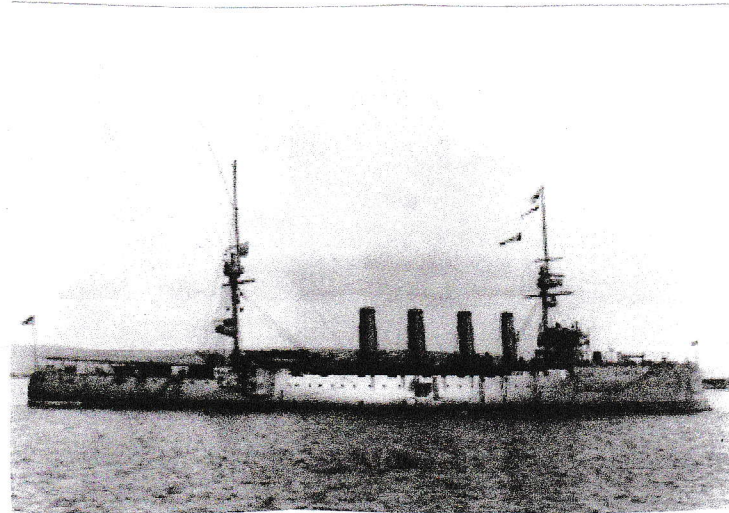




Petty-Officer Robert Heselwood
Stoker
Royal Navy
Service No 298139
Killed 5/6/16 aged 33 years
H.M.S. Hampshire
Portsmouth Naval Base Memorial



The following obituary was printed in the Bury Times.

HESELWOOD – In loving memory of our dear son Petty Officer Robert Heselwood, who was lost on H.M.S. Hampshire on June 5th 1916, aged 32 years.

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform,
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
A sailor strong and just was he,
And fearing God alone,
He fought his fight and now the sea
Has claimed him for her own.

From his loving father, mother, sister Minnie, and Jack

We little thought when we said goodbye
We parted forever, you were to die;
The grief that we feel words cannot tell
For we could not be with you to bid you farewell.
Too far away thy grave to see.
Yet we will always think of thee.
From his loving brother and sister-in-law and children John and Bella.

He may be a hero they may never know
How and where he met his foe,
How he fought for life and then he fell,
But Jesus doeth all things well.
From his loving brother (in France) and sister-in-law, Tom and Lilly

His warfare's o'er, his battle fought,
His victory won, though dearly bought;
His fresh young life could not be saved,
He slumbers now in a sailor's grave.
From his cousin, Marina

Parents: Charles and Rachel

H.M.S. Hampshire was carrying the Secretary of State for War Field Marshal Lord Kitchener to a meeting in Russia when the ship hit a German mine less than 2 miles off Orkney and sank with the loss of over 600 men (there were 12 survivors). H.M.S. Hampshire was an armoured cruiser built in 1903. A few days before departing on the voyage to Russia she took part in the Battle of Jutland. Due to gale force conditions it was decided to sail through the Pentland Firth providing shelter from the strong winds. This allowed her two escorts, destroyers Unity and Victor to keep pace with her. Once out in open sea they fell behind in the strong headwind and Captain Savill, of the Hampshire, ordered them to return to base at Scapa Flow. Off the shore of Orkney an explosion occurred and the ship was holed between the bow and the bridge. The lifeboats were lowered but were smashed against the side of the ship by the heavy seas. Fifteen minutes after the explosion H.M.S. Hampshire sunk.