

## NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON EDWARD BROOKE

*From the "Bexhill Chronicle", 23rd of September 1916.*

### **H. M. S. "SPRIGHTLY" BEXHILL OFFICER SPECIALLY COMMENDED MENTIONED IN TWO DESPATCHES**

*The Bexhill residents who in 1914 and 1915 kindly helped in sending Christmas cheer to the officers and men of H.M.S. "Sprightly" will no doubt be glad to hear that Lieutenant Commander E. Brooke, R. N., Son of Mrs Maisey of Hazeldene, Rotherfield Avenue, who formerly commanded the "Sprightly" and who is now in command of a ship in the 1st Destroyer Flotilla, is mentioned for special commendation, both in Admiral Sir J. Jellicoe's and Admiral Sir David Beatty's despatches.*

*The latter, after the great naval Battle of Jutland, gave prominence to the good work of the 1st and 13 Flotillas, and used the following words: –*

*"The destroyers of the 1st and 13th Flotillas were handled by their respective commanding officers with skill, dash, and courage."*

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*From the "Bexhill Chronicle", 27th of October 1917*

### **War Notes**

*It was announced in the "Chronicle" of Saturday last that Lieutenant-Commander Edward Brooke, R.N., son of Mrs Maisey of Hazeldene, Rotherfield Avenue, Bexhill, had been severely wounded in an action which had taken place on October 17<sup>th</sup>. When making the announcement Press restrictions rendered it necessary to omit the name of the ship upon which Commander Brooke was serving, but it has since been officially reported that he was in command of H.M.S. "Strongbow," one of the destroyers which went down with colours flying in the recent North Sea fight. Lieutenant-Commander Brooke previously commanded the "Sprightly," and was mentioned in dispatches for his services in the Jutland battle.*

*We learn that Lieutenant-Commander Brooke's serious wound comprises a compound fracture of the right leg and wounds in the head and side, and are glad to be able to state that he is doing as well as can be expected.*

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*From the "Bexhill Chronicle", 10th August 1918*

### **BEXHILL OFFICER WINS D.S.O.**

*The D.S.O. Has been awarded to Lieutenant-Commander Edward Brooke, R. N., in command of H.M. Torpedo boat destroyer Strongbow, who fought against overwhelming odds and was severely wounded in the action between two English torpedo boat destroyers and three German light cruisers which attacked a Norwegian convoy on October 17th last. Lieutenant-Commander Brooke is the son of Mrs Maisey, Rotherfield Avenue, Bexhill.*

[**Note!** There are two errors in this report – the first is that a torpedo boat is a small fast craft designed to carry torpedoes – hence its name, while a destroyer was, and is, a much larger warship.

The second error is that there were only two German light Cruisers, the SMS "**Bremse**" and the SMS "**Brummer**" and not three. Also note - All ships of the German Imperial Navy were designated SMS, which stood for "*Seiner Majestät Schiff*" (His Majesty's Ship)]

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**From the "Bexhill Chronicle", 15th February 1919**

***DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER E. BROOKE, D.S.O.***

*We learn with regret of the sudden death in London, 10th February, from pneumonia, of Lieut-Commander Edward Brooke, D.S.O., R.N., son of Mrs E. L. Maisey, of Hazeldene, Rotherfield Avenue. His widow is lying seriously ill also with pneumonia.*

*The late Lieut-Commander Brooke commanded the destroyer "Strongbow" in the convoy action in October, 1917, when she was sunk, together with the "Mary Rose," by German light cruisers, in which one-sided action he was seriously wounded. Lieut-Commander Brooke was awarded the D.S.O. for his gallant action in fighting his ship to the last against overwhelming odds, and was to have had the honour of having the decoration presented to him by His Majesty the King on 13th February.*

Here there is one error and one question. The error is that his mother's maiden name was Gertrude Margaret Barker, then Brooke, and, then, Maisey, so "E. L." aren't his mother's initials.

The article mentions his "widow so the question, then, is was a mistake made and are they, really, her initials? Unfortunately, no record of a marriage, for Edward, has been found.]