

FRANK HENRY RAWLINGS

Able Seaman

199362

H.M.S. *Good Hope*, Royal Fleet Reserve

Sunday 1st November 1914

aged 33

FRANK HENRY RAWLINGS
is commemorated on the
Portsmouth Naval Memorial

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.

Frank Rawlings is commemorated on Panel 2.



Malvern News

Saturday 28th November 1914

Amongst the men who lost their lives when H.M.S. Good Hope went down off the Chilean coast was Frank H Rawlings of Colwall who during his residence there took a prominent part in social gatherings at the Hill Institute. He belonged to the Royal Fleet Reserve.

Ledbury Reporter & Farmer's Gazette

Saturday 21st November 1914

LEDBURY MAN ON HMS GOOD HOPE

A member of the Royal Fleet Reserve, well known in Ledbury was on the *HMS Good Hope* which was sunk with all hands in the battle with a German squadron of the Chilean coast in the Pacific Ocean on November 1st. We presume he must be regarded as having met a sailor's death. Frank H Rawlings was a servant of Commander G P Green of Colwall and formerly of Ledbury, who is on HMS Glory. Frank Rawlings was a popular figure in his own circle during his residence at Ledbury and Colwall. He was two or three seasons a member of the Fox Inn Rifle Club and at dances was always a popular figure, a remark which also applies to his residence at Colwall where he took a leading part in the social gatherings at the Hill Institute. A fine fellow was Rawlings and we have no doubt went to his death like the brave man he was.



HMS Good Hope

Malvern News

Saturday 12th December 1914

COLWALL

THE LATE MR F H RAWLINGS
Colwall Parish magazine report

We regret to say that according to latest information Frank Henry Rawlings was serving on *HMS Good Hope* at the time of the recent naval engagement in Chile. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is feared that he must be regarded as having lost his life. He was a constant worshipper at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Upper Colwall and entered largely into the social life of the district. His cheerfulness and readiness to assist in anything that was going on made him very popular amongst us. The summons to active service found him ready and eager to fulfil those duties to which he was devoted

H.M.S. Good Hope was a Drake Class Armoured Cruiser. At the outbreak of war, the *Good Hope* was part of the Grand Fleet, employed protecting British merchant shipping as far south as the Falkland Islands. She embarked on the search for the German East Asiatic Squadron, leaving Stanley on 22nd October 1914 for the west coast of South America via Cape Horn. She was sunk on November 1st 1914, in the Battle of Coronel off the Chilean coast along with *HMS Monmouth*, by the German armoured cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* which were under the command of Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee. This resulted in the loss of the *Good Hope's* entire ship's complement of 900 hands.

Frank Henry Rawlings was born in Littleover Derbyshire in 1882 and he was baptised in the parish church there on 3rd September 1882. His parents were John and Mary Rawlings. In 1901 Frank was living with his uncle in Portsmouth who was in the navy. By 1911 he was in the Royal Naval Reserve and was employed as a caretaker at The Willows, Ledbury. He then went as a servant to Commander Green at Colwall. He died in the Battle of Coronel in November 1914. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.