

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from May 1916

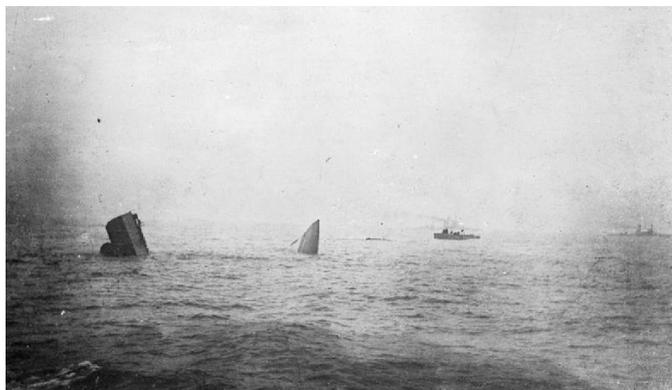
3 Harrietsham Men have lost their lives

May 1916 has been one of the darkest months of the war so far with three Harrietsham men losing their lives this month as a result of this war

Percy John Senior

Mrs Eleanor Senior of West Street has received the sad news that her son, Percy John Senior, aged 41, was killed on the 31st May on board HMS invincible. Percy had joined the navy on 15th August 1891 as a boy sailor and had transferred to the battleship Invincible on the 25th February last year as a sailmaker.

On the 31st May, HMS Invincible was the flagship of the 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron taking on the German ships Lutzow, Seidlitz and Derfflinger. At 6.33 p.m. the Invincible was struck by a shell penetrating the midship magazine which blew the ship in half.



The Invincible sank in less than 90 seconds with the loss of over 1020 sailors. At the battle of Jutland the German Navy lost 11 ships but the British lost 14 ships in total with the loss of almost 6000 men.

Albert Mitchell

Albert Mitchell, aged 28, son of Albert and Elizabeth Mitchell of Brenchleys has been reported killed in action on the 27th May whilst fighting the Ypres sector near La Brique. Albert had been in the army for some time having enlisted in the East Kent Buffs, service number L/8441, in February 1907 and had served in South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore and India.

He had been slightly wounded in September 1914 and had been stationed in England from October 1915 to April 1916. He had only re-joined the British Expeditionary Force at the Western front on the 19th April. Albert has been buried in the cemetery adjacent to the Essex Road dressing station.

William Henry Crump

Born in 1894 in Ulcombe, William Henry Crump worked in Harrietsham as a butcher. He had enlisted in the "X" TM Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. He was reported missing on the 11th May in the area around Ypres.

Pound Day for Lenham V.A.D. Hospital

A very successful pound day was held on 7th April. The total amount distributed was 301 lbs, 20½ doz. eggs, 1 chicken, 2 cakes, 1 leg of mutton, oranges, a sack of potatoes, a sack of turnips, greens and £10 in money.