



remembrance ni

Pathfinder - the first loss in the U boat torpedo war



On 05/09/1914 HMS Pathfinder operating from Rosyth was the first Royal Navy warship to be sunk by a locomotive torpedo from a German U boat. Six of the fatalities were from Northern Ireland.

HMS Pathfinder was the lead ship of the Pathfinder class scout cruisers. Part of Admiral Beatty's battle-cruiser force,

Pathfinder and its escorts left Rosyth in the Forth to carry out a sweep of the outer firth on the morning of 05/09/1914. Waiting for them was U 21 under the command of Oberlieutenant sur See, Otto Hersing. His was one of three boats despatched to the Forth Estuary where they hoped to catch the Royal Navy's big cats unaware."

Hersing lingered around May Island at the gateway to the firth. He did not have to wait long."

Around lunchtime the escorts turned back and Captain Francis Martin-Peake in Pathfinder continued his patrol."

Pathfinder was ten years old. It was obsolescent, if in fact not obsolete. It had a top speed of 25 knots but due to a shortage of coal was reduced to a mere 5 knots. She was a sitting duck. About 1545 Otto Hersing took his chance from a range of just over 2,000 yards."

In his memoirs he recalls somewhat smugly, "I fired the first live torpedo in the history of the world". It was a G6 torpedo. Twenty feet long, a diameter of 1.5 feet, a 350 pound load of explosive, and it cut through the waters of the North Sea at 27 knots."

The bridge party on Pathfinder did not see the periscope of the U boat but it saw the tell tale wake of the torpedo at a distance which gave them only two minutes to react, which they did. One engine full astern, one full ahead and the rudder hard over."

The torpedo struck below Pathfinder's bridge and penetrated the two inch thick armour. "That alone would have been enough to sink the ship but a second cataclysmic explosion tore the ship apart. It was reckoned the fires

explosion tore the ship apart. It was reckoned the fires caused by the torpedo had ignited her magazine, throwing columns of black and white smoke into the air."



William Lionel Wyllie, the pre-eminent naval artist of his age depicted the dying moments of Pathfinder. The picture was painted in 1920 and held by the Martin-Leakes until the admiral's family donated it to the IWM - Imperial War Museum.

The ship went down in four minutes. Her stern was thrust out of the sea at some 60 degrees. Her bow broke away under the strain. The foremast and the funnel collapsed. A stern 4 inch gun broke away from its mounting, spiralled into the sea, taking its crew with it."

There was no hope for those below. There was no time for those on the upper deck to get boats away. There was almost no flotsam to cling to in waters no warmer than 60 degrees."

Consequently the death toll was terrible. Only 18 survived the loss of Pathfinder. 261 officers and men perished. A

large number of the men were from Chatham where commemorations will be held near the anniversary in the Naval Dockyard there."

"

There were seven fatalities from Northern Ireland. Five men from Belfast: William Barnett, George Sinclair Bell, Charles John Gorman, James Herbert Hillis who was originally from Banbridge and William Swann originally from Glasgow. Herbert Daley from Dunmurry with Lurgan roots was also lost."

"

The St Abb's lifeboat from the south shore of the Firth was launched and together with destroyers closed on the scene. The lifeboat crew returned with their story of horror, as recalled by the novelist Aldous Huxley who was recuperating in Scotland from an illness."

"

"There was not a piece of wood, they said, big enough to float a man - and over acres the sea was covered with fragments - human and otherwise. They brought back a sailor's cap, with half a man's head inside it." - Aldous Huxley!

Publicly the Admiralty claimed Pathfinder had been victim of a mine. Many naval officers believed the official line. Capt Francis Martin-Peake was among the survivors and he corrected them."

Admiral Jellicoe, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Fleet, took Martin-Peake at his word, and took the U boat threat seriously, almost to the point of paranoia. Sadly too

many of Jellicoe's contemporaries did not, and the price of that would be paid by others."

News of Otto Hering's action was not announced to the German people until late September. By then the German people had another U-boat hero to hail, and Britain a far worse naval tragedy to mourn. "

Hering, a 29 year old Alsatian, would prove to be one of Germany's most capable U boat commanders. He would sink three more warships and three dozen merchantmen before the war's end."

AN INTRIGUING NOTE BY CHURCHILL

There is an intriguing note in Winston Spencer Churchill's archives held at Churchill College, Cambridge, which refers to HMS Pathfinder in a different role in Northern Ireland. It states, "Minute from Rear-Admiral Archibald Moore [3rd Sea Lord] to WSC [First Lord of the Admiralty] on the report by Augustine Birrell [Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland] on the rumour that 5 tons of small arms ammunition had been taken from HMS Pathfinder by Orangemen in Northern Ireland. Moore rejects calls for an official enquiry. "

It also includes WSC's reply, commenting that the captain of HMS Pathfinder had "shown much less than usual naval dignity and self restraint", but that there was no point pressing the matter further. [Hand-written, initialled by WSC]. It is dated 29/30/ April 1914. A story for another time..."

WW1 Timeline

04 Aug 1914 – War declared on Germany"

06 Aug 1914 – HMS Amphion sunk by a mine in the North Sea. Three from Northern Ireland among the first to die in WW1."

28 Aug 1914 – Battle of Heligoland. German light cruisers "Koln," "Mainz," and "Ariadne" sunk by British squadron."

05 Sep 1914 – HMS Pathfinder torpedoed by U21 in the Firth of Forth."

On this Day – September 5

1914.

Reims and Pont-a-Mousson are occupied by the Germans.

1915.

Heavy incessant bombardments continue along the Belgium and French fronts, especially in and around the Arras region.

1939

American President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a proclamation declaring U.S. neutrality in World War II. The end of neutrality policy came with the Lend-Lease Act of March 1941, which allowed the US to sell, lend or give war materials.

1982

The death of Douglas Bader, RAF captain and pilot.

Roll of Honour – September 5

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914 HMS PATHFINDER

+BARNETT, William

RN. Stoker 1st Cl. SS/109372. HMS Pathfinder. Died 05/09/1914. Aged 30. Killed in action with submarine off Firth of Forth. (Served as William Swann). Son of Ann Jane Swann (formerly Barnett), Orchard St., Belfast, and the late Charles Alfred Barnett. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 4.

+BELL, George Sinclair

RN. Stoker 1st Class. 308909. HMS Pathfinder. Died 05/09/1914. Age 28. Killed in action with submarine off Firth of Forth. Enrolled 01/09/1905 for 5 and 7 years. Born Belfast 31/12/1886. Son of Henry A. and Elizabeth Bell, Earl St., Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial. Rosemary St - PCI RH. IMR. ADM 188/504/308909

+DALEY, Herbert

RN. Ordinary Seaman. SS4231. HMS Pathfinder. Died 05/09/1914 in an engagement with a submarine off the Firth of Forth. Age 21. Enlisted 25/02/1913. Born Lurgan 18/10/1894. Herbert grew up in Queen St, Lurgan. He had four brothers and four sisters. He started working as a labourer and carpenter's apprentice in 1911 at the age of 16

and moved to Dunmurry. Son of George and Sarah Ann Daley, Milfort Avenue, Dunmurry. Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, Panel 3. St. Colman's Parish Church, Dunmurry, WM. Lisburn WM. Lurgan WM. ADM 188/1098/4231

+GORMAN, Charles John

RN. Stoker 1st. Class. SS108091. HMS Pathfinder. Died 05/09/1914. Age 23. Killed in action with submarine off Firth of Forth. Ship lost. Enrolled 17/02/1907 for 5 and 7 years. Re-engaged 17/02/1909 for 8 and 4 years. Volunteered 17/02/1914. In Pathfinder 01/10/1913 - 05/09/1914. Born Belfast 27/04/1890. Son of James and Fanny Gorman, Summerhill St., Belfast. Brother of James Toland Gorman who was lost in HMS Hawke 15/10/1914. Chatham Naval Memorial. IMR. ADM 188/1114/108091

+HILLIS, James Herbert

RN. Leading Stoker. K4837. HMS Pathfinder. Died 05/09/1914. Killed in action with submarine off Firth of Forth. Enrolled 15/03/1907 for 12 years. War service in Pembroke II and Pathfinder (31/07/1914 - 05/09/1914). Born Banbridge 22/07/1888. Husband to Catherine Hillis, Newcastle St., Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial. Megain Memorial - PCI RH. ADM 188/876/4837. See also SS104748 ADM 188/1110/104748

+WEST, Andrew

RN. Stoker 1st Class. K/3964. HMS Pathfinder. Died 05/09/1914. Killed in action with submarine off Firth of Forth. From Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial

1914

+BROOKS, William Davidson

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 7252. Died 05/09/1914. Son of John and Matilda Brooks, of 6, Tramway St., Belfast. Verberie Communal Cemetery, France

1915

+DONNELLY, James

M/12142. HMS Pembroke. Died 05/09/1915. Age 27. Son of Owen and Mary Donnelly, Altagush, Cappagh, Pomeroy. Gillingham Cemetery, Kent

+JOHNSTON, Margaret Hessie

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 05/09/1915. Born on the 19/04/1885 at Clonterriff, Upper Ballinderry, Co. Antrim, the family home, she was educated at Upper Ballinderry National School and became a member of Lisburn Young Womans Association. She lived for a time at the YWCA Home in Wallace Avenue in the town before beginning her training as a nurse at Staffordshire General Infirmary in April 1905. This lasted for three years before she moved to Essex County Nursing Home, Colchester in May 1908. Working as a Staff Nurse, she also took on Sisters' duties during holidays and, at least according to the Lisburn Standard, worked at some point as a district nurse. After nearly a year and a half years in Colchester she moved to the Biblewomans and Nurses Mission in Russell Square, London in Sept 1909 working there until July 1911. She then moved overseas as a



QARNC Memorial Window, Belfast Cathedral

church missionary working at the International Hospital in Adana in Turkey between January 1912 and January 1914.

With the outbreak of war she volunteered for service and took up duties at Northlands Red Cross Hospital, Emsworth, near Portsmouth. On the March 3 the following year though she applied to join Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, noting in her application that she had considerable experience nursing those suffering from Enteric fever. Not surprisingly for someone of her experience, her application was quickly approved; she was

“warned” for Egypt on the 21st and the following month was posted to R Section QAIMNS at the Citadel Military Hospital, Cairo.

At the time of her application to join the QAs, it was reported that she was “in good health and fit for foreign service”, however, this was not to last. Only a few months after going overseas she fell ill. According to the Standard, Colonel Naggs the CO at the Citadel had her brought to his own quarters and “everything possible was done for her but it was all no good”. She died from enteric fever/paratyphoid in Egypt on 05/09/1915 aged 30. A service was held in the hospital chapel attended by Sir John Maxwell who commanded the troops in Egypt and his ADC Prince Alex of Battenberg. She was buried with full military honours in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, row D, grave 84.

Margaret Johnston’s death is commemorated on the family headstone in Ballinderry Middle church graveyard, and on the Roll of Honour in the Parish Church. The family headstone records that she, “gave her life in the Great War”. Margaret Johnston was the daughter of Edward Johnston, a farmer, and Mrs Johnston of Clonterriff, Upper Ballinderry, Co. Antrim. She died single and intestate with an estate valued at £85.11.5 gross. Cairo War Memorial Cemetery. Memorial St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast

+McDONNELL, Patrick

Royal Irish Rifles, 6th Btn. Rifleman.11035. Died 05/09/1915. Age 20. Son of Edward and Elizabeth McDonnell, of 71, Hardinge St., Belfast. Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

+MORTON, William John Edward

Royal Irish Rifles. 5th Btn. att'd. 2nd Btn. Lieutenant.
Died 05/09/1915. Age 27. Son of Annie Morton, of
Holywood, Co. Down, and the late William Morton. Ypres
(Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

1916

+BEATTIE, Hugh

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 43190. Died
05/09/1916. Son of Hugh and Elizabeth Beattie, Church St.,
Portadown. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

+CHAPMAN, Cecil Sutton

Machine Gun Corps. 48th Coy. Sergeant. 22877. Died
05/09/1916. Born Ballycastle. Thiepval Memorial, Somme,
France. Ballycastle WM

+DOHERTY, Mary Agnes

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service
Reserve . Sister. Royal Red Cross. MiD. Died of illness
05/09/1916. Eldest daughter of Philip and Catherine
Doherty. She was born in Magherafelt on 10/09/1887. The
1901 census lists Mary Agnes as age 13 living with the
family in Meeting Street, Magherafelt. Philip Doherty was a
member of the R.I.C. The 1911 census lists Mary working as
a nurse in Mohill, County Leitrim.

She later became a nurse in Dublin. Mary volunteered for
service and was stationed in a general hospital in France
where she was mentioned in despatched by Sir John
French. Afterwards she received the award of Royal Red

Cross. Sister Doherty went on to Salonika where she contracted malaria. She had returned to duty when she was struck down with dysentery to which she succumbed on 05/09/1916 in the 29th General Hospital Salonika. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece. Memorial St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Castledawson WM.

+DUFFIN, Patrick

Leinster Regiment, 7th Btn. Private. 1547. Died 05/09/1916. Born about 1875 in Moneyglass, just north of Toome. Patrick and Jane O'Neill married on 22/12/1898. The family moved to Varna Street in Belfast. Patrick was a labourer and Jane was a spinner of linen yarn. Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+HOLMES, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. C Coy. Private. 2147. Died 05/09/1916. Age 21. Son of Ellen McCormick (formerly Holmes), of 23, Sydney St., Belfast, and the late William Holmes. Theipval Memorial, France

+IRWIN, Stewart

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Corporal. 1193. Military Medal. Died 05/09/1916. His brother, Sergeant George Irwin of the Irish Guards died on 11/09/1914. Another brother Roberr, lived in Barrack Street, Armagh. From Castleblaney, Co.Monaghan. His wife resided there. Thiepval Memorial, France

+JOHNSTON, Edward J

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Corporal. 3512. Died 05/09/1916. Age 41. Husband to Rachel Helena Balmer (formerly Johnston), of 25, Bristol St., Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

+JOHNSON, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 20182. Died 05/09/1916. Age 28. Son of George and Jane Johnson; husband of Annie Johnson, of 21, Garnet St., Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

+McDONALD, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 22837. Died 05/09/1916. Age 49. Son of William and Jane McDonald; husband to Elizabeth McDonald, of 22, Clara St., Lurgan. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France. Lurgan WM

+MOORE (FREEMAN), Samuel

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 21646. Died 05/09/1916. Age 28. He was born on 13/08/1888 in Coleraine. It is believed he was the eldest of eight children. Samuel's father was a railway employee, which may be the reason the family moved around so much. By 1901, the family were living between Cookstown and Moneymore. When the family moved on to Belfast, Samuel remained. He enlisted using his mother's maiden name, Moore. Son of Samuel and Mary Freeman, of Muff, Cookstown. Combles Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Moneymore WM

+O'BOYLE, Peter

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 21415. Died 05/09/1916. Age 22. Son of Mrs. Annie O'Boyle, of 85, Ardilea St., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+POAG, Robert

Royal Garrison Artillery. 67th Anti-Aircraft Bty. Bombardier. 32049. Died 05/09/1916. Age 25. Born 12/02/1891 in Belfast. He had 3 brothers and 3 sisters – the family lived in Upper Meadow Street, Belfast. At the start of the 1900's, the Poag's moved to Ardenlee Avenue and then the Woodstock Road in East Belfast. Two of Robert's brothers also fought in the war – James, who served with the Royal Irish Rifles, was killed in action in October 1914, in France; William who served with the Royal Marines, was wounded at Gallipoli in November 1915, but survived the war. Son of Robert and Rachel Poag, of 103, Woodstock Rd., Belfast. Mesnil Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+SLOAN, Albert Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 8th Btn (f. 2340 Connaught Rangers)/ CQMS. 21191. Died 05/09/1916. Born Craigs, Co. Antrim, enlisted Belfast. Husband to Catherine Sloan, Leeson Street, Falls Road, Belfast. Comm. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

+WHALEY, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers. B Company, 7th Battalion. Corporal. 15293. Died 05/09/1916. Age 42. QUB Faculty of Law 1899 - 1900. A Solicitor. Son of James and Susan Whaley (nee Nelson). Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. QUB RH

1917

+DUNVILLE, G

Royal Flying Corps. Serjeant. 158. Died 05/09/1917. Aged 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dunville, of Shankhill Rd., Belfast; husband to Susannah Vance (formerly Dunville), of 184, Grosvenor Rd., Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery. Larne WM

+HODGINS, JT

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 219th Coy. Private. 89070. Died 05/09/1917. Age 37. Son of Joseph Henry and Sarah Ann Hodgins; husband to Agnes Hodgins, of 40, Cussick St., Lisburn Rd., Belfast. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium



Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard near Laventie, a village and commune, in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, about 11 kilometres south-west of Armentieres.

+SHIELDS, William

Royal Flying Corps. 45th Sqdn. Manchester Regiment. Formerly of the North Irish Horse. Lieutenant. Flying Officer. Died 05/09/1917. BA 1913. At the outbreak of war he was working as a teacher at Skegoneil School in Belfast. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Belfast on 18/02/1915. He was one of ten men commissioned in 1915 whilst serving in the North Irish Horse. He was made a second lieutenant in the infantry. Early in 1916 he embarked for Egypt where he joined a battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

He later returned to England and in April 1917 he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps as a flying officer. On 22 August he was posted to No.45 Squadron in France. At 0710 hours on 05/09/1917 Shields took off on an offensive patrol, flying a Sopwith Camel.

According to his commanding officer, writing to Shields' father: "Your son was killed in aerial combat. Eye-witnesses whom I have questioned inform me that your son put up a most magnificent fight. It appears that he was fighting a Hun 'plane, and would have shot it down, when another German 'plane, which your son couldn't see, dived down on his tail. Your son was killed instantaneously, as his machine fell completely out of control in front of our lines. His body was recovered, and buried behind the lines with military honours."

Three of Lieutenant Shields' brothers also served in the war. Samuel of the Royal Irish Rifles was killed in action on the Somme on 02/07/1916. Neil also served in the Rifles before joining the Tank Corps. Robert served in the Royal Flying Corps. William Shields was born on 31/01/1889 at Seaforde, County Down, son of coachman Samuel Shields and his

wife Sarah. Later resident at 33, Upper Frank St.,
Belfast. Voormezeele Enclosures No.1 and No.2, in Belgium.

+STEWART, H H

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1188. Died
05/09/1917. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Mary Stewart, of
Carricknaveagh, Saintfield. Metz - en - Couture Communal
Cemetery British Extension, France

1918

+BROWNING, G Albert

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 29472. Died
05/09/1918. Age 19. Son of Margaret Browning, of 8,
Stratheden St., Antrim Rd., Belfast. Terlincthun British
Cemetery, Wimille, France

+CHAMBERS, Samuel

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 18068. Died
05/09/1918. From Darkley. He lived with his parents,
Samuel and Margaret Chambers, and four siblings. The
family were members of the Presbyterian Church. Tyne Cot
Memorial, Belgium

+KELLY, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 41577. Died
05/09/1918. Age 24. Son of Sampson and Ellen Kelly, of
137, Manor St., Belfast. Arneke British Cemetery, France

+MULLIGAN, William



The Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, was used by fighting units until July 1916 and was then greatly increased after the armistice. It now contains 806 WW1 burials of which 341 are unidentified.

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 11469. transf to 142nd Prisoner of War Coy Labour Corps. 565232. Died in a drowning accident during a swim in the river Lys on 05/09/1918. Age 20. One of five children of Simon and Susan Mulligan, of Hockley, Richhill, Co. Armagh; husband to Margaret I. Mulligan, of 33, Lonsdale St., Armagh. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+SCARR, Samuel

N.Z.E.F. Otago Regiment. 1st Btn. Private. 50598. Died 05/09/1918. Samuel worked as an apprentice grocer before

emigrating to New Zealand around 1909. Son of the late James and Mary Scarr, of Timascobe, Armagh. He left his effects to his sister in law Mrs M Scarr who was also in New Zealand. Neuville-Bourjonval British Cemetery, France

+VANCE, William Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles. posted to 1st/18th Bn. London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). Rifleman. 20817. Died 05/09/1918. Age 18. Son of William J. and Maude Vance, of 5, Battenberg St., Belfast. Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+WARKE, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, posted to London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). Rifleman. 22758. Died 05/09/1918. Son of John and Elizabeth Warke, of Abercorn Rd., Londonderry. Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+WHITE, Patrick Francis

RN. AB. SS476. HMS Falmouth. Jutland. Served 05/03/1906 - 09/05/1909. Joined RFR 10/05/1909. Recalled 11/08/1914. Died of heart failure 05/09/1918. Age 32. War service in Pembroke, Falmouth (15/08/1914 - 26/08/1916), weymouth, Caesar and President. Born Warrenpoint, 29/12/1885. Son of John and Sarah White, Warrenpoint. Husband to Mary Teresa White, Rhyl St., Boodle, Liverpool. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 26. ADM 188/1094/476 Liverpool. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 26. ADM 188/1094/476

1941

+McINTYRE, William

RN. Stoker 2nd Class. D/KX 135973. Died 05/09/1942. Age: 28. HMS Attack, a Coastal Forces base at Portland 1941 - 45. He joined the navy three months after the outbreak of war. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William McIntyre, and stepson of Mary McIntyre, Station Rd., Portstewart. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 25/09/1942). Ramsgate & St Lawrence Cemetery.

1942

+DIPLOCK, Frederick Samuel

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1078336. Died 05/09/1942. Age 27. No. 15 (Pilots) Advanced Flying Unit. He joined Queen's University Air Squadron in 1941 and trained in Mustangs at Terrell, Texas, USA. Diplock died at RAF Leconfield, Yorkshire at 2315hrs. He was the pilot of Airspeed Oxford R6379 on a night time training flight and climbed to 200 feet before making a sharp turn. The plane dived towards the ground and Diplock regained control before the engine stalled and crashed into the ground. He attended Queen's University, Belfast and Belfast College of Technology. Known to R.A.F. comrades as "Dippy", he was the son of William John Diplock and Mary Kathleen Diplock of 188 Malone Road, Belfast. In civilian life, he was a partner in Auto Accessories at 53 Upper Arthur Street, Belfast. He was also a member of Triumph Masonic Lodge no. 518. at Rosetta Masonic Hall, Belfast. Reverend F.H. L'Estrange of St. John's Parish, Malone, Belfast conducted the funeral with full military honours on 10th September 1942. The congregation included a Royal Air Force guard of honour and a detachment of Queen's University Air Squadron. St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Churchyard, Drumbeg, Co. Antrim. QUB WM

+FLECK, George

RAF. Sergeant (Flight Engineer). 532066. Died 05/09/1942. Aged 25. 207 Sqdn. Lost on a mission to Bremen in R5755, a Lancaster bomber with No. 207 Sqdn from RAF Syerston. There were no wireless communications received from R5755 from the time of take off. The aircraft failed to return to base. Reports from other captains of squadron aircraft stated, that the visibility over the target was good and no cloud with fairly light winds. One captain reported no enemy opposition of any form. It is thought that R5755 had been shot down by Oberfeldwebel Heinz Vinke of 11./NJG2 at 02:50 hrs and had ditched in the IJsselmeer. Son of William and Elizabeth Fleck, 'Cloneen', Antrim Road, Ballymena. Runnymede Air Force Memorial, Panel 83. Cookstown War Dead Book.

+McINTYRE, William

RN. Stoker 2nd Class. D/KX 135973. Died 05/09/1942. Age: 28. HMS Attack, a Coastal Forces base at Portland 1941 - 45. He may have been in MGB 13 at the time of his death. He joined the navy three months after the outbreak of war. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William McIntyre, and stepson of Mary McIntyre, Station Rd., Portstewart. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 25/09/1942). Ramsgate and St Lawrence Cemetery, Kent

+WEIR, Hugh

Royal Horse Artillery. Sergeant. 1439207. Died 05/09/1942. Aged 19. 6 Regiment, RHA. Son of Hugh and Eileen Mary Weir. Londonderry City Cemetery

1943

+BIRSE, Leslie Seymour

Royal Artillery. Sergeant. 1511752. Died 05/09/1943. Aged 25. 6 Bty., 1 Lt. A.A. Regt. Johannesburg (West Park) Cemetery, Gauteng, South Africa

+SWANN, John White

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1131447. Died 05/09/1943. Aged 31.107 Squadron, Son of Andrew and Jeannie Swann; Husband to Rosetta Brown Swann of Glenarm. Glenarm New Cemetery
1944

+SWETTENHAM, Kilner

Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment). Major. 47680. MiD, Died 04/09/1944. Shrewsbury School. Commissioned into the Highland Light Infantry in 1930. He served with the Guards motorised brigade in the western desert 1941-42 and was Mentioned in Despatches. He was captured at Tobruk and managed to escape from a POW camp in Italy with other officers. After home leave he returned to service taking part in the Nprmandy landings. Son of Lt. Colonel George Kilner Swettenham, CBE DSO, Royal Irish Fusiliers and Mrs Catherine Swettenham, The Mall, Armagh; husband to Flora Macdonald Swettenham, of Rosehall, Sutherlandshire. Bruyelle War Cemetery, Belgium
1945

+CRAIG, William John

RN. Able Seaman. P/JX 323451. HMS Falmouth. Died 05/09/1945. Son of William John and Isabella Craig, Lenaderg, Co. Down. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46. Gilford WM

1947

+McKEARNON, Charles

Queen's Royal Regiment (West Sussex). Private. 6976146. Died 05/09/1947. Aged 37. Son of Charles McKearnon and Mary McKearnon of Belfast. Husband of Mary Kathleen McKearnon of Belfast. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

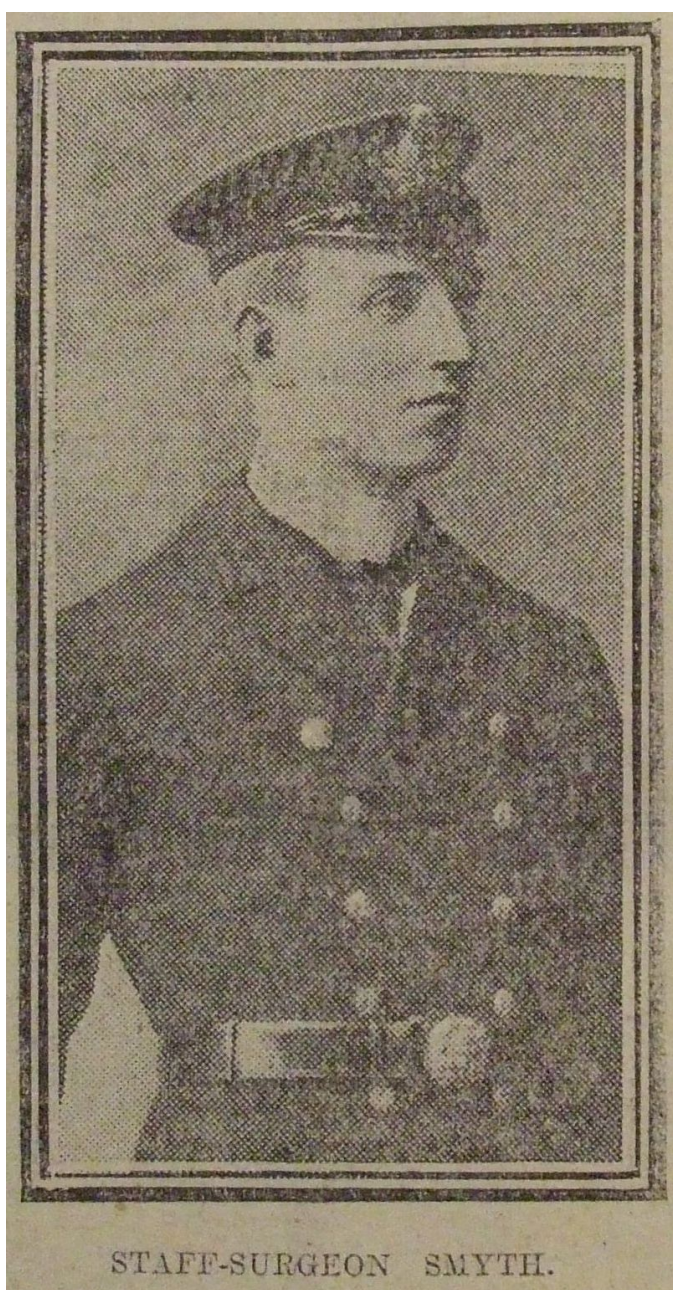
VETERANS

FLYNN, James Lough

Indian Army. Punjab Regiment. 2/14th Btn. Captain. AI 965. Born in Ballymena on 25/07/1916. Regular Army. Serving in Hong Kong. He was taken as a prisoner of war on 25/12/1941. POW Camp Argyle Street. Not liberated until 05/09/1945. Next of kin: T T Flynn, Preston, Lancashire

**SLOAN, Wolsey
Cornwall**

RNVR. Surgeon-Lieut. Commander. 1940-45. Surgeon-Lieut., R.N., 1926. BA, TCD 1924. MB BCh 1926. B 05/09/1902. Son of Andrew G Sloan,



Ballyworkan House, Portadown. Campbell College

SMYTH, Thomas Aubrey

RN. Staff Surgeon. Survivor of HMS Pathfinder. Bedeque House, Dromore - photo page above.

WALLACE, Thomas

RAMC. Lt Colonel. Coleraine AI. QCB MD, RUI 1870. MRCSI 1872. Surgeon Lt Colonel to 3rd Western General Hospital. Born 1849. Son of Thomas Wallace, Kirkhill, Ballymoney. Died 05/09/1939

RUSSELL, Donald H R

RAF. MCB. Born 05/09/1922. Son of Roy C P Russell, Earlswood Rd., Belfast.

SLOAN, Wolsey Cornwall

RNVR. Surgeon-Lieut. Commander. 1940-45. Surgeon-Lieut., R.N., 1926. BA, TCD 1924. MB BCh 1926. B 05/09/1902. Son of Andrew G Sloan, Ballyworkan House, Portadown. D. Campbell College 1285

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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

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

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.
