

James COOLEY

Born: 1886, Gunville, Carisbrooke

Parents: James Cooley and Louisa Meaning

Last known address: Flower Pot Inn, Northwood, Isle of Wight

Last known occupation: Licensed Victualler

Service number: SS/102438

Service: Royal Naval Reserve

Service history summary:

- enlisted: 30th January 1906
- rank: Stoker 1st Class
- promotion: 1909
- decorations: 14 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 1st November 1914

Age: 27

Commemorated: [Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#)

Family: born on December 22nd 1886, James was the only son of James Cooley and Louisa Meaning who married in St Michael's, Shalfleet in 1875. James had three sisters - one unnamed who only lived for 15 hours, Louisa May and Eva Ellen, who only lived for five months. James died in November 1914, his mother in 1915 and father in 1916. His surviving sister, Louisa, would have lost all her family within a few years of each other. Louisa had married Jesse Stay at St Marys Church, Carisbrooke, in 1902.

Sisters: Louisa May (1881) and Eva Ellen (1889 –1890)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: James was born in Newport where his father worked as a labourer at the cement mills at Dodnor. In the 1901 census James was living with his parents and one older sister at Gunville Lane, Newport, his father stating his occupation as a market gardener. By the 1911 census, James now aged 24, was married to his much older wife Ellen, aged 48, and they were running the *Bugle Inn* at Carisbrooke. This was on Carisbrooke High St. opposite the Church. The Census noted that they had been married under one year. Kelly's Directory of 1911 noted that Mrs Ellen Walford was the landlady of the *Bugle*. Ellen was the mother of Evelyn Walford *qv* and had moved to the *Bugle* from London with her first husband, Edward, when he took over the tenancy. He died in 1909. Ellen and James had moved to the *Flower Pot Inn* on Newport Road in Northwood by 1914 as James was registered as the licensee in February that year. Ellen subsequently took over the tenancy and was there until at least the mid-1920s. She died in December 1939, aged 80, at the Frank James Hospital, East Cowes, as a result of a fall at her home, The Haven, Place Road, Cowes. At the inquest recorded by the *Isle of Wight County Press*, her daughter, Mrs Marian Charlotte Rankin of Hayling Island, recorded that her mother's husband, James Cooley, had been lost in the First World War and that she had lived in Place Road for eight years.

War record: from his service record it is known that James signed up in Portsmouth on January 30th 1906 for a period of five years. His occupation was stated as a brickmaker from Gunville. His height was given as 5' 6" and he had dark brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. It is likely that he and a friend joined up on the same day as the next record of enrolment in the RN records was of an Albert Henry Edward Bennett, also from Gunville. They were both posted to the training ship *HMS Nelson* on that day for six months training. He served in various ships until his discharge to the Royal Fleet Reserve on February 2nd, 1909. In July 1914 he was recalled and joined *H.M.S. Good Hope* on the 13th with his old rank of Stoker 1st Class.

When war was declared in August 1914, *HMS Good Hope* (pictured) was re-commissioned and ordered to reinforce the 4th Cruiser Squadron and became the flagship of Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock, who had command of the North America and West Indies Station. Later in August Cradock moved his squadron to the coast of South America to search for German commerce raiders. He was then ordered further south to the Strait of Magellan to block any attempt of the German East Asia Squadron, commanded by Admiral Graf von Spee, to penetrate into the South Atlantic. He found the German squadron on November 1st off the coast of Chile and engaged them in what became known as the Battle of Coronel. The German squadron outnumbered Cradock's force and were individually more powerful; they sank Cradock's two armoured cruisers of which *HMS Good Hope* was one. She was lost with all 919 hands. The Germans were subsequently defeated at the Battle of the Falkland Islands the following month.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Good_Hope_\(1901\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Good_Hope_(1901))