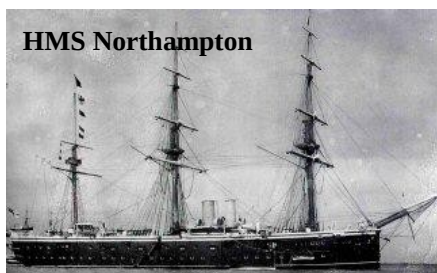


Charles Henry Ballard

Charles Henry Ballard was born on the 20th August 1885, in the Registration District of Maldon. He was the 4th child of Thomas Henry and Eliza Ballard (nee Redgewell). He was baptised at St Peter's Church, Great Totham, on the 18th July 1886. In the 1891 census he was living at 28 Beeleigh Road in the Parish of St. Peter. The family moved to Maldon Road Wickham Bishops, next door to the Mitre, at some time during the next ten years. It is not known when Charles became a member of the Essex Association of Change Ringers (EACR). However we do know that on 3rd February 1901 he was a member of the band that rung a Peal of Bob Minor, with the bells deeply muffled, as a last token of respect to Queen Victoria. There is a Peal Board in St Peter's Church Great Totham marking the occasion. Charles must have been an accomplished ringer to ring a peal aged 15 on the fifth bell.



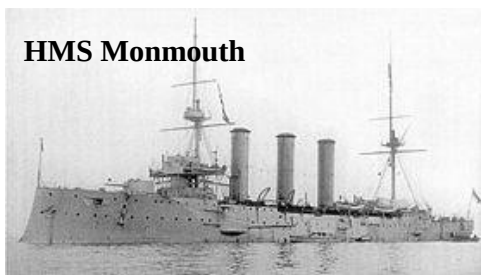
On the 28th June 1901 Charles joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Sailor 2nd class. He was described as 5ft 4ins tall, light hair, blue eyed and of fair complexion and his given occupation was a gardener. His first posting was to HMS Northampton, a boys training ship, at Chatham. On the 22nd September he became a Boy Sailor 1st Class and on his 18th birthday, whilst serving on HMS Agincourt, he became an Ordinary Seaman.

On 1st March 1904 he joined HMS Andromeda. Following a refit in 1903 Andromeda was based at the China Station from 1904 to 1906 and the ship was photographed at Wei-Hai-Wei in May 1905. Wei-Hai-Wei was under British rule from 1898 to 1930. On 15th August



1904 Charles became an Able Seaman. On 16th July 1906 he left HMS Andromeda. From this date, until he joined HMS Monmouth, he was mainly based at HMS Vivid the Naval Barracks at Devonport, HMS Defiance the Royal Navy Torpedo School and HMS Pembroke the Naval shore barracks at Chatham. However from the 2nd February 1909 until the 5th June 1911 he served on HMS Warrior part of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron.

From the 12th April 1912 until 1st January 1914 Charles served on HMS Monmouth. He then transferred to HMS Talbot until 31st March 1914 followed by a short spell on HMS Challenger before he rejoined HMS Monmouth on the 1st August



1914. Charles Henry Ballard died on 1st November 1914 when HMS Monmouth was sunk by gunfire from the German armoured cruisers SMS Scharnhorst and SMS Gneisenau off the Chilean Coast during the battle of Coronel. Monmouth capsized at 21:58 with the loss of her entire crew of 735 men. The seas were too rough to attempt any rescue.

He is remembered on two memorial plaques at St Peter's. One is located in the porch and the other on the right hand wall when facing the altar. He is also mentioned on the memorial plaque at the United Reformed Church (see left).

