



remembrance ni



North Front Cemetery, Gibraltar

Private William Stanfield of the Royal Marine Light Infantry from Pine St., Belfast died 14/05/1915 of wounds aboard Hospital Ship "Letitia" and taken ashore at Gibraltar. His remains rest at North Front Cemetery

Roll of Honour – May 14

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+CARRUTHERS, Josiah

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 10113. Died 14/05/1915. Age 22 years old. Born on 05/02/1893 at 28 Solway Street, Belfast. Son of William and Alice Carruthers, who later lived at 41, Crosby St., Bangor, Co. Down. William Carruthers was born in South Shields, he worked as a riveter and as a boilermaker and he and Alice had thirteen children. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Mountpottinger Presbyterian Church Belfast.

+CAVANAGH, Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 11131. Died 14/05/1915. Edward and his brother Bernard are shown in the 1901 and 1911 census returns as living with their grandparents Bernard and Mary Finnegan at Ballintemple, Ballmyre, Co. Armagh. In the 1911 return his name was spelt Kavanagh. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+JORDAN, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 3525. Died by enemy shell fire 14/05/1915. Age 22. John arrived in France in Sept 1914. He would have taken part in the Battle of Le

Cateau, Battle of the Marne, Battle of Aïnse and Battle of Armetires. John was born in Desertlyn, Moneymore, Co Derry about 1893. The 1901 census shows the family in Tullyweery (Red Row), Coagh, Tyrone. John's father was a ploughman. By 1911, the family had moved to Coltrim, Moneymore. John worked as a farm servant. Son of Mrs. M. A. McAtee, of Hammond St., Moneymore. Rue-des-Berceaux Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoue, France. Moneymore WM, Desertlynn C of I RH

+KEATES, Arthur Sydney

RNVR. R.N. Div. Howe Btn. Able Seaman. MerseyZ/24. Died 14/05/1915 in Number 17 Hospital in Alexandria from wounds received in Gallipoli. Age 17. Born 27/05/1897 at Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. Son of William and Jane Ann (nee Greenwood) Keates, of 50, Rockfield Rd., Anfield, Liverpool. Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. De Ruvigny. RH 1914 - 19

+McGARTLAND, Francis

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 2290. Died 14/05/1915. Age 33. Son of Hugh and Ann McGartland, of Glenhordial; husband to Catherine McGartland, of Shergrin, Omagh. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

+SMYTH, Henry

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 17227. Died 14/05/1915. Aged 31. Henry was a career soldier he enlisted 1900 in 87th Foot (Royal Irish Fusiliers) 3866 in Lurgan. Served in the Boer war. Re-enlisted in 87th Foot in Finner Camp 01/07/1908 4936. Re-enlisted at the out break of the Great War in the 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers. Born 1883.

Son of Edward and Isabella Smyth of Lurgan. Husband to Ellen Smyth, 33 Shankill St., Lurgan. Father of 2 children. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Lurgan WM 1916

+STANFIELD, William Hughes

RMLI. Private. CH/282(S). (Previously 213160). Chatham Battalion, RND. Died 14/05/1915 of wounds aboard Hospital Ship "Letitia" and taken ashore at Gibraltar. Age 30. Enrolled 11/01/1903 for 12 years. Re-engaged 19/09/1914. Chatham Battalion MEF 06/02/1915 - about 10/05/1915. He was being invalided to UK from Alexandria. Born Belfast 11/01/1885. Son of the late William and Mary Josephine Stanfield, Pine St., Belfast. Next-of-Kin: Aunt, Miss Maggie Stanfield, Pine St., Belfast. Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery. ADM 188/373/213160

+UPRICHARD, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 8408. Died 14/05/1915 at Ypres. Aged 30. William was a career soldier. Enlisted in Belfast 1904 in the 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers, served in India, returned to England then to France 1914. Born 1885. Son of William James Uprichard of Portadown. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Portadown WM

1916

+NORTON, James

7th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles, Rifleman. 1212. Died 14/05/1916. Aged 18. Born 24/04/1898. Son of Henry and Jane Norton, McDonalds Row, Ballycastle. Bethune Town Cemetery. Ballycastle WM

1917

+BENTLEY, James Edward.

South Irish Horse. Private. 1742. Died 14/05/1917. Aged 22. Born at Hillsborough, he lived and enlisted in Dublin. Son of James Edward and Henrietta Sophie Bently of 11 Rialto Buildings, Dolphins Barn, Dublin. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+JOHNSTON, Alfred

South Irish Horse. Private. 1742. Died 14/05/1917. Born in Hillsborough. The details here concerning service number, regiment and date of death are the same as for James

Edward Bentley, see above, similar numbers and regiments - could Bentley have served under an assumed name?

1918

+DERMOTT, Robert Henry

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Lance/Corporal. 13/824. Died 14/04/1918 near Wulverghem, Belgium. Aged 22. Enlisted in 13th Royal Irish Rifles (D) company August 1914. Went to France with the 36th Ulster Division October 1915 as a Lance Corporal. Survived the Somme, Messines, Langemarck. When the 13th amalgamated with the 11th he transferred to the 12th Btn Royal Irish Rifles. Born 1897 in Mullahead Tandragee then moved to Caskum Loughbrickland then moved to Smith's Hill Drumnagalley Banbridge. Son of Isaac and Mary Jane Dermott had 10 children, Robert was their 2nd son. The 12th Royal Irish Rifles were attached to the 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers on the 14th April, the 12th lost 11 all but 1 have no known graves and are commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial to the

Missing. Corporal Dermott is commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Banbridge WM. Seapatrik C of I Parish Church WM

+HOLLOWAY, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. C Coy. Corporal. 11961. Died 14/05/1918. Age 24. Son of William J. and Alice Holloway, of 4, Ruth St., Belfast. Born at Liverpool. St Souplet British Cemetery, Nord, France

+MacAULEY, William Ingham

Army Veterinary Corps. Major. Died 14/05/1917. William Ingham Macauley was the only son of Christopher James and Margaret Macauley. William was born in Belfast about 1879. William was a pupil at the Royal School Dungannon 1894 - 1896. He graduated from the London Veterinary College on 16/12/1905. William entered the Army Veterinary Corps. He had served in Egypt, India and Burma before the war commenced. In August 1914 he went was attached to the 2nd Dragoon Guards (the Queen's Bays). In February 1916 he was appointed Assistant Director of Veterinary Services and was promoted to the rank of Major. He was again mentioned in dispatches on 02/01/1917. Tragically, on 14/05/1917, his body was found with a single gunshot wound, believed to be self-inflicted, a few miles behind British lines. Bapaume Australian Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. RSD Book

1940

RUR - LOUVAIN TO DUNKIRK

+MATTHEWS, Ritchie Rea

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7013545. Aged 20. Died 14/05/1940. At this time, 2nd Royal Ulster Rifles were occupying prepared defences along the railway line east of Louvain, Belgium. Son of Henry V Matthews and Sarah Matthews of Euston Street, Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, Dunkirk, France.

+MOORE, John Henry

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Corporal. 7011035. Aged 25. Died 14/05/1940. At the time, A Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles was in action at Louvain as the British Expeditionary Force began the withdrawal to Dunkirk. "The Rifles Are There" by David Orr and David Truesdale states that Moore was the Non-Commissioned Officer killed in an explosion on this date. A Belgian ammunition lorry left the road in A Company's sector and ran into a small anti-tank minefield. Another 5 Riflemen sustained injuries as a result of the incident. Born on 21/07/1914, John was the son of Joseph Moore and Teresa Moore (née Higgins) of 53 Spring Terrace, South Rawtenstall, Lancashire. Joseph and Teresa were originally from Co. Fermanagh. After The Great War, Joseph Henry received a medical discharge and returned to Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh where John's siblings Teresa Moore and James Brendan Moore were born. On 26/12/1936, John Henry Moore and Doris Jane Thompson married in Strood, Kent. Leuven Communal Cemetery, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium.

+MORRISON, Joseph

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7009709. Aged 20. Died 14/05/1940. At this time, 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles were occupying prepared defences along the railway line east of Louvain, Belgium. Son of Robert Morrison and Elizabeth Morrison, and husband to Kathleen Morrison of Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh. Dunkirk Memorial, Dunkirk, France. Enniskillen WM

+WILSON, Robert

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7012163. Aged 25. Died 14/05/1940. At the time, 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles was in action at Louvain as the British Expeditionary Force began the withdrawal to Dunkirk. Before the outbreak of the Second World War, Wilson was a well-known member of the Shankill Corps of the Salvation Army. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson of Canmore Street, Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, Dunkirk, France.

1940

+BOWEN, Donald Joseph

RAF. Sergeant. 581262. Died 14/05/1940. Aged 22. 150 Sqdn. Son of David J. Bowen and Annie Bowen, Belfast. Choloy War Cemetery, France

+LORIMER, Robert Lawrie

RAF. Flying Officer. 37731. Died 14/05/1940. Age 25. 1 Squadron. Known as Lawrie, he was born on 24/06/1914 in Cleveland, Johannesburg, South Africa where his father George Hill Lorimer was a mining engineer in a goldmine on

the Rand. George died of pneumonia on 29/05/1916 in Johannesburg. He and his wife Jane (Janie) Lorimer (née Lawrie), were both originally from Ireland. Janie returned to Ireland from South Africa with her two young children: Joan and Lawrie. They lived at *Craig Royston*, Cultra and later in College Gardens, Belfast. Lawrie's sister Joan married Lieutenant Noel Montgomery Neely who served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War (aboard HMS *Circe*). Lieutenant Noel Neely was killed on 23/04/1944.

Lawrie Lorimer attended Rockport from 1925 until 1928 and Campbell College, Belfast from 1928 until 1931. At Campbell, he was in Price's House and a bugler in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Band. When he left school, Lawrie worked in insurance from 1932 until 1933. He joined the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1933 and was bought out after three months. He then worked in the motor trade until 1935, joined the RAF in 1936 and was commissioned Pilot Officer. He underwent basic flight training at RAF Brough in Yorkshire and from 1937 until 1939 served with 87 (F) Squadron at RAF Debden in Essex where he flew Gloster Gladiator aircraft. He was part of a three-man aerobatic team that performed with the wing tips of their aircraft tied together with bunting. It is on record that one of their displays was performed at Villacoublay near Paris.

In 1939 Lawrie Lorimer went to France with 85 Squadron and in 1940 he was with 1 Squadron in Fighter Command when he was killed on 14/05/1940 near Sedan. He was flying a Hawker Hurricane Mark 1 aircraft (L1676) on a patrol mission when he was shot down in combat. His body

was never recovered and a short tribute was published in the December 1940 edition of *The Campbellian*:

'Lawrie (spelt Laurie in the report) Lorimer as a small boy had an infinite capacity for making a mess of things and getting into scrapes. But he was always eminently likeable. His first few years after leaving school were unsettled: a few months in an insurance office, out of which he walked one afternoon to join the ranks of the Ulster Rifles; two or three months as a private before he was

bought out; and then a couple of years as an apprentice in a motor works where, if you believed his own accounts, he spent most of his time dropping irreplaceable nuts into inaccessible places. Then he obtained a commission in the RAF, and found himself. When he visited Campbell last spring it was difficult to remember the scatterbrained small boy in the self-assured, clearly competent young officer, second in command of a fighter squadron in France. But the new efficiency had not banished the old charm, that charm which made it so hard to strafe him at school and so delightful to spend an afternoon with him in a small boat on his native waters of Belfast Lough'.

His mother Janie lived at 8 Diamond Gardens, Finaghy and she died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast on 02/06/1943. Lawrie is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Campbell College and Rockport School.

+MATTHEWS, Ritchie Rea

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7013545. Died 14/05/1940. Aged 20. At this time, 2nd Btn Royal Ulster Rifles were occupying prepared defences along the railway

line east of Louvain, Belgium. Son of Henry V. and Sarah Matthews, of Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+MOORE, John Henry

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+MORRISON, Joseph

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7009709. Died 14/05/1940. Aged 37. Son of Robert and Elisbeth Morrison; husband to Kathleen Morrison, of Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Enniskillen WM

+SCOTT, William

General List, attd. Royal Irish Fusiliers. Major. D S O, M C. 7957. Died 14/05/1940. Aged 45. Son of William James Scott and Catherine Hamilton Thorburn Scott, of Strandtown, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Avesnes-Le-Comte Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast, RH

+STEWART, GEORGE

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 2718967. Died 14/05/1940. Aged 19. Son of George and Mary A. Stewart, of Enniskillen. Gravenzande General Cemetery, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

+WILSON, Robert

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7012163. Died 14/05/1940. Age 25. Before the outbreak of the Second World War, Wilson was a well-known member of the Shankill Corps of the Salvation Army. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson of Canmore Street, Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, Dunkirk, France.

1942

+CUNNINGHAM, Hugh John

RN. Able Seaman. C/JX 208348. SS Tarimbar. Died 14/06/1942. Age 28. Son of John and Elizabeth Cunningham, Banbridge. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 96

1943

+McNUTT, Andrew

Royal Navy. Sick Berth Attendant. D/MX 73225. Died 14/04/1943. Aged 26. HMS Tynedale. Son of David and Annie McNutt, of Londonderry. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 83

+NAPIER, Herbert Vincent

RAF. Corporal. 633918. Died 14/05/1943. Aged 36. 97 Sqdn.: Son of William Jackson Napier and Elizabeth Sophia Jane Napier; Husband to Emma Napier, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

1945

+LYNAS, Robert

RAF. Corporal. 530316. Died 14/05/1945 as a result of an accidental gunshot wound. Son of James and Margaret Lynas, of Clonroot, Portadown. His sister Mavis Lynas served in the Woman's Auxiliary Air Force. Naples War Cemetery, Italy. Portadown WM

VETERANS

BALLENTINE, Alexander - 800 miles walk to freedom

RAF. Served in the RAF from 1940 - 47. From Ballymena. Was held captive for three years at the famous German Air Force prisoner-of-war camp on which the Great Escape film was based (Stalag Luft III) during the Second World War.

On Friday, 24/03/1944 the Great Escape attempt from Alexander Ballentine's Stalag Luft III camp began. Unfortunately for the prisoners, the tunnel had come up short.

Although Alex as he was known, was not involved in the escape bid, he was forced to walk 800 miles to his eventual freedom from Poland back into Germany.

On 11/06/1942, Alex's plane was shot down in the Frisian Islands off the coast of Holland and he was captured by the Germans.

He was held as a POW at Stalag Luft III for three years near Sagan – now Zagan in Poland – 100 miles south-east of Berlin.

His eldest son Paul Ballentine said that during his father's life he rarely spoke of his experiences during this time but a diary he kept when he was eventually freed sheds some light on it.

Alex was liberated on 02/05/1945, by the British 6th Airborne Division and arrived back in Ballymena May 14/05/945. But, explained Paul, it was a long walk to freedom.

"At the end of the Second World War he eventually had to walk about 800 miles from Poland back into Germany because the Russians were advancing on the Germans."

The father of three, who lived just off the Holywood Road in Belfast, was the seventh of eight children born to Alexander and Margaret Ballentine on 11/08/1922, in Ballymena.

After joining the RAF as a teenager, Alex was deployed to Bomber Command where he operated as a rear gunner in a Short Stirling aircraft.

Paul Ballentine said "My father was based in England and the plane he was in bombed Germany and wherever the Germans were,

"The mission that he was on was known as 'mine laying', whereby the RAF dropped mines into the sea.

Alex left the RAF in 1947 and joined the civil service where he met his wife Audrey.

Married for 54 years, the couple had three sons – Paul, Ashley, and Mark, – who together have now produced seven grandchildren.

After working for the Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland from 1947 to 1982, Alex became chief executive of Seed Potato Promotions NI where he worked until he was 79 years old.

In his youth, he was a founder member of the Wellington Street, Ballymena Boys' Brigade.

He was survived by his wife Audrey and one of his six sisters, Florrie Madden, who was 90 years old. His remains were laid to rest in Ballymoney Cemetery.

GREEN (nee WATERSON), Ellen

WRNS. Writer. 23386. Served from October 1941-September 1946 in HMS Caroline, HMS Quebec (in Finnart Scotland), HMS Orlando and left from HMS Warren. Mother of Ann Blachford. Born 09/11/1912. Died 14/05/2015.

LAWSON, Brian - George Medal

RNVR Lt (Sp) George Medal awarded for mine disposal in Northern Ireland 1941. BSc 1940 QUB. MCB. Born

14/05/1918. Son of Charles Lawson, Cavehill Rd., Belfast.
Post-war mechanical engineer, later factory inspector.
Antrim Rd., Newtownabbey

NEVIN, Muriel

WRNS. Posted with the A36 and A37 Fleet Air Squadron in Maydown. Present in Londonderry on 14/05/1945 when the first of the German U-boats made their way up the Foyle to the port of Lisahally, where they were formally ordered to surrender by Admiral Sir Max Horton, Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches. Born Liverpool. Armagh. RBL

Sgt. Robert Quigg VC

Remembering on the anniversary of his passing on the 14th May 1955 aged 70 - Robert was one of the 4 VCs awarded to men from the 36th (Ulster) Division for their actions on the 1st July 1916. Robert's remains rest at Billy Parish Church near his native Bushmills in North Antrim. Yearly an annual parade and Service takes place to remember Robert at Billy hosted by the Ulster Covenant and Historical Society and the Orange Lodge which Robert was a member of.

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. Early 1945 to FAA

station at Eglinton. Present at surrender of eight U - boats on 14/05/1945. Demobbed 12/1945.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them



On this Day – May 14

In the newspapers

Belfast Newsletter, 14 May 1915

DRAGOONS AND CYCLISTS AT COLERAINE.

A section of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons visited Coleraine yesterday. A company, consisting of 7 officers and 110 men of the Dragoons, with transports, and 5 officers and 180

men of the 36th Divisional Cyclists' Corps, passed through the town en route for Magilligan, where, it is understood, they are to encamp. Each section on arrival from Ballymoney halted for a few minutes on the Diamond.

Northern Whig 14th May 1918

Ulster Division Rank and File Fatalities

Private William John McAuley, 41556, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, Formerly 1759, North Irish Horse, who died of wounds received in action, 11th April, 1918. He was a son of John McAuley, of Tamlaght, **Randalstown**, Co. Antrim. Deceased is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Rifleman Henry Purdy, 1999, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 11th April, 1918. Son of Sapper William Purdy Royal Engineers and Annabella Purdy, of 15, Thames Street, Broadway, **Belfast**. Deceased was 19 years of age and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

Corporal Charles Edward Crooks, 19446, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 16th April, 1918. Deceased was a son of John Crooks, of 61 Mill View, **Muckamore**, Co. Antrim. Deceased was 22 years of age and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

Private Thomas G. Miller, 12405, 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (Ulster Division) killed in action 24 March, 1918. Son of the late Thomas and Mary Millar and Husband of Alice Millar, of 3 Taylor Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 32 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

Rifleman Richard McVeigh, 2816, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 24th March, 1918. Son of William John and Mary Ann McVeigh, of 346 Crumlin Road, Ardoyne, **Belfast**. Deceased was 19 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

1915

At the Second Battle of Ypres the French and Belgians advance near Het Sas and Steenstraate.

1918

The Germans attack on a mile front south-west of Morlancourt, and it is reported that the Australians counter-attacked.

Destroyer HMS Phoenix was torpedoed by the Austro-Hungarian submarine U-27 at the mouth of the Adriatic. Two of her crew were killed. She was taken in tow by HMAS Warrego for Vlorë, Albania, but capsized and sank off the Cape of Gjuhëz.

1940

The British Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden calls for volunteers to form the Local defense Volunteers force (LDV).

Admiralty order requires all owners of large boats to send in particulars within two weeks.

German forces break through the French front at Sedan.

British and French aircraft are unsuccessful in destroying the German-built bridges across the Meuse and 50 bombers are shot down by AA fire.

60 Luftwaffe He-111 bombers not having received the countermanding order attack besieged Rotterdam, devastating the center of the city.

Germans take Rotterdam as the Dutch government arrives in London.

1941

Admiral Darlan reports back to Vichy after meeting Hitler and von Ribbentrop. Vichy Cabinet approves German concessions and French counter-concessions unanimously.

British aircraft launch attacks against airfields in Syria which have been put at axis disposal by the Vichy French authorities.

3,600 Jews arrested in Paris.

Large Royal Navy and Royal Airforce reinforcements arrive in Singapore.

1942

The U.S. Congress establishes The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), under the direction of Oveta Culp Hobby, editor of the Houston Post.

The damaged British escort cruiser Trinidad returning from Murmansk is sunk by Luftwaffe dive-bombers off the northern Norwegian coast.

The British Army, in retreat from Burma, reach India.

1943

The U.S. 8th Air Force attacks Kiel with 125 aircraft, destroying 3 U-boats.

SS day is celebrated in Oslo.

1944

French troops in Italy break through the Gustav Line.

1945

German surrenders took place in the UK - The U-boat fleet surrendered officially to Admiral Sir Max Horton, C-in-C Western Approaches, at Lisahally, near Londonderry. The site was chosen since Londonderry had been the largest escort ship base in the Battle of the Atlantic.

The S-boats (E-boats to the Allies) surrendered at Felixstowe on the 13th.

38 (Irish) Brigade - near Lavamund: “At about 2100 hrs, the Croat Liaison Officer arrived at this Brigade HQ - there are two armed groups of Croats, both approximately 100,000 men, attempting to get past the Bulgarians and the Yugoslavs to surrender to British troops. They wish to escape the Tito regime and do not mind what country they finally go to. In addition to the two armed groups, there are an alleged half a million civilians (women and children), followed by the remnants of two German Divisions (one is Prince Eugen SS Mountain Division)..”

U-858 surrenders off Delaware, USA, becoming the first German warship to surrender to U.S. forces after the war ends.

Vienna radio announces the re-establishment of the Austrian Republic. The Anschluss with Germany is declared null and void. British troops occupy the German island of Heligoland in the North Sea.

USAAF B29's firebomb Nagoya, the heaviest raid on the Japanese homeland so far, with 3,500 tons of bombs being dropped, which destroys the Mitsubishi works.



German U-boats surrender on the Foyle - May 14, 1945

On Monday 14th May 1945, the first eight defeated German U-boats sailed up the river Foyle into Lisahally, Co. Londonderry where they surrendered to Admiral Sir Max Horton.

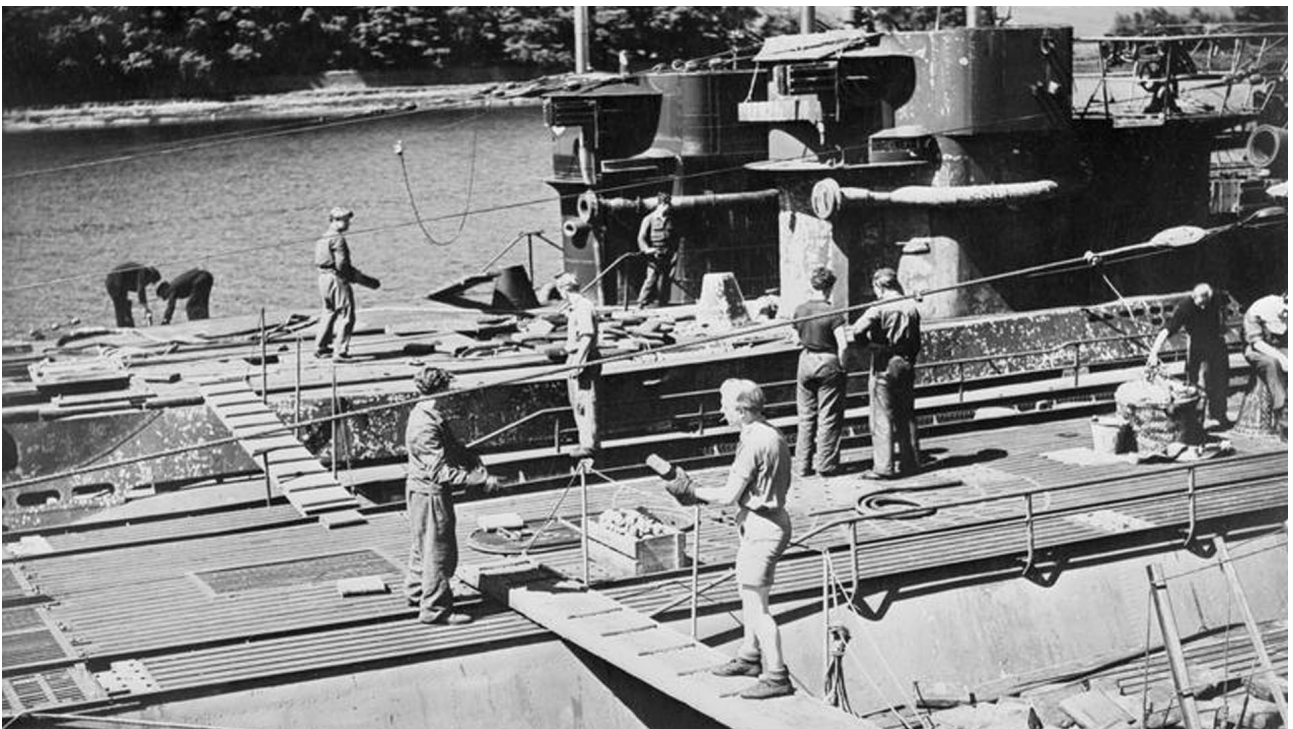


Imperial War Museum Photo: A 28896 (Part of the Admiralty Official Collection). An armed guard watches over some of the surrendered U-boats gathered at Lisahally in Co. Londonderry on 14th May 1945. Copyright Lieutenant CH Parnall.

The Royal Navy White Ensign flew from the U-boats' decks. British seamen watched over the skeleton Kriegsmarine crews as they passed Culmore Point.

Admiral Sir Max Horton oversaw the surrender. Although Horton's base was at Derby House, Liverpool, it was he as Commander in Chief of the Western Approaches who chose the Co. Londonderry port for this historic moment.

The port city of Londonderry had been vital in the Allies' Battle of the Atlantic. It was at the centre of the battle against the Nazi U-boat wolf packs. Hosting the formal surrender there showed the city's importance to the Allies.



Imperial War Museum Photo: A 28898 (Part of the Admiralty Official Collection). A German U-boat crew unloads ammunition and supplies before Operation Deadlight in Lisahally in Co. Londonderry on 14th May 1945. Copyright Lieutenant CH Parnall.

Churchill had described the U-boats as his “greatest fear”. Their ruthless attacks on merchant convoys in the Atlantic Ocean threatened to cut off supplies to Britain.

On the morning of 14/05/1915, Admiral Sir Max Horton departed RAF Speke in poor weather. His pilot flew low over the Irish sea, circling the storms on the way to RNAS Eglinton, Co. Londonderry. On the banks of the Foyle, he joined a distinguished group for the historic event.

Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Sir Basil Brooke stood alongside the head of Irish Intelligence, Colonel Dan Bryan. This was a recognition that the effort in the Battle of the Atlantic was not only a British one. Sailors, airmen, soldiers, US marines, and many WRNS from HMS Ferret also attended. Airmen from Eglinton, Maydown, and Ballykelly and Navy from HMG Gannet and HMS Shrike stood side by side.

The U-boats’ senior officer stepped ashore and saluted Horton as they surrendered. Oberleutnant Klaus Hilgendorf, commander of U-1009 from February 1945, led the way. The Royal Navy sank U-1009 with heavy gunfire on 16/12/1945. Allied forces escorted German submariners by train to prisoner of war camps in Co. Down.

By the end of the surrender, between forty and sixty U-boats moored on the banks of the Foyle. Operation Deadlight was the codename given to the systematic destruction of the U-boats. Never again would the German submarines endanger international shipping.

One-by-one, the Royal Navy towed the submarines out of Lisahally, and sank them off the Irish coast. Operation Deadlight commenced on 25/11/1945.

The Navy placed explosives in most of the craft while planes used others for target practice. Some U-boats sank after strikes from The Squid, a top-secret ship-to-ship missile. Before scuttling, the British removed all vital technology such as Enigma code machines from the boats.

On 12/02/1946. U-3514 was the last of the U-boats to sink beneath the waves. Today, an estimated 116 sunken hulls and rusting torpedo bays remain covered in sea-life. None of the vessels are war graves as no one died on board during the operation.

Some are in relatively shallow water, about 40 metres deep. They are amazing wrecks that have attracted an incredible amount of marine life. There are soft coral and sponges growing on them with shoals of fish swimming in and out.



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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