

Revd Guy Arrott BROWNING

Born Wimbledon, 15 Dec 1876
Chaplain & Naval Instructor, Royal Navy

Died 31 May 1916, aged 39
H.M.S. INDEFATIGABLE

Guy Arrott Browning was the second son of George Alexander (1840-) and Mary Elizabeth Browning (1849-). They had lived in Wimbledon (1881) with four sons, Kendall Colin (1875-1936), **Guy Arrott (1876-1916)**, Hamilton Arthur (1879-1891), and Herbert Acland (1880-1955).

In 1891 they had moved to 20 Macaulay Road, Clapham.

By 1901, they were living at 2 Longlands, Dawlish where the household consisted of George A Browning, 61 (retired Captain, R.N.), Mary E – his wife 52, Kendall C, son 25 (M.A. Cambridge Univ), **Guy A, 24 (Clergyman, Church of England)**, Herbert A, 21, (Univ graduate, Medical student), Helen M Browning, 42, sister-in-law.

The parents moved to 11 Barton Terrace by 1911 with Helen M Kendall, the wife's sister.

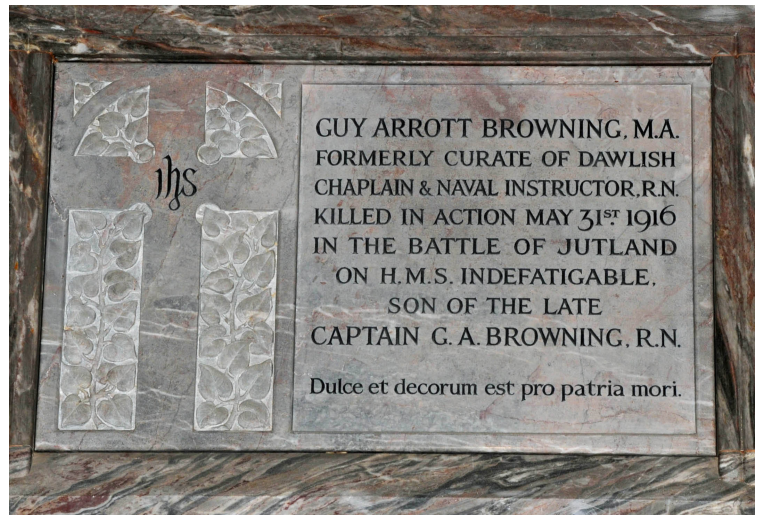
At some date prior to his son's death Captain G Browning died and his widow still resided at 11 Barton Terrace at the time of her son's death.

The Cambridge University Alumni record summarises **Guy Browning's** life as:

["Adm.](#) S. of George Alexander, Capt., R.N., of West Dulwich. B. Dec. 15, 1876, at Wimbledon, Surrey. Schools, Clapham (Dr F. C. Maxwell) and Dulwich College. sizar at ST JOHN'S, Apr. 27, 1896.

["Matric.](#) Michs. 1896; Scholar, 1898; B.A. (30th Wrangler) 1899; M.A. 1903. Ord. deacon, 1900; priest (Exeter) 1901; **C. of Dawlish, 1900-3.** Chaplain and Instructor in the Navy, 1903-16. Served in the Great War. Went down in H.M.S. *Indefatigable*, at the Battle of Jutland, May 31, 1916. Brother of Herbert A. (1898), etc. (*Dulwich Coll. Reg.*) "

right, The Memorial plaque in St Gregory's Church, Dawlish



The *Western Times* of Friday 9 June 1916 reported; "The Rev G.A.Browning, M.A. (Chaplain), H.M.S. "Indefatigable", was killed in the battle (*Jutland*). He was the second son of the late Capt. Browning, R.N., and Mrs Browning, of Barton Terrace, Dawlish."

"He graduated and was a wrangler of St. John's College, Cambridge. He took Holy Orders about 15 years ago, and held his first and only curacy at Dawlish. He remained a member of the local clergy for two years, upon retirement from which he entered the Navy as Chaplain and Naval Instructor. He served on the "Bulwark", "Vanguard", and "Orion". He was appointed to the

Dawlish World War One Project

"Indefatigable" on the outbreak of war. At the Parish Church yesterday morning sympathetic reference was made to the rev. gentleman's death. The organist (Mr J.F.King) played the "Dead March".

The Battle of Jutland was the largest naval battle of World War I, fought between 31st May and 1st June 1916, in the North Sea near Jutland, Denmark. The Germans' plan was to use five modern battlecruisers to lure the British through a submarine picket line and into the path of the main German fleet.

The plan didn't succeed, but the battle is considered to be won by the Germans, dealing the Royal Navy a heavy blow.

The battlecruiser HMS INDEFATIGABLE (Captain Charles Sowerby) was locked in a gunnery duel with the German battlecruiser VON DER TANN when a German salvo was observed to strike HMS INDEFATIGABLE midships. HMS INDEFATIGABLE lurched out of line to starboard only to be stuck squarely by a second salvo.

It appears that HMS INDEFATIGABLE received a shell in her X turret which ignited cordite charges, the resultant flash shooting down to the aft magazines. It is equally plausible that a shell may have penetrated the magazine directly. The ship was wreathed in smoke but when it cleared, HMS INDEFATIGABLE was sinking by the stern and listing over to port.

She sank in seconds taking 1,017 of her crew with her.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: BROWNING, Guy Arrott, Revd, 31 May 1916, Jutland, aged 39, Son of Capt G A Browning, R.N., and M.E.Browning of Dawlish. Royal Naval Memorial, Plymouth Panel 10, Plymouth Hoe.

He is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: BROWNING G.A. Chap. & N.I. H.M.S.INDEFATIGABLE

Devon Heritage site info:

The Reverend Guy Arnott Browning M.A., Royal Naval Chaplain and Instructor, *HMS Indefatigable*, Son of Captain George Browning and his wife Mary Browning of Dawlish. Born in Wimbledon, Surrey, in 1877. Died 31 May 1916 aged 39 in the Battle of Jutland.

Last known address: 11 Barton Terrace, Dawlish

Next of kin: Mary Elizabeth Browning - mother

Probate was granted on 6 October 1916 to John Bruce Irving, Medical Student in sum of £3,269 0s 11d.

References: CWGC and Naval-History.net BMD, census and Probate records.
Cambridge Alumni. Wrecksite.eu JUTLAND 1916 by Steel & Hart