

Thomas Bunting



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“LOST ON THE HAMPSHIRE” CODNOR SAILOR’S TRAGIC FATE

We have a pathetic reminder of the sad tragedy to the “Hampshire” in a letter from Seaman Bunting, of Goose Lane, Codnor, a local sailor on the ill fated vessel, who went down on the wreck.

The letter in question was written aboard ship on the 4th June to his brother, and is full of kind remembrances to relatives and thanks for favours shown. He writes that he is going on first-class, but shall not get over until September. At the bottom of the letter are the significant words “God be with you till we meet again”.

The ill fated sailor who was not quiet 19 years of age, joined the navy over five months ago.

He spent the whole of his service on the “Hampshire” and was onboard during the sea battle of Jutland, in which the ship took part. Previous to joining the Navy he worked as a minor at the Pollington Colliery, and was much respected by his workmates.

On news being received that the “Hampshire” had gone down, his relatives at 32 Park street, Heanor, wired asking for news of him, and received a telegram in reply stating

“Deeply regret Thomas Bunting not amongst survivors, fear lost.” The official intimation of his death has since been received. Much sympathy is felt locally and at Codnor with the parents and relatives at their sad loss.

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GUNNER THOS BUNTING OF CODNOR H.M.S. HAMPSHIRE
GUNNER GEO. PARKIN OF CODNOR H.M.S FALMOUTH

Both lads lived at Codnor on Nottingham Rd, and joined the Royal Naval Division together being big chums. They received their training at the Crystal Palace, and were drafted into their ships on becoming efficient. Both were in action in the great Naval Battle.

Parkin' ship was hit several times, but sustained no casualties to the crew, Parkin coming off quite safely and is now enjoying a period of leave while his ship is under repairs.

H.M. the King last week inspected the ship and crew.

Bunting unfortunately was lost with H.M.S. Hampshire, on her ill-fated voyage to Russia. After coming safely through the fight, they were told to convey Lord Kitchener and his staff on their voyage to Russia, and it is believed Thomas was one of the crew who was able to leave the ship on a raft.

He must however, have been washed off and drowned, as his body has been recovered and his parents have received news from the Admiralty that his body had been recovered and interred in the Sailors Cemetery at Hoy, Orkney Islands.

The greatest sympathy is felt for the Bunting family, and at a memorial service for Lord Kitchener at the Wesleyan Church on Sunday night last, touching reference was made by the minister, Rev. E.M.M. Bright, to Buntings sad fate.

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