

KIDS MAKING SeaHistory

Courageous Calvin Seaman First Class Calvin Graham, stationed aboard the battleship *South Dakota* during World War II, earned the respect of his shipmates, a reputation for bravery under fire, and a Purple Heart medal during the Battle of Santa Cruz in the South Pacific on 26 October 1942. Though wounded by enemy shrapnel and still under attack by Japanese aircraft—the *South Dakota* was fending off kamikazes while the aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown* was sinking nearby—Graham fearlessly stayed on deck and pulled other wounded sailors from danger. However, he was soon stripped of his medal, thrown in the brig, and then discharged from the Navy! What happened? His commanding officers discovered something his shipmates didn't know—Calvin was only 12 years old.



Kid Adventurer Are all Arctic explorers grizzled old guys, bent to the wind, struggling against a blizzard, determined to stand on the North Pole or die? Not David Putnam. In the summer of 1926, 14-year-old David was invited to join the crew of a wooden sailing ship, the *Effie M. Morrissey*, for an expedition to explore the islands near the coast of Greenland above the Arctic Circle. Part of his job on board was to keep a detailed journal of his adventures and to then publish it as a book when he returned. Late one night the ship ran hard aground upon an uncharted rock ledge and David was tossed from his bunk. After repairing the ship, the crew encountered

(both Inuit and Danish kids) and exchange gifts. By the end of the voyage he had two complete outfits of Eskimo clothing. True to his task, David returned home to write a series of very popular books about his adventures. He learned to fly from the famous aviator Amelia Earhart (his stepmother) and went on to command a bomber during WWII. The *Effie M. Morrissey* still sails today with kids and adults, continuing her voyages of discovery. The ship (now called the *Ernestina*) sails from New Bedford, Massachusetts with students just like David.

Read *David Goes to Greenland* and then contact: www.ernestina.org

Ocean Liner Mystery on the Prairie

Rushing home from school, 13-year-old Jared Allen decided to cut through an old cemetery near his home in rural Illinois. As he dodged



among the gravestones and headed toward the back gate, he literally ran into a fascinating piece of maritime history. An old stone in one corner of the graveyard had been inscribed with the words, "In memory of Frank B. Tesson and his wife Alice who were lost when the *Lusitania* was submarined in the Irish Sea May 7, 1915." The couple were two of the 128 Americans drowned when the British liner *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German U-boat, near Ireland, during World War I. But what was this gravestone doing out here in a midwestern prairie town? Jared began to investigate the lives of the Tesson's. He is studying old newspaper accounts at the local library and he thinks he may have located the house where the Tesson's lived. Why did they need to travel to England from Illinois during wartime? Why did they specifically book passage aboard RMS *Lusitania*, a ship that was scheduled to steam directly through an area known to be patrolled by German submarines? What kind of cargo had been loaded aboard this luxurious passenger liner that caused the ship to be targeted by the German Navy? Jared is determined to uncover the answers.



This "Dog Island" was where the local people kept their "work dogs" during the summer months. For David, the best part of the trip was getting to meet local Greenlander teenagers

encountered icebergs and walruses as well as abandoned stone and whale-bone igloos more than 1000 years old. They stumbled upon one small island inhabited only by dogs.

from *David Goes to Greenland*, G.P. Putnam & Sons, 1926

from *The Sphere*, 1912

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Questions? Write to: David Allen david@seahistory.org.

