

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER PATRICK CASHMAN R.N.

Patrick Cashman (Warrant Officer, Royal Navy, Chatham Barracks) born Waterford, Ireland on 26 September 1874, died Muizenberg, South Africa 19 December 1951 (76 years) married Winifred Kate Field 1 January 1911 in Christ Church, Hornsey.

The union had one child, Dorothy Winifred b 2 July 1920 married 16.11.1940 Victor Walter Martin BOONZAIER b 27 April 1912 bapt. St.Philips 15.5.1912 d 24 October 1996

Within the family, there exists a TRIBUTE MEDAL to Patrick Cashman, the description of which follows :

It appears to have been designed as an Albert or "dangler", fashioned for wear on a watch chain.

Obverse :Gillingham County School Enamelled coat-of-arms with scroll (inscription : Valet Acora Vertus).

Reverse : engraved "Senior Victor Ludorum : T W Cashman 1928" surrounded by embossed laurel wreath.

Suspension : Curved and looped ornamental silver suspender brazed to the top edge of the medal.

Size : 27mm round (excluding suspender).

Metal : Sterling silver with silversmith's initials, H.G.C., and hallmark Birmingham 1926.

Lieutenant-Commander P Cashman (1874-1951), Royal Navy, was awarded the the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902 with battle clasps Tugela Heights and Relief of Ladysmith (159862 P.O.1.Cl); the 1914-15 Star; the British War Medal 1914-1920; the Victory Medal 1914-1918 (Ch.Bos).

For his service during World War II he would have been entitled to receive the (minimum of) Defence Medal 1939-45 (British); the War Medal 1939-45; the Africa Service Medal 1939-45.

Cashman served *inter alia* on HMS Philomel (a Light Cruiser) and HMS Russell (a battleship of the Duncan class).

The Natal Royal Naval brigade

In Natal in 1899, with the Boers sweeping towards Durban and with Ladysmith besieged, a large naval brigade was landed from HM Ships *Terrible*, *Forte*, *Philomel*, *Tartar*, and *Thetis*. This was initially to defend Durban, Captain Percy Scott, the captain of *Terrible*, being placed in overall command of the defence of the town. Scott was an acknowledged expert on gunnery, who had designed the mounting for the naval 12 pounders, the 4.7 inch guns and latter a 6 inch gun that were later to be landed.

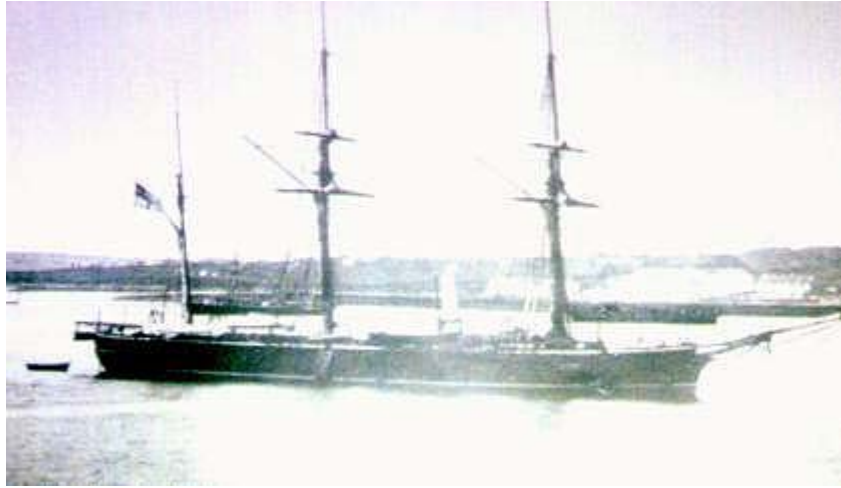
When General Buller began a campaign to relieve Ladysmith, part of his force was a number of these naval guns under the command of Captain EP Jones of the *Forte*. The assistance of the navy was thus largely confined to providing the long range guns which were needed to counter the Boers' Krupps and Creusots. Detachments were supplied by the following ships:

- HMS Doris Light Cruiser Flagship - Cape of Good Hope Station
- HMS *Terrible* 1st Class Cruiser
- HMS *Powerful* 1st Class Cruiser
- HMS *Philomel* Light Cruiser
- HMS *Forte* Light Cruiser
- HMS *Tartar* Torpedo Cruiser (later HMS *Monarch*)

The first attempt to relieve Ladysmith failed after the Battle of Colenso and several further attempts, including the disastrous action at Spion Kop, were to fail before Ladysmith was finally relieved. Thereafter, naval contingent from *Terrible* rejoined their ship and proceeded to China where they saw action. The remainder of the brigade fought on with Buller as he

joined the invasion of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. By October 1899, the Natal Naval Brigade had handed its guns over to the army and had returned to its ships.

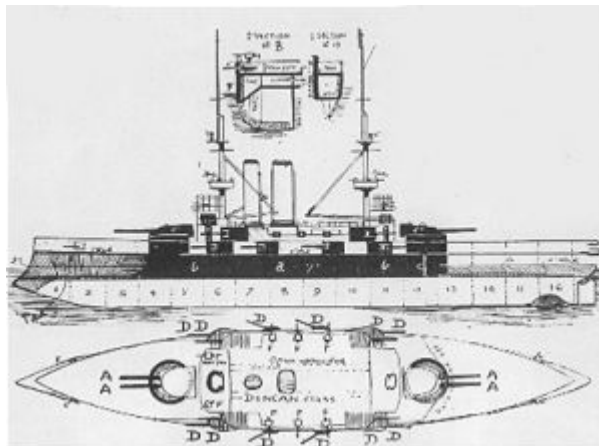
The men of this brigade qualified for up to five clasps for their Queen's South Africa Medal. Only 24 such were issued.



H M S Philomel

HMS Russell

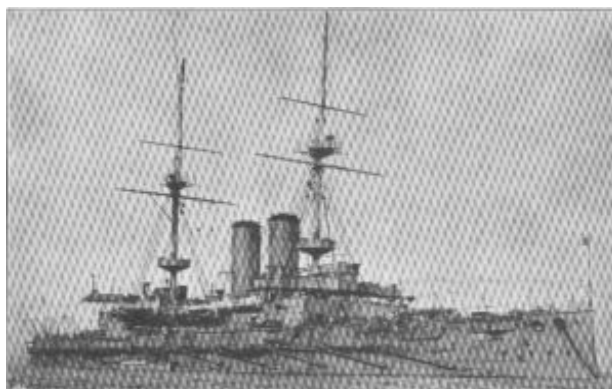
This was a battleship of the Duncan class was laid down at Jarrow on 11th March 1899, and launched in February 1901. Her length was 429 feet overall, beam 75½ feet, draught 26½ feet. With a displacement of 14,000 tons, she had a speed of over 19 knots, making her one of the fastest warships afloat of her time.



She was in the Home Fleet from April 1906 but was then transferred to the Atlantic Fleet in February the next year. Russell then served with the Atlantic Fleet in 1909 returning home in August of 1912, shortly afterwards in 1913 she joined the 2nd Fleet at Nore. She became flagship with the Grand Fleet in 1914 with the 6th Battle Squadron and then moved to the 3rd battle squadron to take part in northern patrols. HMS Russell joined the Channel Fleet in November 1914 when at Portland and after bombarding the coast of Belgium was sent to the Dardanelles. She stayed at Mudros as support alongside HMS Hibernia in November 1915 but eventually took part in the evacuation on 7th January 1916.

Rear-Admiral R.S.Fremantle was flying his flag in HMS Russell, Captain

W.Bowden Smith, when she arrived off Malta on the night of 26th April 1916. Due to her late arrival entry to the harbour was refused and the ship was forced to circle around off-shore. Next morning, when about five miles from Grand Harbour, she hit two mines, which had recently been laid by the German submarine U-73.



The ship remained afloat for about twenty minutes before turning turtle, and her hull was visible for a short time before she sank beneath the waves. Thankfully she sank close enough to Malta for many small boats to get out to her to assist in the rescue of survivors. The survivors numbered 24 officers and 676 men, but 124 men lost their lives in the tragedy. The rescued men were taken to Bighi Royal Naval Hospital for medical examination, and some later died there, many to Cordite poisoning.

Rear-Admiral R.S. (Sydney) Fremantle lost Nelson's telescope, a family heirloom, during this event. He went on to be ADC and to command at Scapa Flow when the German Fleet scuttled themselves to avoid the ignominy of surrender. Sir Sydney finished his career as C-in-C Portsmouth, where he introduced compulsory swimming tests for the Royal Navy.

Bibliography:

1. Burne, C.R.N. With the Naval Brigade in Natal, 1899-1900. London, Armeld 1902.
2. Major Hall, D.D. The South African Military History Society / Die Suid-Afrikaanse Krygshistoriese Vereeniging: Military History Journal - Vol 4 No 3 "The Naval Guns In Natal 1899-1902".
3. Singlehurst, P. Victorian Military Society Journal "Soldiers of the Queen", November 1999.
4. Cranston Fine Arts : The Naval Art Company. www.naval-art.com
5. Text of the presentation given by Cmdr. Charles Fremantle at the re-dedication of the grave of Gen. Sir Arthur James Lyon Fremantle. Brighton cemetery, 29th September 2001
6. Kalkara Naval Cemetery, Malta : from a metal plate fixed to the wall at the entrance to this cemetery has a description of Malta's wartime experiences, and says that there are nearly 2,000 servicemen from the First World War, and 1,500 from the Second World War, buried in cemeteries on the island of Malta.
7. General ~ Royal Navy Ship Losses - A Miscellaneous List : Wartime Disasters at Sea - David Williams: British Merchant Ships sunk by U-Boats in the 1914-18 War - A J Tennant: Ships of the Royal Navy - JJ Colledge: Warship Losses of the 20th Century - Paul Kemp: Shipwrecks of the Ulster Coast - Ian Wilson: Newspaper Records - World Ship Society records.

FAMILY CASHMAN

1 William Cashman (farmer of Waterford) m Ellen Goff

1.1 Patrick Cashman (Warrant Officer, Royal Navy, Chatham Barracks) born Waterford, Ireland. 26 September 1874, died Muizenberg, South Africa 19 December 1951 (76 years) m Winifred Kate Field 1 January 1911 in Christ Church, Hornsey.

Lt. Commander was a gunnery instructor in HMS Philomel during the Anglo-Boer War and, as part of the Royal Naval brigade took part in the Relief of Ladysmith. He was aboard HMS Russell, a Duncan-class battleship struck by a mine off Malta on 27 March 1916 with the loss of 124 men. He retired from the Royal Navy in 1934; but was recalled to duty in Simon's Town during World War II.

1.1.1 son

1.1.2 Dorothy Winifred b 2 July m Victor Walter Martin Boonzaier b d 1992

1.1.2.1 son

1.1.2.2 son

MOOC 6/9/694.1814 Thomas John (parents John, Norma) born c.1876 died 7.5.1912. Police constable, Kimberley.

© 2008. Dr R M Pelteret. All rights reserved. www.pelteret.co.za