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# Local link to HMS

The massive flag currently on display at South Canterbury Museum is not the only local link to HMS New Zealand and the largest naval battle of World War I.

While the flag was flying on HMS New Zealand at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 a local man, David Boyle, was in command of one of the ship's turrets and was in the thick of the action.

Boyle was born at Otaio in 1887 into a family with strong naval roots and after attending schools in Christchurch and Whanganui joined the British Royal Navy.

As fate would have it he was appointed to serve on the HMS New Zealand, the vessel the New Zealand government gave to the Royal Navy, and was on board when it toured the country in 1913.

When World War I broke out in 1914 Boyle stayed with the ship and went on to have a very illustrious wartime career, especially at the Battle of Jutland where he was in command of X Turret and its two 12" guns.

During the battle the turret suffered a direct hit but luckily no casualties and after the fighting



**David Boyle**

Boyle received recognition for his bravery.

After the war he came back to South Canterbury and, after a time working for Pyne Gould Guinness, farmed at Orari, where he was an active member of the community.

His skills were required during World War II, where he served at different naval posts in New Zealand, before he returned to his farm again at the end of the fighting.