

The Life Of Henry Allingham - The Oldest Surviving Veteran Of The Great War



The Great War, also known as World War I, was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. Millions of lives were lost, and the world was forever changed. Amidst the chaos and devastation, one man stood strong - Henry Allingham. He not only survived the war, but he also became the oldest living veteran of the

Great War. In this article, we delve into the extraordinary life of Henry Allingham, a true testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

Henry Allingham was born on June 6, 1896, in Clapton, London. Little did the world know that he would go on to witness and participate in one of the most significant events in history. His experiences during the Great War would shape his life, and he would later become an influential advocate for peace.



Kitchener's Last Volunteer: The Life of Henry Allingham, the Oldest Surviving Veteran of the Great War

by Henry Allingham(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 524 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 272 pages



Early Life and Military Service

Henry Allingham grew up in a working-class family and faced many challenges. At a young age, he lost his father to tuberculosis, leaving his mother to raise him. Despite the difficulties, Henry was determined to make a difference in the world, and he found his calling when the war broke out in 1914.

As a young man, Henry joined the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and was trained as an aircraft mechanic. Although he initially worked on the construction and repair of aircraft, his passion for flying led him to become an observer and

eventually an air mechanic. Henry served alongside the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Air Force, witnessing the dawn of aerial warfare.

War Experiences

Henry participated in several major battles throughout the war. One of the most significant events he witnessed was the Battle of Jutland in 1916, the largest naval battle of the conflict. Henry was assigned to work on airships that played a crucial role in reconnaissance and spotting enemy vessels, providing valuable intelligence to the British forces.



The Battle of Jutland - Henry Allingham's Role

The war took a toll on Henry both physically and emotionally. He witnessed the horrors of war, losing many friends and comrades along the way. He experienced the fear and danger of being in the front lines, facing enemy fire while providing support to his fellow service members.

Life After the War

Following the end of the Great War, Henry Allingham returned to civilian life. He continued to work in the aviation industry, contributing to the development of aircraft and embracing the technological advancements that arose from the war. Henry also dedicated his life to honoring the memory of those who had fallen, ensuring that their sacrifices were never forgotten.

Advocacy for Peace

As the oldest surviving veteran of the Great War, Henry Allingham became a powerful advocate for peace and reconciliation. He tirelessly campaigned against violence and war, emphasizing the importance of diplomacy and understanding between nations. Henry believed that the lessons learned from the Great War should serve as a reminder of the devastating consequences of conflicts.



Henry Allingham - Advocate for Peace

Final Years and Legacy

Henry Allingham lived a long and fulfilling life. In his final years, he received numerous honors and accolades for his service and advocacy. He was granted the freedom of the city of London, and a statue was erected in his honor in his

hometown of Eastbourne. Henry passed away on July 18, 2009, at the incredible age of 113, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

Henry Allingham's life is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of cherishing peace. From his early days as a young aircraft mechanic to becoming an advocate for peace, his journey offers valuable insights into the human experience during times of conflict. Let us remember the sacrifices made by individuals like Henry Allingham and strive to create a world where peace and understanding prevail.



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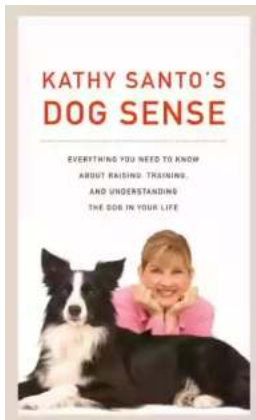


Henry Allingham is the last British serviceman alive to have volunteered for active duty in the First World War and is one of very few people who can directly recall the horror of that conflict. In Kitchener's Last Volunteer, he vividly recaptures how life was lived in the Edwardian era and how it was altered irrevocably by the slaughter of millions of men in the Great War, and by the subsequent coming of the modern age.

Henry is unique in that he saw action on land, sea and in the air with the British Naval Air Service. He was present at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 with the British Grand Fleet and went on to serve on the Western Front. He befriended several of the young pilots who would lose their lives, and he himself suffered the privations of the front line under fire.

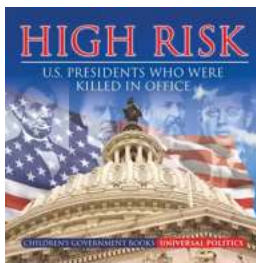
In recent years, Henry was given the opportunity to tell his remarkable story to a wider audience through a BBC documentary, and he has since become a hero to many, meeting royalty and having many honours bestowed upon him.

This is the touching story of an ordinary man's extraordinary life - one who has outlived six monarchs and twenty-one prime ministers, and who represents a last link to a vital point in our nation's history.



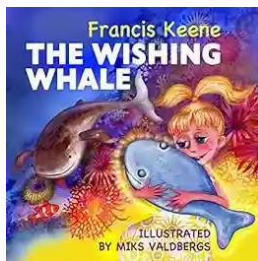
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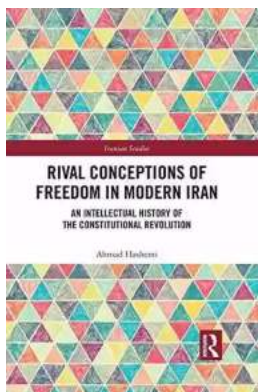
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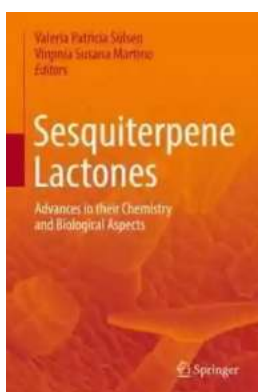
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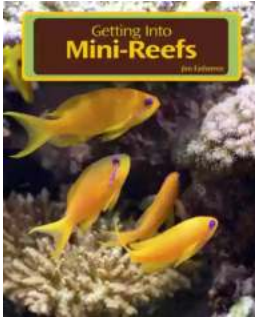
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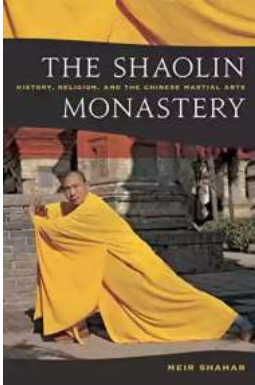
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