ERNEST JOHN CROUCH

Stoker 1st Class
K/14987

H.M.S. Queen Mary, Royal Navy
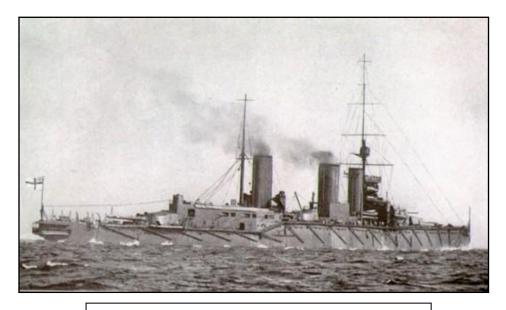## died on
Wednesday 31st May 1916
aged 25

ERNEST JOHN CROUCH
is commemorated on the
PORTSMOUTH WAR MEMORIAL

. *Additional information in the*
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register
Son of Margaret Powell Gillespie, of 3, Suttons Row, Lower Wyche, Malvern.

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.
Ernest Crouch is commemorated on Panel 17.

HMS Queen Mary

Stoker Ernest John Crouch

Ernest John Crouch was born in Colwall in December 1893. By the 1901 census his mother Margaret was widowed and she and her two children were living with her parents in Malvern. At the time of the 1911 census Margaret was living with her new husband in Cowleigh Road, Malvern. Ernest went to The Wyche School, and by the time he enlisted into the Royal Navy his mother was living at Lower Wyche. Ernest became a stoker and was on board *HMS Queen Mary* when she took part in the Battle of Jutland. The ship was hit twice and exploded with the loss of almost all the crew. Ernest Crouch is commemorated on the Portsmouth War Memorial and the Holy Trinity, North Malvern, War Memorial, as his mother had married John Thomas Gillespie, a chimney sweep of Link Top Villa, in March 1910 at North Malvern - hence the link with the Holy Trinity memorial.