

MEN FROM COLCHESTER WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION AT THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND 31ST MAY TO 1ST JUNE 1916.

Involving some 250 ships and 100,000 men, this battle off Denmark's North Sea coast was the only major naval surface engagement of World War I. The battle began in the afternoon of May 31, 1916, with gunfire between the German and British scouting forces. When the main warships met, British Admiral John Jellicoe manoeuvred his boats to take advantage of the fading daylight, scoring dozens of direct hits that eventually forced German Admiral Reinhard Scheer into retreat. Both sides claimed victory in this indecisive battle, though Britain retained control of the North Sea.

The Reader's Companion to Military History. Edited by Robert Cowley and Geoffrey Parker.

NAME/RATE	NUMBER	SHIP SERVED ON	OTHER INFORMATION
ABLE SEAMAN JOHN WENT *	J/15259	HMS DEFENCE	AGED 20, SON OF CATHERINE WENT AND THE LATE GEORGE WENT, 2 ST JOHN'S ROAD, PARSONS HEATH. COLCHESTER. COMMEMORATED ON THE PLYMOUTH NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL
ABLE SEAMAN ERNEST CLARKE	J/20787	HMS BLACK PRINCE	AGED 20, SON OF EDGAR & ANNIE CLARKE, 55 SCARLETTS ROAD, COLCHESTER. COMMEMORATED ON THE CHATHAM NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL
ORDINARY TELEGRAPHIST ARCHIBALD CANHAM	J/27615	HMS FORTUNE	AGED 18, SON OF ARTHUR & ELLEN CANHAM, 30 VICTOR ROAD, COLCHESTER. COMMEMORATED ON THE CHATHAM NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL.
PETTY OFFICER BERTIE EVERITT	208683	HMS INVINCIBLE	AGED 32, HUSBAND OF MAY EVERITT OF THE BELL INN, ROWHEDGE, COLCHESTER. COMMEMORATED ON THE PORTSMOUTH NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL.
ABLE SEAMAN WILLIAM EDWIN HAWES SMITH	J/5713	HMS DEFENCE	AGED 23, SON OF SYDNEY & ALICE SMITH OF 'THE ELMS', LEDBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE. BORN IN COLCHESTER. COMMEMORATED ON THE PLYMOUTH NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL. **
ORDINARY SEAMAN WILLIAM GARRAD	J/37841	HMS INDEFATIGABLE	AGE 18, SON OF CHARLES AND SARAH GARRAD OF MARSH FARM, ALRESFORD, COLCHESTER. COMMEMORATED ON THE PLYMOUTH NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL
STOKER IST CLASS CHARLES JOHN WINTER	SS/1129 43	HMS QUEEN MARY	AGE UNKNOWN, COMMEMORATED ON THE PORTSMOUTH ROYAL NAVAL MEMORIAL.
LDG STOKER CECIL JOHN LAYZELL ***	K/7795	HMS INVINCIBLE	AGED 25, SON OF EMMA AND JOHN LAYZELL, SCHOOL ROAD, LITTLE MAPLSTEAD, HALSTEAD. ESSEX. COMMEMORATED ON THE PORTSMOUTH ROYAL NAVAL MEMORIAL.

NOTES ON THE SHIPS:

HMS INVINCIBLE,	BATTLE CRUISER, SIX SURVIVORS
HMS BLACK PRINCE,	CRUISER, ALL HANDS LOST
HMS FORTUNE,	DESTROYER, ONE SURVIVOR
HMS DEFENCE,	CRUISER, ALL HANDS LOST
HMS INDEFATIGABLE,	BATTLE CRUISER, TWO SURVIVORS
HMS QUEEN MARY	BATTLE SHIP, BLEW UP TWO SURVIVORS

* NOT LISTED ON THE ROLLS OF THE FALLEN

** IT ALSO STATES ON THE CERTIFICATE FROM THE CWGC THAT HE WAS ONE OF 5 BROTHERS AND ONE SISTER WHO SERVED IN WW1. ACCORDING TO THE 1901 CENSUS HE LIVED AT 9, STRAIGHT ROAD, LEXDEN. HIS FATHER WORKED FOR THE POST OFFICE. THEY ARE NOT LISTED ON THE 1911 CENSUS AS LIVING IN COLCHESTER.

*** I HAVE HAD AN EMAIL FROM A RELATION OF CECIL LAYZELL AND HE HAS QUITE A LOT OF INFO ABOUT HIM. I HAVE ALSO HAD CONTACT WITH THE STEP GT GRANDSON OF BERTIE EVERITT AND, AGAIN, THERE IS QUITE A LOT OF INFO ABOUT HIM.

JOAN SOOLE

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