OUR HEROES OF THE PAST

Newfoundlanders Who Have Fought For The Empire.

A A A A By H. F. SHORTIS. A A A A A

YN giving this article about our Sir Walter Raleigh tells us in his waiting in Newfoundland till he was have had so many heroes that I find of-war ships here to capture the New-near Gaspe with the French Admiral it necessary to confine myself to a very foundland fleet, which was then 100 de Roquemont, who had a fleet of few words about each, and keep as fishing vessels. Raleigh wrote the eighteen vessels. It didn't take Capt. close as I can about our Military and Premier of England, Lord Cecil, that Kirk, (as he was then) very long to Naval Heroes.

Dardanelles. Governor Greaves was of the Invincible Armada.

country, and gained the estimable eventually driving Peter Easton and be burnt in effigy. boon of Responsible Government, his piratical crews from Newfound- On the same day, amidst the tolling throne. Men who rid this country of that in- land waters.

cubus, the French Shore Question; In 1620 we hear of a combat her as Kirk were carried in possession Newfoundland, and I would just draw the opposite side defended the en- they were going to land, it must have men and Indians, then the burning and the exaggerated claims of United tween the English and Portuguese through the streets of Paris, and then the special attention of those who be- trance. Nesmond's powerful fleet been an exciting time for the small of their houses in mid winter, and no States Treaty rights. Heroes who at Petty Harbor.

Hampden who dared the British Com- 200 persons were captured by Turkoh Capt. Kirk and he fitted out his three Dutch made a successful attack on the Newfoundland crews. Later in After finding their best efforts been terrible. mander to tear down a lobster fact- pirates. This wasn't as bad as Pet- dreadnoughts again at the expense Newfoundland. In June of that year D'Iberville and his trained foiled, D'Iberville continued his We know something about the ory. Although these men stood aller Easton, who took 300 men in the of himself and family, and of Sir Wan. De Ruyter, the Dutch Admiral, cap-soldiers made the greatest effort ever march down the North Shore, then great fire in 1892, and what suffering most alone at the moment, their cour- year from Conception Bay, but you Alexander. He had been so succe s- tured St. John's, plundered and de- put forward by the French to take across to Old Perlican, and up to had to be undergone, but that was in age and heroism will never be forgot- can imagine what fighting there must ful in the spoils of his late adventure, stroyed the city and several other possession of Newfoundland. Finding Heart's Content, Here an Irishman mid summer, and assistance was sent ten by an appreciative people.

What a hero John Cabot was to come In 1628 Lord Baltimore writes to He set sail for Ferryland, and after Christopher Martin, but we should land. What a hero Sir Humphrey Gilb it land that on August 25th., a French was, well and truly called the father Admiral with three ships and 400 of the British Empire beyond the well-armed men captured two of his seas. We recognize his heroic feel- ships then fishing at Cape Broyce, ings when in danger he refused to be where the fishermen were surpris d. separated from his brave comrades on Lord Baltimore then sent two of his that little ten ton pinnace, in which ships from Ferryland, being all the

Elizabeth. In the 1588 he served un- many a hard-fought fight.

heroes, I find that there is materi- records that in the year 1594 the tired, he sailed for the Gulf of St. al for half a dozen articles. We Spanish Government sent three men- Lawrence. His first encounter was

if this danger befell the Newfound- put in a broadside, and throw his I could name scores of Heroes land fleet, it would be the greatest grappling irons on the Admiral's among our old Sealing Captains, who calamity that could befall England, ship. The fight was short but stubrisked their lives for their men, who It shows what an important factor born, and the whole fleet surrendered by their pluck and ingenuity turned our Newfoundland trade was at that to these three ships. The prizes impending disaster into success. time, and the Spaniards recognized were so numerous that Kirk's very

reckoned not for their own promotion, cendancy. In 1601 the Spaniards burnt ten of the smaller, and sent the but pointed out to the British Govern- made another attempt to intercept the rest with the most valuable stores to ment in spite of their instructions Newfoundland fleet. In 1603 the Newfoundland. that the desire of Newfoundlanders French made their first attempt to Kirk then went to the assistance of was the right policy to follow. Such destroy our Newfoundland shipping, Sir William Alexander at Halifax. Governors we will always remember and did damage to the extent of £819, and they took possession of Port Royas our Heroes. Governor Maxe, who We can readily see that Newfour I- al, (now Annapolis) the principal was here in 1881, was one of the im- land was the cock-pit for fighting French station. He now was so emmortal Six Hundred. Governor between these nationalities for many barrassed with prisoners, that Duckworth was the great hero of the years before and after the launching didn't know what to do, and therefore

But let us start from the beginning, down their lives.

he was crossing the Atlantic. force he could make on the sudden. Here is another hero, Capt. Richard The French Admiral took fright, Whitbourne, who spent the best part slipped his cables and went off to sea. of his life in Newfoundland, and who leaving 57 of his crew on shore, who tells us that he had been here so often were quickly taken prisoners. Lord that the country was as familiar to Baltimore followed the chase as long him as the English Channel. We as there was any possibility of cour know he was here in 1580 as master ing up with that French Admiral, but of a ship. In 1583 he was an eye they escaped, having much faster veswitness at St. John's when Sir Hum-sels. It shows what a feeling of phrey Gilbert took possession of the terror those old Newfoundland here as

doubt that he did render valuable took an active part in those troub. placed his brother in charge, and retells us that for seventeen years he slain. Hearing of this fight, 88 St. overcome.

We have had Governors here who the vital point to hit England's as- success placed him in difficulties. He

returned to England. When the news another mighty hero of Great Britain. In 1610 John Guy and his heroic reached France, the King and Coun-

have been, and how many heroes laid that he was able to equip his vessels harbors.



H. F. SHORTIS

assistance. It is recounted in the re- thence around Conception Bay in the Ten days later D'Iberville had to



STEPHANO AND NASCOPIE JAMMED MARCH 17, 1914

was attacked again that fall by four

noted pirates, but with thirty men, who ably manned his little fort, he drove them off. The Dutch made a third attempt trying to get a footing on Newfoundland soil, and this time they attacked the French at Placentia. There must have been many old heroes amongst our Newfoundland seamen, and the pity is that so few of them are known, but we should commemorate in a suitable way the worthy heroes that we do know about.

In 1694 we hear of another gallant hero, Capt. Wm. Holman, of Ferryland, who put up one of the best fights recorded in our histories. About August 31st., there were eight or nine ships fishing at Ferryland, and some prisoners, who had escaped from the French capital of Placentia, acquainted Capt. Holman that the French intended coming with five men-of-war, fire ship, and a bomb ketch to plunder the British settle-

ments along that shore. ryland, although it had twice before every prisoner.

our hero, Capt. Holman, received the could wish for. Several attempts men our humble Newfoundland fishthanks of the Lords of the Admiralty were made by D'Iberville to land on ermen were fighting against. His for his gallant services, and they the Island, and on the night of the journeys to Hudson Bay and seapresented him with a Gold Medal and 31st December they went all around fights were simply marvellous, and Chain for defeating the French on in boats with ninety picked men old John Pynn, Davis and Garland this occasion. It is a shame on us ready for a desperate attack. There were men who showed him the stuff in Newfoundland that we have noth- was one spot, the Bench Rock, still that real Newfoundland heroes were ing to commemorate Christopher pointed out, where they made a de- made of. Martin and William Holman, and in termined effort to land, and were The losses in this war, 1696, were fact very few know their names, but challenged at pistol shot distance tremendous. Ferryland alone is put they showed an example of Heroism The French version says that they down at \$60,000.00 and that is nothing

our Merchants and Politicians and land! And a new era started in the ed revenge on Capt. David Kirk and the countries of Europe, and times only the names of a very few have but he was driven back off the Bench time? We know from the census of Ministers. Men who fought as only development of our country. He his brothers, who were declared pub- were good for colonists in Newfound- come down to us. Early in this year Rock into the water. When we re- 1675 that there must have been fully heroes and for the good of their showed his spirit in denouncing and lic enemies and were condemned to land, but troublesome times came Chevalier Nesmond, with a large member that Carbonear Island is 2,000 people living here during the again when Charles II. came to the French squadron, attacked St. John's, about three miles in circumference, winter. When we think of the sufferbut two hastily constructed forts, and being attacked in the dark by six ing they had to undergo with the of the bells, David, Lewis, and Thom- In 1665 we had new enemies in one at Chain Rock and the other on boats, and no one knowing where sacking and pillage of these Frenchburnt to ashes amidst the yells of an lieve we have nothing to fear from were completely routed by the undisgarrison, who must have been scat-chance of getting any provisions till fought for the Bait Act. Our village In 1625 27 Newfoundland ships and excited populace. Nothing daunted German ambitions. In this year the ciplined defenders with the valour of tered in all directions.

that St. John's was impregnable from had built a small fort made of boards, from Halifax within two days, and much better than the previous year. There is very little known about the sea they determined to attack by with port-holes above and below, and every kind of relief offered, but if

Who ever heard of an Irishman fending the country against these inhaving surrendered on being sum-vaders. country in the name of Queen\must have instilled into the French in St. Lawrence with orders to compel hero, who was the first of our sca- the coast in September, this daring ago. I will never believe that French must remember that it was intended the surrender of Quebec. Champlain men to organize a proper defence of enemy started the horrors of a win- version. The very mention of an for French readers, and therefore der the Lord Admiral as captain of In 1638 Sir David Kirk took up his the worthy founder of that city put St. John's. There were many perister campaign, and spread desolation Irishman in charge belies this states accounts of British bravery, is minhis own ship, fitted out at his residence at Ferryland, having tak n up a spirited defence from his almost tions sent to the British Government and misery at every. Harbor from ment, and only proves that here is imized to mere nothing, but happily own expense against the Span'sh over the Baltimore grant of that distinguished by asking them to fortify St. John's and Placentia to Ferryland, and thence up another hero, whose name is un- we have some fragments of actual Armada. He was too modest to trict. We have descendants of his bombarded, and Champlain was fore- other places from attacks of the ene- the shore to St. John's. At Petry fortunately forgotten, who shed his occurrences that give about John mention his own exploits on that re- family living in Newfoundland to-day, ed to surrender, and the British flag my, but nothing was done. That brave Harbor a desperate fight occurred own blood, and that of a good many Earle, a young man who lived with nowned occasion, but there can be no His spirited sister, Lady Hopkins, was hoisted on the Citadel. Kirk old mariner, Christopher Martin, who where 36 of the inhabitants were French men before they were finally his family on Little Belle Island in services to his Queen and Country, some times. I cannot pass over tir turned to England with the good tid- was the Vice Admiral, and once he John's men went to the assistance of D'Iberville now took the short cut attack, and had a cannon on the cliff.

ployed should not be burdensome to tion of the French power in Canaca, that he should come to Newfoundland ship, the "Elias Andrews" and built near where the Prince's Rink now foundland by fair means resorted to toria Cross. His valor was unqueshim. That is a hero we should all be It was the most brilliant naval exploit should his enemies in the Civil War a fort near Chain Rock, and with his stands. The unfortunate settlers in treachery. He entered into negotia tionable, and such were the deeds of

cords that the French arrived with middle of winter. This was a great admit his failure to take Carbonear two powerful frigates with ninety military feat, but they met their Island and left again for Trinity guns, who put in a heavy fight for match when they reached Carbonear Bay. If I wasn't writing about Newfive hours, but Holman and his crews Island, where the Harbor Grace and foundland heroes I would mention of so battered them, that they ran away Carbonear people, to the number of D'Iberville's exploits in Hudson Bay, leaving anchor and chains and eighty two hundred, had determined to de- where he defeated the English at all to ninety Frenchmen as prisoners, fend themselves against all attacks. their important stations, destroyed This so discouraged the enemy that John Pynn was the leader, ably as- their fleet of man-of-war, and capthey gave over their intended raid sisted by Davis and Garland, and put tured their great stronghold, Fort to spoil the trade of the whole up the most heroic defence that even Nelson. When you read of their excountry. It is pleasing to tell that Lord Kitchener or Baden Powell ploits you can get some idea of the

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were able to touch the rock with compared to St. John's, Harbour In 1696. This was a memorable their hands, and ready to leap ashore, Grace and Carbonear. What must year for Newfoundland, and there but the tradition at Bristol's Hope, have been the destitution of this raid We have had many heroes among band of settlers came to Newfourd- cil were in a great fury, and demand- name of England was feared by all must have been many heroes, but says that one man did jump ashore, to the people of Newfoundland at this

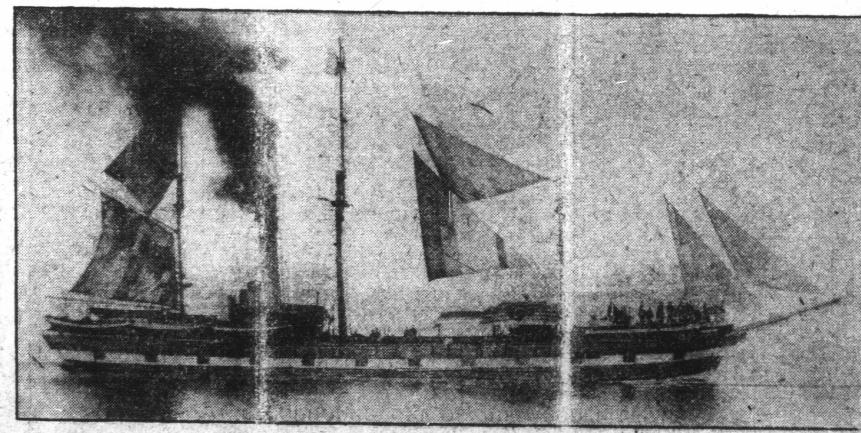
in it he had thirty men besides that fire happened in mid-winter, and out here in search of unknown lands, the British Government from Ferry- revitualling his ships, he sailed up the have a monument erected to that old. After the English ships had left women and children. The French no opportunity for relief offered for version says they surrendered on be- four months, and not that alone, but ing summoned, but I don't believe it. a pitiless enemy standing guard over I pin my faith to the local tradition you, demanding everything you held which still tells of a fierce battle dear, you can get some idea of what with the French at New Perlican, the Newfoundland settlers had to unwhich is quite near the entrance to dergo; and I am not exaggerating Heart's Content coming up the shore, when I say our Newfoundland heroes and is a celebrated "look out." It were ten times worse served than is a most likely spot where a defence even the stories we hear of Belgium would be put up. This place still to-day. It was only after this degoes by the name of Bloody Point, struction of all the Newfoundland and everyone will tell you that it settlements that the English Governwas here there was a fight with the ment was aroused to send assistance

> moned? Is that what we heard about In reading Abbe Baudoin's journal. the Connaught Rangers a few days while it gives interesting facts, we

by Soldiers and Navy, to help in de-

for he tells us a record of them was David Kirk without giving some parings. Quebec remained a British was Admiral of this port, attempted their friends, but a mile outside of across from Heart's Content to Car- To make believe he had a considermade in the Book of the Whitehall ticulars about this most remarkable possession for several years, but was to defend the Harbor against DeRuy- St. John's they encountered the bonear to finish his work by captur- able force, he had scarecrows dress-Court, and we do know that a recom- hero of that age. He gallantly as- handed back to France during the in- ter's first attack, but he was not suc- French on the South Side Hills, ing the Island. He arrived on the up., The French attacked him with pense was made to him by the Privy sisted Sir William Alexander to cop- famous reign of Charles II. Now for cessful, but when the Hollanders There were 400 disciplined French 17th January only to find that the two barges full of soldiers. With a Council for expenses incurred on his ture of the strongholds of the French the story about that worthy old loyal- made a second raid in 1673 they found troops, but these courageous plant- garrison had succeeded in taking sev- well directed shot he sank one own ship, also two other ships and in Nova Scotia, but the following ist, who was so attached to his King. that old hero, Christopher Martin, ers stuck to it, until 34, nearly half eral of his men prisoners. D'Iber- barge, and the sight of the scarecrows a pinnace, so that the charge of vic- year he beat all records by the gallent Charles I., that he offered him a safe was more than a match for them. of their number were slain, then they ville finding that he could not suc- frightened off the other barge. tuals and the wages of the men can- capture of Quebec, and the destruction and suggested He had landed six guns from his retired in good order to Fort William, ceed in taking this Gibraltar of New- That man Earle deserves the Vic-

proud of, and emulate in every way, in Colonial History. This worthy old prove too much for him. Correspondamental amount of the drove the Dutchman St. John's found themselves without tions for exchange of prisoners. The the men who won our British Em-His only reward is the imperishable hero was the son of a Scotchman, but ence of Sir David Kirk with Prince off. With their four men-of-war ammunition or supplies, and no offi- place agreed upon was just out of pire. There were probably fifty men glory of being recorded as one of the born in France and had some means Rupert, who was then in charge of ships they then headed for Ferryland, cers to command or lead in the de- gun shot of the Island. For trival in those two boats and here was one of his own. He got a commission the Navy, fell into the hands of and plundered Kirk's old plantation, fence. For three days they held the excuses the French Commander rais- young man who attempted the in-



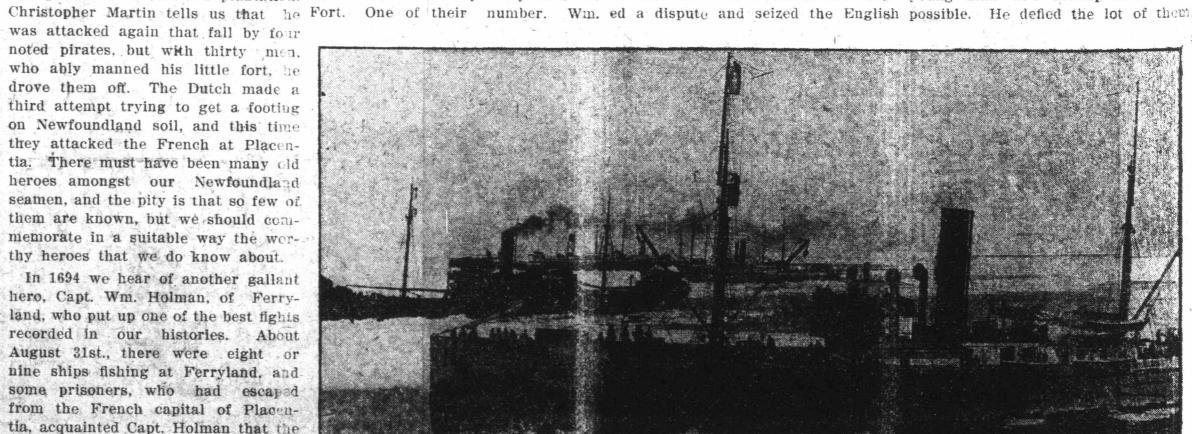
S.S. BI ODHOUND, ONE OF THE WOODEN FLEET

a fight with the Spanish Dons as they 1st promised him a fleet of twenty land, till the end of his days. were for their dinner.

During the year or two years after from King Charles I. to fight the Cromwell, in confirmation of these the Spanish Armada about 800 Span- French in Canada. ish and Dutch vessels were destroyed. He fitted out three dreadnoughts of confiscated and himself thrown into or captured by the English. What his own, the largest of which was 300 prison for some time, but this worthy

men-of-war to help him, but after During the reign of Cromwell, the and prudent management came to his their march to Portugal Cove, and ter end.

plans, and for this, his estates were a time of fighting it must have been tons, which he commanded, the others old Loyalist returned to Newfoundfor these old sailors frequenting cur were in charge of his two brothe s, land, and kept the British flag, that



STEEL SHIPS O. F FOGO, 1914, READY TO ENTER THE NORTHERN FLOE

Capt. Holman decided that he would Drew, was captured, and barbarously leaders and kept them prisoners. No and by his ingenuity and resource. build a fortification and defend Fer- treated, and they threatened to scalp doubt he thought when their leaders fulness won complete victory. What were gone the others would quickly bravery that man did show! How been taken by the French. He had 16 As there was no food in the Fort, surrender, but they reckoned wrong long would be and his family live guns in his own ship, and managed to terms of surrender were arranged, that time, and it showed the pluck if the Frenchmen had landed, and get 14 guns more, and within one all were to depart for England, but and courage of that noble two hun- found out what fools he was making

coast. They were just as anxious or Lewis and Thomas. King Charles the he was so proud of, flying at Ferry- month he built four forts. The men the French Commander dishonorably dred fishermen, who refused all terms of them? They would have quarterof the place seeing Holman's bravery evaded it. The invaders continued of surrender and held out to the bit- ed and hanged him to the nearest (Continued on page 15.)