

Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch
of
The Western Front Association

Remembering one of Gloucestershire's Fallen



Midshipman Rupert Henry Ingles-Chamberlayne
Royal Navy - HMS Hawke

Rupert Henry Ingles-Chamberlayne was born on 4 July 1897. He was the son of Henry and his second wife Grace Ingles-Chamberlayne, who lived at The Hyde, Stow-on-the-Wold.

Rupert joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Cadet in 1910 and became a student at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, on the Isle of Wight. He became a Midshipman in August 1913, when aged 16 and was posted to HMS *Hawke*, an 'Edgar' Class old light cruiser.

Upon the outbreak of war *Hawke* joined with other cruisers of its class to form the 10th Cruiser Squadron, deployed between Scotland and Norway on the blockade of the North Sea.

On 15 October 1914 *Hawke* was on patrol off Aberdeen and at 9.30am had stopped to pick up mail from its sister ship HMS *Endymion*. She then set off at thirteen knots to regain station, steering a straight, rather than zig-zag course. Out of sight

of the rest of the squadron she was struck by a single torpedo fired from the German submarine U-9 (which had been responsible for the sinking of the cruisers *Aboukir*, *Hogue* and *Cressy* on 22 September). The torpedo ignited a magazine and a tremendous explosion ripped a large hole in the ship's side; she capsized and sank in minutes.

Concern was raised when *Hawke* failed to respond to signals and a destroyer, HMS *Swift*, was despatched from Scapa Flow to conduct a search. It found a raft containing an officer and 21 ratings and a boat with 49 survivors on board was picked up by a Norwegian steamer. The remainder of the ship's company, 524 in all, which included Rupert, were lost.

Rupert was described in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of 17 October 1914 as 'a bright young fellow'. He is commemorated on Panel 1 of the Chatham Naval Memorial.