

George Henry Field - Warrant Officer Age 35

Commissioned Royal Marine Light Infantry Gunner
H.M.S. Indefatigable

Killed in Action Wednesday, May 31, 1916, when H.M.S. Indefatigable was sunk
during the Battle of Jutland

Went down with Ship

Commemorated - Chatham Naval Memorial and on Harthill War Memorial

The son of James and Elizabeth Field, of Woodall, husband of Amy Field, of "The Traveller's Rest," Highmoor, Killamarsh.

Worksop Guardian - 9 June 1916

“Among the local heroes and victims who put up such a gallant fight against the odds in the great naval engagement in the North Sea on May 31st to June 1st was a Harthill man. R.M. Gunner George Field, HMS Indefatigable, who was killed on May 31st. Early Intelligence was received from the Admiralty by Mrs George H Field, who resides with her mother Mrs Curzon, Highmoor, between Woodall and Killamarsh, on Saturday morning. From the telegram it seems probable that Gunner Field was killed before the ship went down,

On Monday morning, another communication was received as follows:

“Dear Madam, In confirmation of Admiralty telegram, I am commanded by my Lords Commission to inform you that they deeply regret to report that your husband lost his life in action on the 31st May. In conveying this intelligence, my Lords desire me to assure you of their deepest sympathy in the loss you have sustained.”

“Gunner Field was 35 years of age and had been in the service 16 years. He was formerly on HMS Kent and HMS Bellorophon, and on receiving promotion to rank of warrant officer, he joined HMS Indefatigable, and had been on that ship since he received his promotion He was a gunnery instructor on his previous ship, and he had the reputation of being a very good marksman.

He was of a studious nature and his promotion had been deserving and well earned, and he was highly esteemed by his brother officers, all of whom, likewise have gone. He was married about five years ago to Miss Amy Curzon. Gunner Field was the second son of Mr James Field and the late Mrs Elizabeth Field, of Woodall.

Indefatigable was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. She was hit several times in the first minutes of 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) into the air. Only three of the crew of 1,019 survived.