

HMS CAROLINE

AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR



The James Weddick Story



HMS CAROLINE
BELFAST

One of only three surviving British warships from the First World War, HMS Caroline is the sole surviving ship of both the Grand Fleet and the Battle of Jutland.

The First World War brought many advancements in modern warfare, from the skies to the seas. Allied forces were keen to control the waters and to block the Central Powers, led by Germany.

Sailors like **James Weddick** were some of the first to see large scale battles at sea in the First World War. During the Battle of Jutland in May 1916, Weddick was aboard HMS Caroline as the ship engaged in the conflict's largest naval battle.

This Key Stage 3 education resource recalls James' early life in the Navy, his training during the early days of the war, through his experiences aboard Caroline during the Battle of Jutland.

Over 40,000 sailors lost their lives at sea during the First World War, with many more thousands of civilians also killed. The battle of the waves was characterised by intense submarine and bombing campaigns that brought an emerging warfare to the fore, and one that would be repeated in future wars and conflicts.

Visit HMS Caroline today and learn all about the cruiser's impact on the Battle of Jutland and throughout the First World War.

www.hmscaroline.co.uk



HMS CAROLINE
BELFAST

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Comic designed by:



JAMES WEDDICK, BORN IN LIMERICK IN 1881, HAD A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE ROYAL NAVY THAT BEGAN WHEN HE WAS JUST 15 YEARS OLD.



I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND, IF YOU CAN RECALL IT?



RECALL IT?! HOW COULD I EVER FORGET!



I WENT INTO THE BATTLE ON BOARD HMS CAROLINE. SHE WAS A FINE VESSEL...

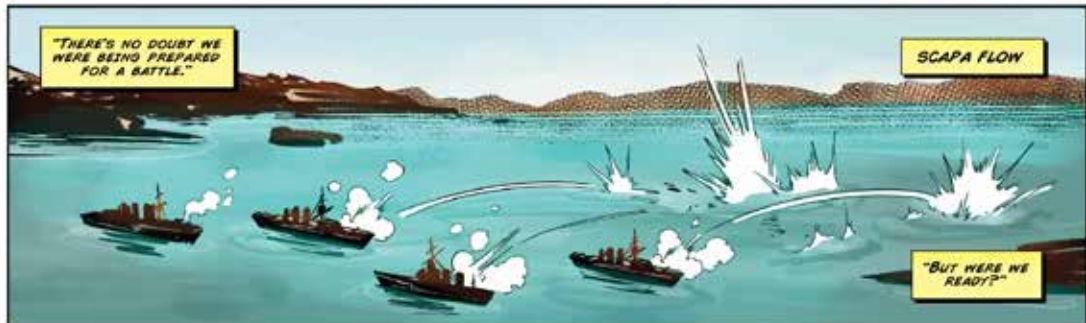
JAMES WEDDICK BEGAN HIS NAVAL SERVICE ON HMS IMPREGNABLE IN 1897, AS BOY 2ND CLASS. HE SERVED ON A NUMBER OF SHIPS, TAKING PART IN ACTIVITY IN LOCATIONS SUCH AS GIBRALTAR, ZANZIBAR AND SOUTH AFRICA.



WEDDICK JOINED THE CREW OF HMS CAROLINE, A LIGHT CRUISER, IN DECEMBER 1914, AS A PETTY OFFICER.



OF COURSE, THE FIRST WORLD WAR HAD ALREADY STARTED BY THAT POINT...





"IT WASN'T ALL WORK THOUGH. CAPTAIN CROOKE RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR OFFICERS TO KEEP MORALE HIGH. IT WAS GOOD TO GET A BREAK FROM ALL THE DRILLS."



"PLENTY OF SPORT WAS PLAYED TOO."



"CAROLINE EVEN HAD HER OWN PETS. BLÜCHER THE RABBIT AND TOM THE CAT WERE REGULARS ON BOARD AND THE MEN TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN LOOKING AFTER THEM."



"DID YOU HEAR? WE'RE SETTING OUT THIS EVENING. THERE'S TALK WE'RE GOING INTO BATTLE."

"WE ARE READY FOR A LIVELY TIME, NO DOUBT!"

30 MAY 1916



"MEN... THE DAY HAS COME. WE WILL INDICTE THE GERMAN FLEET OUT OF KIEL BAY, UNDER THE GUNS OF THE GRAND FLEET. I HAVE FAITH THAT WE WILL WIN THIS DAY."

31 MAY, 1916

ACTION STATIONS, MEN!

MEN...

...BE PREPARED...

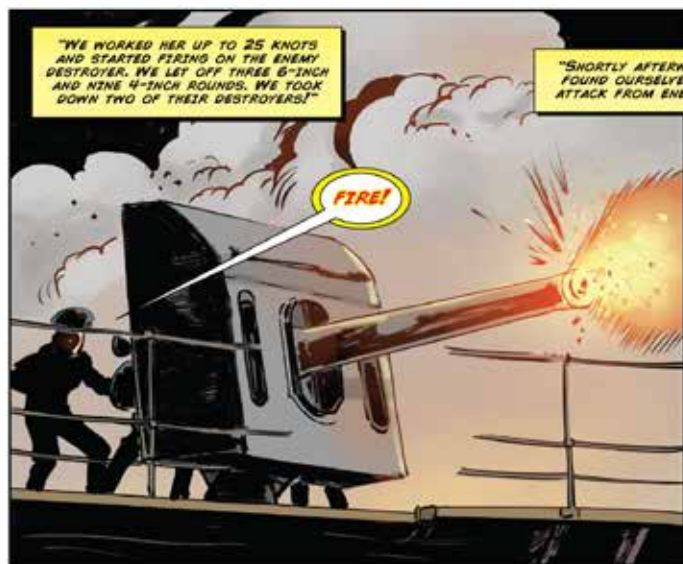


"THE SHELLS DROPPED RIGHT DOWN THROUGH THE DECK OF HMS INVINCIBLE JUST AHEAD OF US, AND SHE WENT UP! MY, THEY COULD SHOOT!"

"WE WERE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO SEE A GERMAN SHIP HIT IN RETALIATION."











TIMELINE



28 JANUARY 1914

Work began in Birkenhead, England on building the central spine of Caroline. The ship was built by Cammell Laird & Co Shipbuilding Company.



4 AUGUST 1914

Britain enters the First World War following Germany's invasion of Belgium.



21 SEPTEMBER 1914

Caroline was launched by Lady Power, wife of Admiral Sir Laurence Power. Some people claim it was the fastest build time of any major warship.



4 DECEMBER 1914

HMS Caroline was commissioned under the command of Captain Henry Ralph Croke, with an original complement of 289 men.



31 MAY 1916

The Battle of Jutland began on 31 May and lasted until 1 June. HMS Caroline was one of 151 combat ships on the side of the allies.



1919 - 1922

HMS Caroline travelled around the East Indies, based mainly in Bombay and Colombo. She also visited Myanmar, Malaysia, Mauritius and the Seychelles.



DID YOU KNOW...

Early Paint Scheme

Shortly after arriving at Scapa, Caroline was repainted in distinctive colours based on the ideas of Scottish zoologist John Graham Kerr who set out the concept of 'parti-colouring' as a type of camouflage. Early enthusiasm faded and Caroline returned to the pale grey of the Battle Cruiser Fleet.

Man Overboard

Royal Marine Private Edward James Morris was the first casualty of the ship's war. He was washed overboard on 26 December 1914 during stormy conditions. The ship's log noted, 'Lost overboard, Kisby lifebuoys, 2 in number'.



Length

446 feet / 136 metres



Speed

30 knots (34mph)



Power

Eight oil-fired boilers



Navigating

Traditional methods including a magnetic compass, landmarks on shore and star sightings



Travel

During the First World War, Caroline travelled 80,000 nautical miles – more than three times around the world



Torpedoes

She could carry up to 12 torpedoes, each costing over £1,000 in 1914



Armour

2 x 6-inch (152mm) guns

8 x 4-inch (102mm) guns

1 x 6-pounder (57mm) anti-aircraft gun (later 2 x 3-inch, or 76.2mm)

2 x 21-inch (533mm) twin torpedo tubes



THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND

Before the war, HMS Caroline was largely involved in patrols and a series of drills and exercises. From November 1915, she was transferred to the Grand Fleet, the main fleet of the Royal Navy during the First World War under the command of Admiral John Jellicoe.

The Battle of Jutland took place off Denmark's North Sea coast and was the only major naval surface engagement of the First World War. It began on the afternoon of 31 May 1916, with gunfire between German and British scouting forces.

When the main warships met, Admiral Jellicoe maneuvered his Fleet to take advantage of the fading daylight, scoring dozens of direct hits that eventually forced German Admiral Reinhard Scheer into retreat.

Both sides claimed victory in the attack. Germany claimed victory because they suffered fewer losses and the British because they maintained control of shipping lanes.

German losses

99 ships
9 sunk

2,500 casualties

British losses

151 ships
14 sunk

6,000 casualties
350 were from Ireland
(mainly Cork, Antrim
and Dublin)



Contact HMS Caroline

if you would like to organise a learning visit to the ship themed around James Weddick's story and life at sea during the First World War.

www.hmscaroline.co.uk



Propaganda

Both Germany and Britain claimed victory at the Battle of Jutland. Working in small groups, script and record radio news bulletins that might have been created by Britain in the aftermath of the battle. Think about the type of language that might have been used in 1916 and the type of message Britain would want to convey. Add sound effects and music to create your piece.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Links

Key Elements	Cross Curricular Skills	Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities	Areas of Learning
Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness; Ethical Awareness	Communication; Using ICT	Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Being Creative; Working with Others	The Arts; English (with Media Education); Environment & Society



Visit and film

HMS Caroline is the home of information and resource on the Battle of Jutland and wartime naval engagement. Visit the floating museum, take pictures and film footage from key locations across the ship as you go. Use this content to create a short film that explains the key actions HMS Caroline was involved in during the First World War. Your film should include a mixture of images/filmed footage with text or a voiceover to convey your findings.

i Tip: Be sure to visit key locations such as the Captain's Quarters and the Bridge.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Links

Key Elements	Cross Curricular Skills	Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities	Areas of Learning
Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness; Ethical Awareness	Communication; Using ICT	Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Being Creative; Working with Others	The Arts; English (with Media Education); Environment & Society



Debate

Pupils will hold a mock debate in class about who they think was the victor at the Battle of Jutland. Both Germany and Britain claimed victory in the aftermath of the famous battle with neither side willing to show weakness. The class will form into two groups – one representing Germany and the other representing Britain. They will research the battle and provide a rationale for why they believe their side was victorious.

i TIP: Examine the types of vessels lost on both sides, as well as the number of lives lost.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Links

Key Elements	Cross Curricular Skills	Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities	Areas of Learning
Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness; Ethical Awareness	Communication; Using ICT	Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Being Creative; Working with Others	The Arts; English (with Media Education); Environment & Society