



remembrance ni

Three of the NI officers at Jutland

Commander Edward Bingham VC from Bangor, Captain Herbert Meade, DSO from Ballynahinch and Commodore Frederic Charles Dreyer from Armagh

Commander Edward Bingham VC

Commander Edward Bingham VC, in HMS Nestor in command of a destroyer division at the Battle of Jutland

Edward Barry Stewart Bingham (1881-1939), had the distinction of being the only member of the Royal Navy to be awarded the VC while in captivity during World War One. He was born at Bangor Castle, Bangor, County Down, on 26th July 1881, the third son of John, 5th Baron Clanmorris, JP, DL, ADC to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and his wife, Matilda Catherine nee Ward, Lady Clanmorris, daughter and



heir of a wealthy builder. He was educated at Arnold House, in Llanddulas, Wales, and on the Dartmouth-based navy training ship HMS Britannia before being commissioned as a midshipman in 1897. Promoted to Lieutenant on 30th June 1903, Bingham, who was a fine horseman, was a member of the Royal Navy polo team, which won the Inter-Regimental and Ships Annual Challenge Cup in Malta.

At the outbreak of war, he was serving as Lieutenant Commander aboard the Admiralty yacht Enchantress, a miniature liner of some 2,000 tons complete with its own boardroom and wine cellar. The following morning he joined the Dreadnought battlecruiser Invincible as fourth most senior officer in command of A turret.

Despite undergoing an extensive refit when war was declared, Invincible was at sea by the middle of August 1914 and by the end of the month had taken part in the successful action at Heligoland Bight. Dispatched to the

South Atlantic in November, Invincible and Bingham played a prominent role in the defeat of Vice-Admiral Graf von Spee's Pacific Squadron at the Battle of the Falklands on 8th December 1914. Having fired Admiral Sturdee's first sighting shot at the retreating Leipzig, Bingham's gun crew scored a number of hits during Invincible's destruction of the Scharnhorst. In recognition of his service, he was promoted to Commander on 31st December and was promised a destroyer command.

On 12th February 1915 he took charge of the 850 ton Hornet and a division of destroyers which formed part of the First Flotilla based at Harwich and, from the following month, the Firth of Forth. For the next 14 months Hornet was engaged in essential, though largely uneventful, patrol work, often in company with Beatty's battlecruisers or a squadron of elderly pre-Dreadnought battleships.

During a 48 hour leave from Hornet, he married Vera Temple Patterson, only daughter of Mr Edward Temple Patterson, of Culford Gardens, South Kensington (they divorced in 1937). They had two children, John Temple Bingham and Lavinia Mary Bingham.

In the spring of 1916, the First Flotilla began to replace its existing ships with new M-Class destroyers. Bingham's new command, HMS Nestor, arrived in the Firth of Forth on 30th April and the following day the bulk of Bingham's Hornets transferred en masse. Within a month, the majority of them would be dead, wounded or prisoners of war, including Bingham.

On 31st May 1916, during the Battle of Jutland off Denmark, 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 2,750 meters 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.

Bingham was picked up by the Germans and was held initially in Mainz, before being taken to Friedburg in Hessen. After a stay of 9 and a half months, they were transferred to Augustabad, Neubrandenburg. It was while he was in Friedburg that he got the news that he had been awarded the VC. What he did not know was the amount of debate that surrounded his award, gazetted on 15th September 1916. In examining the recommendation, the Naval Secretary had urged that the question of Bingham's VC be postponed until the war was over. Writing on 28th August, he declared that Commander Bingham, "being a prisoner of war, is not by the accepted rules eligible for an honour until his release and subsequent enquiry into his conduct." But Arthur Balfour, the First Lord of the Admiralty, disagreed. Two days later, he replied "I see no sufficient reason why.....Bingham should not receive the VC at once." With that the recommendation went forward, and was approved by King George V.

The following June, Bingham, now at Augustabad, learned that the Russians had awarded him the Order of Stanislaus 2nd Class with two swords, for his exploits at Jutland.

During his two and half years' captivity, he prepared his memoirs, published in 1919 under the title "Falklands, Jutland and the Bight." On his release from captivity, he returned to Britain and was presented with the VC by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 13th December 1918. His home town of Bangor gave him a hero's welcome. He then resumed his naval career, and was promoted to Captain on 31st December 1919. He was also awarded the OBE and, the following year, was appointed to command the Admiralty yacht Enchantress, in which he had served before the war. After taking a senior officers' course, he returned to destroyers in 1923 as captain of the Montrose and commander of the Fourth Flotilla, part of the Mediterranean Fleet. He then commanded the Nore Destroyer Flotilla from 1925 to 1929 and then the battleship HMS Resolution. In 1931 he was made the Naval ADC to King George V and appointed senior officer of the Devonport Division of the Reserve Fleet. The following July, he was promoted Rear Admiral on his retirement and settled at Evershot in Dorset.

Barry Bingham, the only one of the quartet of Jutland VCs who lived to receive his VC, died in a London nursing home on 24th September 1939. His body was cremated in a private service at Golders Green Crematorium. Two years later, after the death of his mother, his birthplace was bought by Bangor Borough Council and converted into the Town Hall. On 13th October 1983, the North Down Borough Council purchased his medals from a private collector for £18,000 and they were placed on display in the Heritage Centre. They were replaced by replicas in 2001 after a thief made off with the medals, only to be apprehended by an off-duty policeman.

Bungham 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.

Captain Herbert Meade, DSO

Captain Herbert Meade, DSO, commanded HMS Royalist of 6th. Light Cruiser Squadron at the Battle of Jutland. His name is included in a list of Commanding Officers recommended for commendation for service at Jutland (London Gazette, 15/09/1916).

The 1st Battle Cruiser Squadron and the 1st and 6th Light Cruiser Squadrons were central to the plot which saw them sweep across the North Sea to approach the outer edge of the quadrant of mines in Heligoland Bight where the German forces were working and then, having surprised the enemy, to try and force him into action.

The Honourable Herbert Meade, was a brother of the Earl of Clanwilliam, Montalto, Balynahinch, and a son of the late Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl of Clanwilliam, GCB, KCMG, (1832 - 1907), also of Montalto, Ballynahinch. Born 03/11/1875, he too became an admiral.

A painting by Frank Watson Wood (1862-1953) shows HMS Renown (Captain The Hon Herbert Meade DSO RN) wearing the standard of HRH The Prince of Wales when the battle cruiser was returning from a tour of India and the Far East on 22/06/1922. The Royal Tour which had started 8



HMS Renown (Captain The Hon Herbert Meade DSO RN) wearing the standard of HRH The Prince of Wales

months earlier had taken the Royal Squadron to Japan and India and here the Prince's ADC, Lieutenant Lord Louis Mountbatten, had become engaged to Edwina Ashley on St Valentine's Day whilst the Royal Party were in Delhi. Three days after arriving back in Plymouth HRH celebrated his 28th birthday and on 7th July Captain Meade was appointed CVO in recognition of his ship's services to the Prince's Tour.

Commodore Frederic Charles Dreyer

Commodore Frederic Charles Dreyer - Flag Captain of HMS Iron Duke at Battle of Jutland

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.

His knowledge and experience of naval gunnery caused him to write tables which were later adopted service-wide - The Dreyer Firepower Tables.

He was educated at the Royal School, Armagh (1888-90), and the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

In respect of Jutland, his grandfather had been the Danish minister for the navy.

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 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.

Roll of Honour - June 01

Representing their comrades who fell on this day

1915

+McDONALD, Robert

1st Western Ontario Regiment (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry). Private. Died 01/06/1915. Son of Margaret McDonald. LOL 1464, Downpatrick. Vimy Memorial Pas de Calais, France

1916

+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

+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

+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

*See series of posts on Jutland ships with Rolls of Honour
see May 30 post on this site*

1918

+ALLEN, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman.17135. Died
01/06/1918. Aged 24. Vevey (St. Martin's) Cemetery,
Switzerland

1940

+BLANEY, Arthur

Royal Engineers, 17 Field Coy. Corporal.1875825. Died
01/06/1940. Aged 19. Son of Charles and Margaret Blaney,
of Hilden, Lisburn. Dunkirk Memorial, France. Lisburn WM

+GILPIN, John Robert

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7013792. Died
between 01/06/1940 and 02/06/1940. Aged 19. Stepson of
Mary Gilpin of Cultra, Co. Down. Dunkirk Memorial, France

+GREGG, Thomas

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7012187. Died at sea 01/06/1940. Aged 25. Born in Co. Antrim. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+LEWIS, James

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7011974. Died 01/06/1940. Aged 28. Born in Co. Down. Son of John and Susan Lewis, Co. Armagh; husband to Lily Hollander Lewis, of Brixton, London. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+MacDONALD, James

Royal Artillery. 30 Field Regt. Serjeant. 1070846. Died 01/06/1940. Aged 33. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Macdonald, of Armagh. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+McATEER, Edward Joseph

Royal Armoured Corps, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. Trooper. 6978479. Died 01/06/1940. Aged 21. The Inniskilling Dragoons were in 2 Armd Recce Bde and on reaching Dunkirk, 'drove their fighting vehicles to the very water's edge, in good order, preserving their organization to the last'. Originally Fusilier McAteer of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Son of Thomas and Margaret McAteer, of Newry. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+McDAID, Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6977015. Died Between 01/06/1940 and 04/06/1940. Aged 27. Son of John and Ellen McDaid, of Strabane. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+LOVE, JAMES CLEMENTS

RAFVR. Sergeant. 745109. Died 01/06/1940. 254 Sqdn. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

+SMITH, Walter Stanley

Royal Artillery. 27 Field Regt. Warrant Officer Class III (T.S.M.). 1065147. Died 01/06/1940. Aged 29. Son of Edward Henry and Edith Annie Smith; husband to Lilian Smith, of Portaferry. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+TREANOR, Alan Lancelot

RAF. Pilot Officer. 41965. Died 01/06/1940 during a patrol over the Dunkirk area when his Hawker Hurricane I disappeared over Dunkirk. Aged 19. 245 (Northern Rhodesian) Sqdn. Alan attended The Royal School, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone and Down High School, Downpatrick, Co. Down. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force, being granted a short service commission as an Acting Pilot Officer on 15th April 1939. He graduated as a Pilot Officer on 6th November 1939 with his appointment confirmed on 6th February 1940. Born at 1 Catherine Street, Waterford, Ireland on 9th June 1920, he was the only son of Sydney Allen Robinson Treanor and Marthena "Ena" Mary Treanor (née Henderson) who later lived in Belfast and at Alan's time of death in Provincial Bank House, Castlewellan, Co. Down and later of Bangor, Co. Down. Family in the Coalisland area. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 10. Dungannon WM, St Anne's C of I Dungannon WM

+WAITE, Leslie

East Lancashire Regiment, 1st Btn. Private. 3385342. Died 01/06/1940. Aged 23. Son of Edwin and Mary Ellen Waite; husband of Maureen Harriet Elizabeth Waite, of Holywood, Co. Down. Pihen - les - Guines War Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

+WOODFIELD, William John

North Staffordshire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private. 5044480. Died 01/06/1940. Age 30. Son of Thomas Woodfield and Ada Woodfield, and the husband of Elizabeth Woodfield of Rathmullan, Co. Down. Dunkirk Town Cemetery, France

1942

+CHARLTON, William Frederick Dixon

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 103549. Died 01/06/1942. Age 22. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. Born Lurgan 20/10/1919. He attended Lurgan College from September 1932 until December, 1936. On leaving school he joined the Belfast Bank and was working in the Londonderry branch of that bank when war broke out. He joined up in January or February, 1940. R.A.F. College, Cranwell, from which he graduated as a Pilot Officer. Pilot Officer Charlton was lost during the 1000 bomber raid on Essen on 1st June, 1942, having already completed a large number of successful missions. Son of Clement John and Sarah Eleanor Charlton of Gilford Road. Harderwijk General Cemetery, Netherlands. Lurgan WM

1944

+GIRR, Francis

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Serjeant. MM. 6976967. Died 01/06/1944. Aged 29. Son of Matthew and Mary A. Girr, of Omagh, ; husband to Kathleen Girr, of Omagh. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+McDOWELL, John

Royal Armoured Corps, 7th Royal Tank Regiment. Trooper. 7877822. Died 01/06/1944. Aged 38. Husband of Sarah McDowell, of Markethill, Co. Armagh. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+SEALE, Theo' John

Attached 1st Btn. Royal Ulster Rifles from 18/05/1943. Second Lieutenant. 26895. Royal Irish Fusiliers. Died 01/06/1944 when a hand grenade exploded in the Company lines. Aged 23. He was the son of Mr and Mrs William Pilkington Seale of Belfast Bank House, Portadown. Heavyweight boxing champion of the Battalion. Former leader of the Portadown College Boy Scout Troop and captain first fifteen 1937-38. His brother, Squadron Leader T.C. (Terry) Seale, was killed in action on 30/06/1941. Seale House at Portadown College was named after the brothers. British Lion, Ulster and Irish Rugby player Rory Best belonged to Seale House. Portadown WM, Portadown College WM, Plaque at St Mark's Church, Portadown.

+THOMPSON, Thomas William

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1145121. Died 01/06/1944. Number 3 Tactical Air Force Communications Squadron. He was lost in Anson 1 LT893 between Lanka and Imphal. Son of Thomas William and Mary A Thompson

of Lurgan. Singapore Memorial, Malaya, Column 435.
Lurgan WM

1946

+GALLAGHER, Patrick Joseph

Royal Artillery. 106 HAA Regiment, 332 Bty. Gunner.
1427296. Died 01/06/1946. Aged 23. Son of Nellie
Gallagher of Strabane. Strabane Cemetery

VETERAN

STAUNTON, Nicholas

Royal Marine Light Infantry. Private. CH/7962. Born in Londonderry in 1876, Nicholas enlisted in the RMLI in 1894. He served mostly with the Mediterranean fleet rising to the rank of Colour Sergeant. He was discharged time completed on 24/02/1916 and re-enlisted as a Private the following day, serving on HMS Havelock, on coastal protection of the east of England. He was discharged with the Silver War Badge on 01/01/1919 having contracted TB. He died of TB on 01/06/1921 at Rossclare Sanatorium, Irvinestown, and his remains are buried at Priory Church of Ireland, Killadeas, Co. Fermanagh.

**Every day is a Remembrance
Day**

We will remember them



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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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