



remembrance ni

**NI links
with
costliest
event in
Royal
New
Zealand
Navy's
history**



The Light Cruiser HMS Neptune - only one man survived out of her entire complement when she came to grief in a minefield.

Early in 1941, the New Zealand Government responded to the Admiralty's request for more sailors to man the increasing number of ships being brought into war service. It was intended to form a New Zealand crew for an additional



cruiser; HMS Neptune had been approved for this purpose. She had been expected to leave the United Kingdom for New Zealand in May, but instead she was attached to the Seventh Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean because of the heavy loss of cruisers suffered during the Crete campaign.

HMS Neptune, which was to serve alongside its existing ships [Achilles](#) and Leander joined Admiral Cunningham's Malta-based Force K. At that time there was considerable effort concentrated on disrupting enemy supply lines from Italy to North Africa. In the months leading up to December 1941, as many as 77% of ships sailing from Italy to Tripoli were sunk.

On the night of 19 December 1941, there occurred one of the most extensive but least known naval disasters of the Second World War when Neptune ran into an uncharted enemy minefield in the Mediterranean off Tripoli, and sank with the loss of 764 officers and men. Of the 764 men who lost their lives, 150 were New Zealanders.

Seven men from Northern Ireland lost their lives. They were from Belfast, Bangor, Larne, Limavady, Portadown and Cullion in County Tyrone.

Just one man was rescued by an Italian torpedo boat, after 5 days in the water.

Following so soon after the loss of the [Prince of Wales](#) and [the Repulse](#) in the Far East, it was not surprising that Britain worked hard to conceal the scale of the calamity at the time. Details of the losses of HMS Neptune would not be released for six months. (See entry for William Logue in RH below).

HMS Neptune, commanded by Captain Rory O'Connor, was leading 'Force K', a Cruiser raiding squadron. Their task was to destroy German and Italian convoys carrying troops and supplies to Libya, in support of Rommel's army in North Africa.

On 17 December 1941 every available ship was deployed in an effort to ensure that the oiler HMS Breconshire arrived safely in Malta. The threat came not only from aircraft but also from two Italian Battleships, whose presence indicated the Italians' intention to sail a convoy to Tripoli. Force K sailed on the afternoon 18 December 1941 in an attempt to intercept it.

The three cruisers of 'Force K', the Neptune, Aurora and Penelope, supported by the destroyers Kandahar, Lance, Lively and Havock, were steaming south, in single line ahead on a dark, stormy night when at 0106 am, the Neptune struck a mine.

The Aurora her next astern, hauled out to starboard but only a minute later she too exploded a mine; two minutes later an

The Anderson twins, Able seaman Henry Bruce Anderson and Able Seaman William John Anderson both aged 20 years from Glendowie, Auckland. They were both lost on HMS Neptune - Photo courtesy of the RNZN Museum



explosion buffeted Penelope's port side abreast the bridge.

Neptune going full astern hit another mine, which wrecked her steering gear and propellers and brought her to a standstill. The cruiser force had run into a minefield in a depth of water and at a distance from land which made it utterly unexpected.

Aurora contrived to turn and steam out of the field without further catastrophe, followed by the Penelope; Captain Agnew, in command of Aurora considered the situation in all its dire gravity. They were 15 miles from Tripoli and it was nearly dawn. The damage to Aurora had reduced her maximum speed to 10 knots, and his duty was to get her as far from the enemy coast as he could before daylight. The

risk of sending another ship into the minefield to tow the Neptune out was hardly justified but the need to save life made it imperative.

The destroyers Kandahar and Lively then entered the minefield in an attempt to reach the Neptune and tow her out. Captain Nicholl was also cautiously edging the Penelope towards her when at 0318 the Kandahar struck a mine. Captain O'Connor of the Neptune flashed a warning : "Keep away". At 0403 she struck a fourth mine which exploded amidships. This was more than her hull could take; she slowly turned over and sank.

The Captain of the crippled Kandahar, made his last signal to the Penelope. "Suggest you should go" he said bluntly. "I clearly cannot help you" replied Captain Nicholl, "God be with you"; and to the Lively "course 010 degrees, speed 15 knots."

The dawn found Kandahar still afloat but submerged from abaft the funnel. Of possible survivors from the Neptune, nothing could be seen. All day they waited and with the darkness the sea rose. It carried the Kandahar clear of the minefield, but she was listing ominously.

Then at 4 a.m. the destroyer Jaguar, sent to the rescue from Malta, appeared out of the darkness. With Jaguar positioning herself upwind of the Kandahar, the ship's company jumped in the water, and as the Jaguar drifted slowly down towards them a total of 8 officers and 170 crew were pulled out, but 73 men had perished. With dawn breaking, the Jaguar fired a torpedo into the Kandahar to sink her and set out back to Malta.

One of the survivors from HMS Kandahar was Belfast man, **James ‘Mick’ Magennnis**, later to earn the VC in the Far East. Task forces from Malta were abolished after this incident. There is a memorial to Khandahar and Neptune at Nat Arboretum

Acknowledgments - CWGC, Neptune Association, RNRN Museum

On this Day – December 19

1939

The Russians lose 20 tanks out of 100 as they continue to attack at Summa.

Inside US territorial waters off Florida, British light cruiser Orion fires at German freighter Arauca, violating Pan-American Neutrality Zone; Arauca puts in to port at Port Everglades, FL.

1940

Mussolini requests German assistance for his hard-pressed troops in Cyrenaica, asking for a Panzer Division, Luftwaffe units and various logistical support.

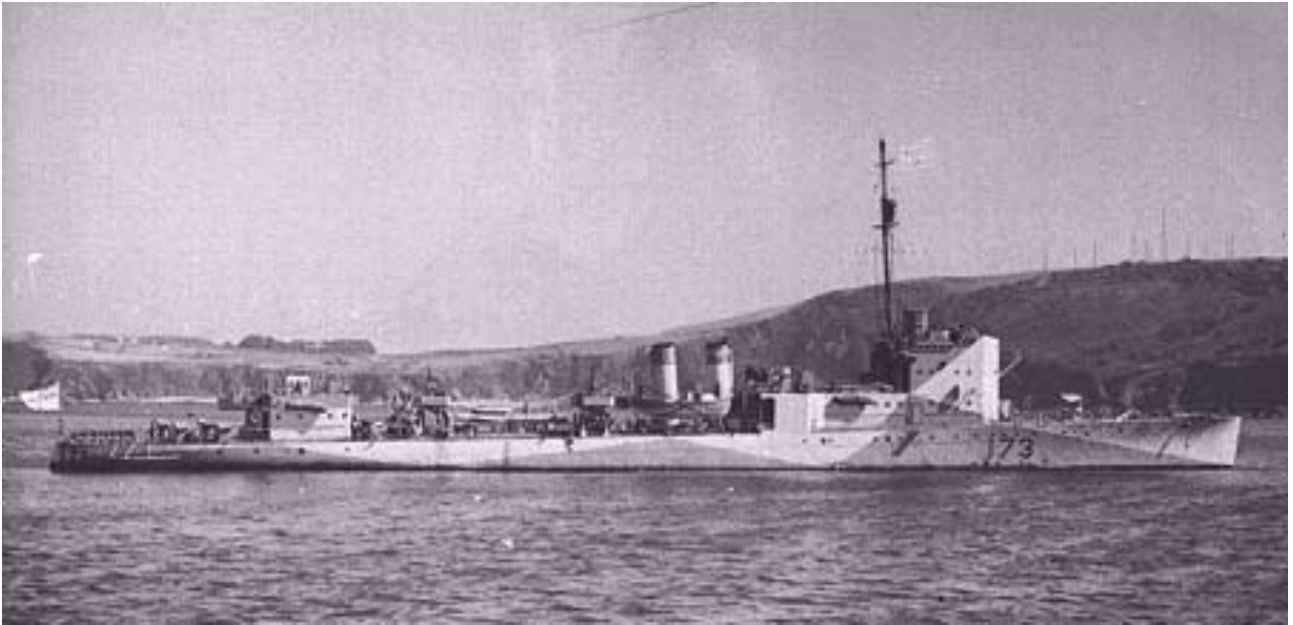
10,000 civilians evacuated from Malta arrive in Britain.

German submarine U-37 mistakenly torpedoed and sank the Vichy French submarine Sfax and support

ship Rhône off the coast of Morocco. The U-boat captain chose not to record this incident on the ship's logs.

German submarine U-111 was commissioned.

1941



Destroyer HMS Stanley (formerly USS McCalla, transferred to the Royal Navy Oct 1940) was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-574 in the western Atlantic while on convoy escort duty, with loss of 95 lives.

The United States forms Office of Censorship.

Department of Agriculture holds National Defense Garden Conference to encourage home and community gardens.

Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch resigns as Commander in Chief of German army; Hitler takes his place.

Hitler orders that there should be 'No withdrawal' by the German Army and that it should stand and fight where it is.

The Indian 4th Division retake Derna from axis forces.



Sloop HMS Cornflower was scuttled during the Japanese attack on Hong Kong to prevent capture by the enemy. Her 25ft motor launch was used to help convey people escaping the Japanese assault to larger vessels that could take them to safety.

British troops evacuate Penang in Malaya.

Colombia severs diplomatic relations with Germany and Italy.

Frogmen of the Italian Navy penetrate the port of Alexandria in Egypt and cripple the British battleships HMS Valiant and Queen Elizabeth, along with a destroyer and a tanker. This means that Cunningham had lost all his battleships and could no longer muster a force strong enough to take on the Italian fleet.

The Japanese invasion of Davao began.

The British light cruiser HMS Neptune was sunk by naval mines off Tripoli.

HMS Kandahar

Nicaragua declared war in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. [

1942

Manstein's tanks are only 30 miles South of Stalingrad.

French take Pichon, Tunisia from Germans.

Japanese planes attacked Calcutta overnight in the city's first raid of the war.

1943

50,000 people turn out to watch the hanging of the four Germans in Kharkov city square

A pitched battle is reported between the resistance and Germans troops in Bernex, eastern France.

American forces at Arawe, New Guinea captured the Japanese airstrip and held it against counterattacks.

On the Philippine Island of Panay, ten American Baptist missionaries, three other Americans and two children were captured by the Japanese Army after having hidden for two years. The next day they became the Hopevale Martyrs after volunteering to be executed in return for the Japanese allowing their Filipino captives to go free. After being granted an hour to pray, the adults were beheaded by sword, and the two children, including a nine-year-old boy, were bayoneted.

1944

In the Battle of the Bulge, US 101st Airborne arrives in Bastogne, Belgium to protect the crucial crossroads. Germans capture two regiments (7000 POWs) of US 106th Division on Schnee Eifel, including writer Kurt Vonnegut, the greatest US mass surrender of war except Bataan.

German forces captured 9,000 surrounded U.S. troops in the Schnee Eifel region on the Belgian-German border and pushed the Americans back off German soil.

Japanese aircraft carrier Unryū was torpedoed and sunk in the East China Sea by the American submarine Redfish.

German submarine U-737 sank in a collision with depot ship MRS 25 in Vestfjorden, Norway.

Chester Nimitz was made a five-star admiral in the U.S. Navy.

1945

Eleanor Roosevelt, the widow of the late President is appointed as one of first U.S. delegates to the UN.

Roll of Honour – December 19

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+BRANNIGAN, Peter

Highland Light Infantry, 1st Btn. Private. 10738. Died 19/12/1914. Born in the Dungannon area, mostly likely Glenbeg, Galbally, Pomeroy. He enlisted in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, and arrived in France on 30/11/1914.

He left his estate to his father John Brannigan, who was a farmer. Le Touret Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France

+LOMAX, Henry James

Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment). 2nd Btn. Lance Sergeant. 8569. Died 19/12/1914. Aged 24. Henry James Lomax enlisted in Belfast before the war. Both of his brothers, Percy and Charles, were also on active service in WW1. Henry James Lomax was born on 24/02/1890 at 57 Stratheden Street, Belfast. A son of James and Mary Jane (nee Hobbs) Lomax whose marriage was registered in the second quarter of 1883 in Dover, Kent. James Lomax was born in Dublin and he was a career soldier; Mary Jane Hobbs was born in England and they had six children, all born in Belfast where their father was stationed. In 1906 he was a Colour Sergeant in the Royal Irish Rifles and in 1908 a Quartermaster Sergeant. Sergeant Major James Lomax, died of arterio-sclerosis in Hibernia Street, Holywood on 13/06/1918 (aged 68). In the 22/06/1918 edition of the *County Down Spectator* his military funeral in Holywood was reported. It also stated that Sergeant Major James Lomax joined the Army in 1866 and, after his retirement, he was appointed to the office of Barrack Warden at Victoria Barracks. He transferred to a similar position in Palace Barracks Holywood and held that position until his death. The funeral cortege was headed by a firing party and the band of the Somerset Light Infantry. The Lomax family lived in Belfast, in Stratheden Street and in Hillman Street before they moved to Holywood where they lived at 24 Hibernia Street. Henry James Lomax is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, France. Holywood and District WM. Holywood C of I Parish Church (St Philip & St James) RH

1915

+BEATTIE, Norman

Royal Irish Rifles. 10th Btn. B Coy. Sergeant. 14148. Died of wounds 19/12/1915. Aged 30. Enlisted in Belfast. Born on 28/10/1885 in Ballycloughan. A son of William Thomas Beattie (born in County Armagh) and Mary (nee Hanna) Beattie who married on 01/05/1880 in First Lisburn Presbyterian Church. The Beattie family lived in Eglantine Avenue, Belfast and Seacliffe Road, Bangor. His brother William Hanna Beattie also served during WW1. Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, France. Windsor Presbyterian Church Belfast RH. Family grave headstone in Bangor Cemetery

+DEVLIN, John

Royal Field Artillery, 53rd Brigade, C Battery. Gunner. Died 19/12/1915. Gunner John Devlin was born in Ballinderry, County Londonderry. Prior to the outbreak of war he was working in Stockton-on-Tees, England. At the age of 19 he volunteered and went to the Western Front in May 1915 where he took part in many fierce engagements, including the Battle of Loos. He had written a letter home prior to Christmas 1915 saying that he hoped to get leave for a week in the New Year of 1916, but his family received no more news until the report of his death. The report was sent to his uncle, James Devlin, Churchill, Ballinderry Bridge. Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium. Stewartstown and Coagh War Memorials.

1916

+CLANEY, Robert McKee

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment). Private. 228269. Died 19/12/1916. Aged 37. Born on 12/11/1879 in Lower Balloo. Youngest son of John Claney and Martha (nee McKee) Claney (nee McKee) of Balloo House, Groomsport. Robert McKee Claney attended Bangor Grammar School and after leaving school he moved to Canada where he worked as a farmer. He enlisted in Calgary on 27/04/1916 and in his attestation papers he stated his date of birth to be 11/11/1882 – some three years after the actual date. He went to England on 06/07/1916 before being posted to France on 14/10/1916. Two months later he died in action at Mont-St Eloi. He had cited his mother Martha, who was living at 74 Ballymagee Street, Bangor, as his next-of-kin. Robert's half-brother Sam, who had worked for Bangor Urban Council and had played rugby for Bangor, served with the Yorkshire Dragoons and the West Yorkshire Regiment. In 1917 Sam Claney was hospitalised in Aberdeen after being gassed. Ecoivres Military Cemetery, France. Bangor and District WM. Royal British Legion (Bangor Branch) Memorial Plaque. Comrades of the Great War (Bangor Branch) Album in North Down Museum. Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church Bangor RH. Bangor Grammar School RH. Family grave headstone in Bangor Abbey Graveyard

+GRAY, James

Scots Guards. 2nd Btn. Guardsman. 14840. Died 19/12/1916. Enlisted in Kilmarnock. Born in Sorn, Ayrshire. Son of William Gray who lived in the townland of Ballyvester, Donaghadee. A.I.F. Burial Ground, France.

+SHERRY, John

Royal Scots, 2nd Btn. Private. 13463. Died 19/12/1916. One of a family of twelve. He enlisted Edinburgh. He disembarked France 22/06/1915. Son of Peter and Mary Sherry, of Granemore, Armaghbrague, Keady. Euston Road, Colincamps, France

1917

+BOYD, Christopher

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 27382. Military Medal. Died 19/12/1917 of wounds in Manchester General Hospita. Age 21. Born in Glasgow about 1897. By 1901 he was living with his grandparents, Christy and Sarah Jane Boyd, in Carricknakielt, Maghera. He went to school there and was a member of Knockloughrim Presbyterian congregation. He enlisted in Coleraine. Mullagh Old Graveyard, Maghera, Co Londonderry. Castledawson WM

+RIGGS, John Stephenson

Royal Garrison Artillery, 239th Siege Bty. Second Lieutenant. Died 19/12/1917. Age 22. He enlisted with the Royal Engineers (45912) before receiving his commission. Son of Isabella Mary Patton (formerly Riggs), of "Sunnymead," Armagh, and the late James Leslie Riggs. Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France

+SNODDY, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 47481. Died 19/12/1917. Age 22. Son of William and Mary Snoddy, of 5, Dandy St., Greencastle, Co. Antrim. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Fance

1919

+McILKENNON, Patrick

Royal Navy Reserve. Deck Hand. 22775/DA. HMS Victory. Died 19/12/1919 by drowning. Age 18. Born in Bellaghy on 17/03/1901. Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Plymouth



1941

HMS NEPTUNE



+DONALDSON, James Nolan

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 146755. Died 19/12/1941. Age:22. HMS Neptune. He had eight years service in the RN in which his father served for 24 years. Son of Jonathan and Anna Donaldson, Paris St., Shankill Rd., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 09/01/1942). (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 26//06/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

+HAMILTON, Albert

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 26639. Died 19/12/1941. Age:

34. HMS Neptune. Son of Annie Hamilton, Portadown. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 47. St Mark's Parish Church, Portadown WM

+HARRISON, Robert Lyttle

RM. Marine. PLY/X 3783. Died 19/12/1941. Age:19. HMS Neptune. His father served 18 years in the RN and was in submarines throughout WW1. Son of David and Florence Irene Harrison, Bangor. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 26//06/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 59. Bangor and District WM.

+HILL, James

RN. Stoker 2nd Class. D/SKX 39, Died 19/12/1941. Age 19. HMS Neptune. Son of William and Annie Hill, Larne. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 54

+LOGUE, William Robert John

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 16115. HMS Neptune. Died 19/12/1941. Age 25. Son of William John and Anna Albertha Logue, Limavady. Confirmation of his loss by the Admiralty reported in Derry Standard 24/06/1942. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 47. Limavady RNA RH

+PATTERSON, John

RM. Marine. PLY/X 100601. Died 19/12/1941. Age 20. HMS Neptune. Reported missing in December 1941. Two years service. His father served throughout WW1 with the Inniskilling Fusiliers. Son of Mr and Mrs Hawthorn Patterson, Lavinia St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 03//07/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 59

+SERGISON, Andrew Hogan Wilson

RM. Marine. PLY/X 1726. Died 19/12/1941. Age 22. HMS Neptune. Joined the Royal Marines when he was 17 years

old, having been a member of the Sea Cadets. He had been married in April 1940 and went to sea three days later, since then his wife had not seen him. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 26//06/1942). Son of Mrs Ball, Oldpark Ave., Belfast. Husband to Mrs Margaret Ferguson, Royal Ave., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 5

+STEWART, Joseph

RN. Ordinary Telegraphist. D/SSX 30567. Died 19/12/1941. Age 21. The Achilles-class cruiser HMS Neptune . Son of John and Elizabeth Stewart, Cullion, Co. Tyrone. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 50, Column 3

+WYLIE, Samuel

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/JX 184582. HMS Neptune. 19/12/1941. Age 17. Son of Samuel and Minnie Wylie, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 50

1941

+COLE, Albert Parr

RN. HMS Stanley. Petty Officer Stoker. D/KX 82617. Died 19/12/1941. Age 27. Enlisted 1932. HMS *Stanley* was originally named USS *McCalla*, a destroyer built by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation of Quincy, Massachusetts in the USA and was commissioned in May 1919. USS *McCalla* was decommissioned in June 1922 and then, after the outbreak of the Second World War, was re-commissioned and handed over to Britain in October 1940 at Halifax in Nova Scotia. As HMS *Stanley* she became a ship of the Royal Navy and on 19/12/1941, when she was on station at the rear of a convoy in the North Atlantic, she exploded and sank after being hit by a torpedo fired from the German submarine *U-574*. More than 130

crew members died. Twelve minutes later *U-574* was sunk by HMS *Stork*. Only son of Albert Charles and Margaret Frances Cole, Primrose Ave, Bangor. Albert Charles Cole was a policeman and in the 1920s he, Margaret and their children Albert and Maud moved from Cottage Grove, Stockwell in London to South Africa. When Albert Parr Cole died, the Cole family was living at 14 Primrose Avenue, Bangor. Albert Parr Cole's two brothers-in-law were also on active service – Stanley Went and Alex McDougall. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 51. St Comgall's C of I Parish Church, Bangor WM See also John Hartley, below.

+CRAIG, Thomas Henry

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 136197. HM Submarine *Perseus*. Died 19/12/1941. Age 26. HMS *Perseus* (Lt Cdr E C D Nicolay), 6th December 1941, Central Mediterranean, 7 miles north of Zante island, west coast of Greece in Ionian Sea - hit an Italian mine off the Greek island of Kefalonia. Sailed from Malta on 26th November for Alexandria with orders to patrol west of Greece on passage; 58 crew lost, one rating got to the surface and swam 5 miles ashore to Cephalonia before spending 18 months being sheltered by the Greeks (Ionian Sea patrol). Son of Henry John and Kate Craig, Culmore, Co. Londonderry. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

+DONALDSON, James Nolan

RN. HMS *Neptune*. Able Seaman. D/JX 146755. Died 19/12/1941. Age 22 . Son of Jonathan and Anna Donaldson, of Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

+HARTLEY, John

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 155925. Died 19/12/1941. Age: 20. HMS Stanley. John R Hartley was the son of Samuel and Sarah Hartley. He was born about 1921. 'Jack' joined the Royal Navy prior to World War 2 as a cadet seaman and served with a number of Royal Navy ships prior to his final posting on the destroyer HMS Stanley. On 14/12/1941, HMS Stanley was deployed on convoy escort duty. At approximately 04:15 hours on the 19/12/1941, HMS Stanley (I73) was hit by two or three torpedoes, exploded and immediately sank about 330 miles west of Portugal. HMS Stanley sank with the loss of all but 25 of her crew. Son of Samuel and Sarah Hartley, Moneymore. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 47. See also Albert Cole, above.

+HENDERSON, Crawford

RN. AB. D/JX 143656. HM Submarine Perseus. Died 19/12/1941. Age 22. Crawford Henderson joined the Royal Navy and in November 1938 he travelled aboard the SS Rajputana with other Navy personnel from Malta to the Royal Navy Barracks in Devonport. Submarine Perseus sank after striking an Italian mine off the island of Cephalonia (Kefalonia), seven miles north of the island of Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea. At the time she was at the surface recharging her batteries under cover of darkness. One man out of the 61 men on board survived – John Capes used Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus to reach the surface from a depth of 171 feet and then he swam five miles to Cephalonia. He was hidden by islanders for 18 months before being smuggled out. Born 06/03/1919 in Conlig, Crawford was a son of John and Margaret (Maggie) Henderson (nee Lynn) who were married on 17/05/1899 in

Second Newtownards Presbyterian Church. The Henderson family lived at 2 Main Road, Conlig. They had at least eleven children. Crawford Henderson's marriage to Elsie Hutchings was registered in the third quarter of 1939 in Plymouth, Devon and they lived in St. Austell, Cornwall. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 47. Conlig WM. Conlig Presbyterian Church (The organ was dedicated to his memory). Family grave headstone in Bangor Cemetery

+HYLAND, James

RN. Stoker 1st. Class . D/KX 89680. Died 19/12/1941. Age 24. HMS Thracian. Son of James and Maria Hyland, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial

+PROES, Geoffrey Ernest Sullivan

Royal Artillery. Major. 23683. Died Between 19/12/1941 and 25/12/1941. Aged 39. Son of Colonel E. S. Proes and Mrs. E. Proes; husband to Nancy M. Proes, of Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Sai Wan Memorial, China, (including Hong Kong)

+STEWART, Joseph

RN. HMS Neptune. Ordinary Telegraphist. D/SSX 30567. Died 19/12/1941. Age 21. Son of John and Elizabeth Stewart, of Cullion, Co. Tyrone. Plymouth Naval Monument

1943

+POLLAND, Joseph Norman

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1485923. Died 19/12/1943. 138 (Special Duties) Sqdn. Died in a training accident while taking part in a container dropping training exercise over Henlow Airfield, Bedfordshire. He was a bomb aimer on board Handley Page

Halifax BB364 NF-R. The crew took off from RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire on a training exercise. The mission involved dropping containers over RAF Henlow from around 400 feet. At 1925hrs, after 65 minutes in the air, the Mark II bomber collided with a tall factory chimney at Arlesey Brickworks and came down one mile south-east of the target area. The collision happened at around 280 feet as the plane circled although the pilot was aware of the chimneys. The plane caught fire killing all those on board. Son of electrician Samuel Polland and Sara Polland of 23 Evolina Street, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

1944

+CULLEN, James

Royal Ulster Rifles. London Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 14217299. Died 19/01/1944. Age 24. James (Jimmy) was born in Belfast in 1920, the youngest son of seven children of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Cullen. After the outbreak of hostilities, he travelled to England to help with the war effort and it is believed that he volunteered in Liverpool, before joining the 2nd Battalion London Irish Rifles (2 LIR) in Italy in late 1943. James died with five other men from 2 LIR in the high Apennines to the west of Castellet di Sangro and near to the village of Montenero, where the battalion HQ was stationed with men from the four rifle companies being sent out on patrols in absolutely atrocious conditions throughout the month. Cassino Memorial, Italy

+NIBLOCK, Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Fusilier. 7043745. Died 19/12/1944. Age 30. Son of Hugh and Minnie Niblock, of Belfast;

husband of Gladys Niblock, of Belfast. Santerno Valley War Cemetery, Italy

1946

+LEE, Edward E.

Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Captain. 104897. Died 19/12/1946. Age 53. Son of Edward E. Lee and of Lillie Lee (Nee Axford); Husband of Ida Florence Lee of Belfast. Bangor Cemetery

VETERAN

STANLEY, James Clifford

RM. Captain. Born 19/12/1906. Son of J Stanley, Killowen, Bangor. Died 1980. Campbell College 1436

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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masthead.**

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 houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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