



# HENRY GEORGE STOBART LAING

**Lieutenant**

***HMS Indefatigable, Royal Navy***

**died on**

**Monday 31st May 1915**

**aged 24**

HENRY GEORGE STOBART LAING  
is commemorated on the  
PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

*. Additional information in the  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register*

Son of George and Annie M. Laing, of 80, Crescent Rd., Reading. Native of Glendale, Northumberland.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided. An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War and 15,933 of the Second World War. Henry Laing is commemorated on Panel 10

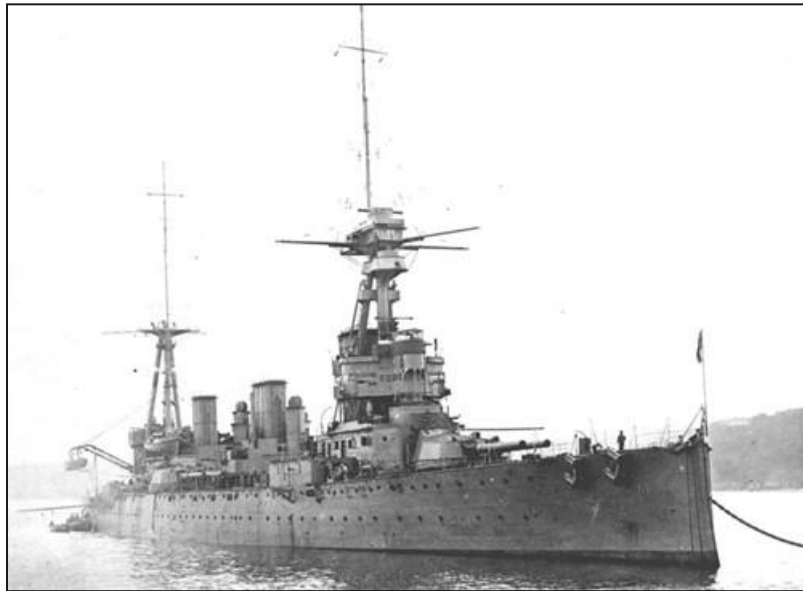


## THE TIMES

Wednesday, June 7, 1916

### Officers of the Royal Navy who lost their lives in the North Sea Battle on May 31, 1916

H.M.S. Indefatigable - Lieutenant Henry George Stobart Laing, aged 25, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Laing, of Hadlow Down, Sussex, and grandson of the late Sir George Laing, of Etal Manor, Northumberland, and Sunderland, the eminent shipbuilder. He entered Osborne in January, 1905, and passed out of Dartmouth as Chief Cadet, receiving the King's Gold Medal and Dirk, presented by the Admiralty. He was a good all round athlete and an officer of marked merit.



HMS Indefatigable

Henry George Stobart Laing was born in Glendale Northumberland in 1891 the son of George and Annie Laing. He was the nephew of George and Mary Chance and cousin to Eustace Chance. Henry spent some leaves at Linden with that family. He went to Osborne in January, 1905 and served on various ships and lastly on *HMS Indefatigable*. *HMS Indefatigable* was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the First World War. She was part of Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty's battle cruiser Fleet; she was hit several times in the first minutes of the "Run to the South", the opening phase of the battle cruiser action. Shells from the German battle cruiser *Von der Tann* caused an explosion ripping a hole in her hull, and a second explosion hurled large pieces of the ship 200 feet (60 m) in the air. Only two of the crew of 1,019 survived. Henry Laing is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.