

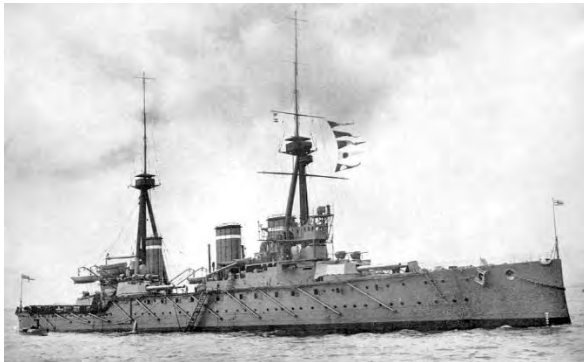
Peterborough Victims of the Battle of Jutland – By David Gray



When the First World War began the Royal Navy fleet had been designed to contest huge decisive battles in set-piece actions and after the outbreak of hostilities, attempts were made to draw the smaller German Navy into the North Sea for a major battle. Admiral Hugo von Pohl, the commander of the German High Seas Fleet, resisted these temptations, but in February 1916, he was replaced by the much more aggressive, Admiral Reinhardt von Scheer (*left*). In May 1916 Scheer decided that he would take on the might of the British Navy. As a bait, Scheer ordered Admiral Franz von Hipper and 40 ships to begin a sweep along the Danish coast. When he heard the news, Admiral John Jellicoe (*below left*), who was at Rosyth, gave instructions for the Grand Fleet to put to sea.



Total British losses during the subsequent Battle of Jutland were 6,784 men, total German losses 3,039, totaling 9,823 men altogether. The Royal Navy lost 14 ships including three battle cruisers; the German Navy lost 11 ships and only one battle cruiser. Many other ships were damaged on both sides. Although the Germans achieved a numerical victory, the Royal Navy still maintained control of the North Sea, and therefore achieved a strategic victory as the German High Seas Fleet never again made an attempt to come out in force and take them on.



Family and friends in Peterborough, fearing the worst, had now accepted the fact that Leading Seaman Ernest Johnson, eldest son of Inspector J. Johnson, G.N.R. Rolling Stock Inspector, and Mrs. Johnson, 84, Mayors Walk, Peterborough, who had been serving on HMS INVINCIBLE (*left*), when it was sunk during the great naval battle, the Battle of Jutland on the 31st May 1916, had been killed in that action. Seaman Johnson, who was 27 years of age, was a member of the Carpenter's Crew of the Invincible, and had been home on leave only a fortnight earlier. He had taken part in the Battle of Heligoland, the Falklands, and also saw action off the German coast when a Zeppelin was destroyed. He joined the navy as a lad of 16, and was at one time on HMS KING EDWARD VII and HMS GOOD HOPE, both vessels having already been lost in the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's second son, Leading Seaman Sidney Johnson, had been in the operations on the Persian Gulf, and had a stirring naval career, as a lad of 17 he was present at the Messina earthquake and received the King of Italy's Medal. When he was 18, he was sent to the China Station. He was in HMS AQUARIOUS in the Channel when that vessel was at the mercy of the waves for eight hours, owing to the breaking of its steering gear, and was eventually rescued. When the LUSITANIA

was torpedoed, his vessel was one of those engaged in rescuing the drowning passengers, and immediately after, he proceeded to the Persian Gulf.



Bombardier Wilfred Robert Ulyatt, son of Mrs. Ulyatt of Cromwell Road, Peterborough, was on HMS LION (*left*), at Jutland. A telegram was received from the Admiralty, and a letter from the Captain of the ship, saying that he had been killed in action. He was born at Warmington, and spent part of his school days there, and finishing at Oundle School. After being an apprentice to the Drapery and House Furnishing company for three years at Oates and Musson's of Stamford, he joined the navy in 1912, and was on the first voyage when war broke out. For two years he was orderly to Admiral Beatty, in March 1916 he was promoted to Bombardier. Bombardier Ulyatt was 20 years old and his father had died two years previously. For a fortnight before the fatality, he had been expecting to return home on leave, previous to being transferred to another ship. He was cousin to Mr. F.G. Ulyatt of Crowland, a Leading Stoker on board HMS QUEEN MARY.

Engine Room Artificer, A. W. Carter, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Carter, 55, Parliament Street, Peterborough, wrote home about his experiences in the North Sea carnage. "We have had a thundering good pasting, but we paid back a lot more than we received. I can assure you it was a great victory, as a lot of their losses have not been published. By God's providence I came through safely, absolutely through the jaws of hell. I don't think their fleet will be in a hurry to come out again. My word! I should like to have had some of those conscientious objectors there, only for one hour before midnight, let alone the 20 hours. I saw strong, burly, hardened men of 20 years service break down and sob like children, and I shall never forget it to my dying day."

Artificer Carter served his apprenticeship under Mr. Sinclair on the G.N.R., New England, Peterborough, joining the Navy as an Artificer on 1st November 1915. He was stationed at Devonport until 27th March and was then drafted to his ship.



Seaman Frank Cyril Fishpool, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fishpool, 97, Wellington Street, Peterborough, had been reported wounded while serving on board HMS PRINCESS ROYAL (*left*), at Jutland. He was transferred to HM Hospital Ship PLASSY, suffering from burns. Seaman Fishpool had already seen action in the Battle of the Dogger Bank on 24th January 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Malpress, 56, New Road, Peterborough, on reading the news in the papers about the naval battle, wired the Admiralty regarding news of their elder son Able Seaman G. W. Malpress, and Able Seaman Harry Hope, the fiancé of Miss Eva Malpress, both of whom were serving on the HMS QUEEN MARY. At 3pm on Sunday 4th June, they received the following reply. "Regret George

William Malpress, A.B., and Harry Hope, A.B., not on list of survivors, feared lost.”

Chief Petty Officer Carter, of 55, Parliament Street, Peterborough, had been serving on board HMS DUBLIN at Jutland. A piece of shell had struck him on the hip, but luckily it only lodged in his clothing and did not cause any injury.

Peterborough Jutland Roll of Honour



BLOODWORTH, Reginald George, Peterborough, 33702, Ordinary Seaman, HMS INDEFATIGABLE (*left*), Royal Navy. Killed in action, age unknown, on the 31.5.16 in the Battle of Jutland. No known next of kin. No known grave he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 12.

HOPE, Harry, Peterborough, 219419, Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS QUEEN MARY. Killed in action, age unknown, on the 31.5.16 when his ship was sunk in the Battle of Jutland. No known next of kin. No known grave he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13.

JOHNSON, Ernest, 84 Mayors Walk, 236865, Leading Carpenters Crew, HMS INVINCIBLE, Royal Navy. Lost with ship, aged 27, on the 31.5.16 in the Battle of Jutland. The son of John and Emma Johnson of 84 Mayor's Walk, Peterborough. No known grave he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 20.



MALPRESS, George William, 56 New Road, 3854, Able Seaman, HMS QUEEN MARY (*left*), Royal Navy. Killed in action, aged 23, on the 31.5.16 in the Battle of Jutland. The son of George and Hannah Malpress of 56 New Rd, Peterborough. No known grave he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13.

ULYATT, Wilfred Robert, 234 Cromwell Road, 13204, Bombardier, Royal Marine Artillery. Killed in action, aged 20, on the 31.5.16 whilst serving on HMS LION in the Battle of Jutland. The son of Mrs Ulyatt of Cromwell Road, Peterborough. No known grave he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 21.



WESTON, Moses, 146 GNR Cottages, 39948, Boy 1st Class, HMS BLACK PRINCE (*left*), Royal Navy. Killed in action, aged 18, on the 31.5.16 in the North Sea, off Horn Reef, during the Battle of Jutland. The son of James and Emily Weston of 146 G.N.R. Cottages, New England, Peterborough. No known grave he is

commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 14.

Able Seaman Alfred Frank Leslie Poyser, HMS ATTENTIVE II (a shore base at Dover), nephew of Mr. and Mrs. F. Leeding, of Gladstone Street, Peterborough, with whom he had lived for many years, had been accidentally drowned in the River Thames on the 3rd July 1918, and was buried (*below*), at Paston, Peterborough, on Friday afternoon, 19th July. He was 25 years of age and had been in the Navy about seven years. The first part of the service was conducted in Paston Church. The coffin bore the inscription, "A.B. Alfred Frank Leslie Poyser, aged 25 years." Amongst the beautiful floral tributes was one from "Commander and Shipmates." A.B. Poyser had taken part in the Battle of Jutland, and also in the great naval raid on Zeebrugge.

