

JOHN H. PALMER

Photography collection

A detailed study of each image and every caption has enabled the City Museum to identify the owner and compiler of the albums. This was John Henry Palmer R.N. (1865 to ?1951). It seems likely that John Palmer took most of the photographs.

John Henry Palmer was born in Plymouth on 1 July 1865, the son of an R.N. seaman from Devonport. He joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman in 1881, and his record details many attachments to the Devonport training establishment HMS Defiance and, occasionally, HMS Cambridge. He became a Petty Officer in 1894. In 1901 Palmer was serving aboard HMS Tribune as Petty Officer 1st Class.



John H. Palmer is pictured above (left), with medals and (right) aboard HMS Montagu, with camera. Palmer's medals are his RN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Egypt Medal (1882 to 1889), the Khedive's Star (1882) and two Temperance medals.

In 1903, Palmer joined the Royal Naval Reserve at Devonport, but as a time served specialist in torpedo gunnery, Palmer appears to have retained an important training role; including service aboard the ill-fated HMS Montagu in 1905 to 1906 and an involvement with the subsequent attempts at salvage. Between 1916 and 1919, Palmer again served with R.N.R. at Devonport.

John Henry Palmer was twice married; first, in 1891, to Plymouth born Florence Elizabeth (1870 to 1897) and then, in 1903, to Chatham born Edith (1880 to 1951). In 1891 Palmer was living with wife Florence at 66 Cambridge Street, Plymouth. By 1911, now married to Edith, he had moved to 31 Clonmore Street, Southfields, Wandsworth, London. Evidently, the Palmer's returned to Plymouth - and it could be 'our' John Henry Palmer who died in 1951, aged eighty-six - then living on Ladysmith Road, Plymouth.