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## Leading inventor of naval compass lost in Irish Sea sinking which jeopardised WW1 peace talks



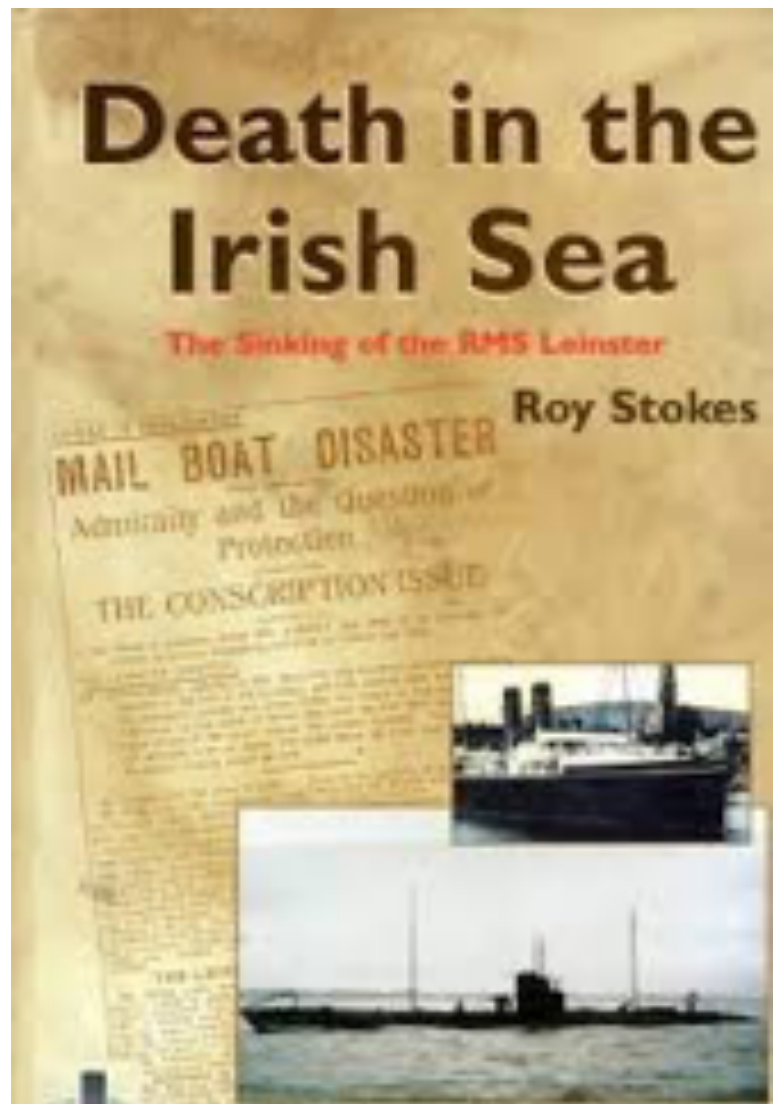
Lieutenant Commander George Richard Colin Campbell - known as Colin - was a career naval officer. He had been promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 1916.

He joined the Admiralty Compass Department, rising to become superintendent of the Magnetic Compass Branch. With Dr. G.T. Bennett he invented the Campbell-Bennett Aperiodic Compass.

Travelling with Campbell on RMS Leinster to Dun Laoghaire was his wife, Eileen, and four and a half year old daughter,

also named Eileen. All three were lost in the sinking of the Leinster. Eileen Campbell's body was recovered from the sea with her baby still tightly clutched in her arms. He was 34 years of age. He was born at Ballyeglish, Moneymore.

He was the son of the Rev. Edward. F. and Lydia Campbell, of Sheskburn, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. Eileen Campbell (nee Knox-Browne), was from Aughtentine, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone.



The ship was under the command of Captain William Birch (61), a Dubliner who had settled in Holyhead. His crew of 76 were drawn from both Kingston and Holyhead. In the ship's postal sorting room were 22 postal sorters from Dublin Post Office. The 181 civilian passengers - men, women and children - were mostly from Ireland and Britain. But by far the greatest number of passengers on board the Leinster were military personnel. Many of them were going on leave or returning from leave. They came from Ireland, Britain, Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia. On the Western Front the German Army was being pushed



**Wren Josephine Carr became the first member of the Women's Royal Naval Service to die on active service. She was aboard the RMS Leinster**

back by the relentless assaults of the Allied armies. There were 25 members of the Royal Navy aboard the ship amongst the military personnel.

As the Leinster, a city of Dublin Steam Packet

Company ship, set sail the weather was fine, but the sea was rough following recent storms. Earlier that morning a number of Royal Navy ships at sea off Holyhead were forced to return to port due to the stormy conditions. Shortly before 10 a.m. about 16 miles from Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) a few people on the deck of the Leinster saw a torpedo approaching the port side of the ship. It missed the Leinster, passing in front of her. Soon afterwards another torpedo struck the port side where the postal sorting room was located. Postal Sorter John Higgins said that the torpedo exploded, blowing a hole in the port side. The explosion traveled across the ship, also blowing a hole in the starboard side. German Submarine UB 123 had struck with deadly accuracy.

In an attempt to return to port, the Leinster turned 180 degrees, until it faced the direction from which it had come.



## RMS Leinster

With speed reduced and slowly sinking, the ship had sustained few casualties. Lifeboats were being launched. At this point a torpedo struck the ship on the starboard side, practically blowing it to pieces. The Leinster sank soon afterwards, bow first.

Many of those on board were killed in the sinking. In lifeboats or clinging to rafts and flotsam, the survivors now began a grim struggle for survival in the rough sea. Many died while awaiting rescue. Eventually a number of destroyers and other ships including HMS Mallard arrived. The survivors were landed at Victoria Wharf, Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), where the ferry terminal now stands.

Doctors, nurses, rescue workers and a fleet of 200 ambulances rushed to Victoria Wharf. Those needing medical care were brought to St. Michael's Hospital in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) and several Dublin Hospitals.



Those not requiring medical treatment were brought to local hotels and guest houses.

In the days that followed bodies were recovered from the sea. Funerals took place in many parts of Ireland. Some bodies were brought to Britain, Canada and the United States for burial. One hundred and forty four military casualties were buried in

Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin, including Colin Campbell, his wife and baby daughter.

Officially 501 people died in the sinking, making it both the greatest ever loss of life, and the highest ever casualty rate, on an Irish owned ship. Research to date has revealed the names of 529 casualties.

## **The sinking of the Leinster has to be seen in the wider context of the war.**

In late 1918 the German army were being worn down by the relentless assaults of the Allied forces. The German fleet, still confined to port, was on the verge of mutiny. Meanwhile the men of the submarine service continued to attack enemy merchant shipping. In the final weeks of the war submarine UB-123 left Germany. On board were 35 young men who were determined to strike a blow at their country's enemies. Commanded by twenty-seven year old Robert Ramm, UB-123 sailed north of Scotland and entered the Atlantic.

Then sailing down Ireland's west coast and along her south coast, the submarine turned north into the Irish Sea. There on 10 October 1918 she torpedoed and sunk the R.M.S. Leinster.

On 18 October 1918, while returning to Germany, UB-123 struck a mine in the North Sea. Robert Ramm and all of his young crew were lost.

**The sinking of the Leinster jeopardised for a few days the peace talks which were being sought to end the war.**

On 6th. October, 1918, US President, Woodrow Wilson, had received a message from Germany - "The German Government requests the President of the United States to arrange the immediate conclusion of an armistice on land, by sea and in the air."

The Leinster was sunk on the 10th and on the 14th, President Wilson replied to the German Government saying, among other things, that there could be no peace as long as Germany attacks passenger ships.

On 21st October Reinhard Scheer, Admiral of the German High Seas Fleet, signalled his submarines:

"To all U-boats: Commence return from patrol at once. Because of ongoing negotiations any hostile actions against merchant vessels prohibited. Returning U-boats are allowed to attack warships only in daylight. End of message. Admiral." On 11th November, 1918 the armistice was signed between the combatant powers ending the First World War.

# On this Day - October 10

**1914**

"On the **10th October 1914** local members of the Ulster Volunteer Force who had enlisted in Lord Kitchener's army were engaged in drill in the Ballymena Castle Demesne. The men were expecting to receive orders to move to the Cleggan Demesne in the Braid district. This area had been placed at the disposal of the military authorities by Lord O'Neill of Shane's Castle. A representative from the War Office was in Ballymena during the week and made extensive purchases from local drapers of clothing for the use of the troops.

On Wednesday **14th October** the men departed for Cleggan camp and had an enthusiastic send-off from the residents of the town. The men assembled at the Ballymena Castle Demesne and marched through the principal streets of the town headed by the Seven Towers Flute Band. The company was in charge of Mr C.G. Young, Galgorm Castle who had been appointed to act as camp commandant with Mr. William Stuart C.E. as quartermaster. Excellent preparations had been made for the reception of the men by the advance party. Prior to their departure the men connected with A and B Companies were the recipients of useful presentations. The number men in the camp was approximately 100. More members continued to report to the camp.

On the 14th November 1914 160 men who since their enlistment had been camping at Cleggan camp left Ballymena to join the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles at Portrush. The battalion were taking part in route marches along the North coast.

The men under the command of Mr G.C. Young; camp commandant; Mr. W. Stuart, quartermaster and Sergeant-Major Patton marched into Ballymena and received a fine reception from the townspeople. They were entertained to lunch in the Protestant Hall and subsequently boarded a train for Portrush."

## 1916

On the Somme, the French advance on a three mile front and take objectives, Bois de Chaulnes, Ablaincourt, and 1,400 prisoners.

## 1918

### **Northern Whig - Ulster Division Officer Killed**

**Captain George J Bruce, D.S.O., M.C.**, killed in action on the 2nd inst., was the eldest son of Mr. Samuel Bruce, D.L., Norton Hall, Campden, Gloucester (chairman of the Comber Distilleries), a nephew of Mr. James Bruce, D.L., Thorndale, Belfast, and the Manor House, Benburb, County Tyrone, and a son-in-law of Mr. J. Blackiston-Houston, D.L., Orangefield, Belfast. He was born 3rd June, 1880, and was educated at Winchester. Before the war Captain Bruce resided at Cuan, **Comber**, and was managing director of the Comber Distilleries. On the formation of the Ulster Division he obtained a commission in the 1st (County Down)

Battalion, and was promoted to the rank of Captain on 14th September, 1914. In February, 1916, he was gazetted as a general staff officer (3rd grade) on the Headquarters staff of the Ulster Division. Captain Bruce was mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig, and was awarded the Military Cross on the King's birthday, of 1915, and got a bar to that decoration in the battle of Cambrai last year, while during the present year he won the D.S.O., the particulars of his gallantry only being gazetted a few weeks ago.

Captain George James Bruce, 109th Brigade Major, previously of B' Company 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 2nd October, 1918. Son of Samuel and Julia Bruce, of Norton Hall, Campden, Gloucester ; husband of Hilda Bruce, of Corriewood, **Castlewellan**, County Down. Deceased was 37 years of age and is buried in Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium.

## **1918**

The RMS Leinster was torpedoed and sun by UB-123 after leaving Dun Laoghaire for Holyhead with the loss of 501 lives. Wren Josephine Carr became the first member of the Women's Royal Naval Service to die on active service aboard the RMS Leinster, which was torpedoed by U-Boat off Ireland on her way to Holyhead with the loss of 480 souls.

## **1938**

The Hungarian army, with the sanction of its German allies, retakes territory in Czechoslovakia that was stripped from the Austro-Hungarian Empire after WWI.

## 1939

The Soviet Union signs an agreement with Lithuania that allows the Soviets to establish military bases in the country.

Hitler forms Winter Relief, forced charitable contributions from German civilians.

Chinese troops recapture all territory in Hubei, Hunan, and Jiangxi Provinces.

## 1940



Hitler meets with Franco at Hendaye, France, but fails to convince him to lead Spain into the war.

German children 10-18 required to join Hitler Youth or Nazi League of German girls.

## 1941

The 250th 'Blue' Division, made up of Spanish volunteers and formed within days of the German attack on the Soviet Union, goes into action against the Russians for the first

time in the sector between Lake Illmen and the west bank of the Volkhov river. General Zhukov is put in charge of the West Front for the defence of Moscow. Army Group South concludes the battle along the Sea of Azov and takes 100,000 prisoners.

## **1942**

German and Italian bomber forces begin a major offensive against the British island of Malta in the Mediterranean.

## **1943**

With the war's tide turning, the Franco government orders the Spanish 250th 'Blue' Division home.

A few thousand volunteers, however, refuse to abandon the struggle against Communism and enlist in a so-called "Blue Legion" that is attached to the German 121st Infantry Division.

Chiang Kai-shek took the oath of office as president of China.

## **1944**

The American 24-hour surrender ultimatum to Germans at Aachen is rejected.

The Canadians enter the Breskens Pocket along the Scheldt with amphibians.

The British take Corinth as Army Group E begins its final retreat from Greece.

The Red Army breaks through the German lines in Serbia as it moves towards Belgrade.

The Russians reach the Baltic at Memel and cut off Army Group North (26 divisions) in the Kurland for the rest of the

war. The rebellion against the Tiso government in Slovakia is put down by the German Army.

U.S. B-29 Superfortresses pound Formosa and Okinawa. The Formosa bombardment lasts seven days,

## Roll of Honour – October 10

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+REID, William Douglas**

Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps (Canadian Civilian). Sapper. 502120. Died 10/11/1915. Age 27. Son of Douglas and Eliza Reid. He was born 29/05/1888 in Derryfubble, Dungannon. His father was a farmer who died in March 1910. William emigrated to Canada. Before enlisting he was living at No. 6 Firehall, Vancouver, British Columbia. He was working as a trackman, laying down railway track. William Reid enlisted in Vancouver in October 1915. Sapper William Reid who died as a result of an accident, is believed to be buried in Pinehill Cemetery, Mattawa, Ontario, Canada.

**1916**

**+BELL, James McDowell**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 4420. Died 10/10/1916. Born 19/11/1893 in 11 Steen St., Belfast. Enlisted Randalstown. His brother Andrew died in Minden

Prison Camp. Son of Mr. W. Bell, of 80, McTier St., Belfast, and previously from Ballygroobey, Randalstown. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

### **+LOCKHART, R**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. B Coy. Private. 18559. Died 12/10/1916. Age 26. Son of Robert and Eliza Jane Lockhart, of Main St., Tandragee. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord, France

### **+O'NEIL, John Teskey**

Royal Irish Rifles, 17th Btn. Captain. Died 10/10/1916. Age 54. Son of Arthur and Catherine O'Neil; husband of Mary Anne O'Neil, of "Balladee," The Pier, Cultra, Co. Down. Born at Rathbane. Family Memorial, Dundonald Cemetery

### **+ORR, W**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Private. 8481. Died 10/10/1916. Age 32. Son of William and Ellen Orr, of 8, Howe St, Belfast. Harehills Cemetery, Leeds

### **+O'NEIL, John Teskey**

Royal Irish Rifles, 17th Btn. Captain. Died 10/10/1916. Age 54. John Teskey O'Neil joined the Army in 1881. He was a career soldier serving for thirteen years in India. During that time, he fought in the Third Burmese War and returned home in 1896.

John Teskey O'Neil was born on 17/04/1862 at Rathbane in County Limerick, and he was a son of Arthur and Catherine

O'Neil. His daughters Ada and Evelyn Teskey O'Neil were born in India. Their mother's name was Mary Jane O'Neil.

Mary Anne O'Neil (nee Legear, sometimes Le Gear), John's second wife, whom he married on 09/12/1896 in Borrisokane Methodist Church, Co Tipperary, was also born in County Limerick.

John Teskey O'Neil and Mary Anne Teskey (nee Le Gear) had at least seven children:

The O'Neil family lived in the townland of Gortmore, Omagh, Co Tyrone and at The Brooke, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. The O'Neil family moved to Belfast where they lived at 12 Cappy Street and 129 My Lady's Road. In civilian life John Teskey O'Neil worked as an electrician.

In 1914 John Teskey O'Neil re-joined the colours and was gazetted Lieutenant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. Then he was appointed Brigade Signalling Officer to 107<sup>th</sup> Belfast Brigade and promoted Captain into the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles in 1915. John Teskey O'Neil was a Captain in the 17<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and was stationed at Ballykinlar when he died of cancer on 10 October 1916 in the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast. John's wife Mary Anne lived at Balladee, The Pier, Cultra and she died on 1 November 1951 (aged 74). Son of Arthur and Catherine O'Neil; husband of Mary Anne O'Neil, of "Balladee," The Pier, Cultra, Co. Down. Born at Rathbane. Family Memorial, Dundonald Cemetery

**1917**

**+JOHNSTON, Alexander**

AB. SS War Clover. Died 19/10/1917. Age 16. Enemy action in the Mediteranean. Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston (Holmes), Maple Cottage, Ballykeel, Islandmagee, and the late George Johnston.

### **+KEITH, Robert**

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 5393. Died 10/10/1917. Third Ypres. Born Coleraine. Enlisted Glasgow. Husband to Millie Hull, Glasgow. Tyne Cot Memorial, West - Vlaanderland, Belgium. Castlerock Parish RH

### **+PHAIR, Edward Leo**

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private 10490. Died 10/10/1917. Age 25. Son of Richard and Margaret Phair, of 4, Brookvale Terrace, Portrush. Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

### **+THOMPSON, T**

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18820. Died 10/10/1917. Age 27 Son of Thomas and Mary Thompson, of Hillsborough, Co. Down. Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France

### **+WILLIAMS, William James**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 9487. Died 10/10/1917. Son of Fred Williams, of "Rathkenny," Larne Harbour. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

### **1918 RMS Leinster**

### **+CAMPBELL, George Richard Colin**

RN. Lieutenant Commander. A career naval officer, he had been promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 1916. He

joined the Admiralty Compass Department, rising to become superintendent of the Magnetic Compass Branch. Lost in the sinking of RMS Leinster by a U boat. Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin. Dungannon WM. See above.

### **+GARTLAND, Felix**

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 9389. transf. to Labour Corps. 390357. Died 10/10/1918. Age 63. He enlisted on 13/10/1914 when he was 43 years old. He had previously served in the Border Regiment for over seven years. Born at Creggan, Armagh. In 1901 Felix was working as an agricultural labourer and living with his widowed mother and sister in Crossmaglen. Son of James and Anne Gartland, of Lisavery, Crossmaglen. Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton

### **+HUGHES, James**

RN. AB. HMS Walrus. Died 10/10/1918. Age 21. Lost on RMS Leinster which was torpedoed by German Submarine UB 123, having just left Kingstown. He was returning from leave. Son of John and Rose Ann Hughes. Born 10/07/1897 in Moy, County Tyrone. The family lived in Anagasna Glebe, Moy. James was one of 12 children. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 27

### **+LUTTON, George**

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 5251. Died 10/10/1918. Age 32. George Lutton volunteered at the outbreak of war, joining the 7th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was transferred to the Royal Munster Fusiliers. George had been invalided home in September 1918. He was returning to England on the R.M.S. Leinster. George Lutton's father

was also called George. George was born near Moy, County Tyrone about 1890. By the time of the 1901 census George's mother had died. George and the family lived in Canary, Tullyroan, Armagh. Canary is close to the Argory. Kirk Patrick (Holy Trinity) Churchyard on the Isle of Man.  
Moy WM

### **+McGLYNN, Edward**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 19961. Died 10/10/1918 in RMS Leinster sinking. The Armagh Gazette reported on 19/10/1918 that "On Sunday afternoon the remains of Corporal Edward McGlynn of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, attached to the RAMC, who was a victim of the Leinster disaster were conveyed from Dublin to Armagh by motor hearse and interred in Sandy Hill burying ground. Deceased resided at Drumarg or Downs and was married just a week before his sad death. The funeral was very large and represented all classes and creeds and the hearse with the coffin draped in the Union Jack was preceded by a firing party from the Armagh Military Barracks, in charge of Sergeant J. Quin. On arrival at the burying grounds the remains were met by Rev Patrick Finnegan CC, who officiated at the graveside. The bugle sounded "The Last Post" and a volley was fired over the grave of the dead soldier. The young widow is a daughter of Patrick McCoy, the Desart, Armagh with whom the most profound sympathy is felt in her untimely bereavement." St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Armagh

### **+THOMPSON, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18820. Died 10/10/1917. Age 27. Born 1890 to Thomas and Mary Thompson, of Hillsborough, Co. Down. Enlisted at Lisburn Co. Antrim. He first joined the Royal Irish Rifles as Private 3902 on 31/01/1906 aged 18 years and 1 month. On 28/06/1908 he was discharged to Special Reserve. Resided at Hillsborough, occupation, labourer. His WW1 record did not survive the blitz over London in WW2. Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France

### **+THOMPSON, Thomas Boyd**

Pte Thomas Boyd Thompson 20747 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers was one of those lost in the RMS *Leinster* disaster. Aged 19 and from Londonderry, his elder brother Victor was killed whilst serving with the 8th Bn. Black Watch in 1916 and Henry, a 2nd Lt. with the 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was killed in March 1918. Thomas is buried in Derry City Cemetery and the three brothers are commemorated on the War Memorial in Ebrington Presbyterian Church and the Diamond War Memorial in the city. They were the only sons of Thomas Henry and Susan Thompson

### **+WILLIAMSON, Jack**

Army Veterinary Corps, Private. SE/33399. Died 10/10/1918. Age 24. Jack Williamson joined the Army Veterinary Corps at Ironbridge (presumably in Shropshire). His Service Number prefix SE indicates 'Special Enlistment' as Horseman, which makes sense having grown up with horses due to his father's employment. It is not known where he served during the war. He was presumably returning to duty following leave at home when he travelled on *RMS Leinster* on the 10/10/1918. He did not survive the

sinking nor was his body recovered. Census returns show that Jack and his mother were born in Armagh. The family moved to Falmore in County Louth where William was Coachman and Domestic Servant to the Bigger family of Falmore House. The family later lived in Dundalk and Navan. Son of William and Sarah Williamson, of Black Castle, Navan, Co. Meath. Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton

**1918**

**+BERRY, Frederick Ernest**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. A Coy. Previously 14<sup>th</sup> Btn, Rifles. On their disbandment in February 1918 he was with 23rd Entrenching Btn. Private. 14/42469. Died 14/10/1918 along with 26 of his comrades in an attack on the strongly held village of Gulleghem, Belgium. Born on 31/08/1899 at Belfast where his father Charles was an RIC Sergeant. He followed his two elder brothers into the ranks of the Young Citizen Volunteers and enlisted in 14th Royal Irish Rifles in July 1916 aged 16. He embarked for active service in May 1917 and saw action at Messines, Langemarck and Cambrai in that year. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

**+BROWN, David Alexander**

Yorkshire Regiment, 9th Btn. Private. 30004. Died 10/10/1918. Born at Newry. Son of John Brown, of 37, Fraser St., Newtownards Rd., Belfast. Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois, France

**+BURKE, Robert (Bobbie) John**

Royal Air Force Aircraftsman (mechanic), Third Class. 297140. Died 10/10/1918 of pneumonia in hospital at Blanford Camp, Dorsetshire, England. Aged 19. He volunteered for active service in September 1918. Before enlisting he was employed as a chauffeur by Mr. Samuel R. Henry, Dun Suivnish, Galvally, Portstewart. His parents, Mr. William John (a driver of Portstewart tram) and Mrs. Susan (nee Law) Burke, lived in the Tramway Depot, Main Street, Portstewart. Agherton Cemetery. He is commemorated on Portstewart's War Memorial, Portstewart Presbyterian Church's War Memorial, the Roll of Honour of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Ireland's Memorial Record

### **+CARRUTH, John**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, attached to RIR. Lieutenant. Died 10/10/1918. Age 25. Ballymena Academy. QUB Faculty of Medicine 1913 - 16. Member of the Training Corps 1915. He obtained his commission as an officer in September 1915 and was gazetted to the 6th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers on 15/10/1915. He served at the Battle of the Somme and was invalided home with trench fever. After his return to health, he was attached to the 1st Royal Irish Rifles on 13/08/1916. He acted as a bombing officer at the Curragh camp until November 1917 when he was posted to Palestine to join his regiment. On the night of 07/10/1918, the Battalion was attacked by a bombardment of shell fire and he was badly wounded and taken to No.50 Casualty Clearing Station and died of his wounds there on 10th October 1918. Son of John Carruth, Craigywarren, Ballymena and The Haven, Mallusk Husband to Vera Maude Louise, daughter of Mr JE Vicker, Stewartstown. QUB WM. Hydepark Presbyterian Church RH. Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme

### **+DOHERTY, Anthony**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 5th Btn. Private. 22234. Died 10/10/1918. Age 25. Son of Mrs. H. Doherty, of 4, Laburnham Terrace, Londonderry. Bearevoir Communal Cemetery British Extension, France

### **+DYSART, John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 12th Btn. Private. 19787. transf. to (464875) Labour Corps. Died 10/10/1918. Age 37. Son of Hugh and Sarah Dysart, of Coleraine; Brother to Dysart J, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, died 29/09/1918. Husband to Nancy Dysart, of Pate's Lane, Coleraine. Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin

### **+ERSKINE, A**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Formerly NI Horse. Lance Corporal. 41235. Died 10/10/1918. Age 22. Enlisted 05/10/1914. Son of E. J. Erskine, of 111, Cavehill Rd., Belfast, and the late Alec Erskine. Ljssenthoek Military Cemetery,

### **+GARTLAND, Felix**

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 9389. transf. to Labour Corps. 390357. Died 10/10/1918. Age 63. One of 500 people out of 770 passengers who died when RMS Leinster was torpedoed by a German submarine in the Irish Sea off the port of Kingstown/Dun Laoghaire. He enlisted on 13/10/1914 when he was 43 years old. He had previously served in the Border Regiment for over seven years. Born at Creggan, Armagh. In 1901 Felix was working as an

agricultural labourer and living with his widowed mother and sister in Crossmaglen. Son of James and Anne Gartland, of Lisavery, Crossmaglen. Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton

### **+GAULT, Arthur Alexander**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. "D" Coy. 11th Bn. attd. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. Second Lieutenant. Died 10/10/1918. Aged 28. Son of the late Mr. John Gault and of Mrs. John Gault, of Belgrano, Lame Harbour. Delsaux Farm Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

### **+GREEN, Thomas James Green**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn, B Coy. Rifleman. 11/17766. Died 10/10/1918 in a German Military Hospital at Hautmont, France. Age 23. Born on 22/11/1894 at Dunmurry. Pre-war he was employed at the Milfort Weaving Company. He enlisted in 11th (Service) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (South Antrim Volunteers) in late 1914. He was wounded on 01/07/1916 receiving shrapnel wounds to the leg. He transferred to 12th Royal Irish Rifles in February 1918 and was captured with the majority of the battalion on 21/03/1918. Son of Robert H. and Annie Green, of 57, Donegall St., Belfast. Hautmont Communal Cemetery, France

### **+HOUSTON, John**

Canadian Machine Gun Corps, 3rd Btn. Private. 228540. Died 10/10/1918 in hospital from wounds. Enlisted 14/07/1914 in Toronto. Took part in the Battles of Arras, Cambrai and Canal du Nord. Husband of Marion and father of two children who lived at Mullaglass, Co. Armagh. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

### **+JOHNSTON, Arthur**

Born on the 24.2.1895, he was a former pupil of Friends' School, Lisburn. His stay at FSL was brief, lasting from 04/09/1906 to the 21/12/1906. The single report on him dated 21/12/1906 reads, "Arthur possesses considerable ability, and has shown a good deal of improvement during the term; but his frequent absences from school have prevented him from properly settling down to his work, and deriving all the benefits that might have been expected". His parents were James and Christina Johnston whose home was in Lurgan. The closest fit is Private A.M. Johnston (CH/2887S) 1st. R.M. battalion Royal Naval Division, RMLI. Died on 08/10/1918, age 23. He was the son of John and Christina Monteith Johnston of 19 Ship Haugh, Stirling. Proville British Cemetery, Nord, France.

### **+McGREEVY, Francis Stanley**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Lance Corporal. 20679. Died 10/10/1918. Age 22. In 1911 the family were living in Lisburn. Francis worked as a tailor before enlisting. He served in Egypt, Palestine and Italy before serving in France at Arras and Ginchy. He had been wounded twice and gassed before dying in action at Le Cateau. Son of Patrick and Catherine E. McGreevy, of Flurry Bridge, Co. Armagh, where his mother had been born. Bearevoir Communal Cemetery British Extension, France

### **+McKEOWN, John Charles**

USArmy. 82<sup>nd</sup> Division, 327th Infantry Regiment. Corporal. Died 10/10/1918. John Charles McKeown was born at 'The Beeches', Killygonland, Ardboe, County Tyrone. He was listed as killed in action on 10/10/1918 during the U.S.

Army's biggest engagement in World War 1, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. It began on the 26/09/1918 and ended with the Armistice on 11/11/1918. In those few weeks of fighting the U.S. Army had lost 18,000 men. Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in France

### **+MULGREW, Patrick**

King's (Liverpool Regiment), 4th. Btn. Private. 11359. Died 10/10/1918. Age 45. Son of James and Jane Mulgrew. He was born about 1873. It is believed he was a native of Ballygawley, County Tyrone. Husband to Mary Mayes Mulgrew, of 27, Scott's Lane, Port Glasgow. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

### **+NEILL, James E**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 18132. Transferred to Labour Corps, 617046. 195th Prisoners of War Coy. Died 10/10/1918. Son of Edward and Mary; husband to Elizabeth Neill, 28, Fowlers Entry, Portadown. Seagoe Cemetery

### **+SMITH, Alfred**

83rd Coy, Machine Gun Corps. Private. 48682. Formerly Private, 5183 Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died 10/10/1918 in Salonika of influenza. Aged 21. Prior to the outbreak of the Great War Alfred Smith worked as an apprentice mechanic and then as a boilermaker. He enlisted in Belfast on 06/10/1914 and it was noted in his attestation papers that he was 5 feet 8¾ inches tall with a tattoo on his right arm. Alfred Smith was born on 26/02/1897 in Hillsborough and he was a son of George and Emma Clarke Smith (nee Tinsdale) who were married on 04/01/1888 in Ballyclug

Church of Ireland Church in Ballymena. George Smith, an RIC Constable, was living in Henry Street, Harryville and he was a son of William Smith, a farmer. Emma Tinsdale (aged 19) lived in Georges Street, Ballymena and she was a daughter of Robert Tinsdale, a boot and shoe shop proprietor.

The Smith family lived in Ballymena, Strangford, Hillsborough and Moira; then at 43 James Street, Newtownards and then at 2 Loughview Terrace, Shore Street, Holywood. George Smith was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary and he and Emma had at least seven children. Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery in Greece. Holywood and District WM. Holywood C of I Parish Church (St Philip and St James) RH

**1920**

**+BREADON, Joseph**

Canadian Infantry. 58th Btn. Private. 451976. Died 10/10/1920 of related injuries/illness. Age 29. Joseph emigrated to Canada. He worked as a grocery clerk. He enlisted on 23/07/1915 in Toronto. He was 24 and single. He saw service in Europe. Joseph had married Sarah Breadon of Toronto, Ontario, by the time of his death. Born 08/11/1891. in Fivemiletown. Son of Thomas and Mary Breadon, of Alderwood, Fivemiletown. Toronto (St. John's Norway) Cemetery, Canada. Fivemiletown WM

**1941**

**+LORIMER, William**

London Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. (Formerly of Royal Ulster Rifles). Rifleman. 7014075. Died 10/10/1941. Age 23. Son

of William and Hanna Lorimer of 2, Alexander Street, Ballymena. Ballymena Cemetery.

### **+McCONNELL, Thomas Norman**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1147130. Died 10/10/1941. Aged 29. He was one of two Observers Under Training onboard Airspeed Oxford Mark I T1287. The plane from No. 4 Air Observer School flew into Shalloch on Minnoch, Ayrshire. Also on board was Pilot Sergeant Dick Tester and another Observer Under Training, Sergeant Edward O'Grady. All three men died in the accident. The plane took off on a training flight from RAF West Freugh near Stranraer, Wigtownshire. Shalloch on Minnoch is at the northern end of a range of hills known as The Awful Hand. The ground rises to between 2,000 and 2,800 feet. At a height of around 2,000 feet, the Oxford Airspeed struck the hillside. Wreckage from the incident still remains on the hillside. Parts of engines and the fuselage remain visible, some still showing signs of yellow paint. RAF personnel from West Freugh recovered the bodies of the three men. Son of John and Annie McConnell of Knock, Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

### **1943**

### **+AVERY, Michael**

Royal Artillery, 29th Searchlight Regiment. 314 Bty. Gunner. 1488896. Died 10/10/1943. Born in Co. Tyrone. Joined up at the outbreak of war. Took part in the evacuation from Dunkirk and in defence of GB. His remains were returned to his mother-in-law.'s house in Rathfriland St, Banbridge from where a funeral took place attended by pall-bearers and a party from the Hampshire Regiment. Last Post and Reveille were sounded. Wreathes were laid on behalf of his wife and

family. Banbridge Town Cemetery. Seapatrck Parish  
Church RH, Banbridge  
**1944**

### **+McCAULEY, Norman William Edward**

Royal Engineers. Sapper.1944610. Died 10/10/1944. He had been a member of Armagh Church Lads Brigade and worked for a local building firm. He had served with the local Home Guard unit. Whilst in North Africa he met Selwyn Tarleton from Armagh who was serving with the RAF. During their per chance meeting they met two more men from Armagh, Sam Nichol from Linenhall Street and S Davidson from Abbey Street. Norman McCauley said it was like walking round the Mall in Armagh. Norman served in North Africa, and the Middle East. He was killed in an accident in Syria. He was the son of Robert McCaukley who had served in WW1 and died of his wounds, and of Mrs McCauley, The Mall, Armagh. He and Doreen Cloughley of Scotch Street, Armagh, had married. Tripoli (Victoria) Naval Cemetery, Lebanese Republic

## **VETERANS**

### **BENSON, Edward White**

RNAS. Chief Petty Officer Mechanic. F2880. Armoured Car Division. Enlisted 29/12/1914 for hostilities. Service in Russia. Selected RNVR Sub - Lieutenant 31/12/1916. Born Ballymoney 10/10/1884. Son of Canon and Mrs Benson, Ballymoney Rectory, Co Antrim. ADM 188/565/2880

## **BROWN, James**

RN. Stoker First Class. 291790. Enrolled 06/03/1899 for 12 years. Served to 07/04/1911. Joined RFR 08/04/1911. War service 05/08/1914 - 10/10/1919, in Endymion, Vivid II, Hildebrand, Europa and Theseus. Born Magheramorne 22/02/1876. Magheramorne - PCI RH. ADM 188/470/291790

## **CAMPBELL, Albert Edward John Campbell**

RN. Leading seaman. J68016. Boy service from 17/02/1901. Enrolled 17/02/1919 for 12 years. Served to 10/10/1926. War service in Powerful, Ganges and Centurion. Born Downpatrick 17 Feb 1901 ADM 188/783/68016

## **CASSIDI, Desmond**

Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi, died 10/10/2019 aged 94. As a midshipman under training he served in the cruiser Cumberland, the destroyer Hardy on Arctic patrols and Russian convoys, and in the battleship Ramillies at the Normandy landings. He gained his wings in 1946 and commanded 820 Naval Air Squadron in 1955. For an account of his service and career see Remembrance Ni at <https://remembrancenior.org.wordpress.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=4705&action=edit>

## **CONNOLLY, Patrick Joseph**

RN. Writer II, M12089. Enrolled 16/02/1915 for hostilities.

Served in Pembroke II and Blenheim. Demobbed  
10/10/1919. Born Belfast 28/09/1896. ADM 188/1042/12089

### **WILLIAMSON, Robert Joseph**

Robert Joseph Williamson, Service Number 24205125, was the son of Jane from The Commons, Newry and was born on 23/02/1923.

He enlisted in 7th (Northern Ireland) Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles on 23r/07/1940. Robert subsequently served in 7th and 31st Battalions as well as 2nd and 1st Battalions London Irish Rifles from which he was released on 10t/10/1946. Robert Williamson was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal and 1939-1945 War Medal.

### **WRIGHT, Brian**

RAF. MCB. Born 10/10/1919. Son of Andrew Wright, Stockman's Lane, Belfast. Died 1959 at Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

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***We will remember them***

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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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