



BECKWITH, PERCY

Stoker 1st Class Royal Navy : H. M. SUBMARINE "E3."

Age: 24

Date of Death: 18/10/1914

Service No: K/2496

Additional information: Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Beckwith, of Heron Hall, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex. He is shown in his naval records as born Maldon, Essex on the 4th March 1890



The British submarine HMS E3 was one of the first British E class submarines to be constructed, built at Barrow by Vickers in 1911 and 1912. Built with compartmentalisation and endurance not previously achievable, these were the best submarines in the Royal Navy at the start of the First World War, and they proved their worth throughout the conflict.

HMS E3 did not however share in that success, falling victim to the first ever successful attack on one submarine by another. On the 18 October 1914 the E3 was patrolling off Borkum in the North Sea and had spotted some German

destroyers ahead but was unable to get into a position to take a shot at them. Unable to pass them, Commander Cholmley retreated into the bay to wait for them to disperse. As he did so, he failed to see that the bay was also occupied by U-27 which fired a single torpedo right into the centre of the British boat, breaking her in two. The two halves rapidly sank, taking all 28 members of the boat's crew to the bottom with her.



1914 -1915 Star, 1914-20 War Medal & 1914-1919 Victory Medal



Commonwealth War Dead Memorial Reference: 4. Memorial: PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

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. The memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Portsmouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler, William McMillan, and Esmond Burton. Portsmouth Naval Memorial commemorates 9,667 sailors of the First World War and 14,918 of the Second World War No. of Identified Casualties: 24586



*TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY*