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*Front cover: Claude Choules, HMS Revenge 1918.  
Note the obscuring of his ship's name as a wartime security measure.*

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# Claude Choules

*HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY*

**THE LAST OF THE LAST**



Claude Choules was 16 and on HMS *Revenge* in the North Sea when he had his first taste of hostile action. That was in November 1917. A year later, still on *Revenge*, Claude witnessed Admiral Beatty accept the surrender of the German Fleet. He also witnessed the Germans scuttling their ships at Scapa Flow in 1919.



(W.A. Newspapers)

In 2009, aged 108, Claude became the world's last living combatant of WW I.

After post-war service in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Claude migrated to Australia in 1926, and transferred to that nation's emergent navy. During WW II, based at Fremantle, he was responsible for naval demolition for Western Australia. In the event of Western Australia being attacked by Japan, it would have been one of Claude's jobs to blow up the ports and other facilities.

Claude Choules is the last man alive who served in a military capacity in both World Wars.

Written for his family when he was in his 80s, Claude's autobiography is now finally available to a wider readership. The engaging, often wryly humorous tone of his memoirs reflects the amiable nature of a truly unique man.

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The cover image is of Claude in 1918, serving on HMS *Revenge*. The obscuring of his ship's name was a wartime security measure.

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# CLAUDE CHOULES

His Autobiography



THE LAST OF THE LAST