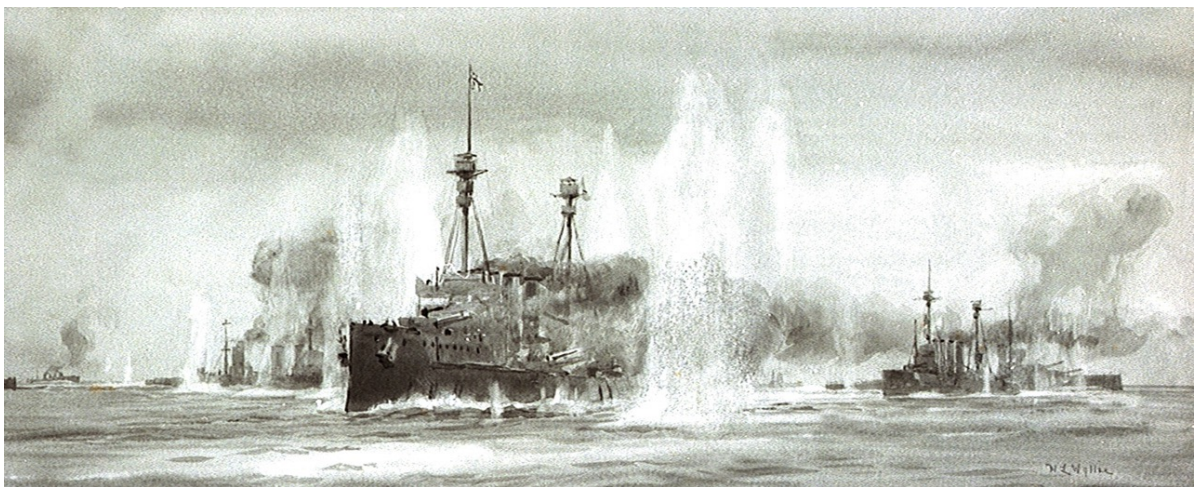




remembrance ni



HMS Defence and HMS Warrior passing the battlecruiser squadron at the Battle of Jutland

Battle of Jutland

The battle which took place off Denmark's Jutland peninsula was the largest naval battle of the war and it was definitive in terms of naval engagement for the remainder of the hostilities. The Battle of Jutland was the only time that the British and German fleets of 'dreadnought' battleships actually came to blows. It was a confused and bloody action involving 250 ships and

around 100,000 men. It saw the greatest ever exchange of naval gunfire.

The battle resulted in the loss of HM ships Queen Mary, Indefatigable, Invincible, Defence, Black Prince, Warrior, and of HM TBD 's Tipperary, Ardent, Fortune, Shark, Sparrowhawk, Nestor, Nomad, and Turbulent.

Commander Edward Bingham from Northern Ireland was awarded the Victoria Cross for his leadership. The Flag Captain of HMS Iron Duke at Battle of Jutland, was Frederick Dryer from Armagh. Over eighty men from Northern Ireland were amongst the casualties.

The German navy sought to engage the Royal Navy with a view to weakening it so that in any later engagements the balance of power would be more in its favour. The German commander, Admiral Scheer, planned to attack British merchant shipping to Norway, expecting to lure out both Admiral Beatty's Battlecruiser Force and Admiral Jellicoe's Grand Fleet, further away at Scapa Flow. Scheer hoped to destroy Beatty before Jellicoe arrived

On May 30th 1916, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, Commander in Chief of the Grand Fleet, in accord with the general policy of periodic sweeps through the North Sea ordered the ships of the fleet to leave their bases. In the afternoon of Wednesday 31st, May, Jellicoe in his official account of the battle reported, "the Battle-cruiser Fleet, led by Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, fought an action under, at times, disadvantageous conditions, especially in regard to light, in a manner that was in keeping with the best traditions of the service."

On 31/05/1916, Beatty's battlecruisers, supported by battleships of the 5th Battle Squadron, encountered Admiral Hipper's German battlecruisers at 2:28pm. The Germans damaged Beatty's flagship HMS *Lion* and sank HMS *Indefatigable* and HMS *Queen Mary*, both of which blew up when German shells penetrated their ammunition magazines.

When Beatty sighted the rest of the German fleet, he turned away. Scheer pursued him until Jellicoe arrived with the main fleet. Although the Germans sank another British battlecruiser, HMS *Invincible*, and an old cruiser, the Germans were now outgunned and Scheer turned for home.

Both sides lost destroyers during the night in a series of confused actions, and the old German battleship *Pommern* and the badly damaged battlecruiser *Lutzow* were sunk, but most of Scheer's fleet escaped unscathed.

The British lost 14 ships and 6,094 men were killed. The Germans lost 11 ships and 2,551 men.

Jutland was undoubtedly a material victory for the German High Seas Fleet whilst being a strategic victory for the British Grand Fleet. The Germans had inflicted heavier losses on the numerically superior Grand Fleet and had escaped near destruction but had failed to break the British blockade or control of the North Sea and had not altered the balance of power in any meaningful way.

The Royal Navy had failed to achieve a new Trafalgar, to both its and the British public's disappointment, although it had ended the battle in control of the battlefield and with the balance of power unchanged, still being the dominant power in the North Sea. Despite its heavier losses, damage to

German ships kept the Royal Navy's margin of superiority in all categories, except Battlecruisers, unaltered and the Grand Fleet was ready for sea before the High Seas Fleet.

Jellicoe always had to bear in mind that a heavy defeat for the German navy would not have brought Germany to her knees but a heavy defeat for the British could quite easily result in Britain being knocked out of the war. Winston Churchill, a strong critic of Jellicoe, commented that he was the only person on either side who could loose the war in an afternoon.

Nevertheless, following the Battle of Jutland, the British were ready for action again the next day, and the Germans never again seriously challenged British control of the North Sea.

The most far reaching result of Jutland was that it convinced Scheer and the German Naval staff that the only way of gaining naval victory was via unrestricted submarine warfare, and not by defeating the British in battle. The Germans had fought Jutland as well or better than could be expected, whilst the British could be expected to perform better next time, and yet nothing had changed. However it was not the German submarine blockade of Britain but the British blockade of Germany, maintained under the guns of the Grand Fleet, that eventually did most to bring the war to an end.

Commander Edward Bingham VC

The Hon Edward Barry Stewart Bingham (1881-1939), of Bangor Castle, County Down, was the 3rd son of John, 5th Baron Clanmorris JP DL, ADC to the Lord



Lieutenant of Ireland, and Matilda Catherine, daughter of Robert Edward Ward JP DL, of Bangor Castle.

The Hon Barry joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman, after school at Arnold House, Llanddulas, Carnarvonshire; and a spell on HMS Britannia, a permanently-moored training ship at Dartmouth, Devon.

He was commissioned Lieutenant RN and served a year (1904-5) on HMS Cormorant based at Gibraltar; then was given his own command, of the torpedo boat destroyer HMS Star. In 1915, Bingham was promoted Commander RN, and given HMS Hornet, a destroyer.

In May, 1916, during the Battle of Jutland, Commander Bingham was in command of a destroyer division.

He led his division in their attack, first on enemy destroyers and then on the battle cruisers of the German High Seas Fleet.

Once the enemy was sighted Bingham ordered his own destroyer, HMS Nestor, and the one remaining destroyer of his division, HMS Nicator, to close to within 3,000 yards of the opposing battle fleet so that he could bring his torpedoes to bear.

While making this attack, Nestor and Nicator were under concentrated fire of the secondary batteries of the German fleet and Nestor was subsequently sunk.

For his actions, Commander Bingham earned the Victoria Cross, one of relatively few awarded for naval bravery during the 1st World War

The citation reads:

For the extremely gallant way in which he led his division in their attack, first on enemy destroyers and then on their battlecruisers.

He finally sighted the enemy battle-fleet, and, followed by the one remaining destroyer of his division (Nicator), with dauntless courage he closed to within 3,000 yards of the enemy in order to attain a favourable position for firing the torpedoes.

While making this attack, Nestor and Nicator were under concentrated fire of the secondary batteries of the High Sea Fleet. Nestor was subsequently sunk.

Bingham was picked up by the Germans at Jutland, and remained a prisoner of war (latterly at Holzminden) until the Armistice.

After the war, he stayed in the Royal Navy, was promoted several times and retired in 1932 with the rank of Rear-Admiral, having for a year held the position of Senior Officer of the Reserve Fleet, Devonport.

He had several commands, including HMS Resolution, in the Mediterranean.

Admiral Bingham served as Chief of Staff in the Nore Command, 1927-9, and was appointed ADC to George V.

Outside the Navy, his interests were equestrian; he was a keen jockey and polo player.

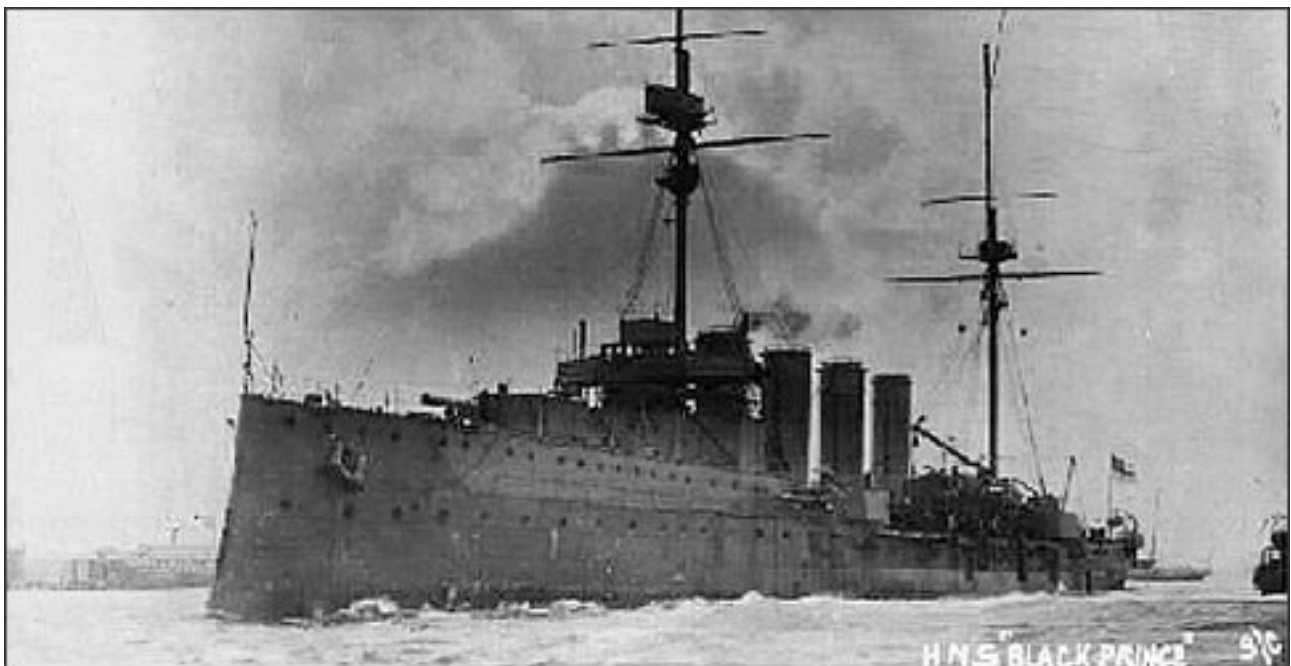
In addition to his VC, Bingham was also awarded the OBE and was mentioned in dispatches. He was also awarded the (Tsarist) Russian Order of St Stanislaus.

He published a memoir of his naval career in 1919, notable for his description of the worst part of naval life being, not nearly being blown to pieces in battle, nor the nervous hours and minutes before battle; it was the ordeal, in that pre-diesel age, of coaling.

Some maintain that his espionage activity during World War Two provided a model for the fictional writings of John le Carré, the successful English writer of spy fiction. Admiral Bingham, who latterly resided at Evershot, Dorset, died in London.

HMS Black Prince

HMS Black Prince, an armoured cruiser, was sunk with a loss of 1,031 lives. The ship had become separated from the rest of the British fleet and it was reported that: "As Black Prince now suddenly found herself close abreast of the German centre. In a moment she was in a glare of searchlights, a tornado of shell at point blank-range rent her from stem to



stern, and in two minutes she was a mass of flames. For a while she was seen as a floating furnace, and then, with an appalling explosion, sank with all hands". Black Prince was blown up following combined gunfire from the German battleships Ostfriesland and Thuringen, and went down in fewer than four minutes.

At the outbreak of World War One HMS Black Prince captured a German merchantman in the Red Sea in August 1914. and was stationed at Gibraltar in November 1914. In

December 1914 she moved to the Grand Fleet 1st cruiser squadron. HMS Black Prince was built at the Thames Iron Works Blackwall, and laid down on the 3rd June 1903, launched 8th November 1904 and completed 17th March 1906.

ROLL OF HONOUR - HMS BLACK PRINCE

ALLEN, Henry

RN. Boy 1st Class. J34509. HMS Black Prince. Died 31/5/1916. Aged 15. Born Belfast. Son of Samuel and Margaret Allen, of Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

CRAWFORD, James

RNR. Stoker 7821S, HMS Black Prince, Died 31/5/1916. Brother of Mrs. Lemon, Sydney Street West, Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial. St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill, Belfast WM

MacCORMAC, John Sides Davies

RN. Surgeon. HMS Black Prince. Jutland. Died 31/05/1916. Age 44. Son of William and Mary Edmunds MacCormac, The Old House, Banbridge, and husband of Genevieve Muriel MacCormac, of St Ives. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 11. Banbridge WM. RBAI WM

MORGAN, John

RNVR. AB. Clyde Z/6053. HMS Black Prince. Died 31/5/1916. Son of John and Mary Morgan, Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 24.

SHANKS, James

RNR. Stoker. 7131S. HMS Black Prince. Died 31/5/1916. Age 35. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Shanks, of Belfast; husband of Annie Shanks (nee Pratt), N. Woodside Rd., Glasgow. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23.

SMILEY, George

RN. Able Seaman. 231456, HMS Black Prince. Died 31/05/1916, in the battle off Jutland. Age 27. Son of Samuel and Emily Smiley of Belfast; husband of Mabel Smiley, of Lanark Street, Belfast, and nephew of Miss Smiley, Woodvale Road. "Our deepest sympathy goes out to those bereaved families, and a special memorial service was held in the Parish Church on Whit Sunday evening, at which the Rev. W.A. de V. Dodd made touching reference to the loss they had sustained." - *Shankill Parish magazine*. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 12. St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill, Belfast WM.

STUART, William Isaac

RMLI.Private. PO/16616. HMS Black Prince. Died 31/05/1916. Age 21. Son of William and Marion Stuart; brother of Marion Franaitis, Hart St., London Rd., Liverpool. Native of Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 22.

+SUTTON, Frank Edward

RN. Able Seaman. 236341. Died 31/05/1916. Aged 25. HMS Black Prince. Jutland. He joined the Navy straight from The Royal Hospital School, Greenwich as Boy 2nd class in May 1906. Son of William Robert Sutton, of 33, Folkestone Rd., Copnor, Portsmouth. Frank's Sutton's mother lived at Drumagarner House,

Kilrea for a time. Listed in “Forgotten Heroes of Kilrea”.
Portsmouth Naval Memorial

HMS Defence

HMS Defence was a Minotaur class armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy on the mid-1900s. She was the last armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy. She was stationed in the Mediterranean when the First World War began and participated in the pursuit of the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben and light cruiser SMS Breslau.

Defence was transferred to the Grand Fleet in January 1915 and remained there for the rest of her career.

ROLL OF HONOUR - HMS DEFENCE

BOAL, J

RN. AB.216495. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Donegore St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, panel 11.

BRUCE, John

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. K13656. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Born Belfast. Adopted son of William Johnston, Ballyduff, Carnmoney. Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

COLLINS, Thomas

RN. Stoker 1st Cl. SS 113699. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 22. Born Dublin 14/05/1893, Son of Michael and Nancy Collins, Broughmore, Ballycastle. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 15. Ballycastle WM

CROSSAN, Thomas Lawrence

RMLI. Private. PLY/17318. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 19. Son of Michael and Annie Crossan, of Mossley, Carnmoney, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial

FORSYTH, William

Stoker 1st Class. 305407. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 35. Born Belfast. Son of Charles and Sarah Forsyth, Woodvale Rd., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

GLOVER, Joseph

RMLI. PLY/15628. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 22. Wauchope St., Belfast. Son of David and Annie Glover, Manning Avenue, Toronto, Canada. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18.

JAMIESON, David

RN. Petty Officer. 192801. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Aged 36. Born Ballintoy 20/06/1880. Son of Alexander and Ellen Jamieson of Blackside, Ballintoy, Ballycastle. Plymouth Naval Memorial, panel 11. Ballintoy Parish RH.

KERR, Robert

272303. Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 24. Born Newtownstewart. Only son of Robert and Martha Kerr, of Dublin St., Newtownstewart. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

McAULEY, Patrick Hugh

RN. Leading Seaman. J/1215. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 15. Son of Sarah McAuley, of 14, Benares St., Belfast, and the late Patrick McAuley. Plymouth Naval Memorial., Panel 11.

McEWAN, Robert

RNR. Stoker. 3778S. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Ivan St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23.

MONTGOMERY, John

RMLI. Private. PLY/17190. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 23. Son of Isaac Montgomery, Mill St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18.

MORROW, James

AB. 239120. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 27. Born Belfast. Son of Isabella Morrow, Hamilton Place, Killyleagh. Killyleagh - PCI RH. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

POLLOCK, Joseph

Ordinary Seaman. J25436. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 18. Born Belfast. Son of Elizabeth Pollock, Epworth St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

POTTS, Andrew

Able Seaman. 228087. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 30. Born Belfast. Son of John and Annie Potts, Christopher St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

SITTLINGTON, Hugh

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 276560. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Served more than 22 years. Born Larne. Son of the late Hugh and Annie Sittlington, of Larne; husband of Elizabeth Wilson Sittlington, Eighth St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 14. Ballycarry Presbyterian Church WM

TAYLOR, Charles

RN. Chief Engine Room Artificer 2nd Class. 271165. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Son of Margaret Taylor, of 23, Melrose St., Belfast, and the late John Taylor. Plymouth Naval Memorial

WOODWARD, James

Leading Stoker. K9273. HMS Defence. Died 31/05/1916. Age 24. Born Belfast. Son of Ellen Woodward, Fraser St., Belfast; and the late John Woodward. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

HMS Indefatigable

HMS Indefatigable has the dubious distinction of being the first battlecruiser ever to be sunk and the first ship to be lost at Jutland. She was the first of three British battle cruisers to be blown up by German artillery.

As part of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron, under the command of Captain C. F. Sowerby, she was hit by 28 cm (11 inch) shells from Von der Tann. She was hit first by two shells in the "X" magazine area, blowing out her bottom and causing her to fall out of formation, sinking by the stern. Following more hits in the area of 'A' turret, the forward magazine exploded, and the ship sank quickly, killing all but two—Leading Seamen Falmer and Elliot—of her crew of 1,017. According to one of the survivors, Captain Sowerby also survived the sinking, but died of his wounds before he could be rescued.

Her class was similar to Invincible but was longer to permit both 'P' and 'Q' turrets to fire on broadside and had 1000shp more, making them fractionally faster.

Her two sisters were paid for by New Zealand and Australia and named after their respective sponsors. New Zealand was given to the RN and Australia became that countries fleet flagship but operated with the Grand Fleet for much of the war.

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS INDEFATIGABLE

AGNEW, James

RN. Leading Stoker. 308866. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Aged 29. Born Belfast. Son of Martha Agnew, Seaview St., Belfast, and the late John Agnew. Chatham Naval Memorial.

BRYANS, George

RN. Stoker 1st Class. 226076. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 30. Born Belfast. Brother of Mary Bryans, 71 Northumberland St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

CLOSE, John

RN. AB. 216280. HMS Indefatigable. Died 02/08/1915. Ashmore St., Belfast. Queensferry Cemetery.

COGHLAN, Joseph James

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 303132. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 34. Son of James and Catherine Coghlan, of Co. Waterford; husband to Minnie Coghlan, of 84, Butler St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial

GALLAGHER, George

RN.Stoker 1st Class. 222429. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 29. Born Londonderry. Son of George and Catherine Gallagher, Donegal St., Rosemount, Londonderry. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Londonderry, The Diamond WM.

JELLY, Henry

RN. AB. 233032. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 28. Born Belfast. Son of Margaret Jane Smith (formerly Jelly), New Lodge Rd., Belfast, and the late Henry Jelly. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Sinclair Seamen's Church - PCI RH

KING, Robert John George

Stoker 1st Class. SS115695. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 21. Born Belfast. Son of Robert and Mary Isabella Rachel King, Ravenhill St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

LOVE, Charles Edwin

Ship's Steward. 209188. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 36. Born Larne. Son of John and Martha Love, of Belfast; husband of Cecelia A. A. Love, Glencairn Terrace, St. Budeaux, Devonport. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

MAGEE, David

Stoker 1st Class. SS109577. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 23. Born Kircubbin. Son of James and Agnes Magee, Iris St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial. St Andrew's Parish Church, Ballyhalbert WM

MALLON, J

RM Artillery. Gunner. RMA/13442. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 20. Son of Matthew Mallon, Clentigora, Newry. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 21.

MALONE, Hugh

Cooper. 340469. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 41. Born Belfast. Son of the late Hugh and Mary Malone, Brookfield St., Crumlin Rd., Belfast; husband of Maud Mary Malone, Townshend Avenue, Devonport. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

McCAUSLAND, William James

RMLI. Private. PLY/17058. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/5/1916. Age 19. Son of Charles and Elizabeth McCausland, Donegall Avenue, Belfast. Native of Newry. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18.

MOORE, John

AB. 229507. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 28. Born Belfast. Native of Belfast. Half-brother of Selina Moore, Rowland Street, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

REILLY, James Patrick

RN. Able Seaman. J10246. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 23. Born Belfast. Son of Elizabeth Reilly, Ballycastle St., Belfast, and the late William Reilly. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

ROBINSON, George Ernest

Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 24. Born Taughboyne County Donegal. Son of

Joseph and Anna Eliza Robinson, Drumenon St., Johnston,
Londonderry. Plymouth Naval Memorial

SLOAN, Douglas

AB. Stoker. J10191. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1916. Age 21. Born Belfast. Son of Robert and Jane Sloane, Nile St., off York St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Sinclair Seamen's - PCI RH

STEWART, Samuel

RMLI. Private. PLY/15164. HMS Indefatigable. Died 31/05/1914. Age 24. Son of William and Ann Jane Stewart, of 3, Woodstock Place, Woodstock Rd., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18. Megain Memorial - PCI RH

WOODS, John

RN. AB. HMS Indefatigable. Belfast

HMS Invincible

The Invincible had previously served at the Battle of Heligoland Bight, the hunt for the Graf Spee and the Battle of the Falkland Islands, before engaging the German vessels SMS Derfflinger and Lützow at the Battle of Jutland. The Derrlinger was sunk by Invincible before the Lützow turned her guns on her, sinking the vessel. As Invincible returned the broadside, she inflicted fatal damage on the Lützow, before sinking herself. 1026 crew were killed on board HMS Invincible. Only 6 crew survived.

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS INVINCIBLE

CHAMBERS, Bernard

RNR. Stoker. 3353S. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. Aged 24.
Son of William and Catherine Chambers, Irish Quarter South,
Carrickfergus. Roman Catholic Church. Barns Mills RH.
Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Carrickfergus WM

CROTHERS, Robert

RN. Stoker 1st Class. SS/108396. HMS Invincible. Died
31/05/1916. Age 27. Son of Johnston Crothers, Ivan St., Belfast.
Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 17.

HUGHES, William John

Royal Navy. Petty Officer Stoker. 307002. HMS Invincible. Died
31/05/1916. Age 30. Son of John and Mary Hughes, of Belfast.
Plymouth Naval Memorial

McCULLOUGH, John

RN. Boy 1st Class. J37462. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916.
Age 17. Born Belfast. Son of John and Mary McCullough,
Southwell St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13.

McCULLOUGH, T

RN. Gunner. HMS Invincible. Mineral St., Belfast

McILWRATH, Samuel

RNR. Stoker. 2045S. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. Age 23.
Hogart St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. York
Street - PCI RH

RNR. Stoker. 2045S. HMS Invincible. Jutland. Died 31/05/1916. Age 23. Son of Samuel and Agnes McIlwrath, Hogart St., Belfast. Husband to Maggie McIlwrath, Cambridge St., Belfast. Father of two children. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. York Street - PCI RH

McKENNA, Robert

RN.Seaman. J/31862. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. Age 18. Ward of David McDowell, of School Buildings, Belfast Union, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13.

REA, William

Stoker 1st Class. 289073. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. Age 37. Born Belfast. Son of William and Mary Rea, of Co. Antrim; husband of Mary Rea, of Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

UNSWORTH, William Hubert

RN. Sub Lieutenant (E). HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. William Hubert Unsworth is recorded as signing the Ulster Covenant at the Old Town Hall in 1912. Son of William Thomas and Margaret Unsworth, of Taymount, Bloomfield, Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Strandtown WM. QUB WM.

WALLS, Thomas Andrew

RN. Carpenter. Distinguished Service Cross. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. Age 42. Son of Thomas and Sarah Walls, of Strabane; husband of Isabel Walls, Warren Avenue, Milton, Portsmouth. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 11. Strabane - PCI RH

WILSON, Thomas

RMLI. PLY/11164. HMS Invincible. Died 31/05/1916. Age 29.
Son of Thomas and Annie J. Wilson, of 24, Bentinck St., Belfast.
Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18.

HMS Lion

Lion was a battle-cruiser of the Splendid Cats class. Lion participated in the battles of Heligoland Bight (28/08/1914), Dogger Bank (24/01/1915) and Jutland (31/05/1916).

At Dogger Bank, the Lion scored a somewhat lucky hit on the Seydlitz which caused a cordite flashback that burned out the latter's two rear turrets.

During the Battle of Jutland, the Lion was hit by a 12" (305 mm) salvo from the Lützow which blew the roof off one of the "Q" turret. Dozens of Royal Marines were killed, but a far larger catastrophe was averted when Major Francis Harvey, the wounded turret commander, ordered the magazine to be sealed and flooded, thereby preventing the cordite propellant from setting off a massive explosion.

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS LION

+DOHERTY, Patrick Joseph

RNR. Stoker 1st Class. SS116687. HMS Lion. Jutland. Died 31/05/1916. Enlisted 26/01/1915. In Vivid and Lion (16/04/1915 - 31/05/1916). Born Coleraine 21/09/1894. Son of John Doherty, Irish Houses, Coleraine. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 15.
Coleraine WM. IMR. ADM 188/1122/11668

THORPE, Herbert

RN. Stoker 1st Class. HMS Lion. Died 31/5/1916. His brother Rifleman Alfred Victor Thorpe was born in 1879 and served with the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, which was part of the 10th Irish Division. He died, aged 38, on 16/05/1917 and is buried in the Struma Military Cemetery in Thessalonika, Greece.

They were the sons of James Thorpe, a Brush Maker with the Northern Brush Company, of 31 Malvern Street (1880) and Townsend Street. Their sister, Mrs Irvine, was living at Howard Street South in 1915 and it is probable that Herbert and Alfred were boarding with her after the death of their father. A second married sister, Mary Heathwood, was living at Canterbury Street

The names of Herbert Thorpe and Alfred Victor Thorpe are on the Crescent Presbyterian Church WM. Herbert is also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 16.

HMS Queen Mary

HMS Queen Mary, a Lion Class battle cruiser was completed by Palmers in 1913. She was blown up after a direct hit from the German battlecruiser Derrflinger.

The Navigating Officer of HMS New Zealand recorded his observances at 4.26 pm on May 31st. "All seemed to be going well with us on *New Zealand* when suddenly I saw a salvo hit Queen Mary on her port side. A small cloud of what looked like coal-dust came out from where she was hit, but nothing more until several moments later, when a terrific yellow flame with a heavy and very dense mass of black smoke showed ahead, and the *Queen Mary* herself was no longer visible. The *Tiger* was steaming at 24 knots only 500

yards astern of *Queen Mary*, and hauled sharply out of the line to port and disappeared in this dense mass of smoke. We hauled out to starboard, and *Tiger* and ourselves passed one on each side of the *Queen Mary*. We passed her about 50 yards on our port beam by which time the smoke had blown fairly clear, revealing the stern from the after funnel aft afloat, and the propellers still revolving, but the for'ard part had already gone under. There was no sign of fire or of cordite flame, and men were crawling out of the top of the after turret and up the after hatchway. When we were abreast and only about 150 yards away from her, this after portion rolled over and, as it did so, blew up. The most noticeable thing was the masses and masses of paper which were blown into the air as this after portion exploded. Great masses of iron were thrown into the air, and I saw, I suppose at least 100 or 200 feet high, a boat which may have been a dinghy or a pinnace, still intact but upside down as I could see the thwarts. Before we had quite passed, *Queen Mary* completely disappeared."

1266 were killed, seven wounded and two taken prisoner.

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS QUEEN MARY

BURNS, John

RN. Sailmaker. 182612. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Age 38. Served as O'Brien. Served in the South African War. Son of Bridget Burns, Crumlin Rd., Belfast; husband to Rachel Burns, Cottage View, Landport, Portsmouth. Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 14

CARRUTHERS, T

RN. Leading Seaman. SS/2913. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial Panel 15.

FLETCHER, Robert

RNR. 1422U. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916 Son of Robert and Jane Fletcher, Belfast; husband of Margaret Fletcher, Eighth St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Shankill Rd Mission - PCI RH

GRIBBEN, Robert McDowell

RNR. Stoker. T1879. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Age 39. Son of William and Eliza Gribben; husband of Maggie Gribben, of Larne. Daughter. of James Hunter. Larne Times report 17/06/1916, "Robert was survived by his widow and 5 children residing at 5 Quay Lane, Larne. Known children: Elizabeth McDowell (Lizzie), Jane, James Hunter and Robert McDowell Gribben. Robert was Roman Catholic, Margaret and children were Presbyterian. Before joining the navy, Robert was employed by Howden Bros. Ltd., as a coal filler at the Bank Quays, Larne". Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Larne WM. Family memorial in Greenland Cemetery, Larne.

KELLY, Felix Ruddy

J19472. Able Seaman. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Age 21. Born Strabane. Son of Francis and Elizabeth Kelly, Rathmore, Cabra Park, Dublin. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 12.

KENNEDY, Peter

RNR. Stoker. 1836U. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916 at the Battle of Jutland. Age 33. Son of the late Frank and Jane

Kennedy of Larne Road, Ballymena; husband of Jane Kennedy, Ritchie Street, York Rd., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Harryville - PCI RH

McMAW, Richard

RNR. Stoker. HMS Queen Mary. Son of Walter McMaw, Eden, Carrickfergus; husband of Elizabeth McMaw of Eden.

Carrickfergus WM. Bully Grennay Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

MOORE, William

RNR. Stoker. 2229T. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Mill Lane. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Larne WM. Larne, Gardenmore - PCI RH

O'NEILL, R

RN. Stoker. 2088U. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Fife St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23.

RODGERS, James Grant

RN. Stoker 1st Cl. 229527. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Age 29. Son of James and Jane Rodgers, City St., Donegall Ave., Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 17.

STRANGE, Samuel

RN. Stoker. 326V. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Hartwell St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23.

TREGENNA, Charles Hambly

RN. Plumber. 341342. HMS Queen Mary. Died 31/05/1916. Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 20.

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS SHARK

VANCE, Patrick Hugo Gerald Irving

RN. Sub-Lieutenant. HMS Shark. Jutland. Died 31/04/1916. Age 19. "A survivor of H.M.S. Shark, which played such a prominent part in opening the battle, in a message to the parents of Sub-Lieutenant Patrick H. G. I. Vance, in Belfast, states — " I have been expecting to see Sub-Lieutenant Vance's photograph in the papers and some account of his doings in the fight. Letters of gold would not be too good to print it in." He adds that Sub-Lieutenant Vance and he, with some others, were working the gun on the forecastle, which was the best one they had in the ship, and they were having a very hot time. Twenty minutes after the fight began German shell caught the forecastle and exploded. All in the forecastle were killed instantly, and the writer only escaped death by the fact that a few seconds previously he had been sent down to the deck to look after another man who had been injured.

Born in Fermanagh. Only son of James Gerald Irving Vance, High Sheriff of Co. Monaghan, and Clare Irving Vance, Carrickreagh, Helen's Bay. and Co. Fermanagh. Grandson of the late Right Rev. Dr. Reeves, Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore, and President of the Royal Irish Academy. Memorial service held in St John's Parish Church, Helen's Bay. Bangor Grammar School archives. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 11. Enniskillen WM. Glencraig Parish Church WM. Helen's Bay Parish Church WM. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bangor WM

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS WARRIOR

She was heavily damaged during the battle after which she withdrew and was later abandoned and sank in a rising sea.

+DAVIES, George Cardwell

Royal Navy. Able Seaman. J/3982 HMS Warrior. Died 31/05/1916 at sea. Age 21. Born Moy 06/04/1892. Prior to enlisting on 06/04/1910, George was working as a grocer's assistant in Birkenhead, England. Son of Margaret Davies, of Moy, Co. Tyrone, and the late Harold W. Davies. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Moy WM

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS BARHAM

+McBRINN, Richard Joseph

RN. Engine Room Artificer Third Class. 272123. HMS Barham. Died 31/05/1916. Enrolled 18/03/1908 for 12 years. War service in Victory II and Barham 19/08/1915 - 31/05/1916. Born Limerick 18/03/1890. Christian Brothers School Belfast. Family memorial, Milltown Cemetery, Belfast. Lyness RN Cemetery. ADM 188/437/272123

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS NESTOR

+COCHRANE, John Dawson

RN. Petty Officer 1st Class. HMS Nestor. Jutland. Died 01/06/1916. Age 37. Long service and good conduct medals. Three Good conduct badges. Born Belfast. Printing Trades WM Belfast Cathedral. IMR

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS TIPPERARY

+MacLEAN, James Gayton

RN. Chief Writer. 346792. HMS Tipperary. Jutland. Died 01/06/1916. Age 30. Enrolled 05/05/1904. War service in Hecla,

Caysfort and Tipperary. Born Moy 17/09/1885. Lived Garvagh. Son of James and Esther MacLean. Husband to Kathleen MacLean. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 18. IMR. ADM 188/526/346792

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS TURBULENT

+ELDER, Robert Craig

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 311202. HMS Turbulent. Jutland. Died 31/05/1916. Age 27. Enrolled 29/01/1907 for 12 years. War service in Cormorant, Sutlej, St. George, Wellington, Pembroke and Turbulent (29/04/1916 - 31/05/1916). Born Govan 02/08/1888. Son of John and Isabella Elder, Belfast. Husband to Agnes McKittrick (formerly Elder), East Bread St., Belfast. Father of two little children. Belfast Telegraph in memoriam 31/05/1917. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 17. Bloomfield - PCI RH. IMR. ADM 188/509/311202

+THOMPSON, John Wallace

RN. AB. 189958. HMS Turbulent. Jutland. Died 01/06/1916. Age 36. Served in the South African War. Awarded China Medal, 1900. Son of Jacob and Mary Thompson, Forsythe St., Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 16

JUTLAND - THEY SERVED

BINGHAM, Edward Barry Stewart

RN. Admiral. VC. OBE. Entered RN in 1895. 1914 Commander (Executive Officer) HMS Invincible which saw action in Battle of the Falkland Islands December 1914. In command of a destroyer division at Battle of Jutland. On 31/05/1916 he led his division on their attack of enemy destroyers and then on the battle cruisers of

the German High Seas Fleet. On sighting the enemy he ordered his own destroyer HMS Nestor with HMS Nicator to close within 2,750 metres so that he could utilise torpedoes. During this time both ships were under concentrated fire. Nestor was sunk. For his actions Bingham was awarded the Victoria Cross, one of the few awarded for naval bravery during the war.

Bingham was a prisoner of war, having been picked up by the Germans at Jutland and was retained in captivity until the end of the war. He retired as a rear Admiral in 1932. Born 26/07/1881 in Bangor, the son of Lord and Lady Clanmorris. Died 24/09/1939. Golders Green cemetery, London.

His VC, purchased by Bangor Council at a Sotheby's auction in 1983 is displayed at the North Down Heritage Centre, Bangor.

COLLINS, John

Stoker. Brother of George and Thomas. George was killed in the last week of the war and Thomas who was serving on H.M.S. Defence was lost at the Battle of Jutland. They were nephews of John Brown of Broughmore. Ramoan Parish Church, Ballycastle

CONLAN, George Walter

RN. 233695. Served in HMS Hawke, Vivid, Vivid II, Europa, Blake, Lion. Jutland. B Lisburn 08/07/1887, son of Robert (Blacksmith) and Levina. In 1901 census he was 13 years old and living with his parents in 26 Main St., Whiteabbey. They later lived at Tavanagh St., Belfast. Died aged 31. Buried at Magheragall Parish Churchyard, Lisburn.

DRYER, Frederic Charles

RN. Admiral. CB (civil), 1914, CB (military), 1916, CBE, 1919, KCB, 1932, and GBE, 1936. Joined 1891. Flag Captain of HMS Iron Duke at Battle of Jutland, 1916. Rear Admiral 1923, Admiral 1932. Represented UK on League of Nations Military Committee after World War 1. He joined the Royal Navy and entered the training ship HMS Britannia, 1891-3. He served as a Midshipman in HMS Anson, 1893-6, and HMS Barfleur, 1896-7. He was promoted Lieutenant while serving in HMS Repulse, 1898. He was a student on the gunnery courses in HMS Excellent and at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, 1899-1901, and joined the staff of the Gunnery School at Sheerness. He was a Gunnery Officer in HMS Scylla, 1901, HMS Hawke, 1902, HMS Exmouth, 1903-7, and HMS Dreadnought, 1907. He was appointed Assistant to the Director of Naval Ordnance at the Admiralty, 1907-9, where he began work on his fire control table. He was promoted Commander, 1907, and commanded HMS Vanguard, 1909-10. He then transferred to HMS Prince of Wales, 1910-11, and HMS Hercules as Flag Commander, 1911. He was promoted Captain, 1913, and commanded HMS Amphion, 1913, HMS Orion as Flag Captain, 1913-15, and HMS Iron Duke as Flag Captain, 1915-16. He returned to the Admiralty as Assistant Director, Anti-Submarine Division, 1916-17, Director of Naval Ordnance, 1917-18, and Director of Naval Artillery and Torpedoes, 1918-19. He was appointed Commodore and Chief of Staff to Jellicoe on his mission to India and the Dominions, 1919-20. On returning to England, he was appointed Director of the Gunnery Division of the Admiralty, 1920-22. He took command of HMS Repulse, 1922-23, and was promoted Rear-Admiral, 1923. He was appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff and a member of the Board of Admiralty, 1924-27; commanded HMS Hood, 1927-30;

and was promoted Vice-Admiral, 1929. He was Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, 1930-31, and Admiralty representative on the League of Nations Permanent Advisory Commission. He was promoted Admiral, 1932, and Commander-in-Chief on the China Station, 1933-6. He retired from the Navy, 1939. On the outbreak of the Second World War, he returned to active duty as Commodore of Convoys, 1939-40, Inspector of Merchant Navy Gunnery, 1941-42, Chief of Naval Air Services, 1942-43, and Deputy Chief of Naval Air Equipment, 1943.

Frederic Charles Dreyer was born at Parsonstown, Ireland, 08/01/1878, the son of John Louis Emil Dreyer, a Danish astrologer, and Katherine Hannah Tuthill. His father was later the Director of the Armagh Planetarium. He was educated at the Royal School, Armagh, and the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He married Una Maria Hallett in 1901, with whom he had three sons and two daughters. In respect of Jutland, his grandfather had been the Danish minister for the navy. The Dreyer Firepower tables were adopted as the basis of RN gunnery. Armagh Royal School 1888-90.

FFORDE, Thomas Roderick

RN. Commander. After Britannia, Dartmouth, served in China, then to Greenwich College. In many engagements 1914-18, including Jutland. After war commanded a ship based at Murmansk where he observed aspects of the revolution and Marxism. After service lived in Co. Donegall. He advocated Marxism but was well-regarded in the locality. He attempted to provide employment. Died in a cycling accident. Married Joan Waring of Waringstown. Brother in law of Ruric Waring, RN, who was lost with HMS Hawke in the war. Father of Charles Holt

Fforde, RN, a fatality in World War 2. Born Raughlin, Derrymacash near Lurgan. Bruckles House, nr Killybegs, Co. Donegall

GAMBLE, James

RN. Chief Petty Officer CGI (Chief Gunnery Instructor). J220 & JX150049. Enlisted 08/01/1908. Petty Officer at the Battle of Jutland, 1916. Served before and after First World War. Re-enlisted in 1936 until 1939. Served also as a CPO Pensioner during the Second World War. Born: 27/11/1890. Fountain Place, Londonderry. Son of Samuel and Annie Gamble nee McIlhinney. Died: All Saints Hospital, Chatham, Kent, 03/07/1965

HOLMES, James McAllister

RN. Staff Surgeon. DSO. MiD. Marlborough Park, Belfast. B 28/02/1880. Son of John Holmes of Islandmagee and a great grandson of Rev William Holmes who fought for the King in the 1798 Rebellion. Methodist College, Belfast and Queen's College, Belfast, MBCh 1903. F.R.C.S.Ed. 1920. Held an appointment at Belfast Royal Infirmary for a year before entering the navy. Served for three and a half years on HMS Sandpiper on the China station and in HMS Achilles and HMS Castor in the war. Awarded DSO for his services during the Battle of Jutland, he was also Mentioned in Despatches. Promoted Surgeon Commander 1919. Three articles in Naval Medical Magazine. Retired in rank of Surgeon Captain in 1930. General practice Llandovery, South Wales. Retired to South Yelverton, Devon. Married Alice Poole of Dunedin, New Zealand 1909. Elmwood - PCI RH. Second Islandmagee - PCI RH. MCB 1895 - 1897

KELLY, James Hodges

RN. SPO. RN 1904 -1919; Merchant Navy 1919 -1923. Served On the China Station, then saw action in the Battle of Jutland - engaged in virtual suicide missions, sitting atop shells in wooden boats, transporting them from munitions supply ship HMS Blake to his flagship HMS Castor and other warships of the 11th flotilla of the Grand Fleet under Admiral Jellicoe. B1887 Sailortown, Belfast. Drowned Hamburg harbour 1923. Aged 36, leaving widow and four children

LAMONT, Stephen

Signaller. HMS Active. Jutland. Railway Rd, Coleraine

PAUL, Hugh

RN. Surgeon Prob. Served in HMS Shark before Jutland, later in another destroyer HMS Christopher. After graduation at QUB became Deputy MOH, Oldham, Lancs.





Roll of Honour – May 31

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+JARDINE, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6305. Died 31/05/1915 in hospital in Boulogne from gas poisoning. Aged 34. He was a regular soldier. He attested in to the Royal Irish Rifles at Lisburn on 02/04/1901, aged 19. He had previously worked as a postman. He served until 02/04/1909. Of his eight years service 6 years and 220 days

were abroad including India and South Africa. He was a member of the UVF, acting as a section leader in the Huntly Company, 1st Btn West Down Regiment. Re-enlisted at the outbreak of war in the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles. During the early part of the war he received a bullet wound to the leg. He spent part of his time recovering at home in Banbridge before he returned to the front. Son of John and Margaret Jardine, of 54 Railway St., Banbridge. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Banbridge WM. Seapatricks C of I Parish Church WM

+ROGERS, Samuel Bertie

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 7567. Died 31/05/1915. Age 38. Son of Susan Rogers, of Ballyhackamore, Belfast. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

+WRIGHT, G

West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). 3rd Btn. B Coy. 3rd Btn. Private. 7126. Died 31/05/1915. Age 39. Served in the South African Campaign. Born at Sheffield. Son of B. Wright; husband of Agnes Wright, of 24, Stonyford St., Belfast. City Road Cemetery, Sheffield.

1916

+ELDER, Robert Craig

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 311202. HMS Turbulent. Jutland. Died 31/05/1916. Age 27. Enrolled 29/01/1907 for 12 years. War service in Cormorant, Sutelej, St. George, Wellington, Pembroke and Turbulent (29/04/1916 - 31/05/1916). Born Govan 02/08/1888. Son of John and Isabella Elder, Belfast.

Husband to Agnes McKittrick (formerly Elder), East Bread St., Belfast. Father of two little children. Belfast Telegraph in memoriam 31/05/1917. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 17. Bloomfield - PCI RH. IMR. ADM 188/509/311202

+McMANUS, Frank

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 27475. Died 31/05/1916. Age 25. Born Pomeroy about 1891. enlisted in Dungannon prior to the war on 15/11/1913, in the Special Reserve of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private McManus also served for a time with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (No. 21324).Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe France. In his Will, Francis McManus left all to his uncle, Neal Conway, who lived at Lime Hill, Pomeroy. Cookstown War Dead Book

+WALLACE, Robert Cecil

South African Infantry 10th Regiment. Lieutenant. Died 31/05/1916. Born on 20/03/1883. He was the eldest son of the Reverend Robert Wallace of Ballygoney, Coagh, and later of Omagh, County Tyrone, grandson of the Reverend John Knox Leslie of Cookstown, and a nephew of Dr. Richard Whytock Leslie of Cookstown who was the first Doctor of Campbell College, Belfast and a respected physician at the Ulster Hospital for Women and Children. Dar es Salaam. Coagh WM

1917

+KERR, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. Rifleman. 890. Died 31/05/1917 as a result of gas poisoning . Age 39. Born 15/09/1877. Enlisted in the 16th Royal Irish Rifles at Brownlow House.

Left for France October 1915 with the 36th Ulster Division. The 16th Royal Irish Rifles were involved in the work on the 36th Divisional Front (Wytschaete- Messines) of rail tracks building and dugouts for the build up for the “Battle of Messines” on 7th June. Son of John and Elizabeth McComb Kerr, of Kilmore Rd., Crossgar; husband to Sarah Kerr Lissard, of Kilmore Rd., Crossgar, Co. Down. Father of four. Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Belgium. Dromore WM

+McGUIGAN, Henry

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 5695. Died 31/05/1917. Age 27. One of three brothers who served. Born 22/12/1889 near Moy, County Tyrone. Henry was a linen finisher. Son of George and Ellen McGuigan. St Pol Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Dungannon WM, Moy WM.

+MORGAN, John William Moore

Army Service Corps. Asst. Director of Supply (Boulogne). Lieutenant Colonel. DSO. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 31/03/1917. Age 47. Educated at Haileybury and Sandhurst. He was commissioned in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in May in 1891 and three years later transferred to the ASC. Promoted to Captain in June 1899, Major in 1906 and Lt Colonel in 1914. He had served in the South African War. He was awarded the Queen’s Medal with two clasps and was appointed DSO. Son of the late Rev. Canon Moore Morgan, LL.D., and Frances Margaret Mooney of Abbey St., Armagh. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

+THOMPSON, William Henry

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 11/6443. Died 31/05/1917. Born in Lambeg, he lived at Grand Street on the Low Road, Lisburn. Before the War he was a machine boy at Barbour's Mill in Hilden, He enlisted at Lisburn. Captain Robert Kelso a Presbyterian Chaplain wrote to Mrs Thompson the day after his death saying that, "It was my sad duty today to bury your son, and I must write to say how much I feel for you in your sorrow. He was killed last night whilst on duty near the trenches, and was laid to rest today in a military cemetery behind the lines. It was not my privilege to know your lad, but his Company Commander (who attended the funeral) expressed himself in very high terms as to your boys worth as a soldier. He seems to have been a general favourite in the Battalion and both Officers and men are much grieved at his death. You have every reason to be proud of his record of courage and loyalty, and you can thank God that you 'mothered a man'. Now that he has gone try to think of him as transferred on promotion to the Company of the Redeemed in Glory and still on active service in the presence of the King Himself". Following his death notice in the Herald on 16th June 1917 including with it a poem which read, "He little thought when leaving home, It would be his last good-bye, But some day we hope to meet him, in that happy home on high". One of his brothers was also on active service. He was the eldest son of John and Jane Thompson, of 126, Grand St., Low Rd., Lisburn. Lindenhoek Chalet Military Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+GORDON, William Gordon

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). 36th. Rifleman. 17751. Died instantly by shellfire 31/05/1918 while on transport duties (2 others from M G C also killed and 5 wounded). Aged 20. Dromore Temperance LOL 730. West Down (Dromore) UVF.



James Donnelly from Ballintoy was possibly the last member of the Royal Flying Corps to be killed in action in WW1.

Left Dromore with Bruce Hamilton, Company Commander UVF, and 8 others for Clondeboy Camp and enlisted in the 13th Royal Irish Rifles (16521) 19/09/1914. Left for France with the 36th Ulster Division October 1915. While in France engaged as a transport driver. Transferred to the 36th Machine Gun Corps 01/03/1918 after the disbandment of the 13th Royal Irish Rifles. Became a groom for Rev Ernest

Gimblett (Chaplain of the Machine Gun Corps). Brother of Lance Corporal Thomas Gordon 20/29 16th Royal Irish Rifles (Pioneers). Died 11/06/1918. Born 25/01/1897. Son of Thomas and Agnes (nee Kelly) Gordon ,Meeting Street Dromore Co Down. Gwalia Cemetery, Belgium. Dromore WM. 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church RH

+NOBLE, C

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 17/1178. Died 31/05/1918. Age 21. Son of Robert and Elizabeth Noble, of Ballymacarrett, Belfast. Duhallow ADS Cemetery, Belgium

+O'NEILL, Samuel

Royal Field Artillery, 29th Div. Ammunition Col. Driver. 58806. Died 31/05/1918. Age 29. Son of Samuel and Jane O'Neill, of Belfast; husband to Mrs. M. O'Neill, of 20, Mayfair Street, Belfast. Cinq Rues British Cemetery, Hazebrouck, France

1920

+McADAMS, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 2/7394. Died 31/05/1920. Age 35. Son of David and Isabella McAdams, of 20, Fleming St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1940

+BINGHAM, David

Royal Artillery. 3 Searchlight Regt, 12 Bty. Gunner. 1486041. Died 31/05/1940. Aged 38. Son of William James Bingham and Margaret Bingham; husband to Agnes Bingham, of Ligoniel, Co. Antrim. Dunkirk Memorial Column 10

+FAIRBROTHER, Robert Albert

North Staffordshire Regiment, 2nd Btn. Private. 5047549. Died 31/05/1940. Age 26. Son of Joe and Louise Fairbrother; husband to Agnes Fairbrother, of Castlewellan. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Belgium

+McDEVITT, James Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980062. Died between 27/05/1940 and 31/05/1940. Aged 20. Son of Paul and Kathleen McDevitt, of Omagh. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+WEBB, Samuel

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver. T/7013121. Died between 31/05/1940 and 02/05/1940. Age 24. Son of Edward and Sussana Webb, of Portadown. Dunkirk Memorial, France

+WILSON, Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980541. Died 31/05/1940. Aged 28. Son of Michael and Isabella Wilson; husband of Rose Ann Wilson, of Londonderry. Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

1941

+CUMINS, Oliver

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 1112854. Died 31/05/1941. Aged

25. Family Memorial states Died on Active Service. Lisburn cemetery

+FURNEY, George

RAF (AAF). Flight Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 816134. DFM. Died 31/05/1941. Aged 21. 84 Sqdn. Son of Benjamin W. B. Furney and Elizabeth Downes Furney, of Finaghy. Habbaniya War Cemetery, Iraq

1942

+CALLAGHAN, William James

RAFVR. Sergeant Air Gunner. 981131. Died 31/05/1942. Age 19. 12 Sqdn. Son of James and Kathleen Callaghan (nee Haddock) of Lurgan. Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, Holland. Lurgan WM

+CAMLIN, Brian Buchanan

RAF. Sergeant. 531455. Died 31/05/1942. Aged 23. Son of Edwin And Nora Camlin, Belfast. Beck Row (St. John) Churchyard, Suffolk

+CRUISE, Richard Sweet

RAF. Sergeant/Flight Engineer. 523187. KIA 31/05/1942. Aged 26. 214 Sqdn. at Stradishall. He was on board Short Stirling W7534 BU-E which took off from R.A.F. Stradishall on a mission to Cologne as part of Operation Millenium. This was the largest Bombing Raid to date with over 1000 aircraft taking part. When BU-E was reported as missing a Crew Member of another aircraft reported that on passing

Munchengladbach he had seen a Wellington, which is believed to have been climbing to avoid flak, collide with a Stirling from below. The result of the impact was that the tail of the Stirling was detached and the Wellington exploded on impact while the Stirling exploded on hitting the ground. Son of William John and Elizabeth Cruise, of Belfast. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

+CUNNINGHAM, Robert James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn.Serjeant. 6979745, Died 31/05/1943. Age 34. Husband of Robina Cunningham, of Belfast. Madras War Cemetery, Chennai, India

+McALLISTER, John

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver. T/91029. Died 31/05/1942. (Served as John Short). Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

+McGRATH, Patrick Gerald

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1081837. Died 31/05/1942. 214 Sqdn. Son of Mr. J. McGrath and Mrs. McGrath, Drumene, Kilrea. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery. Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

+MERCER, Hill

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner).1063548. Died 31/05/1942. Aged 21.158 Sqdn. Son of George and Jane Mercer, of Lisburn. Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

+WATSON, George Samuel

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1023590. Died 31/05/1942. Aged 23. 142 Sqdn. Son of George and Hannah H. N. Watson, of Warrenpoint. Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium

1943

+KELLY, Archibald

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 6979102. Died 31/03/1943. Age 23. He joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers when he was 18 years old in 1937 and lived at 26 Argyle Street, Londonderry. Son of Robert and Mary Kelly, was 23 years old when he died on 31/03/1943. Rangoon Memorial

1944

+CRAWFORD, Nathaniel Hugh

RAFVR. Sergeant (Navigator). 1545675. Died 31/05/1944. Aged 30. On 31/05/1944 he was with Number 1654 Heavy Conversion Unit based at R.A.F. Wigsley in Nottinghamshire. He was a Crew Member in Short Stirling LK 715 which was taking part in a training flight when at 17.15 the aircraft caught fire, broke up and crashed at Co-Operative Farm, West Thickley, Sheldon, County Durham resulting with the deaths of all on board. Nathaniel's Brother Martin is also named on the Family Headstone. Private Martin Crawford, who was 34 years old, was serving with Calgary Highlanders, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps and was Killed in Action in Normandy on 22/07/1944. He has no known grave but is named on the Bayeux Memorial in

Normandy. Nathaniel studied in the QUB Faculty of Applied Science and Technology 1932 - 34. Son of Hugh and Hessie Crawford; husband to Constance Crawford, Larne. Raloo C of I Churchyard. QUB RH

+GILMORE, James Henry

A.A.C.The Parachute Regiment, 4th Btn. Corporal. 6983824. Died 31/05/1944. Aged 22. Son of Isaiah and Emma Gilmore, of Lisburn. Salerno War Cemetery, Italy

+McILWEE, John

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7015235. Died 31/05/1944. Aged 31. Son of William and Sarah McIlwee; husband to Catherine McIlwee, of Belfast. Belfast (Milltown) Roman Catholic Cemetery

+NIXON, Joseph Henry

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1898832. Died 31/05/1944. Aged 30. Son of George William and Annie Nixon, of Ballywillwill; husband to Lily Mary Nixon, of Fulham, London. Clough Presbyterian Churchyard

VETERAN

**Military Medal for WW1 Ballykelly nurse
Molly McGinnis who didn't run away**



Photo courtesy the Northern Ireland Historical Photograph Society

Molly McGinnis was awarded a Military Medal for her actions on the night of May 31, 1918, in the St John's Ambulance Hospital in Etaples, France. It was one of a number of hospitals in the area caring for wounded soldiers from the Western Front.

Etaples is on the channel coast and was the centre for a number of hospitals treating the war wounded. The very large Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries in the sand

dune belt testify to the cost of the war and the service performed by the nurses and medical staff.

Rosemary Henderson, Molly's great niece, researched her story -

She was on night duty. The St John's Ambulance Brigade Hospital was right next to the railway line. Etaples was the target and it was on the railway line.

The Germans must have known about the hospital. It was a clear enough night, all the roofs were marked with the red cross, but they continued to bombard it.

The village itself was decimated by bombs the night before, the people abandoned it overnight and went into the hills. Because they were near the railway line they got the brunt of the bombardment that night.

The raids basically demolished the hospital. The photographs that exist show that one hut was left standing where the x-ray and operating theatre was. There was one South African nurse killed. A lot of orderlies were injured. They managed to get a lot of the patients out.

Molly was on duty that night. She secured a ward and dug out the patients out of the rubble. She stayed at her post.

She is reported, anecdotally from some other nurses at the time who did keep diaries, to have thrown herself across the bed of a patient to protect him as the ward collapsed.

That has been reported back a few times though it's not mentioned in the dispatch for the Military Medal, just that she stayed and comforted her patients.

Years later she was quoted as saying ‘I got a medal because I didn’t run away’. That’s all she ever said about the medal.

She did talk about her time in France as a nurse but the only reference to the medal, and that night, was that she didn’t run away.”

The citation in the London Gazette, July 1918, read: “For gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy air raid. She showed great courage, took charge of a ward, and sustained her patients.”

Rosemary said: “I have her medal. My uncle gave it to me. I nearly died. He said, ‘you’re the only person showed any interest in her’, and he gave me the medal along with quite a few bits and pieces that he had.”

Sister Molly McGinnis was one of only 147 women awarded the Military Medal during World War One, just nine of whom were Irish.

After the hospital in Etaples in which she worked was destroyed, Molly moved further down the coast to the rebuilt hospital.

Rosemary recalls “St John’s was considered the best equipped hospital in France at one point, they were the only people who had a cardiologist.

“When they moved further down the coast they were getting the rehabilitative patients before they went back to England. They had been getting the very serious patients before that in Etaples.

“Colonel Trimble who was in charge, wrote that he kept the staff who he felt deserved the honour of being the last to leave. Molly would have been among the last to leave along with the last half dozen or so patients.

“When they demobilised the hospital they donated the radiography equipment to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast and Queen’s University got all the x-ray records. The staff from Northern Ireland, or the north of Ireland as it was then, had been instrumental in setting up the hospital.”

After leaving France in 1920 Molly came back to Dublin: “Red Cross records indicated that she wanted to retrain in midwifery. I think she’d had enough of death. Her and her friends set up a nursing hospital in Dublin.

“In her later years she went to work for a private contractor, for a family who had a relative who wasn’t well.

“She retired to Belfast, a residential retirement home, two weeks later she lifted the phone to my uncle and said, ‘can I come home?’

“She left Ballykelly in her late 20s. She came home here in her later years and died.”

Rosemary commented: “There are still gaps in her story. What she did between 1940 and 1950. It felt like she came back from the war and then retired. I know there’s so much more.”

“The Search For Molly: An Irishwoman in the Great War 1914-1918” marks the culmination of many years of research by Rosemary Henderson. The book was launched just before the latest lockdown on September 30 – the

anniversary of Molly's death. The book is available on the NI Community Archive (www.niarchive.org)

The event saw the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Alderman Mark Fielding, joined by family members and representatives of Museum Services and Peace IV at Molly's graveside in St Finlough's Graveyard, Ballykelly.

Acknowledgments - Graeme Cousins, News Letter
08/03/2021.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them



On this Day – May 31

1916

The scene is set for the **Battle of Jutland**. Largest naval battle of World War I between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet which killed 8,645 in an inconclusive battle but strategic British victory. German fleet never puts to sea again in WWI.

1940

The Defense of Dunkirk continues as 68,000 allied troops are evacuated. The French defense of Lille collapses. Churchill flies to Paris for a meeting of the Supreme Allied War Council, the second time since the 10th May.

Heavy Luftwaffe attacks sink two French destroyers off the beaches at Dunkirk.

1941

German bombers attack Dublin by mistake: Eire government protests, Germans later offer compensation. British civilian casualties for May announced: 5,394 killed and 5,181 injured.

British forces enter Baghdad and an armistice is signed. The terms of the armistice require that all axis personnel in Iraq are to be interned and that Iraq support the British cause against the axis.

1941

The Luftwaffe dropped four bombs on the North Strand area of Dublin. 28 people were killed, 90 injured, and 300 homes

destroyed. The bombings are most commonly attributed to a navigational error, though some believe they were intentional.

1942

Bad weather over Hamburg, means the alternate target, Cologne is selected by Bomber Command for the first 1,000 night-bomber raid of the war. 1,046 heavy bombers take off with 850 claiming to have attacked the target with 1,455 tons of explosive. The raid lasted about 75 minutes, a new departure from the past when aircraft were given much more latitude as to when they attacked the target. The raid destroys 600 acres of built-up area, kills 486 civilians and makes 59,000 people homeless. Of the participating aircraft, 40 failed to return and a further 19 crashed for one reason or another.

Since the start of Operation Paukenschlag (Drum Beat) in January, the U-boats operating along the US eastern seaboard have sunk 111 vessels.

The battle of the 'Cauldron' begins as Rommel attacks the fortified box in the Gazala line that is held by the 150th Brigade of the British 50th Division. The Italians attack from the west as elements of the Afrika Korps attack from the east. Meanwhile Rommel's anti-tank gunners, repulse a number of British armored counter-attacks against his position in the 'Cauldron'. However, Lieutenant General Ritchie is hampered by his inability to concentrate his armor and so is unable to relieve the 150th Brigade.

A Japanese midget submarine enters Sydney Harbour.

1943

By the end of May, 41 U-boats have been sunk in the Atlantic due to greatly improved allied anti-submarine techniques and tactics (Hedgehog, greater-range patrol aircraft, better radar, more escort vessels and carriers, plus the advantage of having broken the German Navy Enigma code). “Black May” effectively marks the end of a sustained German U-boat campaign in WW2 which did come very close to starving out Britain and forcing her to make terms with Germany.

The Danish resistance blows up an engine shed at Toender as sabotage mounts, despite Danish King’s appeal for a halt.

The U.S. 15th Air Force bombs German and Italian airfields at Foggia, destroying many aircraft on the ground.

Chiang Kai-Shek claims three Japanese divisions have been surrounded on Yangtze River.

Japanese end their occupation of the Aleutian Islands as the U.S. completes the capture of Attu.

1944

The Russians repel a heavy German counter attack North of Jassy, in the southern Ukraine. Stalin gives the go-ahead to Operation ‘Bagration’ (the Russian summer offensive) which is to destroy Army Group Centre in Byelorussia.

1945

Chiang Kai-Shek resigns the Chinese Premiership but remains as President and Generalissimo, with Dr. Soong succeeding him as premier.

Osaka is totally burnt out by U.S. incendiaries.

1945

38 (Irish) Brigade

2 LIR - VILLACH: PoWs evacuated during the day included 1 SS Major (formerly a Guard Commandant at Dachau), 1 SS Police Regiment OR and 1 agent, who claimed he was working for the Allies. A diesel oil dump was discovered at H Coy's road post, Ruprecht.

1 RIrF – EGG AM: Partisans providing information on suspected Party and SS personnel.

2 Innisks – WINKLERN: The Cossacks were loaded into trains by other units in the Drava Valley. Considerable difficulty was reported & notice that we be prepared to give assistance on June 1st.

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

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

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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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