



ROYAL NAVY
FLEET AIR ARM
MUSEUM

PRESS RELEASE

Tribute to WW1's oldest veteran unveiled at the Fleet Air Arm Museum

When Henry Allingham was servicing seaplanes during the First World War little did he realise that his image would be cast in bronze and displayed in a museum for posterity to represent "Everyman who served".

Henry Allingham served in the Royal Naval Air Service - the forerunner of the Fleet Air Arm, during WWI where he took part in the Battle of Jutland off the Danish coast in 1916. He died as the world's oldest man, aged 113yrs on 18 July 2009

Like so many of his generation, Henry Allingham had been reluctant to discuss the events of WWI and his role within it. It was only in his later years when he felt the responsibility to speak out against the tragedy of war and the need for global brotherhood.

Moved by his story and as a tribute to his lost generation, talented young sculptor Jenna Gearing, of St Leonards-Mayfield School, committed to produce his bust and has presented it to the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Somerset for permanent display alongside Henry Allingham's medals and story of his remarkable generation.



Sculptor Jenna Gearing with bust of Henry Allingham

The unveiling of Henry Allingham's bust will be made by **Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns on Nov 26th.**



Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns with Henry Allingham in 2006

Representing Henry Allingham's own rank in the RNAS, senior and junior Air Mechanics will be present, together with Sculptor Jenna Gearing and Henry Allingham's friends and carers Dennis and Glenda Goodwin.

Says Museum Director Graham Mottram. "Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the commencement of the Great War and the Bust of Henry Allingham will act as a focal point for many of our planned WWI exhibits. We are delighted and honoured to be able to display this important work which is both masterful and a poignant reminder of the lost generation".

Henry Allingham was interviewed by the Fleet Air Arm Museum in 2006 and photographs taken during this visit acted as inspiration to Jenna Gearing. The bust along with his medals and his silver WWI identity bracelet bearing the inscription "Henry W Allingham. Royal Naval Air Service. CoE." are now on public display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

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