

**Captain George Irvine DSO, 2 Mentions RNR (Rtd) MN (Rtd)**  
**Born Circa 1868 Scotland Died Mosman NSW 1952.**  
**Member of the League**



**Captain George Irvine DSO** when asked in 1943 by the League to supply a short biographical note replied as stated in *Sons of the Sea* "Have had a very sticky past, and would rather not mention it".

It turns out that Lt George Irvine RNR was in command of *Q22 HMS Gaelic* of 300 tons, a decoy or Q-Ship whose task was to entice German U-Boats in close then sink them with their hidden guns. Lt Irvine spent three years in the English Channel & Irish Sea engaged in this duty.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1917, 50 miles off the old Head of Kinsale he encountered a German submarine. The U-boat commenced to shell Q22, which did not reply enticing the submarine closer in before opening fire with her 12 pounders. At the end of the engagement the submarine sank, but the *Gaelic* was badly damaged with two crew killed

and four seriously wounded. For this action Lt Irvine was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Captain George Irvine saw service on the Australian coast with Adelaide Steamship Company serving on *Manunda*, *Manoora*, *Grantala*, *Innamincka*, *Morialta*, *Mundulla*, *Baldina* and *Tarcoola*. He retired in 1938.

We thank his great grand son Rob Stain who supplied this information from newspaper clippings and other information gathered during his research.

