



remembrance ni



The Kitchener Memorial, Marwick, Orkney

The NI men who died with Kitchener

In June 1916, Field Marshall Earl Kitchener, the Minister of War, was scheduled to visit Russia for a series of negotiations aimed at ensuring that the Tsar's forces would stay in the war.

Earl Kitchener did not complete this mission. HMS Hampshire, the cruiser in which he was a passenger sank. It is presumed Hampshire hit a German mine. 643 men as



HMS Hampshire

well as Kitchener and his staff were lost. Amongst their number were at least twelve from Northern Ireland.

Several of them were members of the Orange Order and one had been active in the Irish Volunteers prior to joining the Royal Navy. He was a surgeon, Hugh Francis De Salle McNally. He had grown up in Belfast where his father had been a school principal prior to his retirement when he went to live in Portaferry

Kitchener had landed in Orkney where he briefly met Admiral Jellicoe before he joined the cruiser HMS Hampshire and prepared to set sail through Scapa Flow.

HMS Hampshire pulled up anchors at 4:40pm on Monday 5 June, 1916. With her were the destroyers HMS Unity and Victor. As they left Scapa Flow they sailed into stormy weather. The two destroyers struggled with the force nine gale and by 6:30pm they had both been signalled to return to base. The Hampshire fought on alone.

Unbeknown to the master and her crew, Scapa Flow had been visited by a German U-boat at the end of May. Undetected, U-75 laid 22 mines off the coast of Orkney. Bad weather at the beginning of June prevented the routine sweep of the area, so all the mines were out there as the Hampshire sailed on.

Struggling against the wind **HMS Hampshire** could only maintain 13.5 knots and was roughly one and a half miles from shore. At 7:45pm an urgent telegraph message was sent from nearby Birsay Post Office to Kirkwall and Stromness. It read: "Battle cruiser seems in distress between Marwick Head and the brough of Birsay."

A mile and a half out at sea the Hampshire was indeed in difficulties. An explosion had shaken the whole ship, the power had failed and she was unable to radio for assistance. She began to sink.

Birsay Post Office transmitted a second message signalling that there was a "vessel down".

The RNLI rushed to Stromness Naval HQ with the offer to launch a lifeboat. To their surprise their help was strenuously rejected. Further up the coast armed soldiers stood guard over the coast preventing locals from reaching the stricken ship.

The Hampshire had been down for four hours by the time her lifeboats started to reach the shore. The first raft, which had 40 men in it when it left the sinking ship, picked up a further 30 from the water. By the time it reached land only six were left alive. A second craft made it to the shore. Of the 40 or 50 men on board only four had survived the journey. Those who made it were unable to haul themselves up the rocks, and most died on the shoreline. Of the 667 people who had left Orkney only 12 survived the sinking. Kitchener was not among them. He died along with his staff.

The action of the authorities on the night inevitably led to intense speculation about the sinking. Questions were asked about why the Hampshire left Orkney in such a hurry, with such bad weather conditions forecast. What of the armed men stationed round the cliffs to ward off curious locals? If people were actively discouraged from helping rescue the stricken craft, there must have been a reason. Theories circulated that Kitchener had been deliberately killed or that he had not even been on the boat and that a body-double was lying dead in the sea in his place.

To this day, nobody is sure sure what happened on the night the Hampshire sank. What is likely is that in the confusion of the Battle of Jutland, naval staff had failed to note that U-75 had penetrated the Orkneys. On the night itself general confusion meant officials were unsure what boat had sank, initially unsure if the boat was German or a British warship.

For people living at the time the death of Kitchener was akin to the death of JF Kennedy or Princess Diane. Soldiers would later recall where they were and what they were doing when they heard that Kitchener was killed. With him dead there was a genuine fear that the war would be lost.



Field Marshal Earl Kitchener

Field Marshal Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener entered the Royal Engineers in 1871, Kitchener saw extensive service in the Near East and Egypt as a surveyor and junior officer. In 1892, while a colonel, he was tapped to be

the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army and tasked with re-taking the Sudan from the Mahdists.

Building an effective fighting force, he defeated the Mahdists at Omdurman in 1898. Dispatched to South Africa the following year, he was initially Field Marshal Frederick Roberts Chief of Staff during the Second Boer War before being made commander-in-chief in 1900. Criticized for his brutal tactics in suppressing the Boer insurgency, he advocated for a reconciliatory peace.

Following a stint as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, he served as Agent and Consul-General in Egypt until the outbreak of World War I. Returning to Britain, he was appointed Secretary of State for War and charged with overseeing British strategy. Greatly expanding the British

Army, his reputation was damaged by the failure of the Gallipoli Campaign and the 1915 Shell Crisis. Declining in influence, he was reduced to overseeing manpower and recruitment until selected for the diplomatic mission to Russia in May 1916.

After the war a large monument was raised in Kitchener's memory on Marwick Head, overlooking the massive cliffs where so many lives were lost. His body was never recovered and must still lie at the bottom of the sea at Scapa Flow. The graves of those men whose bodies were recovered are to be found at the Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery on the isle of Hoy, Orkney, together with a memorial stone.

Nationalist Volunteers on Falls Road paid farewell to Naval Surgeon

Dr Hugh Francis McNally was a 24 year old naval Surgeon born and schooled in Belfast, (St Malachy's College, Queen's University).

He is referred to in Richard S Grayson's, "Belfast Boys: How Unionists and Nationalists Fought and Died Together."

Grayson states that McNally was the Commander of the Irish National Volunteers in Belfast, and that In the parallel worlds of Belfast newspapers, The Irish News did not cover the massive parade of 17,000 men of the Ulster Division, on Friday 17/05/1915.

He continues, "Instead it commented on the simultaneous departure of the INV's Belfast Commanding Officer, Hugh McNally, a qualified doctor who had enlisted and was taking up a medical position in the Royal Navy. He was seen off by



The Kitchener Memorial, Marwick, Orkney

the remnants of the Belfast INV at the Brigade Hall in the Falls Road on the day after the Ulster Division's city parade." (Page 22).

An exhibition on the centenary of the loss of Hampshire at Belfast City Hall included a pair of photographs of 24-year-old Hugh Francis McNally showing him in Irish Volunteers uniform, and in his Royal Navy greatcoat. Also among the exhibits was a letter to his parents expresses sympathy from local worthies in the Volunteers, the best known Belfast nationalist councillor of the day among them.

The parents of the Queen's medical graduate lived in Portaferry. Some references to Surgeon McNally include De Salle as a Christina name. However, this name does not

appear in any official Naval record, nor in the QUB Book of Remembrance.

HMS Hampshire's record

The Hampshire served with the Channel Fleet in the 1st Cruiser Squadron until given a refit at Portsmouth in December 1908. She was then recommissioned into the Home Fleet, 3rd Division in August 1909 and then transferred to the 6th Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean Fleet in December 1911. HMS Hampshire was then moved to China until the beginning of world war one. On 11th August 1914 she too captured a German merchant ship and then took part in the hunt for the German ship Emden. At the end of 1914 she joined the Grand Fleet and, in January 1915, became part of the 7th Cruiser Squadron. HMS Hampshire was then given the job of protecting shipping in the White Sea during November 1915. When she took part in the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916, she was serving with the 2nd Cruiser Squadron. After taking Lord Kitchener and his staff on board she headed to North Russia but struck a mine off the Orkney Islands on 5th June 1916, losing all but 12 of a crew of 643.

Development of HMS Hampshire Memorial in Orkney

The names of every man lost in a naval disaster which was a bodyblow to the British Empire were unveiled on a new memorial to mark the centenary. Twelve of the 736 names are of men from Northern Ireland.

The sea around Scapa Flow holds the graves of hundreds of unfortunate sailors who went down with their ships during two world wars. As the main British naval base for both



conflicts, the deep waters of the natural harbour in Orkney today contain the protected war graves of HMS Royal Oak, the dreadnought HMS Vanguard and the armoured cruiser HMS Hampshire. The site also contains the remains of the German fleet, scuttled in 1919, and other relics of the twentieth century's bloodiest conflicts.

But it was the sinking of HMS Hampshire in a gale force storm off the mainland of Orkney between Brough of Birsay and Marwick Head on June 5 1916 that captured the public imagination of the time.

The battleship, which only days earlier had taken part in the Battle of Jutland, was on a diplomatic mission to Murmasnk with Secretary of State for War Field Marshall Lord Kitchener on board when it struck a mine laid by a German U-Boat. Kitchener, his staff and over 700 men were lost in the stormy seas. Only twelve survived.

The tragedy came just two days after news of the titanic clash between the British and German Navies at Jutland – a battle whose immediate outcome came as a huge disappointment to the British public.

As a famous Colonial and Boer War veteran - and a Cabinet Minister - Kitchener was a prominent figure and had been the face of the early wartime recruitment drive. He is best known today for the much parodied "Your Country Needs You!" recruiting posters but in 1916 his death made the headlines across the world.

In 1926 to mark the tenth anniversary of the disaster Orcadians erected the imposing Kitchener Memorial, a 48-foot high crenelated stone tower on the headland overlooking the site of the wreck at Marwick Head. And although the memorial, which was paid for by public subscription, formed a fitting memorial to a towering figure, a plaque on its wall made only a brief reference to the other men lost on HMS Hampshire with him.

As part of the centenary commemorations, the Kitchener Memorial is undergoing extensive restoration.

Detailed research by historians Brian Budge and Andrew Hollinrake has resulted in the most accurate roll of honour for the Hampshire ever produced.

Some 737 names will be inscribed in panels on the wall, which will arc around the tower, with a separate panel for the staff of Lord Kitchener – and another one bearing the names of nine men killed on the drifter Laurel Crown, which was blown up in June 1916 while trying to clear the minefield.

Acknowledgments

Andy Hollinrake and Alan Manzie, of the Orkney Heritage Society, Richard Moss, Culture 24, Richard S Grayson, Queen's University Book of Remembrance, Irish News

On this day - June 05

1940

Home Defence commander Ironside announces the creation of the Ironsides, small groups of highly mobile, armed men for defense against parachutists.

The Germans begin 'Operation Red', the Battle of France with 119 divisions, including 10 Panzer division's. Army Group B, with 50 divisions, opens the offensive against the French left wing which is anchored along the Somme for 120 miles, in fortified positions known as the Weygand Line, just 100 miles from Paris. Charles de Gaulle is appointed as French Under Secretary of State for War.

Hauptmann. Molders, leader of III/JG 53 and Germany's top air ace (25 kills) is shot down near Compiegne and taken prisoner.

1941

During Japanese air raid on Chongqing, China, 4,000 civilians suffocate in a shelter.

US House Appropriations committee introduces largest Army expenditure bill since the First World War at \$10,000 million.

Secret transfer of 4000 US Marines to Iceland.

Over 100 German divisions have now been deployed along Germany's frontier with the Soviet Union.

Germans say 15,000 prisoners taken in Crete. British later say 12,970 unaccounted for.

1942

USA declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania and warns Japan that she will retaliate in kind if gas is used.

Operation 'Birdsong' kicks off between Roslavl and Bryansk, as 5,000 German troops pursue 2,500 partisans. In four weeks, 1,198 partisans are killed, for the loss of 58 German dead. Even so, the Germans are not happy as "The partisans," a German officer reports, "continued their old tactic of evading, withdrawing into the forests, or moving in larger groups into the areas South and Southwest of the Roslavl-Bryansk highway and into the Kletnya area."

Although no further partisan attacks are reported in the area, "mines continued to be planted" and several German vehicles damaged.

SS report 97,000 persons have been "processed" in mobile gas vans.

Germans besiege Sevastopol.

The Eighth Army launches a counter-attack against the Afrika Korps forces that are inside the 'Cauldron'. This is codenamed 'Aberdeen', but went disastrously wrong from the start, with an infantry tank brigade being destroyed in minefields and an Indian infantry brigade attacking the wrong positions. This left the remainder of the force, the

22nd Armoured Brigade to be repulsed easily by the untouched German defenses. British losses for this operation were 150 tanks, 133 guns and 6,000 troops. At this point in the battle, the British forces in the northern part of the Gazala line (1st South African and the remainder of the British 50th Division), were still in a strong position and so General Auchinleck and Lieutenant General Ritchie decide to hold the line facing south from the Knightsbridge defensive box to El Adem with the remainder of their infantry and tank forces and wait for Rommel's next move.

During the early hours, Admiral Yamamoto orders the withdrawal of the Japanese invasion fleet and abandons his efforts to capture Midway. The US fleet loses contact with the Japanese later in the day. The US destroyer Hammam is torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine.

1943

Battle of Pantelleria-Island with airfield; 11,000 Italian troops; guns controlling access to Sicily. A six-day air bombardment forces the garrison to surrender without an invasion. This is also the first time the Tuskegee "Black Eagles" flew under Colonel Ben Davis.

U-513 (Kptlt. Sohler) sinks 4 ships off the coast of Brazil.

1944

Celebrations as Rome is liberated

The people of Rome have crowded onto the streets to welcome the victorious Allied troops.

The first American soldiers, members of the 5th Army, reached the centre of Rome late last night after

encountering dogged resistance from German forces on the outskirts of the city.

Early this morning it was announced the German troops had been ordered to withdraw.

Rome is the first of the three Axis powers' capitals to be taken and its recapture will be seen as a significant victory for the Allies and the American commanding officer who led the final offensive, Lieutenant General Mark Clark.

D-Day postponed by 24 hours

Royal Air Force meteorologist Group Captain James Stagg recommended that Overlord be postponed one day from June 5 to the 6th because of bad weather. Dwight D Eisenhower followed his advice and postponed D-Day by 24 hours. 10:15 p.m.: "Wound my heart with a monotonous languor"- BBC radio cue for the French Resistance. 10:30 p.m.: 101st Screaming Eagles finish their takeoff (822 C-47's). Ike visits airfield: "Good luck to you tonight soldier."

German submarine U-505 was captured off Rio de Oro by ships of the U.S. Navy. The sub's codebooks, Enigma machine and other secret materials found on board would be of assistance to Allied codebreakers.

The first mission by B-29 Superfortress bombers occurs as 77 planes bomb Japanese railway facilities at Bangkok, Thailand.

1945

Moscow Radio announces the award of the highest Russian honour, the 'Order of Victory', to Montgomery and Eisenhower.

The four allied powers sign a declaration on the defeat of Germany, which divides the country into four zones.

Roll of Honour - June 04

Representing their comrades who died on this day

ROLL OF HONOUR HMS HAMPSHIRE

+BROWN, William

RNR. Stoker. S444956. HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Foster son of Elizabeth O'Neill, Whiteabbey. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 28. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+CUNNNINGHAM, James

RNR. Seaman. A8031 (Po). HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Had served in Royal Irish Fusilliers and was wounded in the South African War. B 02/08/1877. Son of John and Catherine (nee Murray) Cunningham, Boat St., Newry.. Brother of Cecilia, Thomas St., Newry. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+DEVLIN, James

RNR. Stoker. HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Age: 40. Son of John and Hannah Devlin, Killeenan, Kildress, Cookstown. Before joining the Royal Naval Reserve, James was employed in Iron Works at Port Clarence-on-Tees, where he had lived and worked for over 20 years. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18. Donaghendry Church of Ireland RH. Stewartstown WM. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+DOHERTY, Robert

RNR. Stoker. 5278S. HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Age 32. Born Coleraine 10/12/1884. Enlisted Glasgow

06/01/1915. Son of Robert and Mary Doherty, Kyles Brae, Coleraine. Brother of Bridget, Killowen St., Coleraine. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Coleraine WM. IMR. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+ECCLESTONE, Norman

RNR. Stoker. S3263(Po). HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Born Belfast 18/10/1889. Husband to Annie Ecclestone, Matchett St., Belfast. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+EVANS, Joseph

RN. Mechanician. 306289. HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Age 35. B 07/03/1882, St Helen's Lincs. Son of W and J Evans, McClure St., Belfast; husband to Alice J. Vickery (formerly Evans), Hunter St., Burton-on-Trent. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 15. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+FORREST, John

RN. Stoker 1st Class. K27693(Po). HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Age 24. B 24/04/1892. Born Cookstown. Son of John and Rachel Forrest, Tullyhogue, Cookstown. John had gone to work in the United States of America for a few years before returning to Britain in January 1915 when he was employed in Scotland. He joined the Royal Navy in August 1915 and received his training in Portsmouth. He later qualified as a Stoker 1st Class and was posted to H.M.S Victory and later joined H.M.S Hampshire in early 1916. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 18. Donaghendry Church of Ireland RH. Stewartstown WM Kitchener Memorial, Orkney. ADM 188/922/27693

+GARRETT, Samuel

RN. Boy 1st. Class. J34712 (Dev). HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Boy service from 12/02/1915. In Impregnable, Victory I and Hampshire (30/05/1915 - 05/06/1916). Born Belfast 12/04/1899. Nephew of Elizabeth, 103 Newtownards Rd., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney. ADM 188/716/34712

+KENNEDY, John

RN. AB. 177117(Po). HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. B Belfast 21/06/1877. Brother of Martha Jane McCullough, Upper Meadow St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13. Printing Trades WM Belfast Cathedral. IMR. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+McLAUGHLIN, John

RND. Leading Seaman. 176819. HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Mine explosion off Orkneys. Age 40. Born Belfast. Served in the Naval Brigade under Sir George White at the Siege of Ladysmith. Son of John and Rachel McLaughlin. Husband to Sarah McLaughlin, Hillview St., Oldpark Rd., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial. St Silas' Church, Belfast WM. IMR. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+McLOUGHLIN, Robert Joseph

RNR. Stoker. 6955. HMS Hampshire. 05/06/1916. Age 25. Native of Newry. Son of John and Mary McLoughlin, Beacon St., Liverpool. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

+McNALLY, Hugh Francis

RN. Surgeon. HMS Hampshire. Died 05/06/1916. Age 24. In the ship which was carrying Lord Kitchener on a diplomatic mission to Russia which it is believed was struck by a mine



HMS Hampshire Memorial, Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery on the isle of Hoy, Orkney.

off the Orkneys. Hugh McNally was the Commander of the Irish National Volunteers in Belfast. In the parallel worlds of Belfast newspapers, The Irish News did not cover the massive parade of 17, 000 men of the

Ulster Division, on Friday 17/05/1915. "Instead it commented on the simultaneous departure of the INV's Belfast Commanding Officer, Hugh McNally, a qualified doctor who had enlisted and was taking up a medical position in the Royal Navy. He was seen off by the remnants of the Belfast INV at the Brigade Hall in the Falls Road on the day after the Ulster Division's city parade" (Richard S Grayson, Belfast Boys: How Unionists and Nationalists Fought and Died Together, Page 22). Born Belfast. Son of Nicholas and Elizabeth McNally, "The Shore," Shore St, Portaferry, Co. Down. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel

11. MB, BCh, BAO, QUB 1915. QUB WM. Kitchener Memorial, Orkney

1916

+DEMPSTER, Hugh

121 Field Company, Royal Engineers, Sapper. 64563. Died 05/06/1916. Born in Ballymacarrett, he lived at Corcreeny, Hillsborough, and enlisted at Belfast. He died at home. Maghull (St. Andrew's) churchyard, Lancashire

1917

+DEDDIS, Thomas

6 RIR. Lance corporal. 5066. Died of wounds in Salonica 05/06/1917. Born in Hillsborough and living in Belfast, he enlisted at Downpatrick. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

1918

+GREER Joseph

1st Gordon Highlanders. Lance Corporal. S/13953, Died of wounds 05/06/1918. Aged 23. Son of M. Greer, Sprucebank, Portglenone. Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport.

1940

+ARMSTRONG, Thomas Lindsay

RAFVR. Sergeant Pilot. 745102. Died 05/06/1940, aged 22. RAF No. 5 Operational Training Unit. Flying Bristol Blenheim L1232 he was attempting to land at night at Worcester Landing Ground but the aircraft overshot hitting a tree and house before catching fire. Son of Thomas and

Agnes Armstrong of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery. 502
(Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1942

+NEWELL, Thomas

Worcestershire Regiment, 1st Btn. Private. 6976739. Died 05/06/1942. Aged 32. Son of James A. Newell and Ellen Newell, of Newtownards. Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Lybia.

+THOMPSON, Walter

RAFVR. Sergeant (Pilot). 1066764. Died 05/06/1942. Age 20. 156 Sqdn. Son of Mr J G Thompson and the late Mrs Thompson of Randalstown, formerly of Mount Street, Ballymena. Bergen General Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands

1943

+BEATTIE, Hugh

RAFVR. Aircraftman 1st Class. 1795089. Died 05/06/1943. Age 19. 2738 Squadron (RAF Regiment). Son of Joseph and Eliza Jane (nee McClelland) Beattie of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

+JESS, William John

RAF. Corporal. 548834. Died 05/06/1943 on the Indonesian island of Java. Age 26. William joined the Royal Air Force in 1938, and became a prisoner of war following the fall of Singapore in 1942. Born on 09/07/1917, he was the son of

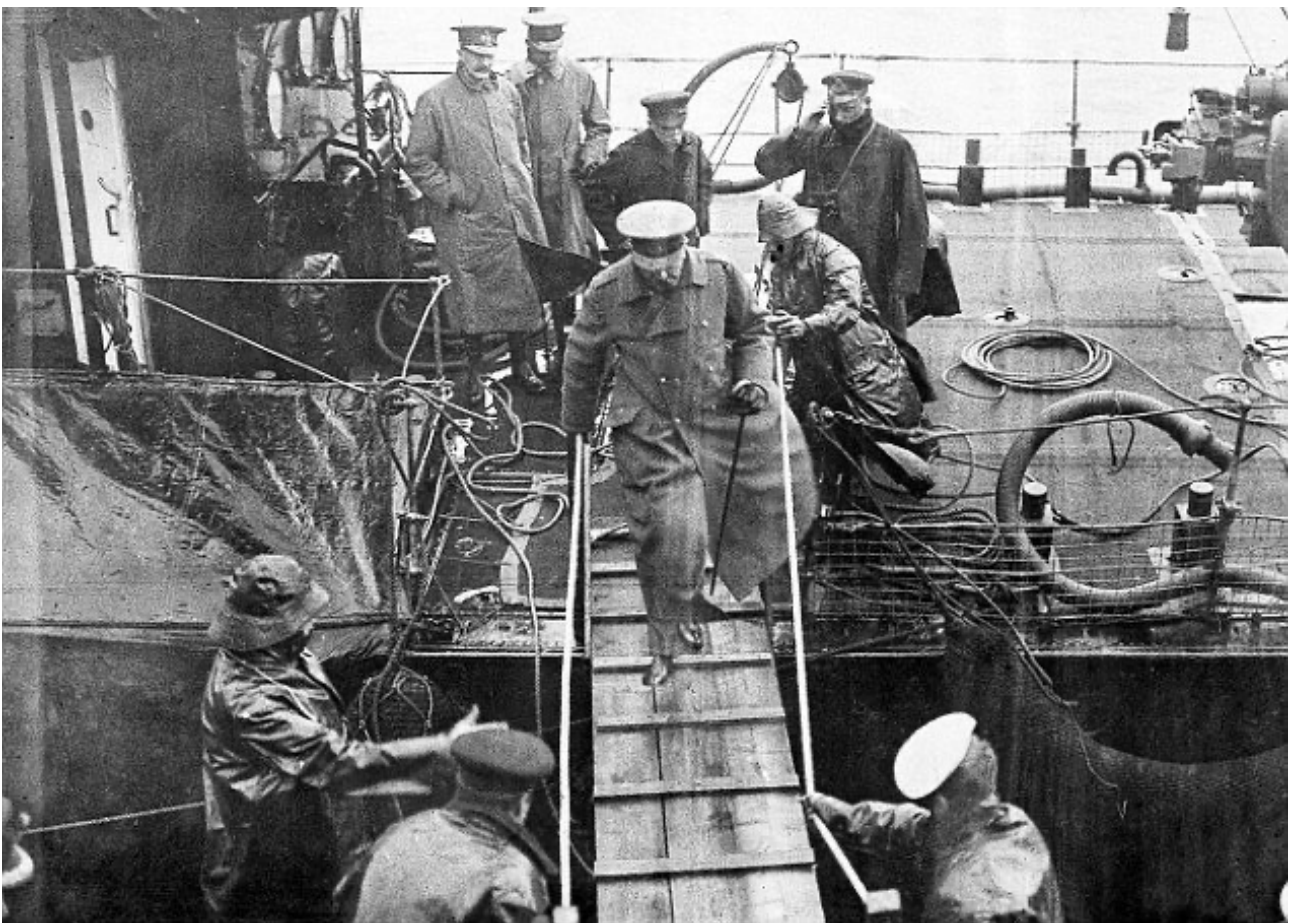
Samuel Jess and Isabella Jess of 109 Twaddell Avenue,
Woodvale, Belfast. Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia.

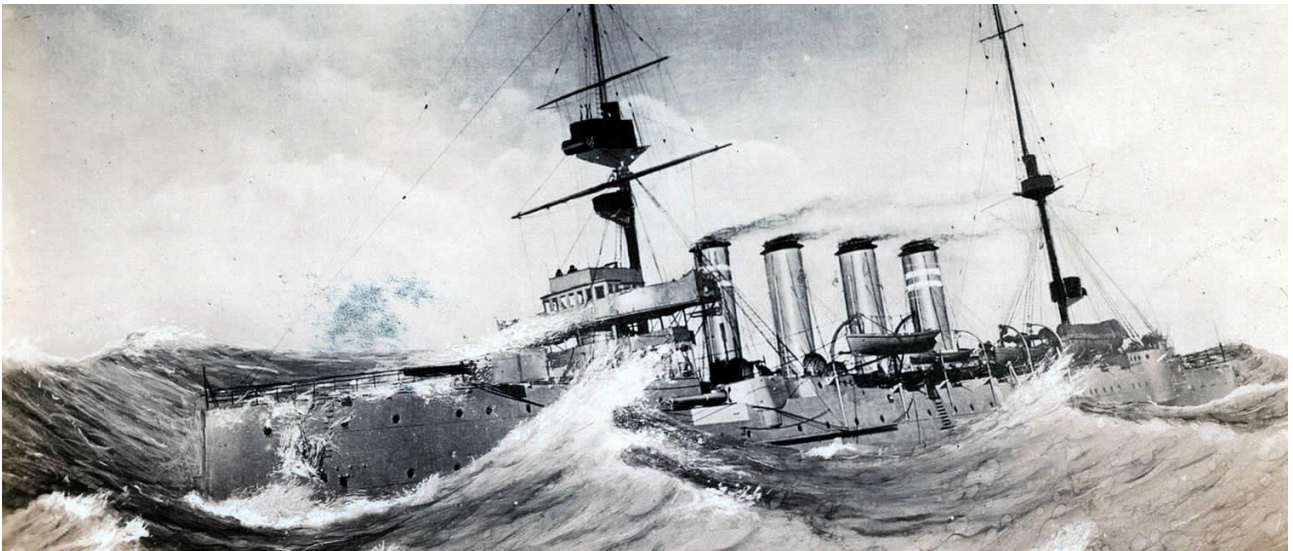
1945

+COLLINS, Leslie Ivan Frederick

Royal Berkshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Private. 5342214. Died
05/06/1945. Aged 27. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Collins;
husband to Margaretta Collins, of Larne. Ranchi War
Cemetery, India

Every Day is a Remembrance Day
We will remember them





In camera this day - June 5

The last photograph of Lord Kitchener before he drowned along with 735 crew members and 14 passengers aboard HMS Hampshire, which hit mines laid by U-75 in heavy storms and sank by the bow. Only 12 crew survived after coming ashore on 3 Carley floats.

HMS Hampshire

HMS Hampshire





Allied commanders meet at Eisenhower's Southwick House

headquarters. Stormy weather is threatening to wash out the planned invasion of Normandy. Knowing that it's now or never, Ike takes one of the biggest gambles in history: "Okay, let's go!" he says.

In camera this day - June 5

On this day in 1944, 150,000 Allied troops are boarding ships all across southern England

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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