

= Henry Alexander Stuart @-@ Menteth =

Commander Henry Alexander Stuart @-@ Menteth DSC , usually shortened to Alex Stuart @-@ Menteth (26 August 1912 ? 14 May 2000) was a British naval officer famous for his service in the Royal Navy , particularly during World War II where he assisted in the sinking of two U @-@ boats ; and helped capture Enigma code fragments which enabled Bletchley Park to decipher the code . He commanded six ships during his career . He married in 1952 , having two sons and a daughter , and seven grandchildren in turn .

Stuart @-@ Menteth was born as one of four . He joined a navy cadet force in Devon , serving on several ships . After his promotion course , he served both abroad and in the United Kingdom . He joined HMS Hunter shortly before World War II , before in April 1940 his ship was torpedoed after a raid on a German held port . He was kept in a hospital by the Germans , and was listed at home as killed in action . When the British liberated the area , he was freed . On his next ship , HMS Somali , he helped capture Enigma code fragments which enabled Bletchley Park to decipher the code , again capturing code in 1941 , and in the same year was given his first command , HMS Berkeley . He was mentioned in despatches in 1942 , whilst working on HMS Aldenham after the ship sunk a U @-@ boat , and a Distinguished Service Cross for sinking another U @-@ boat . Stuart @-@ Menteth was entrusted to the Royal Australian Navy in 1949 , where he commanded two destroyers . He ran the Scottish Corps of Commissionaires for 20 years after his 1958 retirement .

= = Early life = =

Henry Alexander Stuart @-@ Menteth , often abbreviated to Alex Stuart @-@ Menteth , was born on 26 August 1912 in Merstham , Surrey . He was the son of Walter Stuart @-@ Menteth and Violet Stuart @-@ Menteth (née Lafone) , one of four : Walter Granville Stuart @-@ Menteth (1906 ? 1970) , Frances Bevy Stuart @-@ Menteth (1907 ? 1957) , and Lucy Violet Stuart @-@ Menteth (1911 ?) . In 1926 , he became a cadet in Dartmouth , Devon . With the cadets , he served on the ships HMS Renown in the Atlantic , HMS Dragon in the West Indies and America , and on the shore establishment HMS President on his promotion course .

= = Naval career = =

Alex Stuart @-@ Menteth served on the destroyers HMS Whitehall in the Mediterranean in 1934 and 1935 , HMS Windsor in the home fleet in 1935 and 1936 , the minesweeper HMS Elgin in the reserve fleet in 1935 , and HMS Defender in 1935 serving in China .

= = World War II = =

On 28 August 1939 , shortly before the outbreak of World War II , Stuart @-@ Menteth joined the destroyer HMS Hunter . Hunter was in Captain Warburton @-@ Lee 's 2nd Flotilla , along with four other destroyers . On 10 April 1940 , in a snowstorm , the Flotilla attacked the port of Narvik , held by the Germans . Four German destroyers were sunk and seven damaged , notably sinking SS Rauenfels , an 8 @,@ 500 @-@ ton ship transporting ammunition . Hunter was set alight and torpedoed , leading to her sinking . As she sank , Stuart @-@ Menteth was trapped by a malfunctioning davit with a leg wound on the upper deck . A rating saved Stuart @-@ Menteth , and they were both picked up by German sailors .

Stuart @-@ Menteth was taken to Narvik , at a civilian hospital . He remained in the town until its eventual liberation by the Allies . However , whilst he was in hospital , Stuart @-@ Menteth was listed as killed in action , and had an obituary in The Times as such , which he later read . After further hospitalisation in Britain from April to December 1940 , on 3 December Stuart @-@ Menteth became the first lieutenant of the Tribal @-@ class destroyer HMS Somali . She partook in Operation Claymore , an operation to disrupt supplies , to ferry commandoes to shore , and to capture German code . Somalia brought to a stop Krebs , a German trawler , by firing at her , forcing

her to stop . A boarding party found cryptographic keys and rotor machines . This assisted Bletchley Park to decipher several Enigma codes .

In May 1941 , Stuart @-@ Menteth again assisted the capture of Enigma material from the German ship München , enabling Bletchley Park to begin to decipher German Enigma codes . Several months later , he was given command of his first ship , HMS Berkeley , a Hunt @-@ class destroyer . Stuart @-@ Menteth joined HMS Aldenham in March 1942 , and helped sink the German submarine U @-@ 58 . He was mentioned in despatches on 2 June 1943 as " Lieutenant @-@ Commander Henry Alexander Stuart @-@ Menteth , Royal Navy " ; after commanding Aldenham in a disastrous mission in the Aegean Sea . In late 1943 , Stuart @-@ Menteth took command of HMS Dinosaur , and partook in training officers of landing craft . His last command in the war was HMS Havelock , with which he assisted in the sinking of U @-@ 242 , for which he was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross .

= = = After war = = =

After World War II on 13 February 1946 Stuart @-@ Menteth became first lieutenant on HMS Birmingham , followed by HMS Superb on 4 September 1946 , before being entrusted to the Royal Australian Navy in 1949 . There he commanded his last two ships , the destroyers HMS St. James and HMS Obdurate . He went on to work with Lord Mountbatten in Malta , and in 1958 he retired , moving to Scotland . He did , however , operate the Scottish Corps of Commissionaires for close to 20 years , and was chairman of the Edinburgh World Wildlife Fund for 10 years .

= = Personal life = =

Stuart @-@ Menteth met Penelope Giles in 1952 in Australia , the couple married , having a daughter and two sons : Andrew Alexander (1954) , Walter Henry (1957) , and Harriet Lucy (1959) ; and seven grandchildren . He died on 14 May 2000 in Edinburgh , Lothian .