



remembrance ni



*Poppies at the Tower of London*

## **Sinking of HMS Broadwater**

**Three men from NI were serving in HMS Broadwater when she was sunk in this day in 1941**

HMS Broadwater was one of 50 older destroyers handed over to the Royal Navy by the United States Navy on 08/10/1940. This was in exchange for use of British bases in

the Caribbean. It completed as USS Mason (DD191) in February 1920 at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. in Newport News, Virginia.

On 15/10/1940 HMS Broadwater (H 81) departed Halifax for the British Isles, via St. John's, Newfoundland, arriving in the Clyde River, Scotland on 26/10/1940, for service with the 11th Escort Group, Western Approaches Command. During the early part of 1941 the indispensable destroyer escorted convoys, carrying troops and military supplies, around the Cape of Good Hope to the Middle East.

She spent May and June at Southampton, England. Assigned to the Newfoundland Escort Force in July, the ship patrolled the North Atlantic and guarded convoys against the German submarine wolfpacks into the autumn of that year.

Early in the morning of 17 October she attacked a U-boat, one of a pack assaulting the convoy SC-48 some 400 miles south of Iceland.

Twenty four hours later HMS Broadwater (Lt.Cdr. *William Maurice Lloyd Astwood*, RN) herself fell victim to torpedoes of U-101 (Mengersen).

On the night of 17th-18th October 1941, U-101 attempted to overtake convoy SC-48 to the south of Iceland. After several approaches over three hours, U-101 launched 4 torpedoes at HMS Broadwater at 0420hrs. Broadwater lost its bow after a torpedo struck the starboard side forward of the bridge and sank at 1340 hours the same day in position 57°01'N, 19°08'W.

Rescuing the men of HMS Broadwater was difficult due to increasing wind at sea. Some of the crew remained on board believing they could save the ship. Only as day broke, did a crack across the deck confirm the ship was unsalvageable.

Three trawlers went to assist the Broadwater; HMS Angle (FY201), HMS Cape Warwick (FY167), HMS St. Apollo. German U-Boat U-77 investigated the scene but left the scene after firing an unsuccessful torpedo at 0633hrs.

HMS Angle rescued 60 men, transferring 7 to HMS Cape Warwick. This included Broadwater's commander and chief engineer. HMS Cape Warwick picked up a further 28 men at 1420hrs before both ships made their way to port in Derry City, Co. Londonderry. HMS St. Apollo remained by the Broadwater wreck until it sank bow first with a starboard list into the North Atlantic waters.

## On this Day – October 18

**1918**

**The Rev Theodore Hardy VC, DSO, MC died of his wounds received whilst visiting his men who were being heavily shelled on the front line.**

**18th October 1918 Belfast Newsletter**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Private Robert Moorehead, 29345, 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, formerly of the 11th Inniskilling Fusiliers, killed in action 2nd October, 1918. Son of Rober**





***Troops of the 8th Battalion, the King's (Liverpool Regiment, Liverpool Irish***

**18th October 1918 Belfast Newsletter**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Private Robert Moorehead**, 29345, 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, formerly of the 11th Inniskilling Fusiliers, killed in action 2nd October, 1918. Son of Robert Moorehead, of Kennaught Street, Limavady, County Londonderry and brother of Mrs. Scott also of Limavady. Deceased was 25 years of age and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Belgium.

**18th October 1918 Northern Whig**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman Robert John Parker**, 10/15758, 15th Battalion

Royal Irish Rifles, previously 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (South Belfast Volunteers). Robert who was twice wounded has been Killed in action 19th August, 1918. Son of Margaret Parker nee Graham and the late John Parker, of 11 City Street, **Belfast**. Deceased who was born 10th September, 1893, was 24 years of age when he was killed and is buried in Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre, France.

Prior to the outbreak of war Robert was a painter by trade, and on September 28th, 1912 along with his brother James signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant while his mum and sister signed the women's Declaration.

Rifleman Robert John Parker was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medal. He is also commemorated on the St. Andrew's Parish Church of Ireland Roll of honour which is currently held in St. Aidan's Parish Church of Ireland, Sandy Row, Belfast.

### **Ballymena Observer, October 18, 1918**

Mrs. Rebecca Torrens, Alexander Street, Ballymena, has been notified that her son, **Rifleman William J. Harvey**, Royal Irish Rifles, has been wounded and has been admitted to the Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital. Prior to joining up he was employed by Mr. Robert Beaumont, Fairhill, Ballymena.

**Lieutenant John Taylor**, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, son of Mr. James Taylor of Galgorm Parks, Ballymena, sent us a leaflet found in a German 'strong-point' captured by the Inniskillings. It runs as follows:

Dear Tommy -

Thanks for the loan on this ground. It served its purpose.  
Now you are welcome to have it back.

Fritz.

Lieutenant Taylor was later awarded the Military Cross.

## **1919**

HM Submarine H41 was sunk after colliding with the depot ship Vulcan at Blyth. Vulcan's propellers sliced H41's hull open after the submarine had been drawn in by suction. There were no casualties. H41 was subsequently raised and scrapped.

## **1939**

General Blaskowitz sent a message to Hitler, complaining of SS atrocities in Poland.

The Russians prepare to hand over 30,000 Polish soldiers and refugees to the Nazis who respond with their own prisoner exchange.

The first Jewish ghetto is established in Lublin.

## **1940**

Britain reopens the Burma road, which had been closed for three months on the condition of progress being made towards peace between Japan and China. No progress had been made towards peace at the time of reopening.

## **1941**

German units are now only 80 miles west of Moscow.

Raids began against submarine pens on Bay of Biscay, to protect North Africa invasion, but pens survived with 12-foot concrete roofs, defended by Luftwaffe's Me109 and FW190 fighters.



## 1942

Hitler issued his Commando Order or Kommandobefehl and orders German troops to shoot all captured allied commandos, 'to the last man'.. All Allied Commandos encountered in Europe and Africa should be killed immediately without trial, even if in proper uniforms or if they attempted to surrender.

RAF Operation Robinson, 94 aircraft of No. 5 Group (the only Group that had completed the conversion to the new Lancaster heavy bomber) bombed the Schneider plant at Le Creusot. Although only 1 plane was lost, most bombs missed their targets.

An advance party of four Norwegian Special Operations Executive (SOE) Commandos are dropped by parachute to reconnoitre the area around the German 'heavy water' (atomic weapons development) plant at Telemark, Norway.

The advance by Army Group A toward the Black Sea port of Tuapse is halted due to difficult terrain and stubborn Soviet resistance. After intensifying their raids during the early part of the October, German and Italian daylight bombing raids over Malta are finally suspended.

The drain on aircraft being sent to other fronts has left little alternative.

Vice Admiral William F. Halsey named as the new commander of the South Pacific Area, in charge of the Solomons-New Guinea campaign.

## **1943**

Japanese troops go on a murderous rampage in China, burning to death the populations of several villages and forcing peasants to jump blindfolded off cliffs.

## **1944**

The call up for the Volksturm begins in Germany, with all able-bodied men from 16 to 60 to be conscripted. German radio says 50,000 officers have been killed so far in war. Himmler becomes Commander-in-Chief, Forces of Interior.

German forces thrust into Slovakia.

Russian troops cross the Norwegian frontier.

Lt. General Joseph Stilwell is recalled from China by president Franklin Roosevelt.

Fourteen B-29s based on the Marianas attack the Japanese base at Truk.

## **1945**



The first open session of the International Military War Crimes Tribunal indicts 21 top Nazis.



## **Potijze Chateau Grounds Cemetery, Ypres – West-Vlaanderen, Belgium**

The Potijze Chateau Cemeteries. The old chateau grounds at Potijze are the site of three Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries containing over 850 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Potijze Chateau Grounds, Potijze Chateau Lawn, and Potijze Chateau Wood cemeteries were all formed in the spring of 1915 and used for the burial of Commonwealth soldiers until 1918.

The architectural features of the cemeteries were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield in the 1920s.



## Potijze during the First World War

For almost the entire period of the First World War the village of Potijze was held by the Commonwealth forces but stood

directly behind the Allied trenches and was well within range of German guns.

It was here that soldiers entered the communication and support trenches that led to the front-line.

Although badly damaged by constant shell fire, Potijze Chateau, a country house dating from the nineteenth century, remained occupied and used by Commonwealth troops throughout the war.

In the spring of 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres, it was headquarters of the 27th Division, then under the command of Major-General Thomas D'Oyly Snow.

The ground floor was later used as an Advanced Dressing Station while the first floor, which commanded views of the German lines, served as an observation post.

For much of the war the Chateau was surrounded by a cluster of dug-outs and trenches and a large shed on the grounds, known to soldiers as 'Lancer Farm', housed ammunition and trench stores. Working parties would pause





here to collect tools, coils of barbed wire, duckboards, bombs and other supplies before moving up the line.

### **Third Battle of Ypres, also known as ‘Passchendaele’**

There was particularly heavy fighting in the vicinity of Potijze in August 1917 during the opening phase of the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as ‘Passchendaele’.

A young officer serving with the Manchester Regiment later recalled the devastation caused to the landscape around the Chateau by the relentless British and German artillery fire: ‘This was a country where the desire to kill and destroy had developed to an unimaginable intensity. Nothing of use was to be left by either side, and every yard of ground almost was searched by the gunners to carry out their cruel game.’ Yet Potijze was never a quiet sector.

On 9 August 1916, as the Somme offensive raged further south, the first and second battalions of the Hampshire Regiment spent ten days in trenches just east of the Chateau. As they were preparing to leave the Germans staged a surprise attack using a potent form of phosgene gas. Both units were caught unawares and although no ground was conceded the regiment suffered over 240 casualties, about half of whom were killed.

The 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were stationed on the same stretch of front and also suffered numerous gas casualties. Over 60 men who fell in the attack are buried in rows A, E, and F of Chateau Wood Cemetery.

Edmund Blunden, a young English officer serving with the Royal Sussex Regiment, was stationed here at the beginning of 1917. He later recalled the atmosphere of Potijze during the third winter of the war: “The new year was yet very young when the battalion filed through Ypres to take over the trenches at Potijze, which we came to know very well. It was not the worst place in the Salient. I had seen it already, and its arrangement was simple – a breastwork front line, running from Zonnebeke road to a railway bank on the south; a support line; two good (or not too bad) communication trenches – Haymarket and Piccadilly, Battalion headquarters dugout was near Potijze Château, beside the road. It boasted a handsome cheval-glass and a harmonium, but not a satisfactory roof.

“This headquarters also enjoyed a kind of Arcadian environment, for the late owner had constructed two or three ponds in the grounds with white airy bridges spanning them, weeping willows at their margins, and there were even

statues of Venus and other handsome deities on little eminences, although I did not examine them closely.

“The château itself, much injured as it was, was not destroyed, and in the upper storey my observers gazed through a telescope on a dubious landscape; lucky these, whose day could not begin before eight, and ended at four with the thickening of what little light there had been.

Littered on the damp floor beside them were maps of parts of the estate, some of a great age, and log-books of the number of woodcock, hares, rabbits and I forget what, formerly laid low by shooting parties of this fine house.”

In the decades after the war, Blunden became a celebrated poet and author, and his memoir, *Undertones of War*, is considered a classic of First World War literature. In the 1960s he acted as a commissioner with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

*Acknowledgments - CWGC, WW1 War Cemeteries*

## Roll of Honour – October 18

***Representing their comrades who died on this day***

**1914**

**+BOYLE, H**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private.10309. Died 18/10/1914. Age 22. Born at Belfast. Son of Patrick and Margaret J. Boyle, of 52, St. John's Park, Upper Holloway, London. Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, France



**+DILLON, DENIS**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 8064. Died 18/10/1914. Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium

**+McNEILL, James**

Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 6681. Died 18/10/1914. From Ahoghill. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. 2nd Ahoghill Pres. Church RH

**+MONAGHAN, John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 7237. Died 20/10/1914. Age 29. Son of James and Mary Monaghan, of 33, Brook St., Omagh; husband to the late Mary Lizzie Monaghan. Ploegstreert Memorial, Belgium

**+POLLARD, Thomas Henry**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 6733. Died 18/10/1914. Born Ballygrooby, Drummaul, on 06/09/1878. Thomas and Mary Cullivan married in St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Belfast in 02/01/1909. Thomas was a spindle maker living at 19 Dunlewey St., Belfast. Son of John and Jane (nee Boyle) Pollard. He had five siblings. His brother Patrick also lost his life in the war (11/04/1917). Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. St John's Roman Catholic Church, Annitsford, England, RH

**1915**

**+WADDELL, George**

Royal Irish Rifles. 18th Btn. Rifleman. 553. Died 18/10/1915. Age 18. Died accidentally at Bordon Camp, Farnham, Surrey. He had been practicing bomb throwing when the

bomb scattered and a piece of metal penetrated his right leg. Admitted to hospital but gangrene set in and he did not recover. Born 12/01/1896 at Euston St. Belfast and lived in Doagh. Son of Robert and Elizabeth Ann Waddell, of Cogry Square, Doagh. Bordon Military Cemetery. Ballyclare WM. Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church RH. Kilbride C of I parish Church RH

## 1916

### **+McINTYRE, Robert**

Cameron Highlanders, 5th Btn. Private. S/20131. Died 18/10/1916. Age 35. Son of Annie McIntyre, and the late William McIntyre; husband of Eugenie McIntyre, of 4, Moore St., Ravenhill Rd., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

### **+McLOUGHLIN, Robert Hugh**

South African Infantry, 3rd Regt. Lance Corporal. 9207. Died 18/10/1916 on the Somme. Age 23. Born at Kildarton. One of eight children. By 1901 the family were living at Terraskane, Ballymartrim. The family then emigrated to South Africa. Son of Robert Moore and Mary Anne McLoughlin, of "Erindale", Lower Piers Rd., Wynberg, Cape Province. Thiepval Memorial, France

### **+NEWELL, Thomas Brennan**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 23977. Died 18/10/1916. Age 17 years old. Son of the late John and Catherine Newell, of Belfast. Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, France

## 1917

### **+MANSON. George Erskine**

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. Private. 338 transf. to (396432) 165th Coy. Labour Corps. Died 18/10/1917. Born Ballyalbanagh, near Ballyclare 28/03/1873. Son of James and Agnes (nee Ferguson) Manson. Husband to Margaret (nee McMullan). They married in St Mary's Parish Church, Crumlin Rd., Belfast, on 12/07/1898. George was a grocer and living at Mountcolyer St., Belfast, at that date. Artillery Wood Cemetery, Belgium. Ballyclare WM

### **+McCABE, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18196. Died 18/10/1917. Age 27. He was discharged as being no longer fit on 28/09/1917. He died at home the following month. Born in Moy, County Tyrone about 1888. Son of Henry and Jane McCabe. By 1901 the family was living near Lisburn. Robert worked as a linen weaver. Lambeg Church of Ireland Churchyard.

## 1918

### **+CURRIE, T**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 20257. Died 18/10/1918. Coolderry St., Belfast. Duhallow ADS Cemetery, Belgium

### **+McKENNEY, Edward R**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. 2nd Lieutenant. Died 18/10/1918. Age 37 Brother of 2nd Lieutenant William

J.McKenney, 6th Bn. Highland Light Infantry who died 09/05/1916. Age 44. Son of W. J. and Mary (nee Woods) McKenney, Eastbourne, Lodge Road, Coleraine. Honnechy Cemetery Coleraine Academical Institution WM

**McKINLEY, Samuel**

Royal Field Artillery, 25th Bde., 115 Bty, 25th Bde., Corporal. 70829. Died 18/10/1918. Son of William and Christina McKinley, of Raholp, Downpatrick, Co. Down.

**+WILSON, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 13880. Died 18/10/1918. Age 36. Son of the late John and Jane Wilson, of Belfast. Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany

**1941                      HMS BROADWATER**

**+BUCHANAN, Alexander**

RN. Steward. P/LX 24854. HMS Broadwater. Died 18/10/1941. Son of Robert A. and Isabella J. Buchanan, Artigarvan, Co. Tyrone. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 55

**+CREE, James**

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 27141. HMS Broadwater. Died 18/10/1941. Aged 21. On convoy duty in the Atlantic. The Lisburn Standard of 30/08/1940 reported that he was in the carrier Courageous when she was sunk in the early months of the war. He was injured in the evacuation of Dunkirk. He was hospitalised after the RN destroyed the greater part of the French fleet which was lying in Oran harbour. All this was before his 20th birthday. Son of William and Elizabeth

Cree, Wesley St., Lisburn. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46. Lisburn WM

**+MORRISON, Samuel Rutherford**

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 198134. Date of Death: 18/10/1941. Age: 29. H.M.S. Broadwater. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Morrison; husband of Kathleen Morrison, Maymore Toye, Co. Down. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 48. Killyleagh WM

**VETERAN**

**COOKE, Victor Alexander**

RN. Lieutenant (E). Baron Cooke of Islandreagh, OBE, DL. Appointed Lieutenant (E) 1940. Served 1940 - 46. He was President of the Belfast Branch of the Burma Star Association. Educated at Marlborough, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Member of Senate for Northern Ireland 1960 - 68. He was registered as a Chartered Engineer (C.Eng). He was a director of Northern Ireland Airports, 1970 - 1985. He was a director of Harland & Wolff Ltd between 1970 and 1987. He was chairman of Henry R Ayton Ltd, Belfast, 1970 - 1989. He was invested as an Officer, Order of the British Empire, in 1981. He was created Baron Cooke of Islandreagh, in the County of Antrim on 11/08/1992. He was invested as a Fellow, Institute of Mechanical Engineering (F.I.Mech.E.). He lived at Islandreagh House, Dunadry. Born on 18/10/1920. He was the son of Norman Victor Cooke and Alice Harman Peavey. Husband to Alison Sheila Casement,



daughter of Maj - Gen Francis Casement and Mabel  
Frances Harrison. Died 13/11/2007.

# 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 [houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com](mailto:houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com)

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

