



Doug Glading

30/6/2026 Last Update 3/8/2026

3. The Story of William C Bushell



Commander William Charles ('Willie') Bushell D.S.C. died 9 November 1940 from illness age 40. He is buried at Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery.

- He had joined the Navy in Jan 1916 and served as a rating until appointed Lieutenant in 1923.

In May 1940 he commanded the Destroyer *HMS Wyvern* (also spelled *HMS Wivern*), or 'Tiddly Wiv' as she was affectionately known by her crew, which assisted in the evacuation of British and Dutch troops from the Hook of Holland on 'Operation Ordnance'.

- *Wivern* sustained damage when she came under attack from German bombers and a 500lb bomb hit the destroyer killing 29. So *Wivern* could not take part in the later

Dunkirk evacuation. But Lt-Cdr Bushell took over HMS *Vanquisher* and made several rescue trips on it and *Tynwald*.

During the evacuation of Dunkirk, *Vanquisher* made no less than seven trips in the period 29 May to 3 June, and rescued in excess of 3,500 troops latterly commanded by

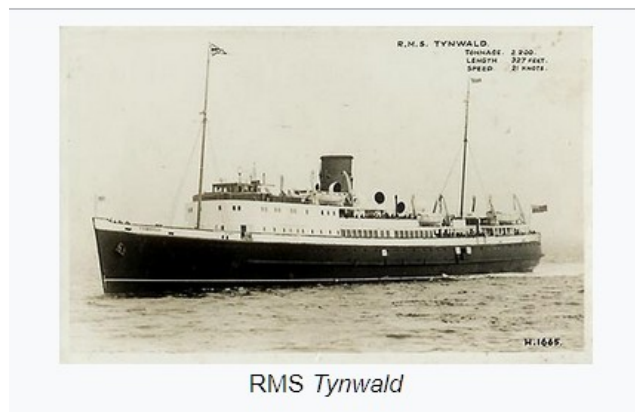


Lieutenant-Commander W. C. Bushell.

After leaving *Vanquisher* Bushell assisted MV *Tynwald*, one of eight ferries of Isle of Man Steam Packet Company which brought troops back from Dunkirk.

The volunteer civilian crew of the *Tynwald* were demoralised by the loss of their sister ship, MV *Fenella*. Exhausted and without sleep from heavy enemy bombardment and having already made multiple rescue crossings, the crews temporarily refused orders.

Royal Navy guards and sailors were brought in. and Bushell had to persuade them to make two final trips to Dunkirk on the nights of the 2nd and 3rd June. She was the last ship to leave, landing 3,000 French troops in England later that day.



RMS *Tynwald*

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 27th of AUGUST, 1940

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TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1940

Admiralty, Whitehall.
27th August, 1940.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following Appointments to the Distinguished Service Order and to approve the following Awards for good services in Operations off the Dutch, Belgian and French Coasts:—

To be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order:

Commander Edward Reigier Conder, D.S.C., Royal Navy, H.M.S. Whitshed.
Commander Herbert James Buchanan, Royal Australian Navy, H.M.S. Valentine.
Lieutenant-Commander Roger Bertram Nettleton Hicks, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vimiera.
Lieutenant-Commander John Edwin Home McBeath, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Venomous.
Commissioned Engineer Edgar Charlotte Blodfield, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vimiera.

The Distinguished Service Cross.

Commander William Charles Bushell, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Wivern.
Lieutenant-Commander Bernold Henry de

Lieutenant Reginald Lacey Caple, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vimiera.
Lieutenant Moses James Lee, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Wild Swan.
Temporary Lieutenant Guy St. Clair Ridsel, R.N.V.R., H.M.T. John Catling.
Temporary Lieutenant John Ashman Simson, R.N.V.R., H.M.T. Lord Grey.
Lieutenant (B) Albert Valentine English, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Whitshed.
Probationary Temporary Surgeon Lieutenant David William Pugh, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. Whitshed.
Sub-Lieutenant Walter Reginald Wells, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Venomous.
Sub-Lieutenant Denis Hervey Jones, R.N.R., H.M.S. Venela.
Temporary Sub-Lieutenant Geoffrey Ross Weller, R.N.V.R., H.M.L. Samole.
Probationary Sub-Lieutenant Stephen Anthony Golden Golden, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vimy.
Commissioned Engineer Stanley Samuel Vincent, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Venetia.
Skipper William H. Pollock, H.M.T. Lord Howe.
Skipper Walter Frederick Salenius, H.M.T. Cythnos.
Skipper Reginald G. Snelgrove, H.M.Y. Conchise.

Commander William Charles Bushell received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in August 1940 for his outstanding gallantry and leadership during the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk and the Hook of Holland while commanding *HMS Wivern*

Catisfield connection:

He was the son of William George and Caroline Bushell of 'Aveley', Titchfield Road, Catisfield.

He married Florence Tarlington in Birmingham in Jan 1925. In 1939 he was living at Aveley with Florence .

He died 9 Nov 1940 in The Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, of Cystitis, Rectovesical Fistula, Carcinoma of the Colon

He is buried in the Royal Naval Cemetery, Clayhall, Gosport, Hants

