



## TORPOINT ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

I hope last weekend was not the grand total of our summer 2013. As I write the gale force winds are gathering strength!

Torpoint is almost an island and its growth in just over 200 years has been dependent on the sea and the Royal Navy so it seemed appropriate that when we were invited by the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office to participate in the Plymouth History Festival ( May 2013) we chose "Torpoint All At Sea" for our theme.

Our displays at Torpoint Library have been very well received and many have stopped to chat about their own and their family's naval experiences.

It has been VERY hectic at the Archives recently! Bunty Tait has almost completed re-examining over 100 document boxes. Some contents needed to be re-classified and all have been added to the database. There is such an abundance of interesting documents some of which we'd forgotten were there!

Brian Heatley is re-typing all the information re "Personalities" originally published in "Torpoint Topics" in 1960s and 70s but now very faded.

Terry Broad continues to decipher old church records from fiche....tiring for his eyes but invaluable to be added to our database.

Cliff Cooper is continuing to add Antony and Maryfield baptisms, marriages and burial record information to the database.

Ray Williams has completed adding 1901 census to the database and given us interesting personal documents.

Maddie Creek has now sorted the "Carnival" category of our photographs into chronological order and put ID of people in the database so we can search by name as well as category. This has been a massive undertaking and taken months of work at home and at the Archives. It will take years to complete all the photographs.

Margery Payne has been able to combine/share some of her research for us with her voluntary work at Ford Park Cemetery. Before leaving for Japan and Australia to visit family Margery Payne prepared a display for the library to commemorate the centenary of Torpoint Post Office in its current premises. One of her ancestors was the Post Mistress on April 23rd 1913.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Carbeile Junior School was 60 years old. We hold their Archives and put it on display for their Birthday Celebration. As I started teaching there 53 years ago I felt like part of the fixtures and fittings!

At the end of May there will be a Torpoint Archives presentation at Maryfield Church Flower Festival and that leads us into our AGM on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Whew!

We were sad to hear that Ralph Grinter died on April 27<sup>th</sup>, a month before his hundredth birthday. Over the years he has provided lots of snippets about Torpoint during his youth. A letter of condolence has been sent to his family.

Congratulation to the 3 members of our Committee who were elected to Torpoint Town Council last week...Michael Pearn MBE ( also County Councillor), Rose Southworth and Frank Creek. We appreciate their support and that of all our members.

As you know Torpoint Archives is run solely by volunteers and we rely on your subscriptions and donations to be able to continue our work and pay expenses such as Insurance, to buy paper, printer ink, display materials, etc.

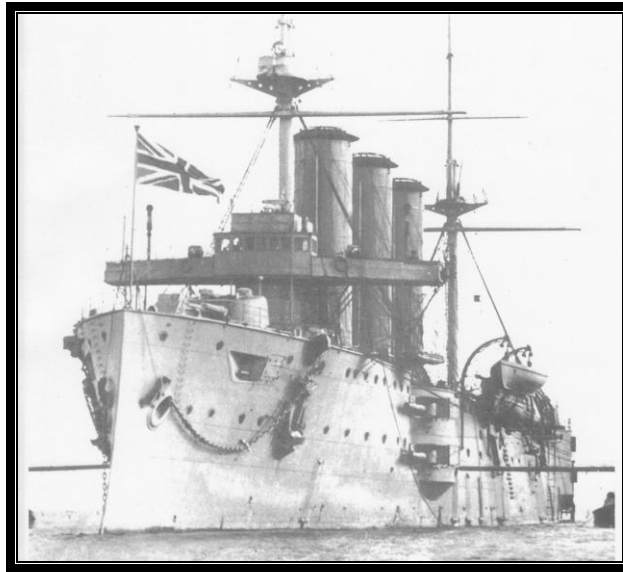
Sending Newsletters to many by e-mail saves us postage costs and Maddie has prepared a pre-signed membership card which we hope e-mail customers will accept as an acknowledgement and thank you for their subscriptions.

We hope to see you at the AGM but you are welcome to call in anytime during opening hours  
Tues 2-4pm; Fri 10-12am and 2-4pm

Best wishes,

Rosemary Pellew

## H.M.S. MONMOUTH



### BATTLE of CORONEL

**1<sup>st</sup> November 1914 (off the coast of Chile)**

**T**he first British naval defeat for more than a century, engaging the enemy without hope of victory. Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, his flagship **HMS Good Hope**, and **HMS Monmouth** were sunk with all hands by the powerful cruisers of Vice-Admiral Graf von Spee



*Rear-Admiral Christopher Cradock*



*Vice-Admiral Maximilian von Spee*

## The Ships

**HM Ships Good Hope (flagship), Monmouth, Glasgow and Otranto**

Cradock's fleet was significantly weaker than Spee's, consisting of mainly elderly vessels manned by largely inexperienced crews.

**Scharnhorst (flagship), Gneisenau, Nurnberg, Leipzig and Dresden.**

Five modern vessels with far greater firepower and experienced crew.

## The Men

**W**e chose this ship as part of " Torpoint All at Sea " presentation for the sad but significant reason that twelve Torpoint men died when she sank .

DAY, William

HENDER, William

KITT, Simeon John

MAYLE, William James

NODDER, Percy

PENNEY, John Henry

READ, Gloster Levi

ROWE, Henry John

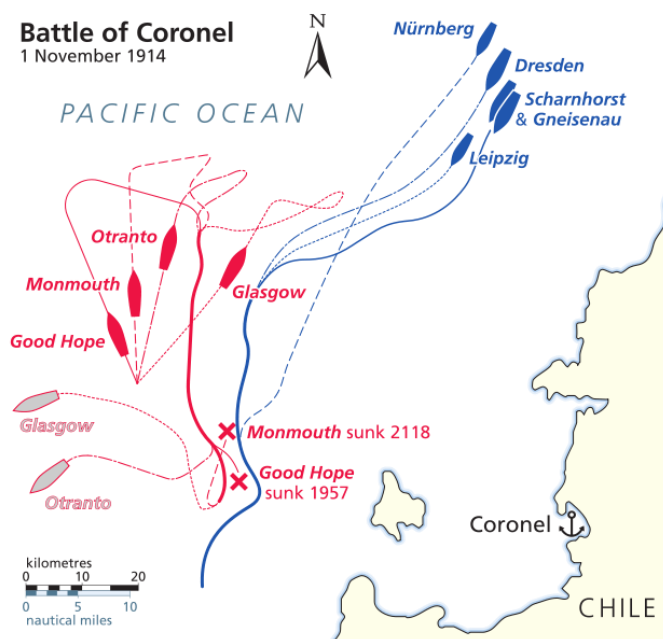
SMITH, John Finch

SPARGO, Ernest William

SPARKS, Samuel George

TABB, Charles Henry

Biographical details of these War Casualties and all the other Servicemen and Civilians who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 have been researched and recorded by Mrs Freda Manning and may be seen at the Archives.



*British ships are shown in red; German ships are shown in blue*