



remembrance ni

In arctic waters

Part 4- Roll of Honour



**Northern Ireland's service in
the Battle of Narvik and the Russian convoys
by Houston McKelvey**

Part 4

Roll of Honour



The Naval Memorial on the Hoe, Portsmouth, is situated centrally the memorial looks towards Plymouth Sound. After the First World War it was decided that a permanent memorial had to be erected to those whose deaths had occurred at sea and where no permanent memorial could be provided.

An Admiralty committee decided that the three manning ports of Plymouth, Portsmouth and Chatham should be the sites of the Naval Memorials and that they should comprise an obelisk as a leading mark.

The Plymouth memorial carries the names of 7,251 from the First World War and 15,033 from the Second World War.

ADAIR, James

OS. Served in HMS Curlew at Narvik. It was the first British anti-aircraft cruiser to have been reported lost in the war. Together with fellow Londonderry man George Turner, he had been reported missing. Curlew had been bombed by a flight of Junkers. Four officers and five ratings lost their lives. After the wounded had been evacuated, the ship was abandoned, and both Adair and Turner set out to reach the shore with about thirty others on a Carley float. Eventually they reached the Norwegian coast where they were welcomed by the Norwegian army and civilians, who gave them everything they could since they had lost practically everything they had. They were taken to a Scottish port and from there they made their way home where they surprised their parents who had

no prior knowledge of their homecoming. Both Adair and Turner were 18 years of age. They were former pupils of Ebrington Elementary School. Bond St., Londonderry

+ANDERSON, John

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 148096. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 18. Son of William John and Isabella Anderson, Killyleagh. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

ANDERSON, Thomas

RN. 151964. Joined as a boy on 03/02/1937. Posted on completion of training was posted to the new Tribal Class destroyer HMS Zulu. Saw action in Norway at 2nd Battle of Narvik, in the Mediterranean and was present at the sinking of Bismarck. He was wounded and taken POW at Tobruk on 14/09/42 whilst landing Royal Marines by boat. HMS Zulu was sunk by bombing that day. Repatriated following hospitalisation. Joined Merchant Navy after the war and served until ill health forced retirement in 1980. Born 02/04/1923. Died 23/12/96. Circular Road, Coleraine

+ARMSTRONG, John Luney

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 24319. Died 10/04/1940. Age 21. HMS Hunter. Son of Thomas and Jennie Armstrong, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940). Hakvik Cemetery

ATKINSON, John

After the presentation of a medal from the Russian government, he recalled, "After we invaded Italy and came from the Mediterranean up to Scotland and got fuel and fur coats and all the rest, we picked up a convoy at Lough Ewe on November 15, 1943 and we went from there to the north of Iceland, and then went up round the north cape. It was nearly the middle of winter, and then coming back we were diverted to Belfast to the shipyard to get the boat for the Far East. But I left it and we spent two or three weeks in Belfast and I got shifted in January to the Far East. So in the

space of a year I went from the Mediterranean to Arctic convoy then out to the Far East.” Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014).Whitehead

+BAILEY, Albert Jack

RN. Leading Seaman. D/J 110423. Died 10/04/1940. HMS Hunter. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 36

BALL, Philip

RN. Commander. OBE. Joined RN early 1940. HMS Victorious, an aircraft carrier. When presented with Arctic Star he recollected “extreme cold and mountainous seas.” Victorious was moved off Arctic duties to accompany a convoy to the island of Malta in the Mediterranean, and Philip recalled that Italian fascist aircraft had flown over and attacked them. “The ship was rather lucky, in as much as the bombs, or something, ricocheted off. They left a nasty dent, but they didn’t explode.” He was later deployed to the Far East on a destroyer for about two years. Served 35 years. Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014).From Cornwall. Irish wife. Resident Templepatrick

+BARNES, Frank Charles

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 150971. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 20. He joined the RN aged 15 and a half. His parents had been notified that he was missing, probably a prisoner of war. His grandfather served in RN during WW1 and afterwards as a Coastguard. His father also served in WW1 in the RAF. Son of Francis and Florence Barnes, Thorn Chalet, Rocky Rd., Cregagh. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

+BICKERSTAFF, James

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 650391. HMS Lapwing. Arctic convoy. Sunk by U968. Died 20/03/1945. Age 20. Son of George and Margaret Bickerstaff, Castlereagh. Family memorial Carnmoney main cemetery. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 93

BINGHAM, Edward W

RN. Surgeon Captain. He was one of the most experienced arctic explorers. Seconded to the Ministry of Supply, he drew on his experiences to forge through improvements in the gear issued to those on the arctic convoys.

Edward W Bingham was born 02/01/1901 in Dungannon, the son of a well-respected headmaster of the Royal School. He graduated in medicine at TCD in 1926.

He wanted to travel and explore, and soon after joining the Royal Navy he volunteered to go as a medical officer in the British Arctic Air Route Expedition 1930 - 31. He spent almost a third of his professional career in the polar regions, participating in three important expeditions. In 1932 he was appointed to HMS Challenger, which was to carry out hydrographic surveys off the coast of Labrador. When Challenger returned at the end of the summer of 1933, Bingham stayed for the winter to help Captain Baker with the coast-line survey. This involved in getting to know Labrador huskies and a different method of sledging.

Whilst in north Labrador, Bingham received an offer to join John Rymill, who had been in Greenland with Watkiin's expedition, on an Antarctic expedition. The Admiralty having approved his appointment, he sledged from Nain to south Labrador, from where he reached Britain in time to join the British Graham Land Expedition (BGL) which sailed for Port Stanley in the autumn of 1934. Bingham became an expert in the training and welfare of dogs, and became a very experienced dog driver, a skill which was invaluable to him when he was appointed to command the newly created Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in 1945. He was the only one within extensive polar experience. His new companions were former commissioned ranks used to exercising leadership. However, in 18 months, Bingham completed his task admirably, and in 1947 was appointed OBE and given a third clasp to his Polar Medal. He also was awarded the Murchiston Grant of the Royal Geographical Society.

During the war he served in HMS Duke of York in the Home Fleet, on Russian convoys, and in the Ministry of Supply where he met manufacturers and enabled the development of better clothing

for convoys. The cold weather clothing produced were simple, strangely reminiscent of the garments used by the Inuit of East Greenland, with peaked hoods and simple drawstrings. One tribute said "For those of us who served in the far north, and who offered thanks to the person who thought up these strange garments, Ted Bingham's work was a miracle that only took three months..."

From 1948 - 52 he was principal medical officer at RNAS Eglinton, and promoted Captain in 1951. He then served as fleet medical officer in HMS Vanguard, Mountbatten's flag ship in the Mediterranean command. His final appointment was as principal medical officer at RNAS Lee-on-Solent. He retired from the Navy in 1957. He died aged 92 on 01/09/1993. At the time of his death he was the last surviving holder of the Polar Medal with three clasps.

A book "Of Dogs and Men - Fifty Years in the Antarctic" with a foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales was published as, "a tribute to the late Ted Bingham whose skill and enthusiasm for dog driving became a tradition and feature of the British Antarctic Survey for 50 years"

+BLACKADDER, George William

RN. Assistant Cook (S). D/MX 59576. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 18. Son of George and Margaret Blackadder, Newry. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 42

+BOARDMAN, William Bert

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/SSX 29146. HMS Glorious. Died 08 / 06/1940. Age 17. Son of Samuel and Isobella Boardman, Londonderry. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39. Strand Presbyterian Church, Londonderry WM

+BOYD, James Jackson

RN. Leading Signaller. D/JX 158635. HMS. Itchen. Died 23/09/1943. Age 21. Trained in HMS Caledonia. In Rodney at Narvik and at sinking of the Bismarck. In Hood for North African invasion. Son of Thomas Henry Boyd and Agnes Boyd, Fort St., Low Rd., Lisburn. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 80. Lisburn WM

BRANAGH, Thomas

HMS Caroline. RNVR. CPO. Joined HMS St. George January 1940, HMS Roberts (Monitor) October 1941, served in Eastern Mediterranean and Suez Canal later to covering the North African landings where the ship was badly damaged. Joined HMS Saumarez (Destroyer) June 1943 engaged in North Atlantic and Russian convoys and took part in torpedo attack during the action against 'Scharnhorst'. After the Normandy landings the ship moved to Trincomalee and the Far East. Saumarez took part in the famous action against a Japanese heavy cruiser and two destroyers in the Malacca Straits. Present at the Japanese surrender at Singapore. Served in the Ulster Division post war. In the early sixties he was still serving at sea in HMS Kilmorey.

BULLICK, William Joshua

T/A/S. Lt.(E). Russian convoy early in war. Trained with Commandos, Achnacarry, Scotland. HMS Prince Charles, infantry landing ship. Escort carrier HMS Arbiter. Temporary Officer under T. 124X agreements. Post-war Tea planter in India. Born Dungannon district 05/03/1921. Retired to Belfast. Died Belfast 28/11/1986

BUXTON, C

Leading Telegraphist. HMS Ulster Queen. Arctic convoys. Ulster Queen provided anti-aircraft cover for convoy PQ18 from Iceland to Kola Inlet and Murmansk. PQ18 endured the largest number of air attacks of any of the Russian convoys. Londonderry

CAMPBELL, T

CERA. In HMS Bellona on Russian convoy escort when U boat was sunk and many German aircraft were downed. Lisburn (Lisburn Standard 13/04/1945)

+COOKE, Alexander

AB. D/SSX 16795. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 22. Son of Alexander and Lizzie Cooke, Ballymena. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

+CLOSE, Edward

RN. AB. D/JX140143. HMS Lapwing. Died 20/03/1945. Age 26. Arctic convoy. Sunk by U968. Joined RN in 1933, aged 13. Son of Hugh Henry and Anne Close, Golf Terrace, Huntly Rd., Banbridge. Husband to Lillian Close, Liverpool. Report Banbridge Chronicle 21/04/1945. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 93. Seapatricks Parish Church, Banbridge, WM

COX, John

RN. AB. HMS Hardy when she grounded in Norway. Three and a half years service. Carnalea St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940).

+CRAIG, John

RM. Marine. PLY/22447. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 32. Son of Alexander and Margaret Jane Craig, Glynn. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 43

+CRAWFORD, Wallace

RN. FAA. Petty Officer. Wireless operator. FX/76537. Died 13/06/1940. Age 26. HMS Ark Royal, 800 Sqdn. F.A.A. Joined RN when he was 16 and transferred to FAA three years previously. Son of William J. and Elizabeth Crawford, Glenwood St., Belfast. She was notified he was missing. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/06/1940). One of two crew in Ark Royal whose remains are interred at Staadsbygd Churchyard

CUMMING, John

RN. Joined the Navy in 1940, shortly after he turned 18. The first vessel he served on board was the destroyer, HMS Volunteer, and he spent three years escorting naval convoys, many of which brought him to Russia. "You had a lot of things to contend with apart from U-boats. The north Atlantic in the winter time - the storms there sometimes have to be experienced to be believed. Quite hairy, " he recalled in a BBC interview in 03/2013 when he received his Arctic Star. He added that the summer months offered little respite, because the Luftwaffe launched air attacks from German-occupied Norway. conditions on board were basic and



Veteran John Cumming, 93, from Newtownards with his French Medal and three Russian Medals 01/09/2015

there were times when they ran out of food and fuel. "Some of the things that happened on some of those convoys - I saw some good ships coming down and blokes swimming in the water through thick oil fuels and so forth," he said. In the build-up to D-Day he was drafted to HMS Sumatra. During a visit to Normandy in 2009 he recalled, "Our

ship was manned by both Dutch and British sailors and there was a great camaraderie on board." He added, "I joined the crew in April 1944 and we lay off the coast of Scotland for over a month. It was clear we were waiting for something, but we didn't know what. Then on 4 June, we got our orders to set sail for France – the D-Day operations were underway. We arrived off the coast of Ouistreham, code named Sword Beach, on the evening of D-Day.

"I can still remember my feelings of fear and excitement. We were bombarded by heavy German artillery from the shore and our ship was a sitting target for their attacks. Sumatra was one of 30 old warships and merchant vessels whose job it was to scuttle our ships so they were all resting firmly on the bottom of the sea in a line. The ships created a temporary breakwater, so that the inshore waters would be smoother for the soldiers as they jumped from their boats. We could see the army boys as they struggled onto the beach up to their waists in water, and we watched in horror as many collapsed on the beaches and died there.

"It was sheer luck that our ship wasn't hit and all my pals survived, but it makes me so sad to think of all those men who gave their lives on that day – so I came back to Normandy to remember the sacrifices they made... When I think about the terrible loss of lives and the slaughter that happened on that day I feel so much sorrow. I pray that it never happens again." (Heroes

return web site). Artic Star. Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014). Newtownards

CUNNNINGHAM, Hugh N

ERA. HMS Berwick - Arctic convoys; HMS Bitburg Bay - Pacific. Limavady RNA

CUNNNINGHAM, Joseph Irwin

RNVR. Surgeon Lt. Cmdr. RNVR, MBE (Military). He served on destroyers and cruisers during the Battle of the Atlantic, North Russian Convoys, and the Mediterranean. He was decorated by King George VI for heroism at Flensburg, where the ammunition dump exploded a few days after the war ended. As a physician he put his life in great danger to save the lives of others, who shortly before had been his enemies. Following VE Day he was reassigned to the Pacific theatre. He was en route when the war ended, but as a result made his first visit to Victoria, BC. Post war he worked in Newfoundland and the wilds of northern Manitoba, Hudson Bay and Resolute Island. Born only a few yards from the sea, he always loved the ocean and sailing. He sailed single-handed across the Atlantic in 1952 (westward) and 1957 (eastward) in his 25 1/2 foot boat, Icebird, becoming the first Canadian and only third in the world to do so in both directions. At the end of the fifties he "settled down" as one of the doctors and a member of the diplomatic corps in various Canadian Embassies overseas. In Vienna, Austria, he met his wife, Edith, whom he married in 1958 in Salzburg. Their first home was on the aptly named Paradise Walk in London. After moves to Germany, Finland, Holland, Austria and Scotland, and now with four sons, they settled in Victoria in 1972. He had a strong faith and loved to serve as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was described as, "A wonderful father, loving husband, distinguished veteran, sailing pioneer, respected elder, man of humility, integrity and great faith." Died 15/11/2009. Born Portrush 14/07/1916 to William Irwin Cunningham and Margaret Cunningham (nee Irwin). MB BCh QUB 1938.

+CURRAN, Andrew

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 20220. HMS Glorious. Died 09/06/1940. Age 22. Son of Francis and Minnie Curran, Cookstown, Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37. Cookstown WM

DEMPSTER, Harry

RN. Russian convoys. North St., Newtownards

+DOAK, Alexander

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 24183. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age:20. Son of William and Annie Doak, Newtownards. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37. Newtownards WM

+DODDS, Robert H

RNVR. Ordinary Seaman. P/UD/X 1590. Died 30/04/1940. Age 24. HMS Bittern sunk off Namsos harbour, Norway in the ill-fated campaign of 1940. Robert joined RNVR and completed initial training in HMS Caroline. Husband to Mrs Lily Dodds, Westmorland St., Belfast. Son of Mr and Mrs Hugh and Agnes Dodds, Tyne St., Belfast. Father to two little boys. v (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 18/05/1940). Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 43

DUFFY, John Alexander

FAA. Air Mechanic. 22 years old. One of the 25 survivors from HMS Glorious. Home after many weeks in hospital suffering from exposure. His father lost his wife serving in RN in WW1. Sister serving in ATS. Mackey St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 24/08/1940).

+DUMIGAN, John Beattie

RN. Convoy Signalman. C/JX 234041. S.S Fort Bellingham. Died 25/01/1944. At 00.16 hours on U-360 (Becker) fired a spread of three FAT torpedoes at the convoy JW-56A in the Barents Sea north of North Cape in 73°45N/24°48E and heard three hits. In fact, the only ship hit was that of the convoy commodore Cmdr I.W. Whitehorn RN, the Fort Bellingham (Master James Ninian Maley). It

fell behind the convoy, where she was sunk by U-957 with a T-3 torpedo at 06.53 hours the same day. The master, the commodore, four naval staff members, 22 crew members and seven gunners were picked up by HMS Offa (G 29) (LtCdr R.F. Leonard, RN) and landed at Murmansk. Two crew members were taken prisoner by U-957. 18 crew members, 16 gunners and two naval staff members were lost including JB Dumigan. Son of John and Martha Dumigan; husband of Rhoda M. Dumigan, Carrickfergus. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 76

+EAGLESON, Hugh Alexander

RN. Able Seaman. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Son of Hugh Eagleson, of Newtownards. Newtownards WM

EAKINS, Charles Roberts

RNVR. Lt. Cdr. Joined before the war. Served entire war in corvettes in the Atlantic and Arctic convoys. Torpedoed in Empire Byron on the way to Murmansk in PQ17. He was one of a handful of survivors to be rescued by HMS Danillo a week later and ended at Archangel. He then served on convoys to Malta. His eventful war ended as Officer I/C guns in Admiralty. Uncle of Arthur Eakins, RAMC TA.

+EMPSON, Alfred Walter

RN. AB. D/JX 150039. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 19. Son of Alfred Walter and Sarah Epsom, Portadown. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

+FEE, John

Leading Seaman. D/JX 137138. Died 08/06/1940. Age 23. HMS Glorious. Father served 14 years in RN. Mother resident in Ardglass. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 17/08/1940). Plymouth Naval Monument, Panel 37

FOY, James

AB. HMS Renown. In the South Atlantic Renown was engaged in the search for Graf Spee. On return Renown was despatched to Norwegian waters. Jimmy Foy was in a forward turret when in heavy seas and wintry conditions, they engaged with the German

cruiser Schornhorst which was accompanied by a destroyer. A shell passed through Renown without exploding, below where he was standing. He was honoured by the people of the Hillhall Road, Lisburn, at a short ceremony in Largymore School at which he was presented with a gold wristlet watch and a wallet of notes. Rev A Duff of Hillhall Presbyterian Church presided and he spoke of the honour they felt at having among them one of the heroes of Narvik. He had known Jimmy Foy since he was a child. He was one of the special boys of Hillhall Scout Troop. He was 16 years old and he was returning to duty that weekend. He was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Foy, Elmville Terrace, Hillhall Road, Lisburn. (Lisburn Standard, May 1940)

FERGUSON, Archibald

RN. Stoker. HMS Glorious. Son of Mrs. Annie Ferguson, Abington St., Belfast, who was notified that he was missing and was probably a prisoner of war. Joined up 17/07/1939. Previously an iron turner in Harland and Wolfs. He had three uncles who served in WW1. One was killed and two wounded. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/06/1940).

+FORSYTHE, John Norman

RN. AB. D/JX151446. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 18. Son of John and Mary Forsythe, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

FORSYTHE, Kirk

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Surgeon - Commander 1939 - 45. Surgeon - Captain 1953.VRD. Mentioned in despatches. In 1939, he was appointed as SMO to HMS Cairo (AA cruiser) in which ship he served throughout the Norwegian campaign of 1940 (mentioned in despatches). Relieved in 06/1941, after a month at RNB. Portsmouth, appointed to HMS Attack 07/1941 and became SMO Motor Gun Boat Base at Portland. In 01/1943 appointed Staff Medical Officer to Flag Officer West Africa, HMS Eland. 09/1943 appointed to HMS Shrike as SMO, Air Station, Maydown, Londonderry. 07 - 12/1945 appointed assistant to Medical Director General in the Admiralty, for duty in connection with the

appointments of junior medical officers. Served in the Ulster Division post war. Hon. Physician to the Queen 1957. Born 26/06/1904. Son of John Forsythe, Lisadell, Cliftonville Road, Belfast. Died 15/05/1987. MB BCh BAO, QUB 1927. Campbell College.

GALLAGHER, Hugh

LRO (G). D/JX163265. Served 06/39 - 06/63. Survivor of HMS Edinburgh sinking. Brother of Patrick. Limavady RNA

GALLAGHER, Patrick

Served 1934 - 48. Joined HMS Ganges. In war served in HMS Norfolk, county class heavy cruiser, and was involved in hunt for the Bismark in 1941. Later served in HMS Norfolk on Arctic convoys. Received the Arctic Star on 04/12/2013 when he was aged 94. From Limavady. Resident of Glasgow. Brother of Hugh Gallagher, Limavady RNA.

GILLESPIE, EJ

RM. Marine. HMS Glorious. Notified as missing possibly prisoner of war. Son of Mrs. Gillespie, Cumber, Drumaness, Ballynahinch. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 06/07//1940).

+GORDON, Henry

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 651185. Date of Death: 20/03/1945. Age: 19. HMS Lapwing. Arctic convoy. Sunk by U968. Son of William and Rachel Gordon, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 94

+GRAFTON, Norman Maurice

RN. Ordinary Seaman. D/SSX 30787. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age: 21. Son of Thomas and Mary Jane Grafton, Banbridge. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39

HAMIL, James

AB. Took part in Battle of Narvik in HMS Renown. On leave afterwards he received presentations at his former school Ebrington Public Elementary School and from 7th Derry Boys

Brigade (Ebrington) of which he had been a member. (Derry Standard). Londonderry

HANLON, George

RN. Served in a number of theatres of operations including Arctic convoys. LOL 9 Clounagh, Portadown.

HARLAND, W

Petty Officer. HMS Ulster Queen. Arctic convoys. Ulster Queen provided AA cover for convoy PQ18 from Iceland to Koa Inlet and Murmansk. It endured the largest number of air attacks of any of the Russian convoys.

HARRIS, John

HMS Glorious.. Cromwell St., Belfast

HARTIN, John

L/Sig. Served 03/40 - 06/46. HMS Meteor in September 1942 was deployed as part of the escort for the Arctic convoy PQ18 to the Soviet Union and the return Convoy QP14. Following the return from the Arctic, in November 1942, Meteor acted as part of the destroyer screen for the Home Fleet during Operation Torch, the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa. Operations Pedestal and Torch. Founder member Limavady RNA.

+HAWTHORNE, David

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 16591. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age: 22. Son of David and Elizabeth Hawthorne, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

HIGGINSON, Isaac

RN. Volunteered aged 17. Served 1934 - 1948. He recalled, "I started off on HMS Valiant as a gunner and I was serving on the same ship as the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip." Serving in HMS Black Prince, he was one of the hundreds of men who helped protect a vital supply link to the Russian front during the war, on what Winston Churchill called the worst journey in the world.

Seventy years later in July 2013 at the age of 95, he received his Arctic Star at an RBL parade in Ballyclare marking the 97th anniversary of the battle of the Somme. He later served in HMS Valiant when eight days out of Cape Town South Africa, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. Issac years later commented that he felt very lucky to be alive having clung to a tiny balsa raft with two others for what seemed an eternity. Sixteen hours later the submarine surfaced and escaping execution they ended up as internees in a prison in Casablanca. Issac got his long awaited leave nine months later when the Americans arrived and released them. During his 14 years in the Navy he also served with the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip. He received the Usakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014). Ballyclare

+IRWIN, John Joseph

AB. D/JX162978. HMS Punjabi. Died 01/05/1942. North Atlantic. Punjabi was commissioned in March 1939. She fulfilled several roles and operations including being deployed off Narvik as a screen for operations during the Second Battle of Narvik. On 13/04/1940, she engaged a number of German destroyers, receiving six hits and being disabled for an hour before she could resume service. Punjabi was deployed on 26/04/1942 as part of the screen providing distant cover for the passage of Convoy PQ-15. They sailed from Hyalfjordur on 29/04/1942. On 01/05/1942, she was rammed and sunk in a collision with the battleship HMS King George V in foggy conditions. While steaming in formation in heavy fog, the lookout on Punjabi reported what he believed to be a mine dead ahead; the captain reflexively (and regrettably) ordered a 15-point emergency turn to port; in so doing, she sailed directly into the path of King George V and was sliced in two by the battleship's bow. 169 of the ship's company were rescued from the forward section, and another 40 were picked up from the sea by other escorts, including Marne.

Those crew left in the aft section, which sank very quickly, were killed when her depth charges detonated; 49 of her crew lost their lives in the accident. She sank directly in the path of the US battleship Washington, which had to sail between the halves of the

sinking destroyer. Washington suffered slight damage from the detonation of the depth charges.

King George V sustained serious damage to her bow, and was forced to return to port for repairs. Further investigation revealed no mines in the area, or indeed in any part of the convoy's eventual path. It is unknown what the lookout actually spotted, if anything. Limavady RNA RH. Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 65

JESS, Thomas

RN. Gunner. Arctic convoys. On HMS Lapwing, he was blown 10 yards across the deck when a torpedo struck the destroyer on a bitterly cold morning in the final few months of the war. "The explosion just lifted me off my feet, skinning all my knuckles," says Jess, one of several sailors from Northern Ireland on board the Lapwing. "But I was lucky as I always wore my lifebelt, which was my best friend at sea. Other fellows were more careless. There was one poor man who tried to make his way below for his lifebelt but he never got back up on deck." After the torpedo ripped through the ship's hull, he stayed at his post until the abandon ship order was given. Then he jumped into the freezing sea and was lucky enough to be pulled onto a raft that had been thrown overboard by the crew. "There were about 16 of us on the raft when we set off and then one by one they fell off in the cold. I fell unconscious while we drifted for at least two hours...There were just six of us pulled onboard HMS Savage when we were rescued . . . And one of them died on the deck of HMS Savage. I'll always remember that man," He was one of 61 survivors. 58 sailors died on 20/03/1945, on board the HMS Lapwing, which was just a day's sail from the Russian port of Murmansk when it was torpedoed without warning by the German submarine U-968. Thomas Jess lived in Lisburn.

+JOHNSTON, Robert David

RN. AB. D/JX 151626. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 18. Son of David and Jane Johnston of 11 Hill Street, Ballymena. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 38+KNOTT, Warren Patrick

+KNOTT, Warren Patrick

RN. Boy 1st Cl. D/JX159678. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 16. He had been taught at Darkley school by its principal John Malseed Scott, later RNVR, who was lost on HMS Ellesmere. Son of George and Margaret Knott, Darkley, Co. Armagh. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39

The Royal Naval Memorial, Plymouth



+LANDA, David Henry

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX16190. HMS Glorious. 09/06/1940. Age 23. Son of Jacob & Ena Landa, Belfast. Member of the Belfast Jewish community. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 38

+LYNAS, James

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 148535. Date of Death: 17/01/1942. Age: 39. HMS Matabele. On 30/08/1941 she was deployed with the aircraft carrier Argus and other ships on a mission to deliver RAF equipment and personnel to North Russia to support Soviet military

operations after the Soviet Union had entered the war. The operation was completed successfully and the ships returned to Scapa Flow on 15 November. Matabele spent October to December on patrol, and screening operations off Norway. In January 1942 she formed the screen, with Somali, for the cruiser Trinidad on Convoy PQ-8 from Iceland to Murmansk. The convoy departed on 11 January, and came under torpedo attack on 16 January. On 17 January Matabele was hit by a torpedo from the German submarine U-454 and sank almost immediately. Only two out of her complement of 238 survived. Many who were able to leave the stricken ship succumbed in the ice-cold water before rescue was possible. The two survivors were picked up by the minesweeper Harrier. Son of William and Sarah Lynas; husband of Mary Lynas, of Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 47

MANN, William

RNR. Lieutenant Commander. Chief Engineer. MiD. HMS Ulster Queen. Arctic convoys. 57 years old. Signed on a T124x (usually referred to as The Articles). These were usually signed by merchant seamen to bring them under the Naval Discipline Act. Thus suggests Lt Cdr Mann was a retired RNR but still in the merchant service and recalled for active duty. Ulster Queen provided AA cover for convoy PQ18 from Iceland to Koa Inlet and Murmansk. It endured the largest number of air attacks of any of the Russian convoys. Mann was one of 12 of the ships company who were recommended for decorations.

MAXWELL, Robert

Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014).

MAYNE, WS

HMS Caroline. RNVR. AB. Was a gunner on board HMS Pozarica, a converted merchantman and AA ship which accompanied the ill-fated convoy PQ.17 to North Russia. He is mentioned among the survivors of "PQ.17 - Convoy to Hell" by Harry Ludlum and Paul Lund. It was Mayne who first spotted a large number of German seaplanes landing on the sea before going in to attack. On another occasion his vigilance in spotting an attacking Heinkel 115 resulted in the aircraft being shot down.

McATAMNEY, Robert Samuel

RN. Petty Officer. Survivor of First Battle of Narvik 1940. On 10/04/1940, at 0430, Hardy, Hunter, and Havelock steamed into the harbour at Narvik leaving Hostile and Hotspur to guard the back door.

Robert, known as 'Bobby' was an Able Seaman on HMS Hardy at the time of the Battle of Narvik. He was only twenty years old, and when the Hardy was sinking he managed to rescue a ship mate 'Tubby' Cox. He saw him floating unconscious in the water and dragged him to safety. They had a laugh about it afterwards, as Bobby said that Tubby only floated because of his size. Bobby had a gasp as he plunged in to the icy waters and swam ashore. He was injured after being hit in the face by shrapnel and had part of his lip removed. After the ship had blown up and he and the rest of the survivors were led to safety, he was given a ski suit, and that's what he wore to come home.

When he finally came home, the town was decorated with flags and bunting and the town's people lined the streets to welcome him home. At a ceremony at the Town Hall he was presented with a watch and a ring. When asked how he felt, he said "that he would look back on this day with pride".

One of six sons of William & Jane McAtamney who served in WW 2. Born 18/03/1920 at 24 Davys Street Carrickfergus. Died 1954. Brother of:

Daniel McAtamney L. Cpl. R.A.F

Francis McAtamney Flight Sgt. R.A.F.

George H. McAtamney A.B. R.N.

Thomas McAtamney O.S. R.N.

William McAtamney Sergt. Royal Inniskillings

Bobby Mc Atamney served in the Navy until 1960, and rose to the rank of Petty Officer. Although he loved the life, he had got married in 1958 and he found the long separations a bit too much to bear so he left the Navy and went to work at Courtaulds. It was at the factory in 1974 that he suffered a heart attack and died. He

was only fifty four years of age. He left a son and daughter, and was sadly missed by many in the town where he was so well liked.

McCLELLAND, Reginald Denis

RN. On the presentation of the Arctic Star, he recalled, "During a convoy HMS Bluebell, which was a frigate, came alongside and the crew were exceptionally talented and they put a supper on for us and it was most enjoyable, but unfortunately on leaving it had gone ahead to sweep for submarines and it was torpedoed, and of the 93 men on board only one survived. So it was very personal having met quite a few of the crew that night before."Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014). Bangor

McCLELLAND, Robert

McCOURT, Robert

AB. Survivor of sinking of destroyer HMS Ivanhoe. Took part in the rescue of British prisoners from "hellship" Altmark. He was also engaged in the Narvik and Dunkirk operations. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 12/10/1940).

McCOY, Wesley

RN. AB. The only Belfastman in HMS Belfast at the Battle of North Cape. On duty in one of Belfast's gun turrets when Scharnhorst was sunk. He served at the Battle of Narvik in 1940 and at Crete and Tobruk. Brother of William McCoy, HMS South Down. Oldpark Rd., Belfast.

McCULLOUGH, Charles

RN. Submarines. Took part in Arctic convoys. Born 18/12/1923 in the Brown's Square area of the Shankill Road, Belfast, he was a member of the Life Boys and Boys Brigade Company at Townsend Street Presbyterian Church. After his war service he started a confectionery and wholesale grocery business, and later became a civil servant. In 1958 he was elected to Belfast Corporation and later became an Ulster Unionist councillor. He was elected a member of the Ulster Senate (the upper house at Stormont) in

1968. In 1970 he left the UUP for the nascent DUP. When the Senate was dissolved in 1972 he stood down from politics whilst retaining his strong political convictions. He was a very active member of the Orange Order, the Apprentice Boys of Derry and the Masonic Order. He died aged 90 on 04/10/2014. He was Vice-President of the Belfast Branch of the RNA at the time of his death. Husband to Peggy and father of Shirley and Charles, his funeral from Townsend Street Church took place to Roselawn Cemetery. His funeral was attended by the Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland, Lord and Lady Carswell, RNA President Cdr Peter Campbell and HM Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Dame Mary Peters.

McCULLAGH, James Desmond Reynolds

Lieutenant Commander. VRD. In September 1939 appointed to HMS Revenge. Engaged in North Atlantic escort duty and took part in a bombardment of the French coast after German occupation. In November 1941 appointed to HMS Cairo A.A. cruiser, and continued in this ship until August 1942 on North Atlantic escort convoy duties, including trip to Murmansk to convoy Russian V.I.P's. To Mediterranean in the spring of 1942, again on convoy duties from Gibraltar to Malta ('the club run'). Many air and submarine attacks until Cairo was finally sunk by torpedo in August, 1942, he was carried overboard when serving as quarters officer 'Y' turret when the stern was blown off, being one of the only two survivors out of the gun's crew of eighteen. He sustained fractured skull and leg injuries. Sick leave August 1942-November 1942, after which he was appointed to shore duties at Brighton. June 1943 to November 1943 appointed HMS Slinger, an aircraft carrier employed on North Atlantic escort duty. Between November 1943 and June 1944 served as staff officer in the operations room at H.M.S. Boscawen, Portland. November 1944 appointed to H.M.S. Jewel and was engaged in minesweeping in the North Sea. Served in the Ulster Division post-war.

McCULLOUGH, Robert Davis

RN. HMS Ulysses. During the early years of WWII Robert was a sheet metal worker at the shipyards in Belfast, helping in the construction of ships to aid the war effort. There was a bar on workers such as he joining the armed services because of the necessary work they were doing. However, it was lifted and he

went to a recruitment office in North Street early in 1944 and signed up for the Royal Navy. Bob became a crewman on the HMS Ulysses, a ship that acted as protection for convoys to Murmansk. A photo of the destroyer hung proudly among family photos and mementos in his living room. He said he was on her for three years and that the twin-engined ship "could shift".

He was in HMS Ulysses when she sailed with Convoy FR77 to Murmansk. This convoy is featured in Alistair Maclean's book "HMS Ulysses". Bob recalled the ship was called 'The Useless' and 'The Ulster' was called 'The Ulcer'.

He received his Arctic Star at Theipval Barracks on 18/09/2013 when he was aged 90 and the Ushakov medal was presented to him in the Belfast Harbour Commissioners' building when he was 92. Robert was present at D-Day, part of an effort to defend Allied troops by bombarding the Germans with Naval artillery. He was also "down in the tropics" in the Pacific Theatre, attached to the US Navy. (Belfast Telegraph 19/09/2013). Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014). Belfast

+McDONALD, Robert

RN. AB. D/SSX 16193, Died 10/04/1940. Age 25. HMS Hunter. Had celebrated his 25th birthday just before next of kin had been informed he was missing. He had not been home on leave since the beginning of the war. He had been in Hunter two years. His father was also serving in RN and a brother in the merchant service. An uncle, Francis Callender, was a CPO in the RN. His home was with his aunt, Mrs H Callender, Runnymede Parade, Donegall Rd., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940). Son of Robert and Alice McDonald, of Liverpool. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 38

McFARLAND, Thomas James

RNPS. Signals. Served 01/41 - 03/46; 53 - 54. Served in MMS43, HMS Ceto. Spent most of his service in northern waters including a convoy to Russia. One of three brothers from Omagh who served in the Royal Navy during WW2. They saw service at

Dunkirk, Atlantic convoys, Malta convoys, Salerno and the Normandy landings. All returned to Omagh at the end of the war and held office in the RBL in Omagh. Thomas is a member of Limavady RNA. He and John Harton, a founder member of the Limavady branch of the RNA, did their signals training together in Plymouth during the blitz when Plymouth was very badly hit.

McILWAINE, A D

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant. MiD. In July 1939 appointed to HMS Effingham. Survivor when ship sank during Norwegian campaign. (Mentioned in Despatches Norway, 1940). In May 1940 HMS Excellent for short gunnery course. July 1940 HMS Black Swan. Mined in Firth of Forth November 1940. HMS Meynell on East Coast convoys between 12/1940 - 06/1941. HMS Shropshire 07/09/1941-04/1943. Long gunnery course HMS Excellent 04/1943 -12/1943. Second Gunnery Officer HMS Caroline 01/11/1944. HMS Ocean 12/1944 -12/1945.

+McKEOWN, William

RN. Telegraphist.D/JX344845. Died 21/08/1944. The Black Swan-class sloop HMS Kite was escorting a convoy to Russia when it was torpedoed by U-344 on 21/08/1944. 183 died. Only nine members of the crew survived as Kite sank almost immediately. Son of William and Martha McKeown, Antrim town. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 88.

+McNABB, William

RN. Boy Telegraphist. D/JX 158275. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 17. Son of William James McNabb and Jeanie McNabb, Ballymoney. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39

McNAIR, Robert

RN. Enlisted for Boy Service aged 15 in 1939. After basic training at Cunningham Holiday Camp in the Isle of Man, in 03/41 he was posted to a new carrier, HMS Victorious, in Newcastle. Victorious helped sink the Bismarck. Robert served in the ship's transmitting station, relaying the distance of attacking planes to crew members manning the guns on the deck so they could work out the range needed to shoot them down. "We were put straight

into action,” he recalled. “Our first mission was as part of a British fleet that chased the famous German battleship, the Bismarck. It was a giant aircraft carrier. People said was unsinkable, but our fleet managed to bring it down – a very proud moment... “Then we got news through that Malta was in difficulty and the Germans were using it as a base to carry supplies for the battle that was raging in north Africa. We were part of a fleet escorting a convoy of ships carrying supplies – it was a perilous journey and we lost nine of the 14 merchant ships.” Victorious also carried out a diversionary attack on Stavanger, Norway, for D Day, Shortly after D Day he received news of the death of his brother James in HMS Mourn. Ushakov medal (Belfast Telegraph 01/11/2014). Belfast. Died 2014 aged 89. Son of James and Mary McNair, Belfast. Husband to Ruth McNair of Cregagh, Belfast.

MILLAR, John

AB. Survivor of sinking of destroyer HMS Ivanhoe. Took part in the rescue of British prisoners from “hellship” Altmark. He was also engaged in the Narvik and Dunkirk operations. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 14/09/1940).

+MOIR, John

RN. Lieutenant (E). Died 30/04/1942. HMS Edinburgh. Son of Sally and Archibald Moir, of Port Glasgow, and Hong Kong. Husband to Mrs Joan Howdle (formerly Moir), of Hove, Sussex. Ballyhalbert. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 63. Col 11

MOORE, William

MONTGOMERY, Thomas J

HMS Glorious. Son of Mrs Mary Montgomery, Maycon House, Dundonald. She was notified he was missing and was possibly a prisoner of war. Thomas had been in the RN five and a half years. His step-father had 29 years service with RIF. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/06/1940)

MULHALL, John E

RN. Petty Officer. HMS Hardy when she grounded in Norway. Father resident in Ardglass. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940).

MULLAN, Charles Heron

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant Commander. VRD, DL. Joined RNVR 1937. Mobilised August, 1939 and spent most of the subsequent five years at sea in the North Atlantic. First appointment to HMS Rodney based on Scapa Flow and operating in the North Sea off the Norwegian Coast and in Icelandic waters. Narvik April, 1940. October, 1940 transferred to destroyers operating off East Coast, Channel, North Atlantic and Eastern seaboard North America. These were ex-American '4 Stackers', two of which were attached to the Royal Norwegian Navy. October 1940-May, 1941 HMS Lewes, convoy escort duties until ship paid off following irreparable bomb damage from raids on Plymouth. To KNS Mansfield July 1941-February 1942 convoy escort duties based on Halifax and St. John's. KN.S.Lincoln February 1942 to November, 1943 convoy escort duties. November 1943-February 1944 HMS Louis, convoy escort duties North Atlantic. April 1944-May 1944 HMS Moorsom, based on Liverpool. May 1944 appointed as Signals Officer and Signals Instructor HMS King Alfred. King Haakon VII's War Decoration August, 1944 'for distinguished services to the Royal Norwegian Navy.' Served in the Ulster Division post-war.

OFFICER, Albert B

RN. AB. Formerly a corporal in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Brothers serving with RHA and RIF. Prior to joining up had worked at Aldergrove aerodrome. Son of Mrs Officer, Belfast Belfast Weekly Telegraph 06/071940)

PIELOU, Desmond

ROBINSON A

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Surgeon Commander, OStJ, RN. Entered Ulster Division in 1934 as Paymaster-Sub-Lieutenant (L.1). Served as Captain's secretary during Munich crisis. Qualified in medicine 1939 and appointed RN Hospital, Haslar as Surgeon-Lieutenant, R.N., having transferred to regular service. 05/1940 - 11/1941 to HMS Ark Royal with medical charge of air crews. Received commendation from Admiral Sir James Somerville for his services in Ark Royal. 11/1941-11/1943 PMO RN Signal School, Chatham. Thereafter, appointed to series of rescue ships operating in Indian Ocean (HMS Okapi, Overdale Wyke, HMIS Sonovati), until 1944 when appointed RNA Hospitals at Diyatalawa and Colombo as pathologist. Retired from the Royal Navy 1962.

ROWSON, nee Redmond, Nancy

WRNS. 3rd Officer. Enlisted August 1940. HMS Titania, submarine depot ship anchored in Belfast Harbour. Lived at home and commuted four miles by car with a gas bag on the roof, even during the blitz. She and her family slept in a shelter in the garden during this period. RN College Greenwich for officer training. Cypher duties on Hoy, Scapa Floe. Watch keeping hours, including cyphers for signals with Russian and Atlantic convoys. Posted early 1945 to FAA station at Eglinton. Present at surrender of eight U - boats on 14/05/1945. Demobbed 12/1945.

SAVAGE, Jim

RN. Wireless operator. HMS Hardy when she grounded in Norway. His father, Jack Savage, served in the RN in WW1. Townsend St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940).

+SCOTT, David

RN. Ordinary Seaman. D/SSX 30791. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 18. Son of Robert and Margaret Scott, Newtownards. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39. Newtownards WM

+SHAW, Robert Thomas

RN. AB. D/JX150036. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Son of Thomas Lewis Shaw and Norah Lily Shaw, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 38

+SHIELDS, Thomas

RNR. Seaman. P/X 18226A. Died 08/06/1940. Age 27. HMS Acasta. Son of Hannah Jane Shields, Ballymartin, Co. Down. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 44

SIMPSON, Hugh

RM. Marine. HMS Glorious. Reported missing. Joined RM 1938. Son of Mr and Mrs A Simpson, Derrygreen, Coalisland.

+SHIELDS, Thomas

RNR. Seaman. P/X 18226A. Died 08/06/1940. Age 27. HMS Acasta. Son of Hannah Jane Shields, Ballymartin, Co. Down. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 44

+SHIRLEY, Alex

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 148095, Died 08/06/1940. HMS Glorious. Carnany, Ballymoney. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 38. Ballymoney WM

STEEN, John

SPARKSMAN, Norman

RN. Served 1941 - 46. Life member of the Russian Convoy Club. Bangor newspaper of 18/07/1942 reported that he was home on survivors leave following the loss of HMS Edinburgh which had been torpedoed twice before sinking on an Arctic convoy. Rescued, he spent several weeks in Russia before his return to the UK. Born Richmond, London 1920. Family moved to Belfast 1925. Tudor Lodge, Ballyholme Rd., Bangor. Educated MCB. Insurance business post-war. He had been a young member of Ballyholme Yacht Club prior to joining RN. Keen yachtsman. Moved to Howth 1952. Author of "Jottings of a young sailor" 2007.

STEWART, James

RN. 1941 - 46. A native of Londonderry. Involved in "Operation Fuller", serving in one of the MTB's sent out to intercept the Brest Squadron when they forced the channel in Feb. 1942. (Operation Cerberus - which was to return them to German "home waters"). He also did some of the early PQ runs to Russia , and was part of the naval component of the Bruneval Raid the aim of which was to capture German radar parts and operatives. Night actions fought against E Boats in the Channel (" Off the Texel") and D-Day. In May 45 he was mustered as a member of a boarding party which took several U-boats from Loch Ryan to Lisahally on the Foyle.

Known as "Bob", he was one of four brothers who served during the war. Two did not return. James died when his Halifax was shot down in September 1943. He is buried on Ameland, Donald died in Japanese hands in April 1944, a POW since the fall of Hong Kong.

James joined the RUC in 1946 - serving until 1976. Severely injured by a booby trap bomb following his retirement. On recovery he returned to work for the NI Police Authority until retiring in 1982. Died 1998

TEGGARTY, Frank

RN. Act. Petty Officer. MiD. In HMS Bergamot, a Flower class corvette. Served in S Atlantic, N Atlantic, Russian convoys (MiD), and Mediterranean. Father of Rev Karl Teggarty. Christ Church, Kilkeel WM

+THOMPSON, James

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 26153. Date of Death: 08/06/1940. Age: 19. HMS Glorious. Son of Robert Edmund and Margaret Thompson, Annsborough. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 38

THOMPSON, John

Seaman. His guardians were Mr and Mrs J Gillis, Hopeton St., Belfast. He joined RN when he was 16 years old. An uncle, James Gillis, was serving with Ulster AA unit and another uncle Thomas Spring was with the RIF. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 06/07/1940).

+TILLIE, John

RN. Sub Lieutenant. DSC and bar. Son of the famous shirt-manufacturing family in Londonderry, he became one of the first men from Londonderry to earn distinction in the war while serving on HMS Hotspur during the Battle of Narvik in 1940. DSC awarded for action in HMS Hotspur. When his badly damaged ship was forced to stop, Tillie, "Though himself wounded, he rallied the survivors from his two guns' crews and opened rapid and accurate fire on the enemy, causing them to keep their distance until HMS Hostile and HMS Havock could return to cover H.M.S. Hotspur's withdrawal". Later, in the Mediterranean, he was awarded a Bar to his DSC for his skill and coolness while tracking down an Italian submarine. He also took part in the evacuation of Crete, was involved in the Tobruk convoys and assisted in the sinking of another submarine. He died at sea as a result of enemy action on 12/09/1942. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

TOWNSEND, George Patrick Donald

Lieutenant Commander. DSC. Temporary Lieutenant Commander (London Gazette 03/12/1944). HMS Ulster Queen, anti-aircraft ship on Artic convoys. Ulster Queen provided AA cover for convoy PQ18 from Iceland to Kola Inlet and Murmansk. It endured the largest number of air attacks of any of the Russian convoys. Lieutenant. HMS Shearwater 01/09/1939 (Navy List 19/07/1940). Donaghadee

TROTTER, Samuel

AB. Aged 20 with three years service. He was hospitalised when his ship was sunk. He had escaped injury at both Narvik and Dunkirk. He had seen service off China. He was the second in his family to be injured. The first to be injured was serving in France with the Royal Engineers. His brother William (RUR) was evacuated

from Dunkirk. A former pupil of Foyle College he had won a 3 year scholarship in 1931. Son of Mrs L Trotter, Aubrey St., Londonderry. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 10/08/1940).

TURNER, George

OS. Served in HMS Curlew at Narvik. It was the first British anti-aircraft cruiser to have been reported lost in the war. Together with fellow Londonderry man James Adair, he had been reported missing. Curlew had been bombed by a flight of Junkers. Four officers and five ratings lost their lives. After the wounded had been evacuated, the ship was abandoned, and both Adair and Turner set out to reach the shore with about thirty others on a Carley float. Eventually they reached the Norwegian coast where they were welcomed by the Norwegian army and civilians, who gave them everything they could since they had lost practically everything they had. They were taken to a Scottish port and from there they made their way home where they surprised their parents who had no prior knowledge of their homecoming. Both Adair and Turner were 18 years of age. They were former pupils of Ebrington Elementary School. George's father served through the First World War, being torpedoed on the Transylvania, and being in the sea for nine hours before being rescued. Another son, William, was serving with the Royal Artillery in India. Bond St., Londonderry

WALKER, T

RN. AB. HMS Hardy when she grounded in Norway. Entertained by the ladies of Broadway Damask Company, Belfast upon his return. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1940).

WALLER, Sydney

RN. FAA. Chief Petty Officer. Transferred from RAF to FAA in 1939. Served in carriers HMS Furious and HMS Attacker 03/1940 - 10/1944. Served his first period in Arctic waters during Norwegian campaign in 1940. He served on Furious between March 1940 and October 1941. Furious was one of the few fleet aircraft carriers at outbreak of war and the only one of those to survive the war.

Originally laid down as a battle cruiser carrying the largest naval guns, 18 inch, of her day she was converted to an aircraft carrier in 1917. Equipped with two squadrons of relatively obsolete Swordfish biplanes, during the campaign the squadrons suffered a fifty percent casualty rates and finished with virtually no serviceable aircraft. Furious escaped the campaign relatively unscathed. Her sister ship Glorious was sunk in circumstances shrouded in a secrecy that will not be lifted until the 100 year embargo placed is lifted in 2040. Only 39 of the over 1500 crew survived the sinking of the Glorious by the battle cruisers Gneisenau and Scharnhorst. Around 25% of Sydney's entry at Halton training for FAA were lost.

Furious was in Belfast during the blitzes of April 1941 and provided a significant amount of air defence. In the second blitz she was hit by a 250lb bomb that penetrated the flying deck in to the hangar decks below where the original armoured battle cruiser deck prevented further penetration. Fortunately during the refit no aircraft were aboard.

Furious was mainly used to ferry aircraft to places such as Gibraltar and West Africa but also returned to Norwegian waters for convoy protection. During an African trip Furious only escaped the attentions of the battle cruiser Von Hipper due to the bravery of the cruiser HMS Berwick despite being outgunned by the Hipper.

In October 1942, he was transferred to New York for further training before crossing the USA by train to join the newly built HMS Attacker in San Francisco. Attacker was a so called Woolworth escort carrier and carried out convoy duties throughout the rest of the war. As well as Sydney seeing service in the Atlantic he also was aboard during the Salerno landings in Italy, the North Africa campaign and actions against Axis forces in the Aegean. Sydney left Attacker in July 1944 for various postings including Eglinton. In the early 50's he was seconded to the Australian Navy. His wife Nora and daughters Anne and Patricia joined him in Australia and lived in various places.

After his service he became a teacher and held posts in Castlewellan and Dunluce. He took up sailing in Mirror dinghies at first. In retirement he joined Cockle Island boat club as a member of 'the Wrinklies'. In that club he had an active social life and made

many good friends. He gave up sailing in 2008 at the tender age of 87.

When he was aged 92 he received his Arctic Star awarded for service North of the Arctic Circle. Though born in Manchester, Sydney Waller lived in Northern Ireland for over 60 years. It is a place he visited frequently as a young child from the later 20s. His father, a joiner with the LMS Railway, was a keen sea angler and each summer used his railway holiday pass to take his family to Northern Ireland by the LMS steamer from Heysham and onwards to Portrush on the LMS NCC (Northern Counties Committee) Railway from York Road. Husband to Nora nee Gregg of Portrush whom he met in childhood and later married.

WATSON, Philip Alexander

Vice Admiral. Born in Belfast on 07//10/1919 into a family of engineers. He was educated at St Albans school and started as an apprentice electrical engineer with the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, hoping to work on the railways in India. On the outbreak of war he joined the Admiralty Compass Observatory, Slough, and in March 1940 was commissioned as an electrical sub-lieutenant RNR.

Watson joined the Admiralty Compass Observatory at Slough, serving until 10 March 1940, when he was commissioned in the Royal Naval Reserve as an electrical sub-lieutenant. He served on the minesweeper HMS Hebeon Arctic convoys to Archangel and Murmansk, escorting seven convoys in the winter of 1941-42, when storms at sea proved a greater hazard than the attentions of the enemy. In December and January Hebe was based in Russian waters, and close acquaintance with the Russians moved Watson to think that they were somewhat ungrateful for the risks which he and his companions were taking on their behalf. In March, appalling weather forced 16 of the 24 ships in convoy PQ14 to turn back to Iceland, and Hebe was damaged by ice; she was sent to Hull for repairs.

Watson was then appointed assistant torpedo officer in the battleship Nelson, and later torpedo officer in the cruiser Berwick, witnessing the surrender of the Germans at Trondheim in April 1945.

After the war he accepted a full career commission in the Royal Navy, and became assistant to Rear-Admiral SL Bateson, who was responsible for forming the Navy's electrical branch. In 1950 Watson had the pleasure of welcoming his older brother, Garth, who was an electrical engineer in the Admiralty civil service, into the new electrical branch – as a commander, Garth was in a rank higher than Philip.

After completing the long radio course, Philip Watson served with the 5th Destroyer Flotilla on the battle-class destroyers HMS Solebay and HMS Gabbard, before moving to the Admiralty in London. This was followed by a spell at HMS Collingwood as assistant to the training commander, with Watson being promoted to lieutenant-commander. He spent two years with the radio section at Malta Dockyard before becoming electrical officer in HMS Decoy. Watson was promoted to commander in 1955 and returned to working at the Admiralty. He then returned to sea as electrical officer in the destroyer Decoy.

Following his promotion to commander in 1955, Watson was electrical officer in the Royal Yacht Britannia on her maiden circumnavigation of the globe, and her visit to the Great Lakes. His principal task was to ensure daily that there were voice communications between the yacht and London, no mean achievement in the days before satellites. He also played a full part in the social activities on board, and was appointed MVO.

At Chatham Dockyard between 1959 and 1961 he was in charge of the electrical shops and weapons section, before becoming weapon electrical engineer officer in the cruiser Lion. His various titles were a reflection of the growing specialisation in the modern Navy. On promotion to captain, Watson began a series of appointments to the ship department at Bath: he was involved in the design of submarines, aircraft carriers and commando ships; was deputy director of engineering (Electrical); and, as an admiral, director-general weapons (Naval). In 1967 he became captain of HMS Collingwood but by 1969 he was back at Bath as deputy director of engineering (electrical) in the ship department. Watson was promoted to rear-admiral and director-general weapons (naval) and later promoted again to vice-admiral. He was made a Knight

Commander of the British Empire in 1974 and retired from the navy in March 1977.

+WEIR, John Dennison

RN. Stoker 1st Class. P/KX 119218. Date of Death: 24/09/1942. Age: 21. HMS Somali. Son of Joseph and Mary E. Weir, Banbridge. Seapatricks Parish WM. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 68.

+WHITE, Joseph

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 20633. HMS Glorious. Died 08/06/1940. Age 39. Son of Joseph and Elizabeth White, Ballycraigy, Muckamore. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 38

WILKINSON, W

RN. AB. HMS Hardy when she grounded in Norway. Entertained by the ladies of Broadway Damask Company, Belfast upon his return. Donegall Gds, Belfast (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1940).

Other posts in this series:

Part 1

Narvik in a nutshell

Part 2

Loss of Glorious, Hunter and Acasta

Part 3

The Murmansk run

remembrance ni

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.

To receive a copy of **remembrance ni** or notice of new postings on web site please contact -
houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

Contact - Simply input Remembrance ni in the title bar and give your first and second names with e-mail address in body of text. There is also a contact facility on the web site. See Menu at <https://remembrancen.org/>
