



remembrance ni



HMS Mallow, a Flower class corvette (05/1940 - 07/1941)  
which was built in Harland & Wolf

## The Derry Naval Reserve sub-hunter of WW2

**William Brown Piggot** held a Master's ticket for deep-sea sailing ships. He became one of the best sub-hunters in the Royal Navy being awarded a DSC on

**14/09/1943 and Bar and a Mention in Despatches. He also was awarded an OBE and the RD.**

Piggot commanded three ships:

HMS Hugh Walpole, an ASW Trawler (10/1939 - 05/1940),  
HMS Mallow, a Flower class corvette (05/1940 - 07/1941)  
and HMS Fleetwood, a sloop (07/1942 - 07/1944).

The highlights of his busy and effective service are summarised here:

On 17/11/1940 Mallow (Cdr. W.B. Piggot, RNR) picked up 18 survivors from the British merchant Saint Germain that was torpedoed and sunk by German U-boat 137 north-north-west of Tory Island.

On 19/10/1941 the German submarine U-204 was sunk near Tangier by depth charges from HMS Mallow (Cdr. W.B. Piggot, RNR) and the British sloop HMS Rochester (Cdr. C.B. Allen, RN).

On 11/05/1943 German U-boat 528 was sunk in the North Atlantic south-west of Ireland, by depth charges from a British Handley Page Halifax aircraft (Sqdn. 58/D) and by depth charges from HMS Fleetwood (Cdr. W.B. Piggot, RNR).

German U-boat 340 was sunk at 0430 hrs on 02/11/1943 near Tangier, by depth charges from HMS Fleetwood (Cdr. W.B. Piggott, DSC, RD, RNR) and the British destroyers HMS Active (Lt.Cdr. P.G. Merriman, DSC, RN) and HMS Witherington (Lt.Cdr. R.B.S. Tennant, RN) and by depth charges from a British Wellington aircraft (Sqdn. 179/R).



## **The sinking of U - 204**

U - 204 was commissioned 08/03/1941. She was on her third patrol when she was sunk by Mallow and Rochester. Her first patrol left Kiel on May 24 when she traversed the Denmark Strait between Greenland and Iceland. She sunk an Icelandic fishing boat with gunfire and sank Mercier east of Newfoundland on June 10. She docked at Brest on June 27.

Nearly a month passed before her second patrol. With U 401 she attacked an allied convoy without success. On August 18 she struck HMS Bath with two torpedoes. It sank within three minutes about 480 miles south-west of Ireland. 84 of Bath's crew including its commander were lost.

U - 204 left Brest on September 20 on her third patrol. She sank the Spanish sailing ship 'Aingeru Guardakoa' with a single torpedo on October 14, thinking she was a British submarine chaser. She then sank 'Inverlee' on the 19th. On the same day, she fell victim to a British anti-submarine sweep from Gibraltar. She was sunk by depth charges from the corvette HMS Mallow and the sloop HMS Rochester. Forty-six men died; there were no survivors.

## **The sinking of U - 528**

U - 528 was making its way back to Lorient on 11th May 1943 when sighted by a Halifax bomber in anti submarine patrol to another convoy. Pilot officer Stark in Halifax 11- D-Dog sighted a wake on the Port side 3 miles distant. He then sighted the U - Boat making good speed in a calm sea. By the time he had manouvred to position to attack the U - Boat had been submerged for one minute. so the depth charges were not released. He made visual signal back to convoy escorts because his R.T. had problems.

Later he again spotted the U - Boat on the surface some 10 miles aft of the convoy achieving almost complete surprise he dived and the his navigator opened fire and saw tracer hitting the conning Tower The U - boat changed course to starboard and dived. The Halifax attacked from the submarines Port Bow releasing five mark X1 Torpex depth chargers set to shallow depth. The rear gunner saw one explosion alongside the diving U - Boat having seen nothing further the pilot set course back to the convoy and fifteen minutes later sent a report back to the Senior Naval officer. Receiving no reply the aircraft left the scene.

Down below the report had been received by the SNO in HMS Scarborough and L47 HMS Fleetwood was sent to investigate. Fleetwood carried out a box search and sighted a smoke candle dropped by the Halifax an hour earlier. Twenty minutes after she made asdic contact and attacked the position. The contact started slowly moving eastwards Six minutes later another pattern of ten depth charges was dropped. Contact was lost and Comdr. WB Piggot decided to do another box search during which the officer of the watch sighted spray coming from the conning tower of a U

-Boat on a Southerly course. Another attack was made with the U - Boat diving and once again contact was lost. Another contact was made and as Fleetwood made yet another attack with charges set to deep. By now the Fleetwood was low on charges and HMS Mignonette joined the hunt in a box search. As the West leg was completed they sighted the U - Boat stopped low in the water. The guns were ordered to fire sinking the U - Boat. Survivors were seen in the water and Fleetwood rescued 39 of them including the Captain Georg Von Rabenau.

### **The sinking of U - 340**

The second sinking occurred in the Straits of Gibraltar, East of Ceuta Just over an hour into the morning of the 01/11/1943 contact was made at 2 miles by Wellington "R" of 179 squadron. The Wellington homed in and dropped six depth charges across the target. The U - Boat dived and all contact was lost. U 340 was damaged but emergency repairs were effected and the boat was on its way again. It was located some hours later by HMS Witherington off Malabata light.

The Destroyer Active and Sloop Fleetwood joined in the depth charge attacks. Proceeding submerged U - 340 surfaced in the evening to recharge her batteries. Two hours later she was sighted by Fleetwood and the Corvettes Bluebell and Poppy. Depth charge attacks forced the U - Boat to dive deep and contact was lost. Five hours went by before the boat resurfaced in the early hours of 02/11, and as daylight approached it became impossible to remain there and impossible for it to continue. So her Captain, Han Joachim Klaus, decided to scuttle his boat. Charges were set and exploded and U - 340 sank.





Klaus and 47 others were picked up by three Spanish Trawlers. Soon after dawn Fleetwood still searching for the stricken U Boat approached for a closer look at three suspicious looking fishing trawlers and fired a warning shot when they failed to stop. Search parties from Fleetwood found the U 340 crew took them off as POW's. and later landed them at Gibraltar.

## Appointments and awards

William Brown Piggot was appointed Second Lieutenant 13/10/1926, Lieutenant 13/10/1928, Lieutenant Commander 13/10/1936, Commander 30/06/1941 and Captain 31/12/1947. He retired 07/06/1957. He was Mentioned in Despatches 11/06/1940, OBE 11/07/1941, RD 12/1941, DSC 14/09/1943 and Bar to DCS 02/05/1944. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, 'for great skill and courage in action against enemy submarines in the Atlantic'.

Before the war he was a captain in the merchant service in the firm of Glenn & Co., Glasgow. He had served an 16 month apprenticeship in the "William Mitchell" 1919 - 1920. He had served in sailing ships and held the Extra Master's Square Rig Ticket for deep-sea sailing ships. After the war he was with the Marine Surveyor's Office of the Board of Trade, in Belfast.

He was the son of James and Mrs Piggot, Aberfoyle Terrace, Londonderry. Londonderry. His wife was formerly Miss Phyllis McConnell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles McConnell, Crawford Square, Londonderry. (Derry Standard 23/02/1944, 05/05/1944).

# On this Day – September 14

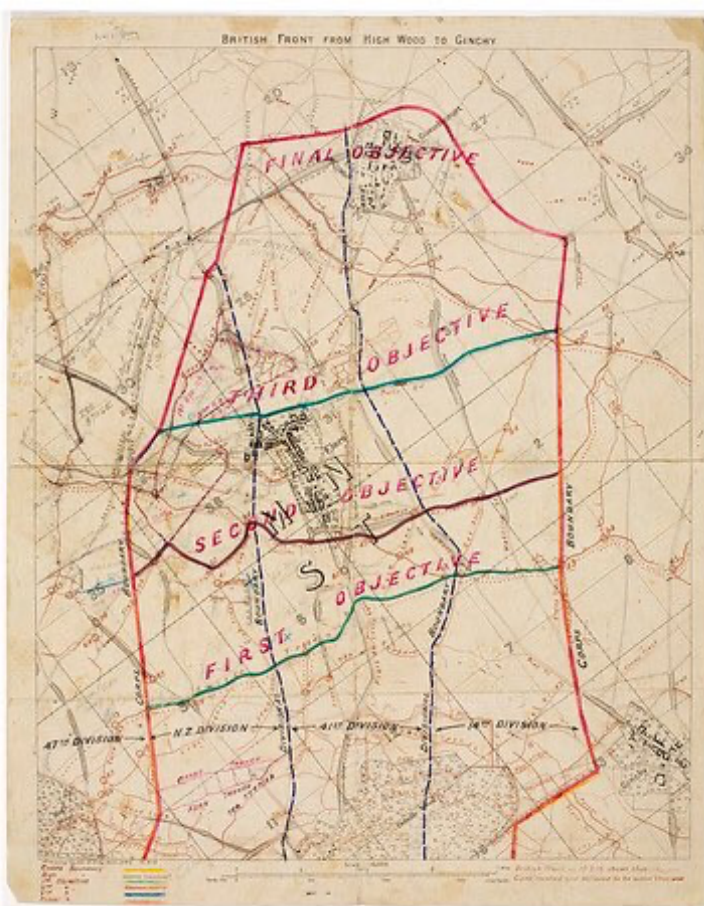
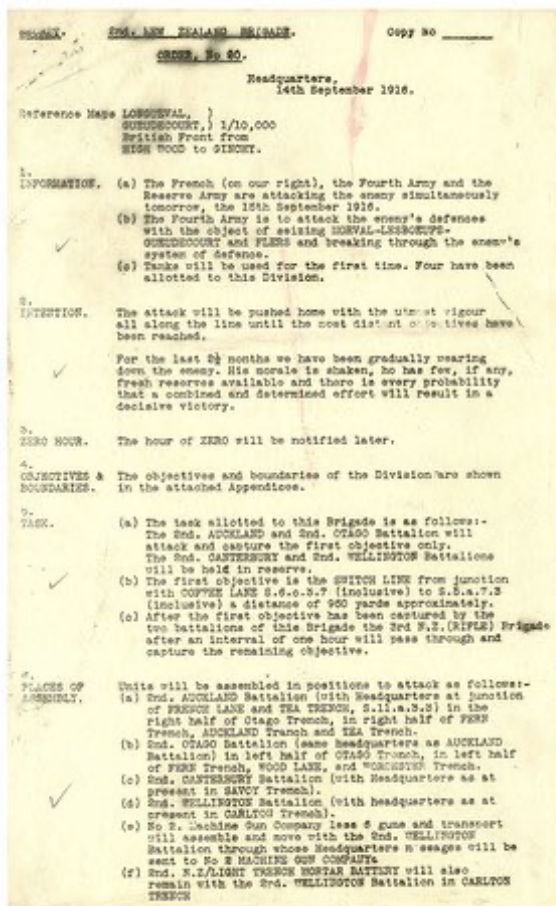
## 1914

As the Germans halt on the Aisne and North of Reims, it is the start of the Battle of the Aisne.



## 1916

On the Somme front, south-east of Thiepval, on a front of 1,000 yards, the British storm German trenches, including the "Wunderwerk".



Order No. 20 (Secret) issued to New Zealand troops on 14 September 1916 for the attack the next day in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette — NZ's First Day of the Somme. Sgt Edward Dillion's diary entry on Thursday, Sept 14th 1916: "A day I shall never forget."

## 1918

German retreat continues between the Meuse and Moselle, and is closely pursued by the French and the Americans.



## 1939

Royal Navy destroyers HMS Faulknor, Firedrake and Foxhound sank U-39 off the Hebrides after she attempted an attack on HMS Ark Royal. This was the first U-Boat sunk in WW2. All of her crew were rescued.

## 1942

Destroyer HMS Sikh was sunk by German and Italian shore batteries and air attack while covering a commando raid (Operation Agreement) on Tobruk. 115 officers and men were killed.

## 1942

Destroyer HMS Zulu was sunk by Italian air attack while covering a commando raid (Operation Agreement) on Tobruk: 39 crew killed or missing. She had earlier rendered assistance to HMS Sikh, sunk the same day. Ross McFall Kirkpatrick from Belfast was the Medical Officer in Zulu. He was awarded the DSC on 22/12/1942 for service during raid on Tobruk. He died 22/10/1943. Aged 27, in HMS Hurworth. Son of Charles Magill Kirkpatrick MBE, and Lucy K Kirkpatrick, Belfast. Ulster Medical Society RH. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 84.QUB WM.

## 1944

Troops of the American 30th Infantry Division liberate Maastricht, the first liberated city in the Netherlands.



# Roll of Honour – September 14

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1914**

## **+CARLISLE, Herbert**

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 4106. Died 14/09/1914. Age 21. Son of Mary Jane Carlisle, of 24, Dorchester St., Donegal Rd., Belfast, and the late Samuel Carlisle. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, Memorial, France.

## **+FLEMING, James Alfred**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Corporal. 7835. Died 16//09/1914. Age 30. Son of Mrs. Margret Fleming, of Tulnavert, Clogher. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, Memorial, France. Dungannon WM

## **+JOHNSON, Robert**

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. 1st Btn. Private. 10469. Died 14 /09/1914. Age 21. Son of James and Elizabeth Johnson, of 9, Cromwell St., Belfast. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, Memorial, France.

## **+MacDIARMUID, S**

Connaught Rangers, 2nd Btn. Private. 7956. Died 14/09/1914. Age 32. Son of William MacDiarmuid husband of Margaret MacDiarmuid, of 3, Spencer St., Belfast. Vailly British Cemetery, France

## **+McALLISTER, Eneas**

Royal Scots, 2nd Btn (Lothian Regiment). Private. 8598. Died 16//09/1914. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, Memorial, France. Larne WM

## **1916**

## **+INGRAM, William James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 10th Btn. Rifleman. 17/848. Died 14/09/1916. Age 22. Son of James and Alice Ingram, of 21, Lake St., Ormeau Rd., Belfast. St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium

## **+McKEEGAN, J**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th Btn. Private. 15868. Died 14/09/1916. Age 20. Son of Ann J. McKeegan, of 3, Stewart Terrace, Londonderry, and the late Thomas McKeegan. Glendermott C of I Churchyard. Londonderry Diamond WM

## **+QUINLAN, Hugh**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 6580. Died 14/09/1916. Age 41. Husband of A. J. Quinlan, of 17,

Ebrington St., Waterside, Londonderry. Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Londonderry Diamond WM

### **+WATSON, James Furness**

The King's (Liverpool Regiment), 14th Btn. Private. 13728. Died 14/09/1916. Age 37. Born at Belfast, Ireland. Son of James and Elizabeth Watson; husband to Marion Watson, of 170, River St. East, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada. Dorian Memorial, Greece

**1917**

### **+BATES, David Clements**

58Bn. Canadian Infantry. Private. 228347. Died 14/09/1917, a day before the unit's stint at the Front was due to end. Born 1889 in Castleblayney, County Monaghan. Only son of William and Jennie Bates. His father was a bank manager with the Belfast Bank. He worked in Crossmaglen and at Saintfield, Belfast. David attended the Royal School Dungannon between 1901 and 1903. After leaving school he too joined the Belfast Bank. After his father died the family moved to Canada. He enlisted in Toronto in April 1916. Beehive Cemetery, Willerval, Pas-de-Calais, France. Dungannon WM

### **+GOLDSWORTHY, John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 12/17727. Died 14/09/1917. Age 20. John enlisted with "A Coy" 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in 1915 and deployed to France with the Ulster Division in October 1915. Born Irish Gate



1897. John was the son of John and Margaret Goldsworthy of Irish Quarter South, Carrickfergus. Prior to the war John worked with his father as a labourer to a bricklayer in the town. Hermies British Cemetery, France.

### **+VIRTUE, Thomas**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Lance Corporal. 15094. Died 14/09/1917. Age 23. Son of Isabella Irvine (formerly Virtue), of Stranahone, Lack, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh, and the late Robert Virtue. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

### **+WILSON, William**

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 9986. Died 14/09/1917. Age 23. son of Thomas and Alice Wilson, of Andersonstown, Belfast. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

## **1918**

### **+JELLY, Herbert**

Royal Irish Regiment. 7th (South Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 25403. Died 14/09/1918. Age 30. Son of James Jelly, of 81, Delhi St., Belfast. Le Cateau Military Cemetery, France

### **+McKILLOP, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 20420. Died 14/09/1918. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Margaret McKillop, of Aughareamlaugh, Carnlough. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

**+MITCHELL, John Howard**

RNAS. Petty Officer. F6297. Armoured Car Division. In Russia. Later Sergeant 79804, Machine Gun Corps (Motor Branch) - The Dunster Force. Also served in Belgium and Russia. Died 14/09/1918. Age 29. Born Belfast 28/12/1892. Strangemore Terrace, Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Son of the late Isaac and Isabella Mitchell, of Belfast. Basra Memorial, Iraq. Albert Street - PCI RH. IMR. ADM 188/572/6297

**1942**

**+STEELE-NICHOLSON, John Edwin Charles Averill**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1591275. Died 14/09/1942. Aged 20. On 14/09/1942 he was on board Liberator AL-624 when it took off from R.A.F. Burn at 1100 hours. It was detailed to carry out a non-operational cross-country training flight. It failed to return. The aircraft descended through cloud and struck a hill near Millfore in Kirkcudbright. All of the crew were killed in the accident. Son of Robert Charles Henry and Lydia Mary Noel Amelia Steele-Nicholson, of Ballow, Bangor, Co. Down. Kirkinner Cemetery, Wigtownshire, Scotland. Dungannon WM, Moy WM

**1943**

**+SMYTH, Edward Joseph**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 644366. Died 14/09/1943. Aged 22. 138 Sqdn. Son of Edward and Mary Smyth, of Belfast. Esbjerg (Fourfeld) Cemetery, Denmark

**1944**

**+CRORY, William Samuel**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1523061. Died 18/09/1944. Age 22. Son of William Crory, and Elizabeth Crory, Ballyward. Drumgooland Presbyterian Churchyard

**1947**

**+BRICKLEY, John**

Royal Artillery. 8 HAA Regt. 21 Bty. Gunner. 1464852. Died 14/09/1947. Aged 44. Husband of Kathleen Brickley of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina. Regimental WM and RH, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

**VETERANS**

**ANDERSON, Thomas**

RN. 151964. Joined as a boy on 03/02/1937. Posted on completion of training was posted to the new Tribal Class destroyer HMS Zulu. Saw action in Norway at 2nd Battle of Narvik, in the Mediterranean and was present at the sinking of Bismarck. He was wounded and taken POW at Tobruk on 14/09/42 whilst landing Royal Marines by boat. HMS Zulu was sunk by bombing that day. Repatriated following hospitalisation. Joined Merchant Navy after the war and served until ill health forced retirement in 1980. Born 02/04/1923. Died 23/12/1996. Circular Road, Coleraine

**BECKETT, Thomas Norman Beckett**

Thomas Beckett lived at Gilford Road, Lurgan and on 01/01/1931, when he was 19 years old, he enlisted in 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles.

He saw service in Sudan, Palestine, Egypt, Hong Kong, Canton in China and was in Shanghai in 1937 when the Japanese invaded China.

On returning home he was transferred to the Reserve on 20/05/1938 and was recalled to service following the outbreak of war in September 1939 finding himself in France with the British Expeditionary Force and later escaping from Dunkirk.

On D-Day, 06/06/1944 Rifleman Beckett landed in Normandy and received a thigh wound towards the end of the month.

Thomas received a more serious wound on 24/07/1944 when he was involved in fighting in Holland and a grenade exploded in front of him. He received facial injuries and was blinded in his left eye with serious damage being caused to his right eye.

He spent some considerable time in hospital in England and subsequently received an Honourable Discharge 14/09/1945 having served 14 years and 257 days.

### **BROWN, William Maurice**

RNVR. Surgeon Lt. Born Belfast 28/09/1912. Royal Belfast Academical Institution 1927-32 . Queens University, Belfast to study medicine 1932 - graduation 1936. MB BCH BAO 1932 -1936; DPH 1939, MD 1948 Queens University, Belfast. FFARCS by Election 1953. Following graduation in 1936 he had an initial year as a House Surgeon at the Belfast City Hospital until October 1937. After this he initially embarked on a career in General Practice with posts at Coseley in Staffordshire, the Craigavon Pensioner Hospital,



and a year as an assistant GP in Belfast, until September 1941. Whereupon with WWII, he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, as a Surgeon Lieutenant.

During his naval wartime career Dr Brown was a Surgeon Lieutenant on board HMS Ghurka when she was torpedoed on 17/01/1942 off Sidi Barrani, Egypt, whilst involved with convoy duties. This event changed the course of his life. His self-published autobiographical account gives several insights – recalling the experiences of his escape from below decks, being rescued whilst floating in the Mediterranean Sea amidst burning oil, injuries involving temporary blindness and burns requiring many skin grafting and other operations, and a long rehabilitation. On transfer back to the UK, he underwent further burns plastic surgery at the Basingstoke War Service Hospital as a patient of Sir Harold Gillies. Due to these circumstances, his career pathway changed towards anaesthesia.

Upon his return to naval duties he was posted to “home shore-based duties” at the Royal Naval Hospital in Portland where, as no one else was particularly inclined, he started administering anaesthesia for surgical procedures, having undertaken some training at medical school. After a year he was transferred to the Naval Motor Training Establishment at Rosyth. As most of the naval ratings were healthy his medical duties were minimal and he was able to spend most afternoons at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where the senior anaesthetist Dr John Gillies took him under his wing. Towards the end of 1944, Maurice was becoming frustrated with his light naval duties and a colleague agreed to support his naval discharge on medical grounds.

During this period Dr Gillies put him in touch with Ivan Magill at Westminster Hospital where he commenced his further training as a Senior House Officer in anaesthesia in 1945, and obtained his Diploma in Anaesthetics later that year.

Following completion of his year of anaesthetic training he returned in 1946 to Northern Ireland, where he started work as an unpaid clinical assistant. Eventually, with the inception of the NHS in 1948, he was appointed as a Consultant at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where he remained until his retirement in 1976. He also held appointments at the Samaritan Hospital and Musgrave Park Hospitals in Belfast; additionally he was Lecturer in Dental Anaesthesia at the university. Early in his career he obtained his MD with a thesis on tubocurarine and was closely associated with the post-war development of cardiothoracic anaesthesia and surgery in Belfast during the 1950's, eventually becoming the senior anaesthetist within the department. In 1959 he undertook a visit to the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota and Boston, Massachusetts Hospitals for 6 weeks to observe "Heart/Lung Bypass Anaesthesia", returning to Southampton on the SS Queen Elizabeth according to the ship's manifest. During his career he published several academic papers and held other professional roles.

During his career he published papers on topics ranging from tubocurarine to anaesthesia for mitral valvotomy. He was an examiner for the Fellowship of the Irish Faculty of Anaesthetists and an examiner at the Queens University Medical School where he was also Lecturer in Dental Anaesthesia.

He was a Member of Council of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland for 1965-1968.

In 1985 he was awarded the Pask Certificate of Honour by the Association of Anaesthetists in recognition of his contribution to anaesthesia in Northern Ireland. His obituary describes him as “the father figure of anaesthesia in Belfast”.

In retirement Maurice loved the sea and sailing and derived great pleasure from returning after various overseas travels to his cottage overlooking Strangford Lough. He was survived by his wife Nancy and their three children, Peter, Patrick and Susan. Died 14/09/1993.

### **CAMPBELL, Daniel Reid**

Company Sergeant-Major, 10th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (the Derrys). He volunteered for active service in September 1914 (aged about 27 years); before enlisting he was a member of the Portstewart Company, Coleraine Battalion, North Derry Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force. The Derrys trained at Finner Camp, County Donegal, and Seaford, Sussex, and arrived at the Western Front in October 1915. Daniel was a member of the Military Recruiting Team which visited Portstewart in October 1914. He served in France and Belgium. Before the War he was employed as a stone mason. He and his wife, Annie Elizabeth, lived at Enfield Terrace, Portstewart. His parents, Robert (stone mason) and Catherine Campbell, lived at the Crescent, Portstewart. Daniel was living at Old Coach Road when he died on 14/09/1955 he was buried in Agherton Cemetery. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Agherton Parish Church, Portstewart Presbyterian Church's

## Roll of Honour and the Roll of Honour of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

### **CAPPER, Adam Clarke**

FAA. 1939-45. Born 14/09/1926. Son of T. H. Capper, 56 Malone Park, Belfast. Campbell College 2903. BA, OU. Civil servant Rtd. Killinchy.

### **CRELLIN, Thomas**

Mrs. Crellin, Eno Cottage, Milltown, Falls Road, Belfast, has received information that her husband, Corporal Thomas Crellin, 109th Field Ambulance R.A.M.C., is in the 1st Southern General Hospital, Stonebridge, suffering from a gunshot wound in the ankle, received on 15th inst.

Corporal Crellin, before enlistment, was in the West Belfast Regiment Ulster Volunteer Force, and was employed by Mr. G. McCann, Whiterock Road, Belfast, and enlisted on 14th September, 1914. Mrs. Crellin had a brother lost on H.M.S. Queen Mary in the North Sea battle, and has also two other brothers in the navy.

Corporal Thomas Crellin, 41158, 109th Field Ambulance Royal Army Medical Corps (Ulster Division), survived the war, he was entitled to the trio of medals, 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medal.



# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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**remembrance ni**

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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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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