



remembrance ni



HM Trawler Northern Rover

The minesweepers of WW II

Minesweeping was one of the more perilous responsibilities of the Royal Navy in World War 2 and at least twelve men from Northern Ireland lost their lives on trawlers converted for this purpose.

Minesweeping was the principal role of the Royal Naval Patrol Service (RNPS) which at its peak had 1,637 craft of various kinds including converted trawlers, corvettes, fuel carriers, motor launches and naval seaplane tenders. Of this total, from September 1939 through to May 1945, approximately 260 trawlers were lost in action, from the northern seas off Norway to the eastern seaboard of North America, the Far East, Africa and the Mediterranean. This material loss however pales into insignificance when compared to the 15,000 or so, RNPS personnel who were killed during WWII and the 2,385 RNPS seamen who "have no known grave but the sea".

The Depot for the Royal Naval Patrol Service, developed from the pre-war Royal Naval Reserve Trawler Section, was at Lowestoft during the 1939-1945 War. At the outset of the war the men of this service were mainly the fishermen of the requisitioned trawlers and drifters used on patrol work, but later it included men from all walks of life and various types of small craft. In the spring of 1944 the Royal Naval Patrol Service reached its maximum strength of some 57,000. Their objective was to maintain wartime patrols and safeguard the coasts of Britain.

Origins of RNPS

The Royal Naval Patrol Service has its origins in the Great War when the threat of mine warfare was first realized by the British Admiralty. The pre-war Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet, Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, is credited with recommending the use of Grimsby trawlers for minesweeping operations following visits he made to various East Coast Ports in 1907. Grimsby, with its

impressive docklands and trawler fleet was seen as ideal, with the Commander-in-Chief arguing that the fishing fleet would be inactive in times of war as fishing grounds became war zones.[1] It was also thought that trawlermen would be more skilled than naval ratings with regards to the handling of the sizable warps and winches that would be required for mine sweeping as they were already accustomed to using them with the working of the trawl.

The need for a skilled minesweeping force was recognised to be a part of modern naval warfare and the Royal Navy later commissioned one flotilla of fleet minesweepers for the instruction of ratings and junior officers. Three trawlers were then added to the group along with the reintroduction of training in the Trawler Section of the Royal Naval Reserve and, under the new name of the Royal Naval Patrol Service courses in training began at Portland. As tensions mounted in the years before the Second World War training intensified for officers and ratings and experiments and developments in sweeping methods and equipment were carried out.

In the summer of 1939 the Admiralty purchased 67 trawlers with a further 20 newly constructed and at the outbreak of World War II every available minesweeper of the Royal Navy and Royal Naval Patrol Service was at her war station. [1] HMS Europa, usually known as Sparrow's Nest, became the Central Depot of the Royal Naval Patrol Service, located at Lowestoft, the most easterly point of Great Britain, and then the closest British military establishment to the enemy until decommissioned in 1946.



HM Trawler Bervie Braes

Recognition by Winston Churchill

The Royal Naval Patrol Service suffered over 250 lost vessels, more than any other branch of the Royal Navy.

Because of the dangers and losses faced by the men of the Royal Naval Patrol service, they were honoured in a statement made by Winston Churchill and by a unique silver badge, worn on the sleeve of the serviceman's uniform, that was awarded to those who served six months or more in the RNPS.

The following message was sent by the Prime Minister, Winston S Churchill to the officers and men of the minesweeping flotillas:

“Now that Nazi Germany has been defeated I wish to send you all on behalf of His Majesty's Government a message of thanks and gratitude.

“The work you do is hard and dangerous. You rarely get and never seek publicity; your only concern is to do your job, and you have done it nobly. You have sailed in many seas and all weathers... This work could not be done without loss, and we mourn all who have died and over 250 ships lost on duty.

“No work has been more vital than yours; no work has been better done. The Ports were kept open and Britain breathed. The Nation is once again proud of you.”

Lurgan and Lady Shirley

Two men from Lurgan were serving on the trawler Lady Shirley when it was lost in December 1941. Ian Robert McCready, a past pupil of Lurgan College, in a previous action had been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal - the second highest gallantry award for a rating. Norman Mitchell also died in the action. Both are named on the Lurgan War Memorial.

Lady Shirley and U boat 111

Lady Shirley was part of the 31st Anti-Submarine (A/S) Group and was stationed and operated from Gibraltar with the trawlers Erin of 7th A/S GP and Lady Hogarth. Lady

Shirley was a escort/patrol trawler. She was fitted with Asdic anti-submarine dome.

October 4 1941 found Lady Shirley on lone patrol South of the Canaries the Lookout spotted something that looked like a ships funnel and reported it to Watch officer Sub Lieutenant French. French went to investigate and as he observed the object it dissappeared. It could have been a funnel or the conning tower of a U boat.

Shirley`s captain immediately altered course to head for the position. Having a positive contact from the Asdic equipment Lady Shirley went into attack. A pattern of depth charges were dropped and shortly afterwards to the stern of Lady Shirley a U boat surfaced, Lady Shirley turned hard to port to bring the 4 inch gun to bear on the U boat, as Lady Shirley`s point five guns opened fire they were answered by a stream of cannon shells. The four inch gun fired but was a near miss, the U boat fired at the same time and tracers went everywhere.

This burst of tracer mortally wounded the gun layer, Seaman Pizzey who was hit by a cannon shell, he called out "They`ve got me !" he staggered back, collapsed and died. A replacement quickly took over as gun layer and another shot was fired, all the while the Hotchkiss gunners were firing at the U boat.

The crew of lady Shirley could not understand why the U boat had not returned fire with it`s big gun. The U boat crew started to abandon ship and very quickly afterwards the U boat sank. All the Germans were taken aboard from the water 45 in total, 8 were unaccounted for including the captain. On the voyage back to Gibralter that afternoon a

funeral service was held for Seaman Pizzey, another service was held the day after for a wounded German.

After four days sailing Lady Shirley arrived back in Gibraltar to a hero's welcome. Winston Churchill cabled his personal congratulations to Lady Shirley. Lieutenant Commander Callaway was awarded an immediate DSO 'For daring and skill in a brilliant action against a U boat in which the Enemy was sunk and surrendered, to H.M.T Lady Shirley.'

The loss of Lady Shirley - December 1941

Except for the wounded and a couple of crew replacements, the crew in December 1941 was virtually the same as for the victory over the U boat. In early December there had been some U boat activity in the Straits so four trawlers were detailed to do a sweep, Lady Shirley and St Nectan were two of these trawlers.

At 3.45 am on 11/12/1941 Lieutenant Osborne came on watch on the St Nectan, he looked across at Lady Shirley who was about half a mile off on station, a sudden rain squall descended on the two trawlers. It lasted for approximately 25 minutes, when it cleared Lieutenant Osborne looked again for Lady Shirley at 0410.

Lady Shirley had vanished. Nothing more was heard or seen of Lady Shirley, or her four officers and twenty nine men.

Although it is claimed that a U boat sunk Lady Shirley there is no evidence of this, one possibility surfaced in January 1942. Three trawlers were moored in Gibraltar - Erin, Little



Lurgan War Memorial

Hojo, and the Imperialist. The middle trawler of the three exploded, causing fire damage to the other two trawlers. It was found a time bomb had been placed on a depth charge on Erin, and that this had been carried out by a Spanish agent for the Germans. The obvious question per force remains unanswered - Could this have been done to the Lady Shirley?

RNPS & HM TRAWLERS ROLL OF HONOUR

+ALLEN, William

RNR. LS. P/X9691B. DSM. Died 25/09/1943. Age 31. HMS Trawler Franc Trieur. The ship was hired for auxiliary patrol

May 1940, converted for minesweeping in 1941, and sunk by E-boat torpedo off Harwich. Son of Joseph and Mary Allen, husband to Pearl Allen, Bellarena, Limavady. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 79

+CAIRNS, Archibald Joseph

RNR. Seaman. P/X 18342A. HM Trawler Northern Rover. Died 05/11/1939. Age 25. Northern Rover was completed in October 1936 as steam trawler Northern Rover (LO 164) for Mac Line Ltd (Lever Brothers Ltd), London. In 1937 it was transferred to Northern Trawlers Ltd, London. In August 1939 it was requisitioned by the Admiralty and used as an armed boarding vessel, based in Kirkwall for Contraband Duties. At 2335 hours on 30/10/1939, HMS Northern Rover (Lt M.H. Macpherson, RN) was hit by one torpedo from U-59 and sank about 100 miles west of Sumburgh Head, Shetland Islands. The commander, three officers and 23 ratings were lost. Son of James and Elizabeth Cairns, Ballycastle. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 36

+CAMPBELL, John

RNVR. Signaller. P/UD/X 1224. HM Trawler Kingston Sapphire. Died 05/10/1940. Aged 22. Son of John and Alice Campbell, Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 44

+COCKAYNE, Robert Alfred

RNPS. Telegraphist. LT/JX 251462. HM Trawler Cap D'Antifer. Died 13/02/1944. Age 24. Son of George and Gertrude Cockayne, Burton-upon-Trent. Husband to Mary Josephine Cockayne, Clough. Burton-upon-Trent Cemetery

+CRAIG, Joseph

RNPS. Seaman. LT/JX 177647. HM Trawler Delila. Died 19/02/1942. Age 40. Son of John and Elizabeth Craig, Larne. Husband to Maggie Craig, Larne. Tynemouth (Preston) Cemetery

+GORDON, William

RNPS. Ordinary Seaman. LT/JX 205399. Date of Death: 20/01/1941. Age: 24. H.M. Trawler Relonzo. Relonzo was completed on 09/07/1914. She was taken over by the Admiralty in May 1940. Displacement: 245 tons. Armament: 1 12pdr AA gun. Participated in the Dunkirk evacuation. HMT Relonzo (T/Skr. *Albert Edward Slater*, RNR) was mined and sunk in the Crosby Channel near Liverpool. Regarded as part of the Battle of the Atlantic. Son of William and Sarah Gordon, Annalong. Lowestoft Naval Memorial. Panel 6

+HUNTER, William James Graham

RNPS. Stoker. LT/KX 108031. Died 01/02/1941. HM Trawler Bervie Braes - was completed on 28 December 1917 and taken over by the Admiralty in March 1940. Husband of Emma Hunter. Falmouth Cemetery, Cornwall. Portadown WM

+McCALLA, William Trevor

RNVR. Lieutenant. Died 12/06/1940. Age 35. HM Trawler Sisapon. Completed on 27/12/1928. Taken over by the Admiralty in September 1939. Displacement: 326 tons. HMT Sisapon (Skr. *Frederick Alfred Henson*, RNR) was mined and sunk off Harwich on 12/06/1940. WT McCalla was a frequent Competitor in Ulster T.T. Races. "E" Class Lap Record, 1935. Winner of Co. Down Trophy Race,

1934. Director, W. McCalla and Co., Belfast, and Proprietor, Ulster Steam Tender Co. Member, Belfast Local Marine Board. B 16/11/1904. Husband to Pamela McCalla (nee Cooper), Amesbury, Wiltshire. Son of William and Mabel Mary McCalla, Greenoge, Strandtown, Belfast. Campbell College. Buried Shotley (St Mary's) Graveyard. RNIYC WM

+McCREADY, Ian Robert

RNPS. Stoker. LT/KX 115483. DSM. Died 11/12/1941. Age 30. HM Trawler Lady Shirley. In a previous action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal - the second highest gallantry award for a rating. Lady Shirley was requisitioned May 1940 and converted to an auxiliary patrol vessel. In January 1941 it was converted for anti-submarine duties and joined 31st. A/S Group at Gibraltar. It sank U-111 off Teneriffe in October. It was torpedoed by U-374 off Gibraltar. Son of Thomas and Annie McCready, Moyallen. Husband to Theresa McCready, Lurgan. Lowestoft Naval Memorial. Panel 7. Lurgan College WM. Lurgan WM.

+McGALE, Joseph

RN. Ordinary Telegraphist. P/JX 174777. Date of Death: 02/11/1940. Age:21. HM Trawler Rinovia. Rinovia was a 429 ton Grimsby trawler, built in 1931 and requisitioned by the Royal Navy in August 1939 and fitted as a minesweeper. She was employed in sweeping mines in the western Channel; her commanding officer, Chief Skipper Thomas Frazer, was awarded a DSC and Engineer Thomas Johnston a DSM in April 1940 for "unfailing courage and endurance in the hard and perilous task of sweeping the seas clear of mines". On 19/07/1940 she was the target of an air attack, but survived, shooting down one of her attackers - Seaman Burgess was awarded a DSM for his

coolness during this action. On 02/11/1940 she detonated a mine when 2.9 miles south-south-east of St. Anthony Point, Falmouth and sank. 14 men were killed. Son of James and Annie McGale, Beragh. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 40

+MITCHELL, Norman

RNPS. Seaman. LT/JX 241380, HM Trawler Lady Shirley. Died 11/12/1941. Aged 22. Lady Shirley was a fishing trawler requisitioned in 1940 and converted for anti-submarine warfare. In its brief career it sank one German submarine U-111. It was torpedoed by U-374 off Gibraltar. Son of Robert and Mary Ann Mitchell, Lurgan. Lowestoft Naval Memorial, Panel 5. Lurgan WM

+SWANN, James

RNPS. RNR. Stoker. LT/X 10294S. Died 09/02/1940. Age 22. HM Trawler Fort Royal. Fort Royal was hired for minesweeping duties August 1939 and later purchased. It was sunk with HM Trawler Robert Bowen in an air attack by German Heinkel bombers off Aberdeen. There were seven men lost in the Fort Royal and 14 in the Robert Bowen. Son of Richard and Hanna Swann, Larne. Lowestoft Naval Memorial, Panel 4

**RNPS & HM TRAWLERS
THEY SERVED**

COOKE W J S

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant - Commander. In December 1939 appointed to HMS Warwickshire (an anti-

submarine trawler) which was sunk by enemy aircraft off Trondjheim in April 1940. Thence was appointed to HMS Europa (patrol service base at Lowestoft). Then to HMS Dolphin and HMS Nimrod. Promoted Lieutenant-Commander in September 1942.

McCONNELL Robert MT

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant Commander, Sir Robert MT McConnell, Bart, VRD. On mobilisation in September 1939 as Lieutenant-Commander appointed to Kirkwall for duties intercepting enemy and neutral shipping. Assistant Extended Defence Officer at Flota December 1939. Gunnery course at Portsmouth with sea training in H.M.S. Edinburgh. 1940 appointed A.A. Gunnery Officer HMS Renown. Appointed 1941 to HMS Caroline as trawler training officer. 1942 appointed officer-in-charge MTB base, Portland. 1942 to hospital and later placed on retired list in the same year.

NELSON, Hugh

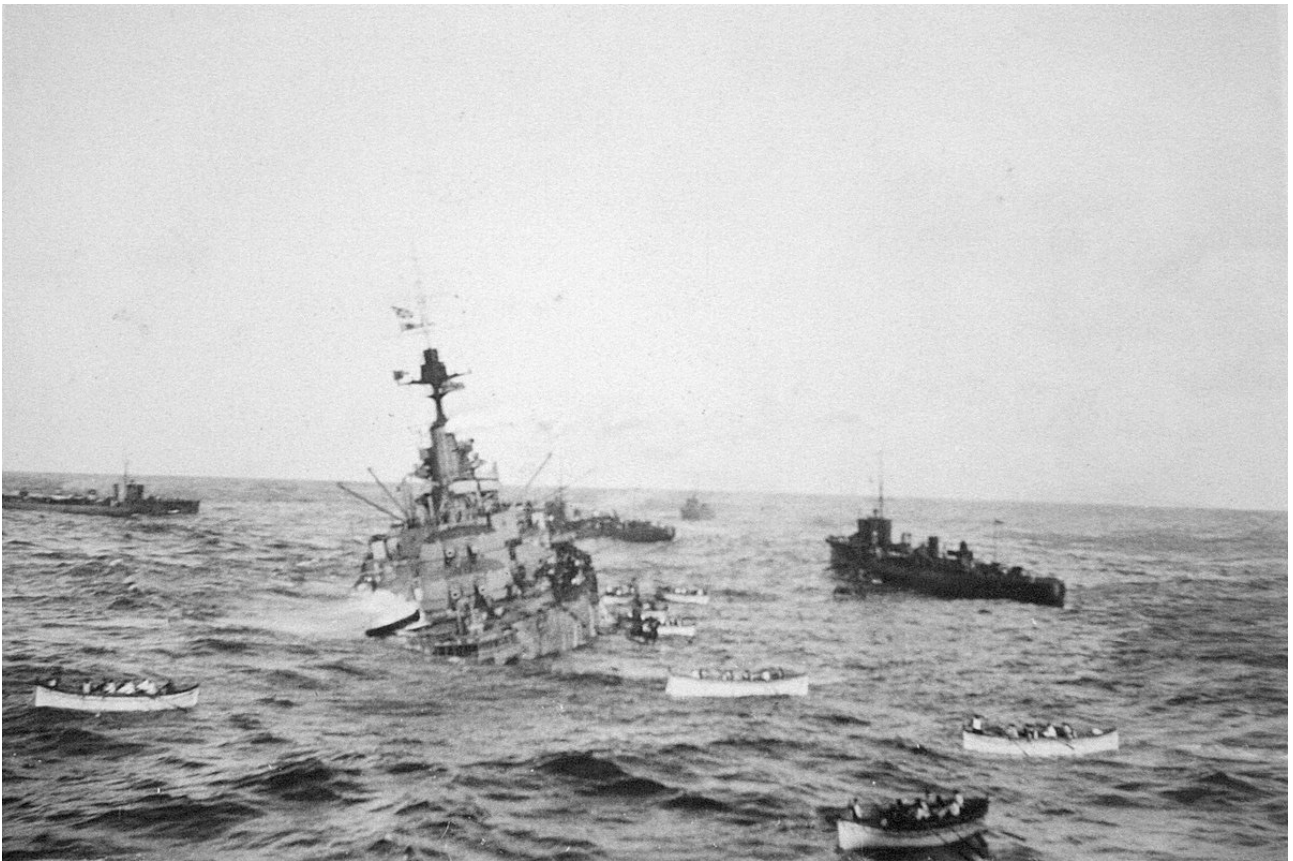
RNVR. Lt. HMS Barrymore (boom defence vessel) 26/04/41 - 10/43; First Lt. HMS Preventer (boom defence) 07/44 - 10/44; HMS William Hannam (trawler) 01/45 - 07/45. B Hollywood 02/06/1916. M, three daughters.

On this Day – October 27

1914

Neuve Chapelle is taken by the Germans.

The British battleship HMS Audacious hits a German mine off the northwest coast of Ireland and sinks. Remarkably, the



HMS Audacious

Remarkably, the government in London suppresses all news of the loss for more than four years.

1917

The French and Belgians advance astride the Ypres Dixmude road.

1918

The Americans take Bois Belleu, on the east bank of the Meuse.

1919

James Joseph Magennis VC was born in Belfast. Magennis was the only Victoria Cross recipient from Northern Ireland

during WW2. However Magennis later fell on hard times & had to sell his VC but it was anonymously returned to him.

1940



On 17 October 1940 HMS H 49 (Lt. *Richard Evelyn* Coltart, DSC, RN) sailed from Harwich with orders to patrol off Texel, on the Dutch coast.

She was sunk the following day to the west of Texel, the Netherlands by depth charges from the German auxiliary submarine chasers UJ 116 and UJ 118. Only one survivor was picked up, Leading Stoker George Oliver. The other 26 members of the crew including two from Northern Ireland went down with the submarine. Their deaths were recorded by the Admiralty and CWGC as today 27/10/1940

1941

In a broadcast to the nation on Navy Day, President Franklin Roosevelt declares: "America has been attacked, the shooting has started." He does not ask for full-scale war yet,

realizing that many Americans are not yet ready for such a step.

The Russians launch numerous counter-attacks around Moscow in an attempt to halt the German advance. 11th Army forces a breakthrough at Perekop, thus opening the gate to the Crimean peninsula.

German Army Group South forces reach Sevastopol in the Crimea, but the tanks of the “Northern” forces are slowed or stopped entirely by mud.

1942

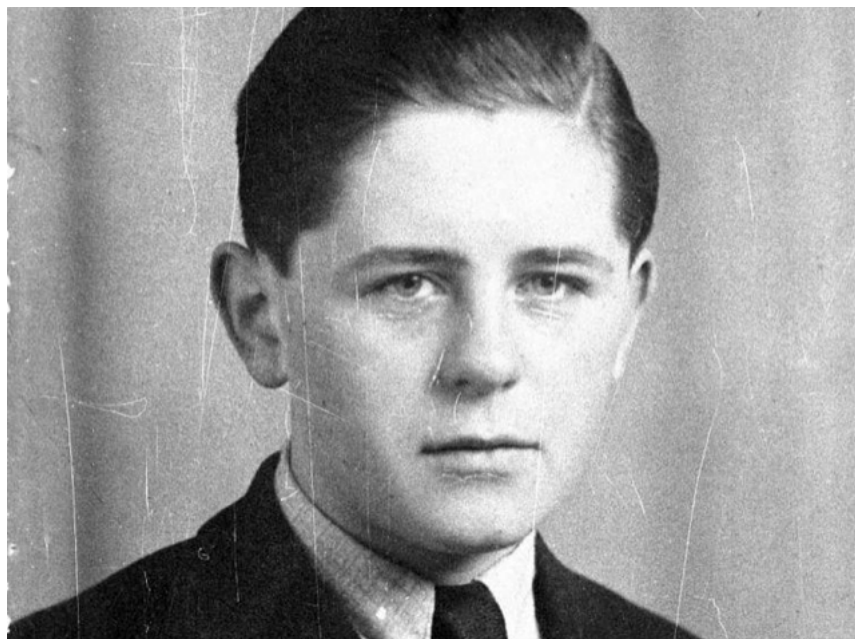


Aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV-8) was critically damaged by Japanese aircraft bombs and torpedoes with the loss of 140 of her 2,200 crew. United States destroyers sink the damaged carrier USS Hornet to prevent her from falling into the hands of approaching Japanese ships. The Hornet has been in operation for only 371 days. Her wreck was located in late January 2019

Wolfpack 'Battleaxe' attacks Convoy SL-125 (37 ships) which is sailing from Sierra Leone to the UK. The attack begins off the northwest coast of Africa, not far from Gibraltar and continues until the 31/10/1942. During this time 12 merchants (80,005 gross tons) are sunk and 7 damaged. While the battle rages, the allies re-route all convoys associated with the 'Torch' landings in North Africa.

The Soviet 37th Army is defeated in Caucasus.

During the Second Battle of El Alamein, a counter-attack by the 21st Panzer-Division to push the attacking British forces back into the German minefields fails, costing them 50 Panzer's. This leaves the axis forces with just 81 operational tanks.



Helmuth Hübener, arrested for distributing pamphlets, was beheaded by guillotine in the execution room at Plötzensee Prison in Berlin. Hübener was the youngest anti-Nazi German to be put to death for resistance.

1943



38 (Irish) Brigade - 2 LIR at the Trigno:
2300 Coy move forward - F right. G left
2335 A wall of enemy machine gun fire on fixed lines
0615 2/Lt MC Marmorstein was reported to be killed
1030 Major APK O'Connor was killed by an enemy shell in
the wood while supervising the supplies

Montgomery resumes the offensive operations in Italy.

Field Marshal Von Kluge is invalided from command of Army
Group Centre as result of a car crash.

1944

The Battle of Hürtgen Forest is developing. It will continue through October and November and have its last attacks in December.

Roll of Honour – October 27

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+ARMSTRONG, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8449. Died 27/10/1914. Born Armagh. By 1901 living in Dayton St, Ballygomartin, Belfast. Effects left to his three sisters. Le Touret Memorial, France

+BOYD, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7784. Died 27/10/1914. Born 05/09/1870 in Ballyclare. He had been the Company Commander of the West Belfast UVF. He and Jane Clugston married on 12/03/1903 at Spamount Congregational Church, parish of Shankill, Belfast. She was remarried to a Mr Howston. Father of William, born 27/03/1915. Lived at Lawnbrook Ave., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France. Ballyclare WM

+BUTLER, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9064. Died 27/10/1914. He gave his age as 39 when he enlisted with the 2nd Btn. Royal Irish Rifles in Belfast on 18/08/1914. He had previously served and been discharged on the completion of his terms of engagement. Son of John Butler. John Jrr and Catherine Butler (nee O'Neill) married on 28/10/1910 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Belfast. They had three children. Le Touret Memorial, France

+BYRNE, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 8781. Died 27/10/1914. Born Drogheda, Co. Louth. Enlisted Belfast. His mother lived at 8, McDowell's Row, Greencastle. Le Touret Memorial, France

+CAMPBELL, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7073. Died 27/10/1914. Age 23. Son of William Campbell, of 49, Annette St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+CARLISLE, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8199. Died 27/10/1914. Age 27. Son of Mrs. Mary Ann Carlisle, of 13, St. Leonard St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+CROSSETT, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8215. Died 27/10/1914. Age 23. Son of Henry and Mary Ann Crossett, of 116, Carnan St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+DAVIS, Henry Ouseley

Royal Irish Rifles, 5th Btn. att'd. 2nd Btn. Died 27/10/1914. Age 30. Educated at Portora Royal School, and Campbell College, Belfast; from which he passed direct to R.M.C. Sandhurst. Gazetted 2nd Lt. Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 15/08/1905. Resigned commission, 1910. He appears to have become heavily involved with the UVF, becoming a member of its Headquarters Staff. In that capacity early in 1914 he approached Campbell College asking if its facilities could be used as a hospital in the event of civil war. At the outbreak of the First World War he re-enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles. Gazetted Capt., Royal Irish Rifles, 31/08/1914. Eldest son of Henry and Mary Davis, of Holywood, Co. Down. Le Touret Memorial, France; Plaque in St Philip and St James Parish Church, Holywood; Campbell College RH; North of Ireland Football Club RH

+DUGGAN, Humphrey Griffith

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 9/14364. Died 27/10/1914. Age 21. Son of Humphrey Griffith Duggan and Mary Ann Duggan, of 41, Seventh St., Belfast. Duhallow ADS Cemetery, Belgium

+DUNNE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 10381. Died 27/10/1914. Age 18. Brother of Mary Dunne, and adopted son of Charles and Mary Bryson, 46, St Columb's Wells, Derry. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, Diamond WM Londonderry

+EPPLESTON, Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 10111. Died 27/10/1914. Age 19. Son of William and Mary Eppleston, of 19, Southwell St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+FEARAN, Bernard

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 6839. Died 27/10/1914 near Touret. He disembarked in France in August 1914 with the Expeditionary Force. Born in Ballybot, Co. Armagh. Le Touret Memorial, France

+GETTY, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 6444. Died 27/10/1914. Age 24. Son of the late Robert Getty; husband to Ellen Sinclair Getty, of James St., Ballymena. Le Touret Memorial, France

+GOLDEN, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 6845. Died 27/10/1914. Age 31. Son of Bridget Golden, of 44, Crumlin St., Belfast and the late John Golden; husband of the late Eliza Golden. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HALL, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9109. Died 27/10/1914. Age 24. Born in Armagh. Disembarked in France 20/09/1914. Son of the late Mrs. Margaret Hall. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HOGG, Frank

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8004. Died 27/10/1914. Age 19. Son of Mrs. Mary Hogg, of 3, Cross St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+LAVERY, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8728. Died 27/10/1914. Age 36. Private Lavery had been at the front for only six weeks before his death. Served in the South African Campaign. A veteran of the South African War, he received the South Africa medal with clasps for service at Cape Colony, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Returning to civilian life, he worked as a dock labourer before re-enlisting on the outbreak of war. In 1911 his home was recorded at Johnston's Court off Durham street, where he resided with his wife, Catherine and his daughters Catherine and Mary – both under six years old when their father was killed. The family had also lived at Bank Street and Berry Street, close to the city centre. Husband to Catherine Murphy (formerly Lavery), of 34, Berry St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McALLISTER, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7583. Died 27/10/1914. Age 27. Son of the late Clr. Serjt. J. and Mrs. Elizabeth McAllister, of South Down's, Downpatrick. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McCRACKEN, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7243. Died 27/10/1914. His brother, Joseph also fell. Son of Joseph and Mary McCracken, of 42, Crimea Street, Belfast.. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McILWRATH, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5893. Died 27/10/1914. Age 32. Son of William John McIlwrath, of 20, Ardilaun St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McNALLY, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8335. Died 27/10/1914. Age 23. Son of John and Margaret McNally, of 28, Lagan St. Belfast; husband to May C. McNally, of 10, Thomas St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+MOONEY, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8016. Died 27/10/1914. Husband to Margaret Mooney, of 94, Ardilea St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+MORRISON, George

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8705. Died 27/10/1914. Age 22. Son of George and Ann Morrison, of 20, Parkview St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+O'NEILL, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9183. Died 27/10/1914. Age 36. Son of the late James and Lizzie O'Neill; husband of Margaret O'Neill, of Irish Quarter West, Carrickfergus. Le Touret Memorial, France

+QUAIL, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9016. Died 27/10/1914. Age 48. Served in the South African

Campaign. Husband of the late Sarah Quail, of 66, Foreman St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+REILLY, Alfred

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd. Btn. Rifleman. 8393. Died in action at Neuve Chapelle on October 27/10/1914. Deceased was a reservist, employed by the Belfast Co-Operative Society, and a member of the Orange Order. He was one of the crack shots of his battalion. His parents resided at 9, Avoniel Street, Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France. Belfast Co-Operative WM

+SCOTT, R J

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 6101. Died 27/10/1914. Age 32. Husband to Alexandrina Scott, of 71, Island St., Belfast. Pont-du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, France

+SHIRLOW, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 3995. Died 27/10/1914. Age 37 years old. Brother of Mrs. A. Magee, of 67, Grove St., North Queen St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+WATTERS, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8270. Died 27/10/1914. Age 27 years old. Husband of Matilda Watters, of 13, Renfew St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+WILSON, Christopher

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 7154. Died 27/10/1914. Age 29. Son of the late Christopher and

Elizabeth Wilson, of 34, East St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

1916

+CARLISLE, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 11211. Died 27/10/1916. Age 24. Husband to Elizabeth Carlisle, of 14, Court St., Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

+CLELAND, James

Died 27/10/1916 of pulmonary tuberculosis, at his residence, Fountain-street, Downpatrick, James Cleland, late Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 9th Btn., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Tyrone Volunteers). 10969. Age 33. Like his father, James served in the Munster Fusiliers. Afterwards he was engaged at Strabane as a U.V.F. drill instructor. On the outbreak of hostilities he became sergeant-major in one of the Inniskilling battalions of the Ulster Division. But the hardships endured on the western front in the winter of 1915-16 broke down his health. Husband to Margaret Cleland, Fountain St., Downpatrick. He left a wife and six children. This was the second time for his wife to be widowed. Her former husband, also a soldier, was killed in the Boer war. Down Cathedral New Cemetery

+LIVINGSTONE, Rodger M

Canadian Infantry. 44th (New Brunswick Regiment). Private. Died 27/10/1916. Son of George and Sarah Jane Livingstone of Sunnyside House, Silverwood, Co. Armagh. Contay British Cemetery, France

+MATHEWSON, Hamilton

RAMC. Captain. Attached 2nd Battalion. Northamptonshire Regiment. Died 27/10/1916. Age 35. M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. 1910. After holding the appointments of senior assistant medical officer at the Portsmouth Infirmary and, two years later, of resident medical officer of the Norwich Workhouse and Infirmary, he returned to Ireland, and joined the RAMC in March 1915. He entered the war in France on 27/08/1915 attached to a battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment and was subsequently transferred to the Northampton Regiment. He was promoted to temporary Captain in March 1916.

Hamilton was slightly wounded in October 1916 and again fatally wounded on 23rd October by a sniper as he was attending to a wounded man on the front lines. A colleague at the Norwich Infirmary wrote of him as an excellent organiser and possessing marked surgical ability, coupled with a quiet and unassuming manner which made him popular with the staff and governors. Resided Tates Avenue, Belfast. Born Co. Tyrone 29/10/1880. Son of the late Andrew and Ann Mathewson, Dunbunraver House, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone. Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte

+QUIRK, John

Leinster Regiment. Private. 2495. Died 27/10/1916. Age 19 years old. Son of William and Mary Quirk, of 19, Colinward St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

+RUSK, F

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 19/234. Died 27/10/1916. Age 20. Born Craigarogan 25/04/1896. He was a yarn shaker. Son of David and Jane (nee McDermott)

Rusk, of Craigarogan, Mallusk, Belfast. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium. Royal British Legion, HydePark Branch RH

1917

+ALLEN, William

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 2nd Btn. Private. 2345. Died 27/10/1917. Second son of Richard and Annie Jane Allen, of 39, Carlton St., Portadown. He was born in Moy, County Tyrone on 15/01/1889. He was the second of nine children. Enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1908 as a reservist. He emigrated to Australia around 1913 where he worked as a labourer. He enlisted in the Australian Army on 05/05/1915 being posted to 2nd Btn. Australian Infantry. In France with the AIF from March 1916, he was severely wounded with gunshot wounds to the cheek and leg at the Somme on 24/07/1916. Following treatment and convalescence in England, he rejoined his battalion in September 1917. On 27/10/1917, the battalion was in a tented camp on the southern outskirts of Ypres, when in the early evening a German plane dropped three bombs, killing 18 and wounding 30. William was one of those killed and is buried at Belgian Battery Corner Cemetery. He is also commemorated on the Portadown WM and Moy WM

William and his brothers from Moy, Armagh had a remarkable record of service.

Thomas Richard Allen enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1917. For most of the remainder of the war he served on HMS Venturous, a destroyer and part of the Grand Fleet, and HMS Valhalla, part of the sixth destroyer flotilla. He was discharged, 'time expired' in February 1922.

Charles Edward Allen was born in 1903 and enlisted in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1924. He served in Iraq and was discharged in 1928.

Alexander Allen enlisted in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, regimental number 2960 in November 1906 and pre war served with 1st Btn in Malta, Crete, China and India. Whilst in India, Alexander was attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps Sanitary Section and spent the war in East Africa, rising to the rank of Acting Sergeant and was Mentioned in Despatches. Transferred to the Army Reserve in April 1919, he enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in August and served in what is now Iraq. He was demobilised in May 1925 after 18 years service. He died aged 60 in Western Australia in 1947.

+CAMPBELL, Robert Thomas

Canadian Army Medical Corps, 11th Field Amb. Private. 531709. Died 27/10/1917. Son of Robert and Deborah Campbell. He was born on 14/01/1889 at Legane, Aughnacloy. Robert's father was a farmer. By 1911 Robert had emigrated to Canada . Robert was a resident at Robertson College. Robert's enlistment papers of 06/03/1916 state his next of kin as his brother James. He gives his Trade as a Druggist's Assistant. He was 5' 8" tall. He had previously served on the University of Alberta Canadian Officers' Training Corps (COTC). Nine Elms British Cemetery, Belgium. Dungannon WM

1918

+ARTHUR, W J

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 1st/8th Btn. Private. 28811. Croix de Guerre. Died 27/10/1918. Age 34. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, of Belfast. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

+GRUNDY, Charles

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private, 13731. Died 27/10/1918. Age 33. Son of John and Ellen Grundy, of 34, Rosebank St., Belfast; husband to Annie Grundy, of 90, Disraeli St., Belfast. Etaples Military Cemetery, France

+HAGAN, Michael

RNR. 1955ST. HMS Neptunian. Died 27/10/1918. Age 32. During the war Michael served as a trimmer with the Royal Naval Reserve enlisting in March 1915. Late in the war he was serving on board HMS “Neptunian”, a fishing trawler that had been hired by the Royal Naval Reserve to carry out minesweeping duties. The British steam trawler was built in 1913 by Cochrane & Sons Shipbuilders Ltd. and owned at the time by East Riding Steam & Fish, and based out of Larne. On 27 October 1918 “Neptunian” sank 5 miles off Altacarry Lighthouse, Rathin Island, following a collision with the HM trawler “Lord Lister”. Eight survivors were picked up by “Lord Lister” and landed at Londonderry; sadly seven men perished, including Michael Hagan. His body was never recovered from the sea. Michael was born in Greenore, Co Louth in 1886 the son of James and Bridget Hagan. He married Dora Donnelly at St Anne’s Church of Ireland Cathedral Belfast on 26/12/1913 and together they moved to Eden and had two sons. Michael and his family became well known in the local

area and were active members of Carrickfergus Congregational Church. Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

+HUGHES, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 17901. Died 27/10/1918. From Lisburn. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

+McMULLAN, Robert

RNR. Leading Seaman. S/24B. HM Trawler Neptunian. Died 27/10/1918. Age 30. Son of John and Jane McMullan, Castle Terrace, Larne Harbour. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 31. Larne WM

+MORTIMER, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. Second Lieutenant. Died 27/10/1918. Age 25. Son of John Charles and Martha A. Mortimer. Born at Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1919

+GRAY, J

Royal Army Service Corps, Driver. T-27962. Died 27/10/1919. Husband to Maggie Gray. (Joint Gravestone). Dundonald Cemetery

1920

+LENDRUM, A C

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Captain. Died 27/10/1920. Age 34. Resident Magistrate in Co. Clare. Son of George and

Netta Lendrum, of Corkil, Kilskeery. Kilskeery C of I Churchyard, Co. Tyrone

1940

HM Submarine H.49

+AMERY, Jack

RN. ERA 3rd Class. P/MX 53237. Died 27/10/1940. HM Submarine H.49. Born at Clifton St., Belfast, his father was for 20 years in charge of the naval recruiting office in Belfast, and was afterwards clerk to the Belfast Charitable Society. Son of Councillor and Mrs Amery, Gosport Hants, formerly of Clifton St., Belfast. He left a wife and a daughter. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 09/01/1942). Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 41

+BOYLES, Alexander

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. C/KX 80080. Died 27/10/1940. Age 29. HM Submarine H.49. 11 years service. Son of Alexander and Mary Ann Boyles Arkwright St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 05/04/1941.). Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 39

1940

+DUFFY, James

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 306077. Died 27/10/1940. Son of Charles and Treosa Duffy; Husband of Margaret Duffy, of Lurgan. Derrytrasna Roman Catholic Churchyard

1942

+CARVILLE, Peter

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6978642. Died 27/10/1942. Age 23. Son of Patrick and

Rose Carville, of Lurgan. Baghdad (North Gate) war Cemetery, Iraq

1943

+BUTLER, Beauchamp Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Lieutenant Colonel. 17713. Died 27/10/1943. Age 41. Lt Col Beauchamp Butler DSO was killed while re-organising and encouraging his men during the Irish Brigade attack on the town of San Salvo. The Faughs had crossed the Trigno river under heavy fire from the Germans during which Major Dennis Dunn, OC B Coy, had been killed. Major Paddy Proctor MC, OC A Coy, was killed together with his platoon commanders when a mortar round fell among them as they planned the attack on the next ridge. It was then that the CO tried to stabilise the situation but he was hit in the head by an MG round and fell dead. The 2 i/c, Major Bala Bredin MC, was already out of action, having been wounded in training before the attack. The following morning the Faughs were ordered to withdraw, as were the London Irish Rifles. That morning also brought the death of the Rifles' 2 i/c, Major Kevin O'Connor, killed by a German shell.

"The loss of Beauchamp Butler was a tragedy for the whole Brigade and the Faughs lost one of the best Commanders they have ever had – in peace or war. He was a smallish man gifted with a quiet charm of manner and I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone." - Brigadier Russell Son of Charles R. and Ethel E. J. Butler; husband of Vera May Butler, of Clogher, Co. Tyrone. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+CURRAN, Kevin

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 7014099. Died 27/10/1943. Age 22. Son of Mary E. Curran, of Belfast. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+GLENNIE, John Gordon Collings

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lieutenant. 268966. Died 27/10/1943. Age 20. Lieutenant Glennie was shot in the arm when he and his close friend Lawrie Franklyn-Vaile were caught in an exposed position during the Faugh's unsuccessful attack on Salvo on 27 October. After dressing Glennie's wound, Franklyn-Vaile was trying to get him back to the rear when Glennie was hit by machine gun fire in the chest. Trapped by machine gun fire, Franklyn-Vaile stayed with Glennie until he died 90 minutes later. Son of John S. and Dorothy F. Glennie, of Enniskillen. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+KELLY, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Corporal. 7047789. Died 27/10/1943. Age 34 years old. Son of John and Charlotte Kelly, of Belfast; husband to Annie Kelly, of Belfast. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+KNOWLES, Nathaniel

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1543844. Died on 27/10/1943. Aged 30. 483 Battery, 82 Searchlight Regiment. Son of Patrick and Jemima Knowles of Belfast; Husband to Sarah Knowles of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

+ORR, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 7043573. Died 27/10/1943. Age 35. Husband to Sarah Orr, of Belfast. Cassino Memorial, Italy

VETERAN

WATSON, George Hanna

RAF. WW2. MCB. Born 27/10/1918. Son of Thomas H Watson, Castlereagh Rd., Belfast. Postwar. Principal teacher Beechwood Primary School. McCaughan Pk., Belfast

**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.
