



remembrance ni



Bushmills aircrew's Squadron link with Limavady

Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner), James McCready from Bushmills died on 02/02/1944 serving with 221 Squadron. The Squadron was twice stationed at Limavady during WW2.

No.221 Squadron was a Wellington-equipped maritime patrol squadron that operated from Britain until the start of 1942, then moved to the Mediterranean where it spent the rest of the war.

The squadron reformed on 21 November 1940 at Bircham Newton and was equipped with the Vickers Wellington. Convoy escort patrols began on 23 February 1941, and these were joined by shipping reconnaissance missions off the Dutch coast from March. In May the squadron moved to Northern Ireland and began a period of anti-submarine patrols. Between September and December 1941 the squadron operated from Iceland, where it continued to serve in the anti-submarine role.

In January 1942 the squadron was posted to the Middle East. Its aircraft were flown out in January and February, while the ground crews followed by sea. The aircraft were attached to No.47 Squadron until the ground crews caught up with them. In March the reunited squadron began to fly a mix of shipping reconnaissance, strike missions and anti-submarine patrols over the Mediterranean.

A detachment of torpedo-armed Wellingtons from the squadron operated from Malta until being absorbed by No. 69 Squadron on 26 August 1942. During this period the squadron was involved in Operation Vigorous, an attempt to get a convoy from Alexandria to Malta. On the night of 14-15 June four torpedo-armed Wellingtons from the squadron were sent to attack an Italian Battlefleet that had put to sea to intercept the convoy. Although the Wellingtons found their targets the Italians put up a smoke screen that prevented them from scoring any hits. A force of Beauforts from No.



Bomber Command Wellingtons had a matt-black fuselage and lower surfaces

217 Squadron was more successful later on 15 June, crippling the cruiser Trento.

In July 1942 the main part of the squadron received a flight of Liberators from No.120 Squadron, which remained with it until 29 October. During this period the squadron's main role was to locate and illuminate Axis convoys to allow other forces to attack them, although the squadrons own torpedo-armed Wellingtons were also used for attacks on convoys.

By May 1943 most enemy shipping had been cleared from the Mediterranean, and the squadron spent an increasing amount of time either bombing Italian ports or on anti-

submarine patrols. By September the anti-submarine patrols became a full time role, but this phase only lasted until March 1944 when the squadron moved to Italy. The squadron then flew a mix of shipping reconnaissance and anti-shipping strikes over the Adriatic. This was followed by a move to Greece in October 1944, from where the squadron flew a mix of bombing missions, anti-submarine patrols and supply drop missions over the Balkans.

The squadron moved to Egypt in April 1945 and was disbanded on 25 August 1945.

Aircraft

December 1940-June 1942: Vickers Wellington IC

January 1942-January 1943: Vickers Wellington VIII

January-December 1943: Vickers Wellington XI and XII

September 1943-August 1945: Vickers Wellington XIII

Locations

November 1940-May 1941: Bircham Newton

May-September 1941: **Limavady** September-December 1941: **Limavady**

1941: Reykjavik

December 1941-January 1942: Docking

January 1942-March 1942: LG.39

January-August 1942: Detachment to Luqa

March-June 1942: LG.89

June-August 1942: Shandur

August 1942-January 1943: Shallufa

January 1943-March 1944: Luqa

March-October 1944: Grottaglie

October 1944-April 1945: Kalamaki/ Hassani

April-August 1945: Idku

On this Day – February 4

1916

Tributes in ‘The Witness’ newspaper 04/02/1916

LATE LIEUT. WORKMAN.

Reference by Rev. Dr. MacDermott.

At the morning service in Belmont Presbyterian Church on Sabbath, the Rev. Dr. MacDermott paid a touching tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Edward Workman, son of Mr.

Frank Workman, The Moat, Strandtown, whose death occurred on Wednesday last at the Duchess of Westminster's War Hospital, Le Touquet, as the result of wounds he received while serving with the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.

Speaking with considerable emotion, the reverend gentleman said he wished to take note in the name of the congregation and in his own name of the loss of one of their members -- a member for a good many years, and a young man well and favourably known in the community of Belfast. They all joined, he felt sure, in sincere sympathy with the father and mother of the late Lieutenant Workman. The first man who came to him (Dr. MacDermott) for a necessary certificate or document after war had been declared was Edward Workman, and at the time he marvelled at his youth, and quiet determination -- for he looked very youthful, and was certainly determined to do his share in the great struggle. That was in August, 1914. Lieutenant Workman was sent out to the front early, and took part in some of the most desperate struggles which this most desperate war had yet seen. He remembered talking to a private who was in the deceased officer's company, and who spoke of what difficulties they had to meet -- of being sent out on one occasion, as this soldier put it, "to be sacrificed for a greater object." He (the speaker) forgot how many went out in that party, but only a few came back; and this soldier paid tribute to his lieutenant for the coolness and skill by which he extricated those who remained of his men. And now he had paid his debt to the great cause for which he fought. Early in the struggle he had been mentioned in despatches, and promotion came to him. All through his career, both before and during the war, his life was that of a Christian lad,

blameless and faithful in every relation. They mourned him as a brave and gallant man and a capable and efficient officer, and their sympathy went out to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Workman, who had lost their only son. Mr. and Mrs. Workman had been in the forefront for many years of the philanthropic operations of Belfast, and since the war began, when anything had been attempted on behalf of the recruits who had gone from the city they had been among the first to give their assistance. They also sympathised with Captain and Mrs. Lindsay, and commended all the relatives of a brave officer to the God of all comfort. Let them besiege the Mercy-seat in this time of peril, praying that this scourge of war might be removed, and that the lives of our bravest and best might be spared.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN BELFAST OFFICERS.

At the annual meeting of the members of Strandtown and District Unionist Club, held on Monday in the Clubroom, Belmont Road, Mr. W. T. Pollock, who presided, said they met under the shadow of a great loss. Two of their most promising members, sons of two of the most energetic workers they had in the club for the cause of the Union and Ulster, had given their lives in France for their country. He referred to Second-Lieutenant R. W. MacDermott and Lieutenant Edward Workman. They were both very loyal and hard-working members of the club when the political movement was on, and he thought he was expressing the views of everybody closely connected with the volunteer movement when he said that they rendered yeoman service in that connection. Dr. MacDermott and Mr. Frank Workman were two gentlemen who took, a very prominent part, indeed, in the political side of the club's work, and the hearts of the members went out to them in sincere sympathy for

the great loss they had sustained. He thought the members would like to take the earliest possible opportunity of expressing their sorrow and sympathy, and, therefore he proposed the following resolution -- "That the members of Strandtown and District Unionist Club, assembled in general meeting, desire to record and tender to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Workman and family, and Dr. and Mrs. MacDermott and family their very sincere sympathy in the great loss they have suffered in the death of their sons, Lieutenant Edward Workman, and Second-Lieutenant Robb. Wilson MacDermott, from wounds received in action in France, and that copies of this resolution be conveyed to them."

1938

Adolf Hitler promotes himself to the head of the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht

1941

The Battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau sail from the Baltic to the Atlantic, causing absolute havoc to shipping routes and timetables.

RAF reconnaissance planes report that the Italians are beginning to evacuate Benghazi in a withdrawal towards El Agheila. The 7th Armoured Division is given immediate instructions to advance from Mechili across the desert in order to cut off the Italians escape route.

1942

The Tol Massacre - some 130 Australian prisoners were marched into the jungle near Tol Plantation in small groups

and were then bayoneted by Japanese soldiers. Another group of Australian prisoners were shot.

The Afrika Korps recaptures Derna.

In North Africa, British retreat from German drive ends at Gazala, Libya.

Hahas Pasha forms a new Egyptian Cabinet, becomes the Military Governor and dissolves Parliament the next day.

Japanese take Ambon, Netherlands East Indies from small Australian garrison.

British seize Egyptian palace in Cairo to force the abdication of pro-Axis King Farouk.

The British refuse to surrender at Singapore, heavy bombardment by the Japanese continues for 4 days.

1943

The German government issued an announcement to inform the public of the defeat at Stalingrad.

Red Army troops achieve a landing near the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

General Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army crosses from Libya into Tunisia.

European Theater of Operations (ETO) branches into North African Theater of Operations (NATO) in North Africa and Mediterranean under General Dwight Eisenhower and ETO (UK, Iceland, continental Europe except Spain and Italy) under General Frank Andrews.

1944

The Germans start their offensive to relieve the Korsun pocket.

Chinese advances in Hukawng Valley, continue while the Japanese offensive on Arakan front gains strength in order to push the British back into India.

US forces take Kwajalein Island in Marshall's, losing 486 killed and 1,495 wounded, but inflicting 8,386 casualties on the Japanese.

1945

Yalta Conference begins: A summit conference between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt opens at Yalta in Crimea, to discuss plans for the treatment of postwar Germany, its division into zones of occupation, reparations and the future Polish western border.

The U.S. First Army takes the first of seven Ruhr dams. Belgium is now reported as completely free of German troops.

First Allied truck convoy over the reopened Burma Road arrives in Kunming, China.

Roll of Honour – February 4

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+HAYDEN, Arnold

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14866. Died 04/05/1916. Age 23. Son of Thomas and Louisa Hayden, of

4, Ashley Avenue, Belfast. Beauval Communal Cemetery, France

1917

+CARDWELL, Joseph

Canadian Infantry. 47th Btn. Private. 180596. Died 04/02/1917. Aged 35. Born 05/06/1881 in Ballynakelly, Coalisland, County Tyrone. He spent 18 months with the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa. Joseph emigrated to Canada and served 5 years 8 months with the Gordon Highlanders of Canada. He enlisted in November 1915 in Victoria, British Columbia. Husband to Margaret. Villiers Station Cemetery, Villers-au-Bois, Pas-de-Calais, France

+PURCELL, William

RND. Petty Officer. Clyde Z/3738. Hood Battalion. Died 04/02/1917. Age 23. Born 09/08/1893. He was living at 27 Hill Street, Anderston, Glasgow when he enlisted on 06/04/1915. He was working as a Tramway Conductor. was gassed in France in early November 1916. He contracted scabies and possibly pneumonia afterwards. He was killed in action. Belfast newspaper reports connect him to Toomebridge. Son of David and Sarah Purcell, Toomebridge. Theipval Memorial, Somme, Face 1A

1918

+CARLISLE, John Sloan

South African Infantry. 3rd Regt. Sergeant. 6267. Died 04/02/1918 of disease. Aged 37. John Sloan Carlisle (known as Jack) was born on 15/09/1880 in Conlig. Son of William Robert and Mary Stewart Carlisle (nee Sloan) who were married on 29 June 1879 in St Anne's Church of Ireland

Church Belfast. William Robert Carlisle, aged 23, was a Private in the 104th Regiment and living in Belfast Army Barracks. Mary, aged 24, was from Urney Street, Belfast. They had three children. In 1901, along with two other young men, Jack Carlisle (aged 20) was boarding with the widowed Mary Sloan (aged 46) in Memel Street, Belfast and he was working as a blacksmith. The death of Sergeant Jack Carlisle was reported in the 6 March 1919 edition of the *Newtownards Chronicle* under the headline *Conlig-South African's Death*. The report stated that Jack Carlisle moved to South Africa around 1903 where he worked as a miner in the Glencairn Mine. After Jack's father died his widowed mother moved to South Africa in 1906 where she lived in Ninth Street, Boksburg North. It was reported in the Press that 'Jack Carlisle served in German West Africa and then volunteered for service overseas. He served in Egypt, Gallipoli and on the Western Front including Delville Wood and Vimy Ridge. He was wounded at Verdun and returned to South Africa in March 1917. His health declined, and he died at his mother's residence in Boksburg North'. His brother William James Carlisle served as a Lance Corporal in the 8th Regiment, South African Infantry. Boksburg Cemetery, Gauteng, South Africa

+HALL, Robert

Canadian Machine Gun Corps. Private. 3030622. Died 04/02/1918. Aged 23. Born 09/09/1893. Son of Thomas and Sarah Hall, Fivemiletown. Robert Hall emigrated to Canada. He enlisted in Toronto, on 21/09/1917. He was living in Mayatt, U.S.A. Fivemiletown. Robert was single and working as a gardener. St John Norway Cemetery, Toronto. Fivemiletown WM. Fivemiletown Methodist Church RH

1940

HMS SPHINX

On the morning of 02/02/1940, a flotilla of ships was minesweeping in the Moray Firth, when the Sphinx was hit by a bomb from a German aircraft which crippled the ship. She was taken under tow but in rough seas she capsized and more than half the crew were lost. A crewman on a rescue ship remembers the gallant efforts of men, in conditions as bad as could be imagined, going over the side on bowlines to fasten ropes to the men in the sea. He recalls a terrifying night of horror as those who could not be rescued drifted away into the night. For days the bodies of these sailors were found washed up on the shore

+CARROLL, Robert Charles

RN. Stoker 1st Class.C/KX 75266. Died 04/02/1940. HMS Sphinx. Wick Cemetery.

+COOPER, Joseph

RN. Able Seaman. C/SSX 19003. Died 04/02/1940. Age 24. HMS Sphinx. Joseph played rugby for Ulster and was a former member of the Church Lads Brigade at St Elizabeth's, Dundonald. Husband to Jane Hayes Cooper, of Standtown, Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial

+McKESSICK, John Patrick

RN. Leading Supply Assistant. C/MX52826. Died 04/02/1940. Age: 23. HMS Sphinx. Son of James and Matilda McKessick, Ballycastle. Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery



Headstones of RAF war graves in the grounds of Limavady Parish Church

1942

+HOUSTON, Matthew Cumming

RAFVR. Sergeant (Pilot). 1063716. Died 04/02/1942. Age 21. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Houston, of Broughshane, Co. Antrim. Catania War Cemetery, Sicily

1943

+McCABE, Hugh Patrick

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1306286. Died 04/02/1943. Age 28. 232 Sqd. Son of Patrick and Catherine J. McCabe, of Kesh, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Bone War Cemetery, Annaba, Algeria

+SCOTT, Andrew Mark

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1880756. Died 04/02/1945. Age 21. Son of Ernest Hugh and Jane Scott, of Belfast. Bari War Cemetery, Italy

1944

+HUTCHEON, David

Gordon Highlanders. 6th Btn. Major. 105990. Died 04/02/1944. Aged 39. Son of James and Violet Hutcheon and Husband of Margaret Augusta Hutcheon, of Castlerock, Co. Londonderry. Anzio War Cemetery, Italy

+MACREADY, James

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner).1037956. Died 02/02/1944. Aged 21. 221 Sqdn. Son of James and Violet Macready, of Bushmills, Co. Antrim. Bari War Cemetery, Italy

1945

+GRIEVE, John Donaldson

Royal Artillery. 8th (Belfast) HAA Regt. Sergeant.1456662. Died 04/02/1945, in a private nursing home in Belfast. Aged 35. John attended Perth Academy School in Perth, Scotland. Before the outbreak of WW2 he worked as an industrial chemist for Pullars of Perth. He then enlisted in the army in 1938 and received a posting to 8th (Belfast) HAA. Son of William and Mary Grieve, 13 Ballentine Place, Perth, Scotland; Husband to Emma Grieve of Jordanstown. Emma's family owned the Lilliput Laundry in Dunmurry. Dundonald Cemetery

1947

+TURTLE, William John

RAFVR. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 4005114. Died 04/02/1947.

Aged 19. Son of William and Martha Turtle, of Aughafatten.
Buckna Presbyterian New Cemetery

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

**To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI
masthead.**

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

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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Remembrance Ni, February 4

Please forward - information about those who served - names, regiment, ship or unit, date of death to houstonmckelvey@mac.com