

Lest We Forget – A New Dawn

Bude Stratton & District Old Cornwall Society together with the Castle Heritage Centre are presenting an Exhibition in Commemoration of WWI at the Castle, Bude 8th to 27th November Daily from 10.00am - 4.00pm

The Exhibition will feature details of the men from Bude, Stratton and the surrounding villages who are named on each War Memorial. Many of those who 'Also Served' are remembered too. The Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry was well represented by local men in the campaigns of Gallipoli, Flanders, India and all 'Theatres of War'. On display there are several first-hand accounts from soldiers whose families have preserved and kindly given us copies to share and to remember them by.

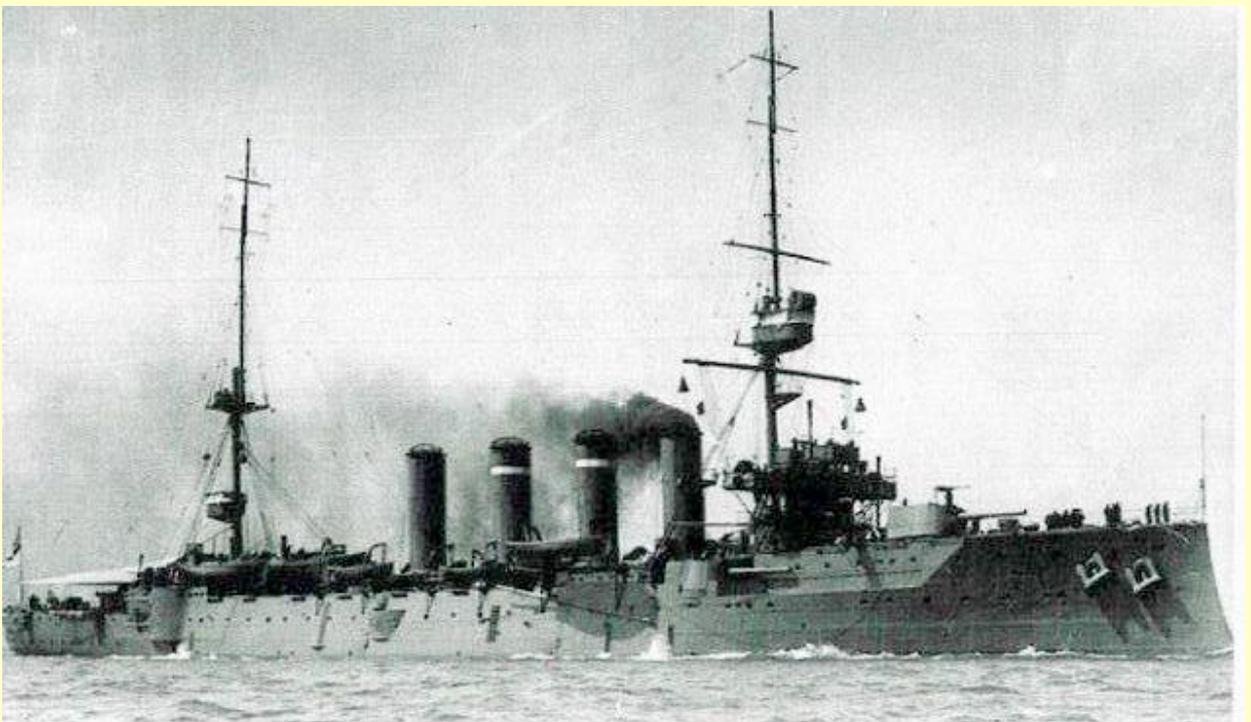


"Private Thomas Henry Keat 4th D.C.L.I. whose diary is exhibited."

Sailors from the area in the Royal and Merchant Navies were involved from the outset of the war. One of the first local casualties was Chief Petty Officer Frederick Sercombe on HMS Monmouth, sunk off Valpariso at the Battle of Coronel by the German Cruiser Gneisenau on 1st November 1914.



Rear Admiral Archibald Peile Stoddart C.B. and HMS Carnarvon



“Admiral Stoddart on his flagship HMS Carnarvon was at the sinking of the German Cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the Falklands. 8th December 1914.”

Admiral Nicholson served at Gallipoli. On retirement these two Admirals were very involved in the local community and benefactors to their neighbourhoods of Poughill and Bude. The ships at the Battle of Jutland, Dogger Bank and German Bight on which local men served are also recorded.

Nearer to home in the Western approaches the German U-Boats were causing the loss of so many merchant ships bringing essential supplies from Canada and America. To protect the convoys and

also to locate mines a Royal Naval Air base was set up at Langford Barton near Marhamchurch for Airships which patrolled the area of Bude Bay and could bomb any submarine sighted



“Airship at R.N.A.S. Langford, Marhamchurch, Bude”

Besides sinking large ships with torpedoes, the subs preyed on smaller fishing vessels by surfacing, setting the crew adrift in their lifeboat or raft and sinking the vessel with gunfire or a bomb. A chart is on display showing the location of many of these ships including details of the Hospital ship “H.M.H.S. Glenart Castle” torpedoed near Lundy Island on the 26th February, 1918. A Memorial to the Crew, the Nurses and Doctors, is situated on the cliff just south of Hartland Point Lighthouse.



“Hospital Ship Glenart Castle” torpedoed near Lundy Island, 26th February 1918

A fine display of Badges and Memorabilia from the First World War will be an interesting feature of the Exhibition.