

George Caller – HMS Zealandia

Born at Lambrook, Somerset in 1892, the son of William and Ann Caller (née Knight). George married Ethel C Thorne in 1938. He died at Stoke in 1957.

During 1915 he served as a stoker on the Zealandia. This was a King Edward VII class battleship which served in home waters with the Northern Patrol and latterly the Channel Fleet.

In November 1915 it was sent to the Eastern Mediterranean and as far as the Dardanelles, and will have seen some of the fighting in that area. It returned home for a refit at Portsmouth in February 1916.

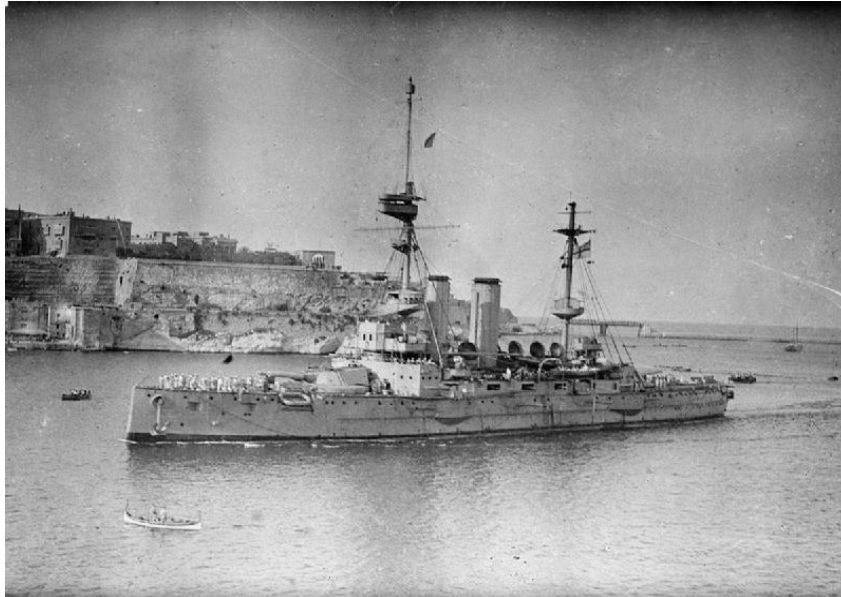


HMS Zealandia

Evan Dodge – HMS London

Evan was born at Stoke-sub-Hamdon in 1897, son of David and Elizabeth Dodge (née Haines). He married Edith Dabinett in 1915. They moved to Ascot and brought up a family there. When he was in his sixties, he and his wife emigrated to Australia to join his children. He died in Australia in 1979.

From 1915 until October 1916 he served on HMS London. HMS London was a Formidable class battleship that was based at Portland until March 1915, when it was transferred to the Dardanelles Squadron and supported the landings at Gapa Tepe and at Anzac Cove (25th April 1915). It was then ordered into the main Mediterranean Sea to help the Italian navy, and was based at Taranto. She underwent a refit at Gibraltar in October 1915 and spent another year in the area before returning to the UK in October 1916.



HMS
entering

London
Malta

Harbour 1915

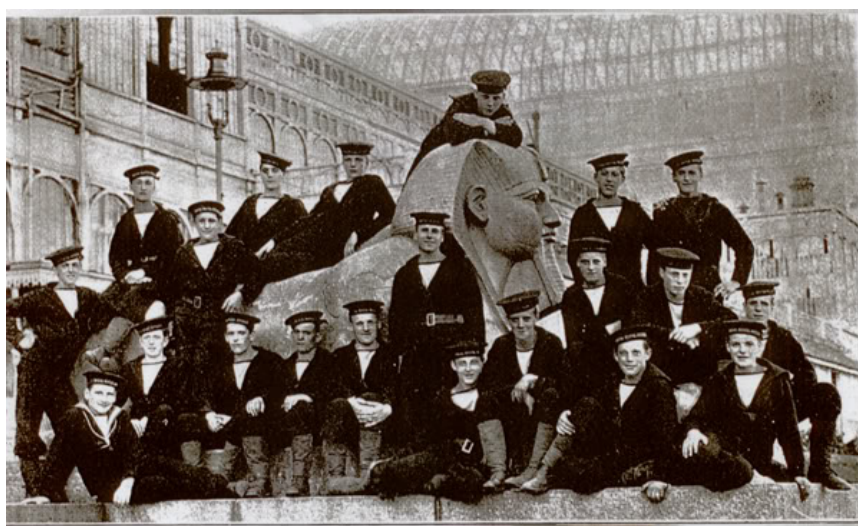
Oliver Gale – HMS Victory II

Oliver was born in Chippenham, Wilts in 1894, the son of George and Elizabeth Gale (née Freegard). By 1911 the family were living at East Stoke. He married Florence Nellie Taylor in 1919 and died in 1962 at Devizes.

He was registered as a stoker and was living on Victory II. This was a shore base or 'stone frigate' and was sometimes known as HMS Crystal Palace for this was its location.

This was a training base for the Royal Naval Division which had been formed soon after the start of the war. It was for naval personnel and also for marines for whom there were no ships available at that time.

The Royal Naval Division became a fighting unit in action at Ostend, and on the Anzac and Helles beaches at Gallipoli. After merging with the Army as the 63rd RN Division, they fought on the western front for the remainder of the war. Crystal Palace was also the base which trained balloonists for the RFC.



HMS
Palace
Victory II

Crystal
aka HMS

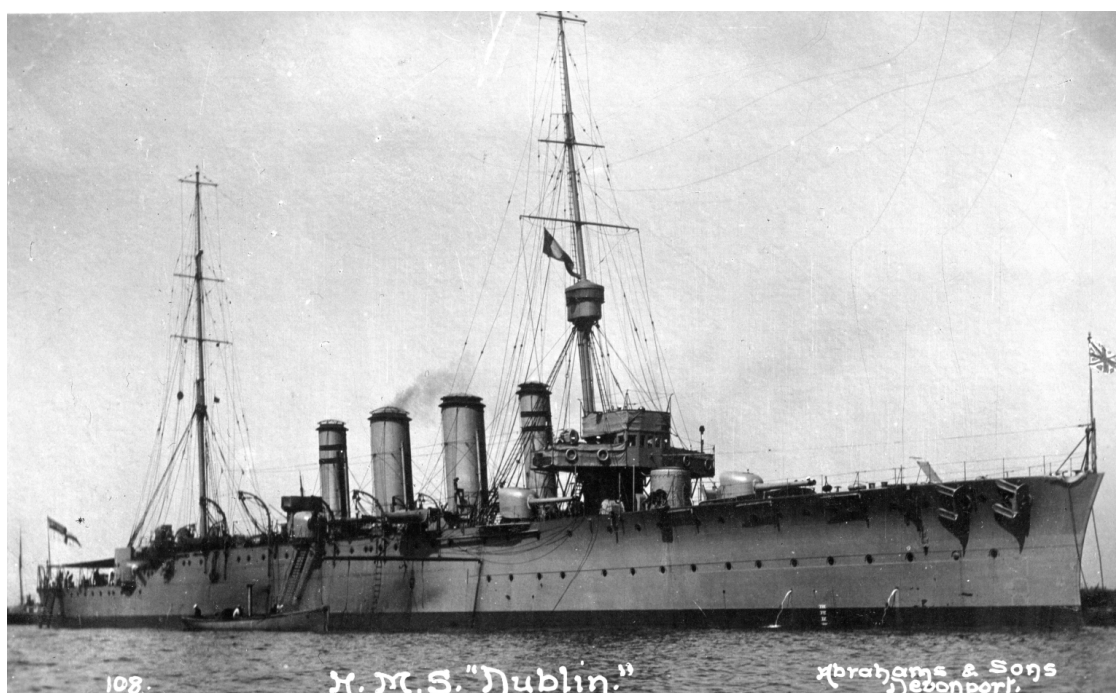
Tom George – HMS Dublin

Tom was born at Stoke-sub-Hamdon in 1892, the son of Henry and Mary Jane George (née Wills). He married Emma Nelms in 1922.

He died at Stoke in 1973.

Tom served on HMS Dublin for the whole of 1915. HMS Dublin was a light cruiser and it was sent in February 1915 to the Dardanelles. With HMS Implacable, it provided fire power to support the landings at Gallipoli in April (Beach X).

It returned to the Mediterranean, patrolling, but was torpedoed off the coast at Brindisi. It was able to make 17 knots and managed to return for a refit in the UK.



HMS Dublin

George Palmer – HMS Hindustan

George's family were from Stoke-sub-Hamdon and were living in 'The Hollows' in 1901, but George himself was born in London in 1896.

He enlisted on the HMS Impregnable, signing on for 12 years in November 1913. He later joined the crew of HMS Hindustan. He specialised in carpentry.

HMS Hindustan was from the same class as HMS Zealandia, i.e. an Edward VII battleship, but it was a member of the Grand Fleet, patrolling home waters until some time in 1916.

George was transferred to a destroyer, HMS Broke, which sustained severe damage at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. Sadly, George died of wounds received in June 1916. He was the only one of our sailors to die in the war.



HMS Hindustan

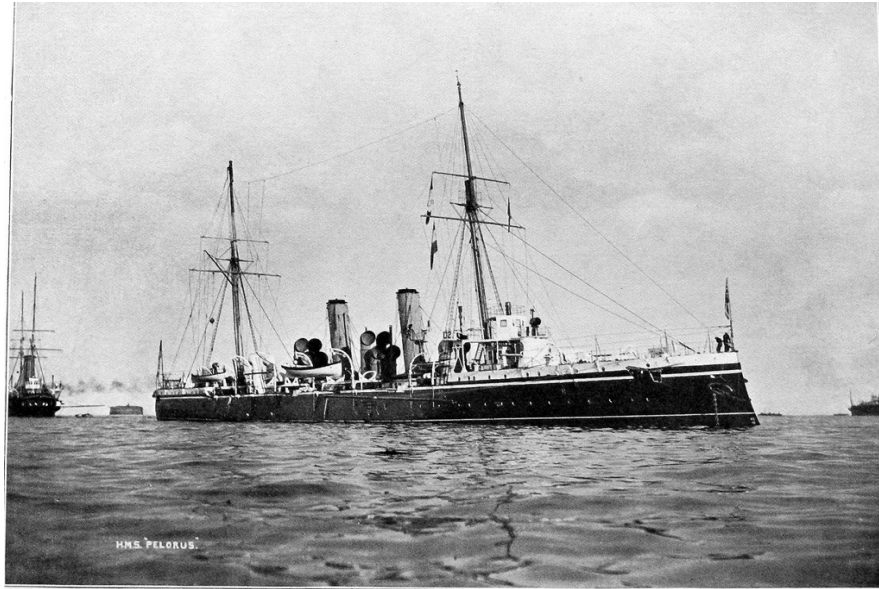
Robert E C Wiley – HMS Pelorus

Robert was born at Dublin in 1892 and was living with an aunt and uncle, Charles and Josephine Tozer in Saltash in 1911. His first marriage was to Myrtle I Brooks of Ham Hill in 1918. He died in Yeovil in 1956. His widow was Jessica May Wiley.

Robert served on HMS Pelorus, a third class protected cruiser, a member of the Class known as “the unspeakably useless P class”. Three ships of the eleven strong Class were scrapped before the start of WW1! It is not surprising to learn that the service of this

ship was described as being, “a quiet war in home and colonial waters.”

Robert trained at Devonport and returned there in 1917 after the best part of three years on HMS Pelorus.



HMS

H.M.S. "PELORUS."

The "Pelorus" is a third-class cruiser of a new type, designed by Sir W. White. The other ships of this type are the "Perseus," "Prometheus," "Proserpine," "Pyramus," "Pomone," "Pandora," "Pioneer," "Pectolus," "Pegasus" and "Psyche." For particulars see page 2.

Pelorus