

## **The Battle of Jutland Centenary Anniversary Commemoration (31<sup>st</sup> May, 1916)**

**St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkham, Orkney and the Lyness RN Cemetery,  
Hoy**

**By Ned Malet de Carteret**

The morning of Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2016 saw a windy and overcast start to the day as Balfour Wylie (the owner of Scapa House Bed and Breakfast, my billet for four nights, and Deputy Beadle at St Magnus Cathedral) drove me to the Old Bus Station in Kirkwall where I joined up with 150 relatives of some of brave British sailors who lost their lives at the Battle of Jutland.

After a half hour delay we headed off in three coaches on the twenty-minute drive to catch the Houton ferry. Once upon the grey waters for a forty-minute voyage we could see, through the mist in Scapa Flow, HMS Kent (a Type 23 'Duke' class frigate) and the FGS Schleswig Holstein (a 'Brandenburg' class frigate) who were to be our guard ships for the day. In Kirkwall harbour was HMS Bulwark (an 'Albion' class assault ship) which was busy housing the RN Memorial Guard Party and the Band of the Royal Marines (Portsmouth), as well as undertaking various ferrying duties using their landing craft between Mainland and Hoy. Also, the Northern Lighthouse Board's vessel, the NLV Pharos, was moored in Kirkwall Harbour, and this was used as accommodation for the Royal Party. The ferry route took us over some of the still present scuttled German battleships from 1919.



On our arrival on Hoy several members from the coaches went to visit the Museum (I had already done so on the previous Sunday, having walked to the Old Man of Hoy (pictured left)).

I arrived at the hospitality tent at Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery and spoke to the Captain in charge of the Sea Scouts for Scotland and a young naval cadet from Northern Ireland who was to participate in the ceremony. The man in charge of the event, a Royal Marine, was working next to me assiduously for half an hour!

The Memorial Service from St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, remembering both German and the British sailors, was led by the Reverend Fraser Macnaughton, and was beamed to us on three large TV screens and so we were able to participate in the service remotely. The service was attended by Jersey's Bailiff, William Bailhache (Editor: Spotted him on TV). Prior to the Memorial Service, wreaths were laid at the adjacent WW1 Memorial archway by HRH Princess Royal (on behalf of Prince Philip who was indisposed) and the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck. The service from the beautiful red sandstone Cathedral included readings by both British and German serving officers and by David Cameron and the German President.

After the emotional service came to a close, we broke for a hot buffet lunch and soft drinks. The fellow Jutland relatives in my group consisted of those whose ancestors had fought with the battle cruisers, HMS Lion, Tiger, Queen Mary, Invincible and others of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battle Squadron, and the dreadnought, HMS Warspite. We were conducted to our seats outside the marquee on the terrace overlooking the Cross of Remembrance and cemetery.

The Band of the Royal Marines, The Stromness Royal British Legion Pipe band and the *Marinemusikkorps* (the German Navy Band) from Kiel entertained us before the arrival of the VVIP's and VIP's including the new First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones and Vice- Admiral Andreas Krause, the Chief of the German Navy.



**The Three Bands**

**(Ned's photograph encapsulates the bleakness that many of us associate with Scapa Flow)**

The VVIP party consisting of HRH Princes Anne, her husband, Vice-Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck and the Prime Minister, David Cameron joined us at 14.30pm on Hoy for our service. They had been ferried across Scapa Flow by British 'P boats' ('Archer' Class Fast Training Boats, assigned to University RN Units, that provide young University educated Lieutenants with their first taste of command). HMS Kent fired a twenty-gun-gun salute to greet the Royal Party. Wreaths were laid by

all of the Royal Party, dignitaries from Commonwealth countries (consuls) and the ranking Admirals at the Cross of Remembrance.

The service was conducted with readings given by relatives of those lost from Britain including Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's great-grandson, fifteen-year-old Joseph Herber Percy, whose relative was also killed on HMS Queen Mary and Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty's great-grandson, seventeen-year-old Ivo Beatty. German naval personnel also participated. Readings were also given by Princess Anne and Vice-Admiral Sir Tim Laurence. Hymns were sung and prayers said by both Chaplains of the respective navies. After the service my party was introduced to Princess Anne whilst others met David Cameron.

I then went to be interviewed by the BBC (Robert Hall) and finally I set off on my most important mission of the day, to lay my wreath on behalf of the Parish of St Helier and many Royal British Legion wooden crosses for various Jerseymen, including ones for Philip Renouf Le Cornu (HMS Malaya) and Walter Bertram de Ste Croix (HMS Hampshire) who have known graves. There are very few indeed for the 6,500 men who were lost at sea during the battle. Twelve men from the twenty-seven Jersey casualties were lost from the Parish of St Helier, namely:

PO 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Alexander de Caen (37)  
Lieutenant Stanley Nelson de Quetteville (28)  
PO Stoker Francis Gregory (34)  
Surgeon Maurice Henry de Jersey Harper (26)  
Ships Steward 2<sup>nd</sup> Class William George Hill (26)  
Chief Armourer Charles Edward Humphrys (33)  
Stoker Percy Nicholas Kendall (26)  
Leading Stoker Frederick George Lufkin (28)  
PO Albert Winter Reed (30)  
Chief Cook Samuel Edward Rumsey (36)  
AB Alfred Peter Tisson (20)  
ERA 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Henry Wilson (24)

The other fifteen who lost their lives were:

Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Henry Louis Cotillard (23)  
Blacksmith Otto Drube (34)  
Midshipman Dennis Gerald Ambrose Goddard (18)  
CPO Stoker Richard Henry Gore (41)  
Ordinary Seaman Victor Alexander Augustine Johnson  
Armourer Philip Renouf Le Cornu (37)  
Lieutenant John T Le Seelleur (27)  
Midshipman Philip Reginald Malet de Carteret (18)  
Leading Stoker William Philip Moyse (35)  
Stoker Philip Poingdestre (21)  
Leading Stoker Arthur Charles Pralle (33)  
Leading Seaman George Touzel Vardon (31)  
PO Stoker Alfred James Vigot (38)  
PO William James Wakley (31)

CERA 1<sup>st</sup> Class Alfred Wakley (41)

As Members can see by their ages most of the men were not young.

The Royal Navy's newest Type 42 'Daring' class destroyer, HMS Duncan, and the German Navy's FGS Brandenburg had previously sailed for Jutland and were above the battleship wrecks during the afternoon to jointly cast poppies and forget-me-nots onto the cold waters as a mark of respect to the men who died. The whole experience was just so very moving, and I was immensely proud and privileged to have been there on this most special for me of remembrance days, one hundred years to the day that my great-uncle Midshipman Philip Reginald Malet de Carteret was lost on HMS Queen Mary along with 1,265 of his fellow sailors.

We must never forget them.