



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2016/12197

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

## Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 requesting the following information:

*'I have been advised by The National Archives to approach you in connection with research into a Royal Naval officer who served as our Naval Attache to Russia in 1914-1917. A summary of the first part of this officer's career is in an ADM 196 file now at TNA (ADM 196/43/66), but that record includes an annotation "Cont'd in Book 26 page 259."*

*TNA advised me to make an FOI request to see the relevant part of the ADM 196 file ("book 26 page 259") containing the rest of the summary of the officer's career, as that file is currently still held by MOD. (ADM196s at Kew are large-format bound volumes with a page or two of manuscript entries, for each officer, so I dare say that the retained volume is similar.) But the MOD website suggests a different type of application should be made if one wants to see information about someone's service papers. Grateful for your advice as to how best to proceed.*

### *Background*

*The officer in question was one Harold Granville GRENFELL, born 11 January 1870, who joined the Navy in 1883 and was placed on the Retired List in 1920. In the early 1920s he was investigated by MI5 as a suspected communist sympathiser (the MI5 file is now at TNA). His entry in the Dictionary of Labour Biography (vol 9, pages 102-105) says "Early in the 1930s Grenfell returned to work for the Admiralty as a civilian, and after war was declared in 1939 he returned to the Navy as a serving officer in the Hydrographic Department at Bath;" and that he died in 1948.'*

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It is confirmed that the Ministry of Defence does hold information in scope of your request which can be found at the Annex (Annex A/FOI2016/12197/Jan17) attached to this letter.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance Team, Ground Floor, Zone D, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section





Book June Book 5 Page 72.

Howard Craville Springfield

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SPECIAL REPORTS OR SERVICE.

Filed 29/2/48. Series 273/48

Cause of death - Myocardial degeneration, Intoxications (D.C.)