



# remembrance ni



**Remembered today are 12 including an army medical consultant who fled Vienna and qualified at QUB. Also RNR Commander William Brown Piggot from Londonderry who had an excellent record as a U-boat hunter. Photo - Tyne Cot.**

# Roll of Honour – May 11

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+KENNEDY, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9146. Died 11/05/1915. Nephew of Elizabeth Duffy, of 10, Frederick Place, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**+ORR, William James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4735. Severely wounded at Hill 60, Ypres, Belgium, he died of wounds on 11/05/1915. Aged 26. William was a mill worker at the nearby Hazelbank Linen Mill, Lawrencetown. He enlisted in Banbridge. Left for France with the British Expeditionary Force and was in action at Mons, Neuve Chapelle. Son of James Orr, of Kilpike, Banbridge, and the late Ellen Orr; husband to Mary Orr, of 78, Seapatrick, Banbridge. Tuileries British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Banbridge WM. Seapatrick Parish Church WM

**+ROY, William J**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6339. Died of wounds in the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, on 11/05/1915. Age 23. A member of Bessbrook Victoria Flute Band and Bessbrook LOL. Enlisted in Newry. William's

funeral was conducted by the Rev Alexander Stuart of Bessbrook Presbyterian Church who was also killed in enemy action while serving with the 36th Ulster Division as a chaplain attached to 12th Royal Irish Rifles on 24/10/1917 in France aged 37. William's younger brother Lance Corporal Samuel Roy, 6594, Royal Irish Rifles, also died in service on 03/03/1915. William was born in June 1892, the eldest son of William and Isabella Roy of 43 James Street, Camlough Road, Bessbrook. Bessbrook Presbyterian Churchyard. Bessbrook WM. Bessbrook District LOL 11 Orange Hall WM. Bessbrook Presbyterian Church WM

### **+STEWART, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9357. Died 11/05/1915. Aged 25. Son of John and Mary Stewart, of 20, Ballycarry St., Old Park Rd., Belfast. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

## **1916**

### **+McKEEMAN, John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 369. Died 11/05/1916. Age 22. A member of the UVF, he enlisted in Belfast. Born in Ballygawley, Aghadowey, Co. Londonderry on 23/01/1894. Son of James and Margaret McKeeman. In the 1911 census he was recorded as living in his uncle's house in Monkstown and was working as a machine boy in a spinning mill. He and Nellie Campbell married on 19/06/1914 in Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church. Husband to Nellie McKeeman, of The Black Green, Whiteabbey, Co. Antrim. Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France. Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church RH. Aghadowey WM

**+WARD, James Henry**

Cheshire Regiment. 13th Btn. Private. 616. Died 11/05/1916. Age 26. Born in New Jersey. Son of Hugh and Annie Ward from Cullyhanna, County Armagh. Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont - St Elio, France

**1917**

**+HILL, James**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Serjeant. 2669. Died 11/05/1917. Son of William and Mary Hill, of Shankhill, Belfast; husband to Mary Hill, of Belfast. Roeux British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

**+McCLELLAND, Thomas**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 18542. Died 11/05/1917. Age 22. Born at Middletown. Son of James McClelland, of Middletown, Co. Armagh. Roeux British Cemetery, France

**+SWANN, Samuel Finlay**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). 152nd Coy. Private. 17697. Died 13/05/1917 a prisoner of war in the Military Hospital at Langensalza. The dates for his death range from 11<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> May. Age 23. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Arras on 23/04/1917. He had one arm and one leg amputated. He had previously served with the Royal Irish Rifles (19785). Born in Lisnevanagh on 13/11/1892. He was a farmer and a member of Thornhill Loyal Orange Lodge

651. Son of Joseph and Agnes Swann, of Lisnevanagh, Randalstown. Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany. Kells and Eskylane Presbyterian Church RH

**1918**

**+LECKEY, W**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 40889. Died 11/05/1918. Age 24. Son of Samuel and Jane Leckey, of 38, Avoca St., Belfast. Gwalia Cemetery, Belgium

**+MOLYNEUX, George**

Royal Air Force. Second Lieutenant Died 11/05/1918. Age 21. Member of the QUB Training Corps 1917. Accidentally killed in Middlesex, whilst on active service. Only son of Mr. George Molyneaux, Ulsterville Gardens, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery.

**1920**

**+CRAWFORD, W J**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Private. 16482. Died 11/05/1920. Age 26. Husband of Isabella Crawford, of 14, Downing St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

**1941**

**+RICHARDSON, Robert**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 976613. Died 11/05/1941. Age 28.10 Sqdn. Robert was a gunner with 10 Squadron, or Shiny 10 as it was known. It was the first unit to be equipped with the Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Mark V Bomber, the precursor to the more famous Avro Lancaster, and was used in the

first night raids over Germany and Italy. On the night of the 10/11th May 1941, Whitley P5048 took off from RAF Leeming at 2225 hours for a sortie over Hamburg. It was last heard from in a message at 0223 hours reporting that the target had been attacked. On the return home it was shot down by a Messerschmitt Bf110 and crashed near Witzwort with all crew lost. Bobby was a member of Carnmoney Church Lads' Brigade, Newtownabbey. He was a keen musician and promising hockey player, and obtained two certificates from the Royal Humane Society for life-saving. His father presented Ulster Hockey with a cup in his memory and U-15 school boys compete for The Richardson Cup annually. Son of Robert and Elizabeth A. Richardson, of Whitewell, Co. Antrim. Kiel War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

## 1942

### **+McALEER, James**

RN. AB. D/SSX 22366. Died 11/05/1942. Age 22. HMS Lively. 5 years service. He had survived the sinking of HMS Curlew two years previously in the Norwegian campaign. A brother had taken part in the battle of Dunkirk. Son of Mrs Minnie McAleer, Alaska St., Shankill Rd., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/05/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 65

### **+TRAINOR, James**

RN. Stoker First Class. C/KX 122279. Died 11/05/1942. HMS Kipling. Age 24. He had been torpedoed twice. Well known cruiserweight boxer in Belfast prior to the war. Son of James Trainor, McAuley St., Belfast. His wife lived in

London. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 05/06/1942). Chatham Naval Memorial

**1944**

**+McKERNAN, Bernard Joseph**

Royal Artillery, 3rd Maritime Regiment. Gunner. 11418859. Died 11/05/1944. Age 28. Lost when SS Empire Heath came under attack from U-129 east-northeast of Rio de Janeiro. At 1445hrs, U-129 fired 3 torpedoes at the unescorted SS Empire Heath captained by Master William Thompson Brown DSC. All missiles missed and despite Allied planes operating in the area, the submarine surfaced and overtook the ship. The U-Boat crew fired a single FAT torpedo at 2300hrs hitting the ship 6 minutes and 20 seconds later. It took only a matter of seconds for SS Empire Heath to go down. The U-Boat crew picked up Chief Steward Frederick Wakeham for interrogation. The captain, 46 crew members, 1 passenger, and 9 gunners died as a result of the sinking. Born in 1916, he was the son of Edward McKernan and Mary Ann McKernan (née Ferris) of Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial.

**+SHIMMIN, John Harold**

RAFVR. 515 Sqdn. Sergeant. 1683352. Died 11/05/1944. Age 18. Crashed in de Havilland Mosquito VI. NS932. The squadron's role was low level intruder tactics over active enemy airfields to prevent enemy fighters taking off or landing. Took off from RAF Little Snoring, Norfolk. Pilot was WO Thomas Stanley Ecclestone MiD, aged 24. Both men aboard died after crashing into a searchlight on the docks at Wermeldinge. Their remains were buried locally and later relocated at Bergen-op-Zoom cemetery. Sergeant Shimmin

completed the RAFPE qualification at QUB in 1942. Son of William Ernest Shimmin and Anna Shimmin, of Douglas, Isle of Man. Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery, Netherlands

**1947**

**+SMILEY, David Montgomery**

Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, 2nd Btn. Private.

14476508. Died 11/05/1947. Aged 19. Grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Smiley, of Bushmills. Udine War Cemetery, Italy

**VETERANS**

**CSONKA, George William**

Former consultant in genitorurinary medicine (*b* Kassa, Hungary 1916; *q* Queen's University, Belfast 1941; MD, FRCP), *d* 11 May 2000. He left Vienna with his family in 1938 under threat of Nazi persecution and started his medical career in Zurich. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and started training in venereology at St Mary's Hospital in 1947. He became a consultant in 1951, working at the Central Middlesex for many years before returning to St Mary's in 1981. He also continued teaching and research at Charing Cross well into the 1990s. Author of 70 papers, he was an authority on Reiter's syndrome and mycoplasmal diseases. He was also one of the first to recognise the potentiation of sulphonamides by trimethoprim in 1967, and in 1977 he conducted the urea plasma experiments with David Taylor Robinson reported in the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*. He edited a textbook of genitourinary medicine in 1990. Outside medicine George had many interests and spent many years converting a derelict farmhouse in



Perigord. He was a great collector of pictures and numerous artefacts, geological and archaeological. He loved the music of his native Hungary, but his tastes ranged from Kodály to the Hot Club of Paris. Predeceased by his son, he left a wife, Betty; two daughters; and two grandchildren.

### **LINDSAY, Charles William**

RAFVR. Wing Commander. AFC. Lindsay was born in St Patrick's, Mohill on 11/05/1910 to David Lindsay, (of Belfast), Bank Inspector and Alice Catherine Lindsay nee Polson. They had married in Mohill on 29/09/1903 with David giving his address as Whitehead.

Lindsay was educated at the Model School, Carrickfergus before obtaining a scholarship to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (Inst) in Belfast (Belfast News-Letter of 27th June 1923). He also played rugby and features in many sports reports in local newspapers.

Lindsay joined the Belfast Banking Company on 01/02/1928 and is recorded as working in Antrim branch. His father signed the Bankers Guarantee. At that time, his father (David Lindsay) was living in 'Cooleen', Jordanstown and his brother, Henry Alfred Lindsay was working for Northern Bank, Royal Avenue, Belfast.

Around 1939/1940 Lindsay volunteered and enlisted into the RAF. The London Gazette (1941) records a C W Lindsay AFC in the RAF. His Service Number was 70402. Promotions from Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader (1941 temp.), Squadron Leader (1942 war subs.) and to Wing Commander (1944 temp.).

On 27/03/1942, Lindsay was awarded the Air Force Cross (AFC). The London Gazette recorded him as being in the 'Reserve of Air Force Officers'. Following his war service, Lindsay resigned from the Bank on 22/11/1946.

In 1949, the London Gazette records that he was granted an extension of service for five years in Class "C" and is granted the rank of Squadron Leader (subs.) with effect from 14/04/1948 (seniority 01/08/1940). He relinquishes the rank of Wing Commander (temp.) 01/11/1947 and is transferred to Class "A" with effect from 11/10/1948.

In 1949 he is reported to be the 'Charter manager of Shorts' (Belfast Telegraph of 24/02/1949). Charles Lindsay continued on in the RAF until 11/05/1955 when he relinquished his commission and retained the rank of Wing Commander.

### **MERRICK, Alexander Stewart**

RNVR. Lt - Commander. Born 14/03/1908. Son of AS Merrick, Wellington Park, Belfast. Died 11/05/1985. Campbell College 1785. RAFPE, QUB 1944

## **On this Day – May 11**

### **In the newspapers**

**11th May 1915 Belfast Newsletter.**

## **Troops Return to Camp.**

The 107th Infantry Brigade, which is commanded by Brigadier-General G. H. H. Couchman, D.S.O., left Belfast yesterday on the first stage of the return journey to Ballykinlar camp.

The 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Young Citizens) marched through Royal Avenue at 12:30 p.m., for the Midland Railway (Northern Counties Committee) terminus. They detrained at Dunadry, and during the afternoon took part in field operations in the neighbourhood of Antrim in conjunction with the troops from Randalstown and the divisional cavalry and cyclists.

It is expected that good results in the way of recruiting will follow the parade due the week. On Saturday 83 men joined in the city, nearly all of whom came after 4 p.m. There was a very noticeable increase in the number offering yesterday at the Old Town Hall, Last week 108 men joined the Division at the Old Town Hall. There is no question in the opinion of the recruiting officers but that the review has stimulated recruiting.

## **12TH INNISKILLING FUSILIERS**

Another recruiting tour is being undertaken in Fermanagh for the 12th Inniskillings. The pipe band of the 1st battalion has arrived in Enniskillen, from Randalstown, and yesterday, the hiring fair day, the streets were paraded at intervals, and the recruiting officers kept busy. The band, under Second Lieutenant Knight, will visit the various hiring fairs, and also visit a portion of County Donegal. The 12th battalion has

now 400 men and require another 1,600 to bring it up to strength.

## 1915

At the Second Battle of Ypres the Germans bombard the Ypres-Menin road ( Hell Fire Corner ).

## 1940

A force of Royal Marines landed in Iceland to prevent its capture by Germany. They were put ashore from HMS Berwick, HMS Glasgow and the destroyer Fearless.

The King signs proclamation canceling Whitsun holiday.

Seven out of eight [Fairey Battle Bombers](#) fail to return from an attack on enemy forces in Luxembourg. No. 114 Sqn's Blenheims are annihilated on the ground in a low-level German raid.

German troops occupy the Duchy of Luxembourg. A glider-borne parachute detachment of 1st Fallschirmjager Regiment led by Hauptmann Koch and Leutnant Witzig captures the "impregnable" Belgian border fortress of Eben-Emael.

President Roosevelt expresses his dismay to King Leopold of Belgium about the German invasion.

Allied troops land in Dutch West Indies.

## 1941

The RAF launches a heavy raid against Hamburg.

German troops complete the occupation of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea.

Japan makes proposals to the USA in order to improve relations. They demand that the USA stop supplying war materials to China and that they normalize trade relations. These are rejected by the USA, although both sides agree to continue talks.

The Luftwaffe sinks three British destroyers, Lively, Kipling and Jackal to the South of Crete.

German troops continue their attack at Sevastopol, surrounding some defenders at Ak-Monay. The Luftwaffe is making about 1,800 sorties per day.

British retreat across Chindwin completed.

## **1942**

Destroyer HMS Kipling was sunk by German aircraft off Mersa Matruh, Egypt, with the loss of 29 crew.

## **1943**

The British evacuate Maungdaw before the monsoon arrives in the Arakan. All ground gained since September 1942 for the loss of 5,000 battle casualties is lost.

## **1944**

The British Eighth and U.S. Fifth Armies begin an attack on Gustav Line in central Italy with a 2,200-gun bombardment.

72,000 Chinese begin an advance along the Burma Road.

## **1945**

The German garrison at Dunkirk surrenders to Czech troops.

The Red Army launches a final assault against the remnants of Army Group Centre, which is still holding out in Moravia.

In a new offensive, the U.S. Tenth Army reaches the suburbs of Naha, the capital of Okinawa. Wewak is captured by the 6th Australian Division.

**38 (Irish) Brigade. Brigadier Pat Scott:** “The main stumbling block to the advance of the 8th Army was the German column retreating from the Russians. Added to this were parties of Yugoslavs who also had territorial designs on Carinthia as well as Trieste and other places in Italy. ..To recapitulate, our task was to make contact with the Russians, a problem we did not know much about, to get some order out of the chaos ensuing from the retreating Army Group South East and Army Group East and to disarm its assorted membership & to deal with the Yugoslavs.”

## **Naval Reserve officer from Derry was a top U- boat hunter in WW2**

Commander William Brown Piggot from Londonderry had an excellent record as a U-boat hunter. He was Mentioned in despatches and awarded the DSC and bar.

### **His record**

On **17/11/1940** HMS Mallow  
(commanded by Lt.Cdr. W.B. Piggott,

RNR) picked up 18 survivors from the British merchant Saint Germain that was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-137 north-north-west of Tory Island in position 55°40'N, 08°40'W. HMS Mallow was a convoy escort vessel attached to the 8th escort group based at Londonderry NI. She operated mainly in the North Atlantic covering convoys between Halifax, Nova Scotia and Liverpool via Iceland.

On **19/10/1941** he was in command of HMS Mallow, a Flower class corvette (built in Belfast at Harland and Wolff between 14/11/1939 and 22/05/1940), when she took part in the sinking of German submarine U-204 near Tangier. “The German submarine U-204 was sunk near Tangier, in position 35.46N, 06.02W, by depth charges from the British corvette HMS Mallow (Cdr. W.B. Piggot, OBE, RNR) and the British sloop HMS Rochester (Cdr. C.B. Allen, RN).”

On **11/05/1943** German submarine U-528 was sunk in the North Atlantic south-west of Ireland, in position 46°55'N, 14°44'W, by depth charges from a British Handley Page Halifax aircraft (Sqdn. 58/D) and by depth charges from HMS Fleetwood - See account below.

On **02/11/1943** German U-boat U - 340 was sunk at 0430hrs near Tangier, in position 35°33'N, 06°37'W, by depth charges from the British sloop HMS Fleetwood (Cdr. W.B. Piggott, DSC, RD, RNR) and the British destroyers HMS Active (Lt.Cdr. P.G. Merriman, DSC, RN) and HMS Witherington (Lt.Cdr. R.B.S. Tennant, RN) and by depth charges from a British Wellington aircraft (Sqdn. 179/R). - See account below.



## Commander William Brown Piggot from Londonderry

charges from a British Wellington aircraft (Sqdn. 179/R). -  
See account below.

### **The Sinking of U528**

U528 was making its way back to Lorient on 11th May 1943 when sighted by a Halifax bomber in anti submarine patrol to another convoy. Pilot officer Stark in Halifax 11- D-Dog sighted a wake on the Port side 3 miles distant. He then sighted the U. Boat making good speed in a calm sea. By the time he had manouvred to position to attack the U. Boat had been submerged for one minute. so the depth charges were not released. he made visual signal back to convoy escorts because his R.T. had problems. Later he again spotted the U. Boat on the surface some 10 miles aft of the convoy achieving almost complete surprise he dived and the his navigator opened fire and saw tracer hitting the conning tower The U. boat changed course to starboard and dived



The Halifax attacked from the submarines Port Bow releasing five mark X1 Torpex depth chargers set to shallow depth. The rear gunner saw one explosion alongside the diving U. Boat having seen nothing further the pilot set



**Captain Von Rabenau taking a photo opportunity with Commander Piggot ( left ) and with members of the ships company.**

course back to the convoy and fifteen minutes later sent a report back to the Senior Naval officer. Receiving no reply the aircraft left the scene. Down below the report had been received by the SNO in HMS Scarborough and L47 HMS Fleetwood was sent to investigate. Fleetwood carried out a box search and sighted a smoke candle dropped by the Halifax an hour earlier. Twenty minutes after she made asdic contact and attacked the position. The contact started slowly moving eastwards Six minutes later another pattern of ten depth charges was dropped. Contact was lost and Comdr. W.B. Piggot decided to do another box search during which the officer of the watch sighted spray coming

from the conning tower of a U. Boat. on a Southerly course. another attack was made with the U. Boat diving and once again contact was lost. Another contact was made and as Fleetwood made yet another attack with charges set to deep. By now the Fleetwood was low on charges and HMS Mignonette joined the hunt in a box search. As the West leg was completed they sighted the U. Boat stopped low in the water the guns were ordered to fire sinking the U. Boat. Survivors were seen in the water and Fleetwood rescued 39 of them including the Captain Georg Von Rabenau.

### **The Sinking of U340**

The second sinking occurred in the Straits of Gibraltar, East of Ceuta Just over an hour into the morning of the 1st November 1943 contact was made at 2 miles by Wellington "R" of 179 squadron. The Wellington homed in and dropped six depth charges across the target. The U Boat dived and all contact was lost. U 340 was damaged but emergency repairs effected and the boat was on its way again. It was located some hours later by HMS Witherington off Malabata light. The Destroyer Active and Sloop Fleetwood joined in the depth charge attacks. Proceeding submerged U340 surfaced in the evening to recharge her batteries. Two hours later she was sighted by Fleetwood and the Corvettes Bluebell and Poppy. Depth charge attacks forced the U Boat to dive deep and contact was lost. Five hours went by before the boat resurfaced in the early hours of 2nd November, and as daylight approached it became impossible to remain there and impossible for it to continue. So her Captain Hans Joachim Klaus decided to scuttle his boat. Charges were set and exploded and U 340 sank. Klaus and 47 others were picked up by three Spanish

Trawlers. Soon after dawn Fleetwood still searching for the stricken U Boat approached for a closer look at three suspicious looking fishing trawlers and fired a warning shot when they failed to stop. Search parties from Fleetwood found the U 340 crew took them off as POW's. and later landed them at Gibraltar.

## Citations

At the National Archive at Kew two documents survive relating to W.B.P.'s activities and his two DSC awards – ADM 1/12478 and ADM1/14457. The OBE citation remains undiscovered but surely relates to the 1940 incident and the rescue of the crew of the Saint Germain. The DSC and the Bar to his DSC relate to the sinking of the three U -boats in 1941 and 1943.

The citation for his second DSC was as follows:

"For outstanding zeal and efficiency when HMS "Fleetwood" after a hunt of 5 hours during which seven attacks were carried out destroyed an enemy submarine."

The Anti Submarine Control Officer , Lt John Duncan ( Aberdeen ) , was also awarded the DSC for his actions on this occasion:

"Successful destruction of a U-boat (U 340 ) which would have escaped in the misty conditions prevailing after a third attack had it not been for his keen sighting of spray from the conning tower and, as A/S Control officer, performing subsequent five excellent A/S attacks."

Piggot was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) on September 14, 1943, 'for great skill and courage in action

against enemy submarines in the Atlantic'. He was awarded a Bar to DSC on 2 May 1944.

Commander Piggot had experience in the merchant navy and held a master's certificate in deep-sea sailing ships. After the war he was with the Marine Surveyor's Office of the Board of Trade, in Belfast. He eventually retired as Captain Piggot commanding HMS Caroline a RN base in Belfast in 1957.

### **PIGGOT, William Brown**

RNR. Commander. OBE. DSC. RD. MiD. He was the son of James and Margaret Orr Piggot, Beechwood St., Londonderry.

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**Information about individuals who served - please forward to remembrance ni at**

[houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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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 [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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