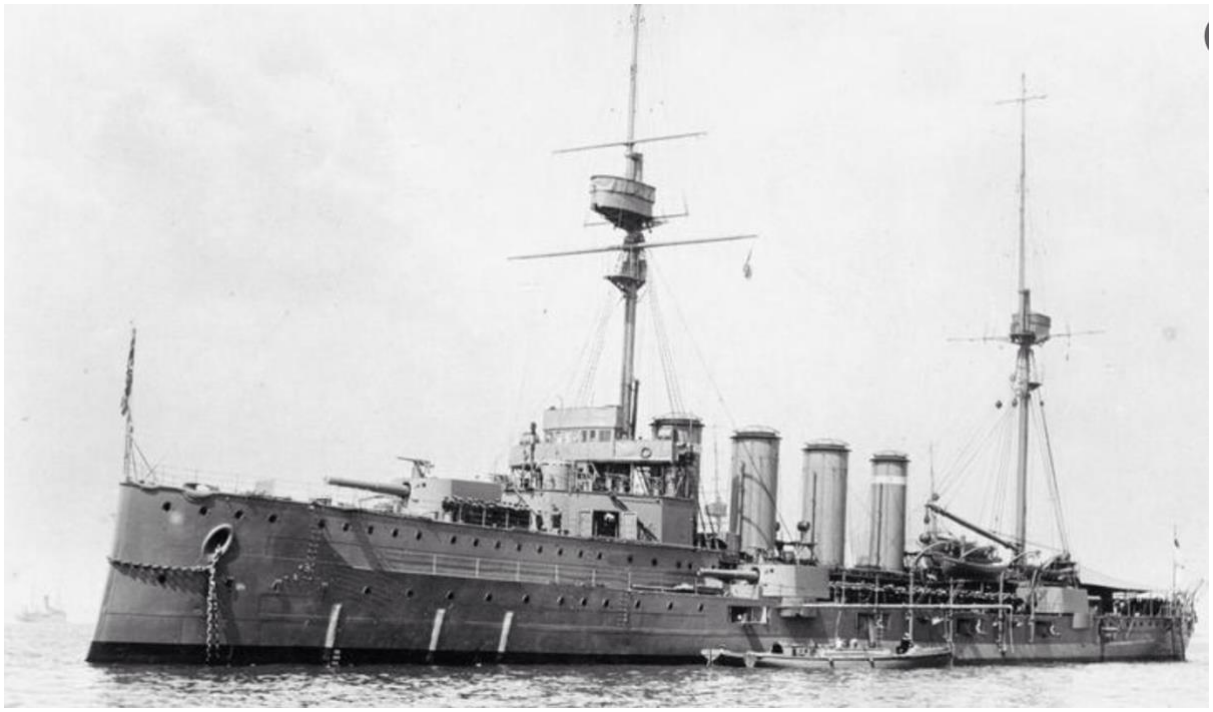
ARTHUR BOURNE

22/11/1897 – 31/5/1916

Richard Arthur Bourne (known as Arthur) was the eldest of five sons of Richard and Mary Louisa (nee Brown). They lived at “The Kennels,” opposite the Manor House at the bottom of Colehill, Lytchett Matravers.

Richard Bourne was a Gamekeeper - as his father and grandfather before him had been, but at the age of 16, in 1913, his son Arthur chose a different career and joined the Royal Navy. He served on several ships but by May 1916 he had the misfortune to be on The Black Prince.



HMS Black Prince was an armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy in the early 1900’s.

When WW1 began, Black Prince was stationed in the Mediterranean and took part in the pursuit of German battlecruisers SMS Goeben and SMS Breslau. Once the German ships had reached Ottoman waters, Black Prince was sent to the Red Sea, to protect troop convoys arriving from India. In December 1914 Black Prince was transferred to the Grand Fleet. She was sunk on 31st May, 1916 during the Battle of Jutland with the loss of her entire crew of 857 men.



BOURNE, Ord. Smn. Richard Arthur, J/28920. R.N. H.M.S. " Black Prince." Killed in action at Battle of Jutland 31st May, 1916. Son of Richard and Mary Louisa Bourne, of The Kennel, Lytchett Matravers, Poole, Dorset. 14.

As well as being remembered on The Lytchett Matravers Roll of Honour, Arthur is mentioned on the gravestone of his parents in St. Mary's Churchyard. Arthur's brother Albert Edward Charles (2 years his junior) joined the Navy on 10th May 1916 when he was aged 18 – just 3 weeks before his brother died. What a worrying time for his family. Fortunately, Albert (always known as Charles) survived the war. He later worked as a Stoker at the Cordite Factory and lived at Lynholme, Huntick Road.