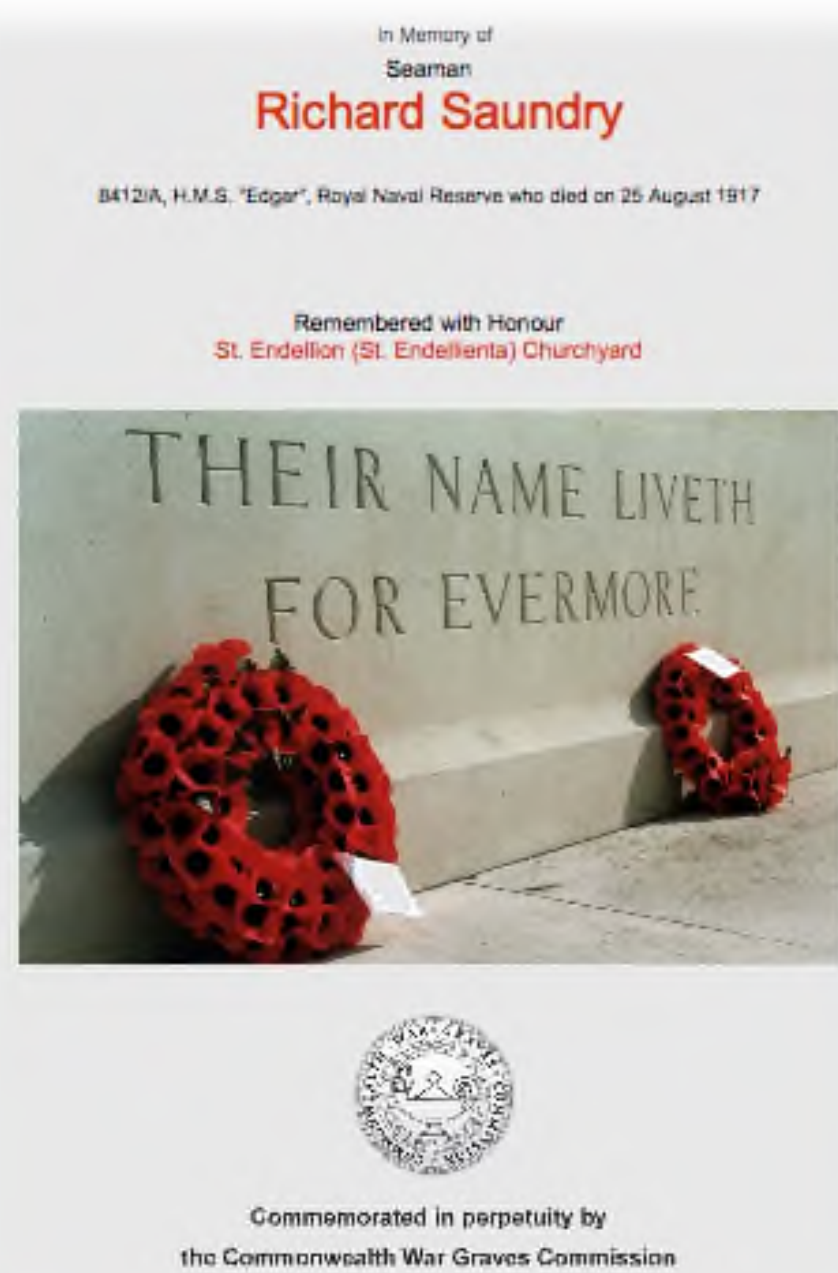
HMS Edgar – 387½ft long, 60ft beam



HMS Edgar 1915 – Over 170 of the ship's crew, complete with a Jack Russell dog on the capstan. Richard could be in there somewhere. Surprisingly few are wearing uniform.



The grave of Seaman Richard Saundry



Sources

HMS Edgar: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Edgar_\(1890\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Edgar_(1890)) and <http://www.worldnavalships.com/forums/showthread.php?t=9221&highlight=HMS+Edgar> and <http://www.worldwar1.co.uk/armoured-cruiser/hms-edgar.html>
HMS Edgar Crew photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/39492931@N00/3644263167/>
Pyelitis: <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/pyelitis>
Nephrectomy: <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Nephrectomy>