

Richard Charles Beddow

Richard was the son of Richard and Emily Beddow (nee Baldwin), of Walsall, Staffordshire. His naval record gives his birth as 26th March 1882, but he could have been registered as Richard Allen Burrows,



June 1879; the family also appears in the censuses with name derivatives (Burrows, Berrow). Richard had seven siblings: Elizabeth, Selina, Mary Jane, William Edwin, Rose Ellen, Charlotte Annie, Ada Mary and also a half brother, Richard.

Richard (as Richard Charles Berrow) married Annie Jane Davis 9 December 1899 at St. Clements, Birmingham; he was a brass caster aged 20, residing at 8 St Clements Place, and Annie living at 2 Louisa Place. In 1901, the family was living with Annie's parents (George and Emma) in Walsall, and there is a son, Richard, 11 months, on the census too. By 1911, they had continued to live with George Robert Davis in Walsall; Richard was then in the navy and away from home. Richard Garry was 11, and Emily Berrow, aged 6; her birth was registered in Walsall September 1904. Their youngest child, Ernest William Beddow, was born in October 1914, a few days before Richard's death.

Richard joined the navy on 28th June 1906, for five years. His occupation was a caster, he was 5' 3 3/4", had hazel eyes, dark brown hair and several tattoos: a woman's bust on his right forearm and a woman full length on his left forearm; his service was described as 'very good'. He was discharged in June 1911, and then joined the Royal Fleet reserve. He was called up for his annual training in the summer of 1914, then retained when war was declared. He sailed as a Stoker, First Class from 31st July 1914, on the armoured cruiser, Good Hope (launched on 21 February 1901 and completed on 8 November 1902, meeting her end with the loss of everyone on board) as the flagship of Vice-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock at the Battle of Coronel, off the southern coast of Chile, on 1 November 1914, at the hands of the German Pacific Squadron of Maximilian von Spee.

Richard is remembered on the Portsmouth Memorial and his CWGC record describes him as 'the son of Richard and Emily Beddow, of Walsall and the husband of Anne Jane Beddow, of 9, Holtshill Lane Terrace, Walsall, Staffs'.

The Walsall Advertiser (27th March 1915) featured Emily Beddows (Richard's mother) and photographs (including Richard's above) of the number of her family who had served in the war. The Walsall Observer and South Staffordshire Chronicle published In Memoriam notices, a year following his death, from: his mother, wife and three children; his sister Selina and brother in law Harry in Swansea, and his sisters Ada and Charlotte. His wife wrote this poem in his memory:- "One year has passed since that sad day/ When one we loved was called away/ His welcome smile, his dear sweet face/ Never on earth can we replace/ A loving husband true and kind/ No better son on earth was found/ For all of us he did his best/ May God grant him eternal rest." She was living in the same street in 1939 and died in 1954. We are uncertain of Richard's exact family connection with Isleworth, but the Middlesex Chronicle on 3rd October 1914 (see above), referred to him as an 'Isleworth Man on Service.' He was also remembered in All Saints Memorial Chapel in Isleworth.



Middlesex Chronicle 03 October 1914

Page 2 of 8 Article: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

ISLEWORTH MEN ON SERVICE.
Isleworth has already done well in the way of sending reinforcements to the Army and the following are among the names already enrolled: Horace Jones, 3rd Hussars; Charles Albert Starsmeare, Royal Berks Regiment;

A.S.O.; Henry Hughes, R.N.; George Widgington, Territorials; William Widgington, East Surrey; Harry Biddle, R.N.; Richard Beddow, R.N.; Fred Jacob Spackman, R.E.; Joseph John Spackman, R.E.; William Street