

CHARLES HENRY WHARTON

**Private
PO/7860**

**H.M.S. Bulwark, Royal Marine Light Infantry
died on
Thursday 26th November 1914
aged 37**

CHARLES HENRY WHARTON
is commemorated on the
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

*. Additional information in the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register*

Son of Charles and Eleanor Wharton; husband of Edith Helen Wharton, of Burdocks, Fairford, Glos.
Native of Colwall, Herefordshire.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided. An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. Portsmouth Naval Memorial commemorates around 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War. The Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade. The Memorial commemorates 26,000 war casualties. The globe which tops the column is supported by the figures of the four winds above the prow of ships.

Charles Wharton is commemorated on Panel 6.



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COLWALL MAN ON THE BULWARK

Little hope is entertained of the survival of another Colwall naval man in the person of Charles Wharton, who was on board, to which he was appointed two years last August and would have in the ordinary course of events have left the ship on the expiration of two years. He was 38 years and had put in 20 years of service and was looking forward to his retirement next year. He came from an old Colwall family and his aged mother now resides with her son Mr C Wharton who was injured in the Boer War. The missing son leaves a widow, but no children. The widow, a native of Colwall has lately made her home in Portsmouth. The late Private C Wharton belonged to the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

The village has been affected by the following naval disasters. Gus Custance was lost on the Hawke, Frank Rawlings Good Hope and Charles Wharton, Bulwark.



HMS Bulwark

Charles Henry Wharton was born in Colwall and baptised there on April 15th 1877. His parents were Charles and Eleanor Wharton; the family were living in Colwall Green in 1881 and Charles, the father, was a plate layer and his mother Eleanor was a laundress. Charles joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry in 1904 and he married Edith Helen Baldwin in Colwall in June 1910. At the time of the 1911 census Charles was a private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry and he and Edith were living in Gosport. He was aboard *HMS Bulwark*, on 26 November 1914, when while anchored near Sheerness, she was destroyed by a large internal explosion with the loss of 736 men. The explosion is thought to have been caused by the overheating of cordite charges that had been placed adjacent a boiler room bulkhead. Charles Wharton is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Ernest Crouch, Reginald Farley, John Orr Ewing and Ronald Black of Colwall are also commemorated there.