

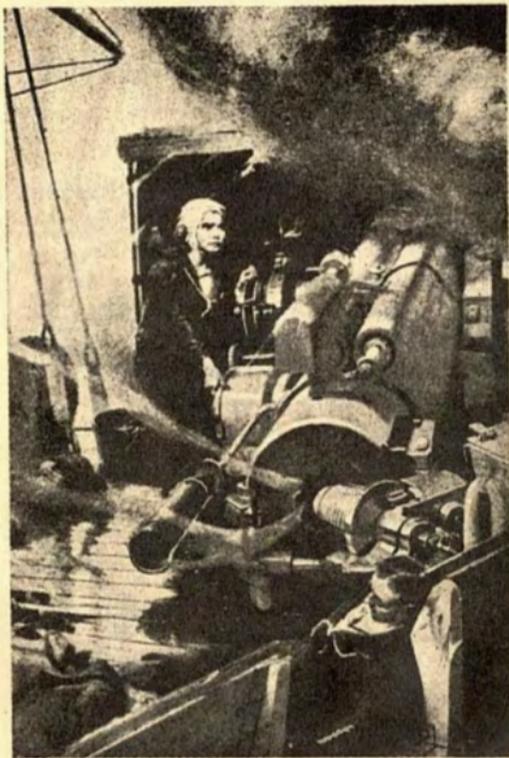
R. C. S. C. C.

John

Travers

Cornwell, V.C.





John Travers Cornwell, V.C.

FOREWORD

In presenting this souvenir booklet we do so with the hope that the account of the gallant deeds of one young Naval hero will inspire you to serve, to the utmost of your capabilities, the fine Service of which you are privileged to be a member. The annals of the Navy are filled with many records of heroism and devotion to duty, and the initial training and discipline gained through membership in the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps are making no small contribution to that proud record of our men at sea. Be proud of the uniform you wear and the cause you serve!

This booklet presented
with the compliments of
THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA
Manitoba Division
Greater Winnipeg Branch

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Many boys may wonder, on joining the Winnipeg Sea Cadets, why their ship is called "John Travers Cornwell, V.C." It is an exceptionally long name, and, moreover, does not sound as inspiring as some of those grand old ones which have come down to us through centuries of glorious British naval history. Names like "Victory", "Courageous", "Indomitable", and many more, would appear to be far more suitable and certainly are easier to get your tongue around.

It is doubtful, nevertheless, if any name could be more fitting for a Sea Cadet ship than "John Travers Cornwell, V.C." Why? The obvious answer is to be found in the following account of this boy's heroic devotion to duty—an inspiring record of service to his country!

In the afternoon and evening of May 31, 1916, an action was fought in the North Sea, between the Grand Fleet under Admiral Sir John Jellicoe and the German High Sea Fleet under Admiral Reinhold Scheer. When the official despatches of this Battle of Jutland Bank were published there was one episode, more than any other, which stirred the popular imagination. That was the deathless story of Boy Cornwell, who remained at his post of duty to the end of the fight, faithful to the last, and then died of his wounds.

Sir David Beatty said:

"A report from the Commanding Officer of the Chester gives a splendid instance of devotion to duty. Boy (1st class) John Travers Cornwell, of the H.M.S. Chester, was mortally wounded early in the action. He nevertheless remained standing alone at a most exposed post, quietly awaiting orders till the end of the action, with the gun's crew dead and wounded all round him. His age was under 16½ years. I regret that he has since died, but I recommend his case for special recognition in justice to his memory, and as an acknowledgement of the high example set by him."

No record of the Victoria Cross was more impressive than that of John Travers Cornwell's behaviour in the Jutland battle. The body of this brave lad was at first buried

in a common grave, but on July 29, 1916, having been exhumed, it was reinterred with full naval honours in a private grave in Manor Park Cemetery, when the Bishop of Barking and Dr. Macnamara, the latter being the bearer of a wreath from the Royal Navy, delivered eloquent tributes to Cornwell's heroism. A movement for a national memorial was set on foot, in which the Navy League and Sir John Bethell, M.P., among others, were interested. The purpose of this memorial was to endow a ward for disabled sailors in the Star and Garter Home; to provide cottage homes for disabled and invalided sailors and their families; to institute naval scholarships for deserving boys; and to erect a suitable monument on the grave.

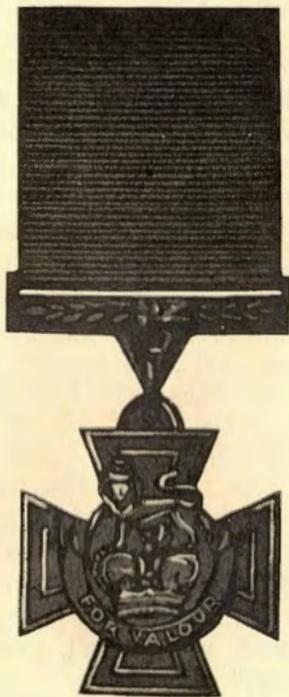
A picture of the boy standing by his gun, with Admiral Sir

David Beatty's report of the incident, occupied a position of honour in more than 12,000 schools.

On March 23, 1917, a large company witnessed at the Mansion House the presentation to the Board of Admiralty of Mr. Frank O. Salisbury's picture, "John Cornwell, V.C., on H.M.S. Chester". Sir Edward Carson, the First Lord, in receiving the picture on behalf of the Admiralty, said:

"I ask people who grumble if they ever heard the story of John Travers Cornwell . . . I feel that this boy, who died at the post of duty, sends this message through me as First Lord of the Admiralty for the moment, to the people of the Empire: 'Obey your orders, cling to your post, don't grumble, stick it out.'"

For Valour



VICTORIA CROSS

Sea Cadet

Address

Ship's Co'y.

Enrolled

Promoted to

(Date)

Promoted to

(Date)

