

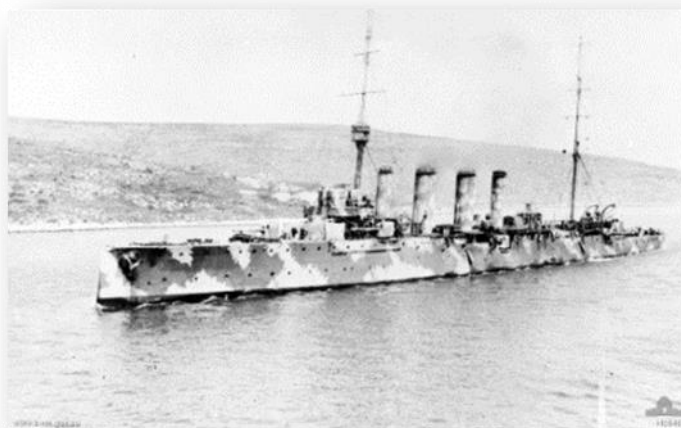
# JAMES GEORGE VICTOR GODDARD

Royal Navy Telegraphist J64380

Died 7<sup>th</sup> August 1920, age 20

Well to the north of Pirbright parish, beyond Curzon Bridge, Junction Cottages was a small community of 4 houses for London & South Western Railway employees. James Goddard, a 32-year-old railway labourer, with wife Mabel and baby daughter Evelyn, had moved to one of these in 1899 and it was here that young James George Victor was born in January the following year. There were other families, so there would be plenty of playmates and miles of sandy heath to explore, but it would have been a quite a walk to Pirbright School with his 3 younger brothers and 1 sister.

Leaving school in July 1913, he probably became an errand boy, the occupation shown on his naval record in June 1918, when he became a Boy II on HMS Impregnable, a school ship at Devonport, transferring ashore to HMS Ganges in Suffolk for 5 months before signing on for 12 years on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and being posted to the Mediterranean as a telegraphist on HMS Weymouth, a 4200 ton light cruiser. She was torpedoed by a U-boat in October and badly damaged, but managed to limp back to port.



H.M.S. Weymouth

Shortly afterwards he must have been taken ill, as he was back at Portsmouth in January 1919 and invalided out of the Navy with tuberculosis on February 20<sup>th</sup>, lingering on for 18 months until he died on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1920. He was buried 4 days later in Pirbright churchyard, just by the side of the long path.

The Goddard family continued to live at Junction Cottage until James' retirement in 1934.