



remembrance ni



*Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery in Alexandria, Egypt.*

## **Polar expeditions expertise developed kit for WW2 Arctic convoys**

**Surgeon Captain Edward W Bingham was one of the most experienced arctic explorers.**

Seconded to the Ministry of Supply, he drew on his experiences to forge through improvements in the gear issued to those on the arctic convoys.

**Edward W Bingham was born 02/01/1901 in Dungannon, the son of a well-respected headmaster of the Royal School. He graduated in medicine at TCD in 1926.**

He wanted to travel and explore, and soon after joining the Royal Navy he volunteered to go as a medical officer in the British Arctic Air Route Expedition 1930 - 31. He spent almost a third of his professional career in the polar regions, participating in three important expeditions. In 1932 he was appointed to HMS Challenger, which was to carry out hydrographic surveys off the coast of Labrador. When Challenger returned at the end of the summer of 1933, Bingham stayed for the winter to help Captain Baker with the coast-line survey. This involved getting to know Labrador huskies and a different method of sledging.

Whilst in north Labrador, Bingham received an offer to join John Rymill, who had been in Greenland with Watkin's expedition, on an Antarctic expedition. The Admiralty having approved his appointment, he sledged from Nain to south Labrador, from where he reached Britain in time to join the British Graham Land Expedition (BGL) which sailed for Port Stanley in the autumn of 1934. Bingham became an expert in the training and welfare of dogs, and became a very experienced dog driver, a skill which was invaluable to him when he was appointed to command the newly created Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in 1945. He was the only one within extensive polar experience. His new companions were former commissioned ranks used to



exercising leadership. However, in 18 months, Bingham completed his task admirably, and in 1947 was appointed OBE and given a third clasp to his Polar Medal. He also was awarded the Murchiston Grant of the Royal Geographical Society.

During the war he served in HMS Duke of York in the Home Fleet, on Russian convoys, and in the Ministry of Supply where he met manufacturers and enabled the development of better clothing for convoys. The cold weather clothing produced were simple, strangely reminiscent of the garments used by the Inuit of East Greenland, with peaked hoods and simple drawstrings. One tribute said “For those of us who served in the far north, and who offered thanks to the person who thought up these strange garments, Ted Bingham’s work was a miracle that only took three months...”

From 1948 - 52 he was principal medical officer at RNAS Eglinton, and promoted Captain in 1951. He then served as fleet medical officer in HMS Vanguard, Mountbatten's flag ship in the Mediterranean command. His final appointment was as principal medical officer at RNAS Lee-on-Solent. He retired from the Navy in 1957. He died aged 92 on 01/09/1993. At the time of his death he was the last surviving holder of the Polar Medal with three clasps.

A book "Of Dogs and Men - Fifty Years in the Antarctic" with a foreword by the then HRH The Prince of Wales was published as, "a tribute to the late Ted Bingham whose skill and enthusiasm for dog driving became a tradition and feature of the British Antarctic Survey for 50 years...

## On this Day – October 29

# 1914

### 1914

On the Yser the Germans take Ramscapelle. The Belgians open the sluices of the canal.

### 1940

British troops set sail for Crete. Italians claim to have made some advances but Greeks hold most positions.

RAF bomb Berlin for 25th time.

Conscription begins in the U.S. It is the first military draft to occur during peacetime in American history. A blindfolded

US Secretary of War drew the first number - 158 - in the Selective Service draft. (Not all men are willing to register. In one case, a man goes to his draft board posing as his own widow to announce his death.)

## **1941**

Germans troops advance in strength, down in to the Crimea, forcing the Russians to fall back in to Sevastopol.

## **1942**

The Germans capture Nalchik in the Caucasus, only 50 miles from the Grozny oil fields.

The US retains control of all their positions on Guadalcanal. An Australian force completes the evacuation of the Templeton Crossing positions in New Guinea.

The Japanese fleet forced to retreat in the Solomons.

German troops under Rommel make a heavy attack against Australians on the northern flank.

US completes construction of Alcan Highway, connecting Alaska to the "Lower Forty-Eight", officially opened on November 26, 1942\_

In the United Kingdom, leading clergymen and political figures hold a public meeting to register outrage over Nazi Germany's persecution of Jews.

United States 1st Armored Division moves from Northern Ireland to England.

## **1943**

Troops replace striking London dockworkers.

## 1944

RAF Lancaster's attack the Battleship Tirpitz again with 12,000lb. 'Tallboy' bombs, this time off Tromsø.

Soviets withdraw from Norway and northern Finland.

# Roll of Honour – October 29

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

## 1914

### **+ARMSTRONG, William**

Black Watch. 1st Btn. Private 9196. Died 29/10/1914. Born Glenwherry, enlisted Edinburgh. Aged 31, wife Agnes at 10 Windsor Terrace, Ballymena. Ypres Memorial

### **+DEVLIN, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 10583. He was wounded on 21/10/1914 during the operations in front of Ypres and died in hospital in France of wounds on 29/10/1914. Died 29/10/1914. Age 24. James Devlin was the eldest son of Daniel and Catherine Devlin. James was born in Drumglass, Dungannon about 1891. His father was a labourer. The family lived at Railway View, Dungannon. James' father Daniel died about October 1907. By 1911 he was working as a Hackle Setter. James Devlin enlisted around October 1913. Private Devlin left for France with the

first Expeditionary Force on the 8th August. Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France. Dungannon WM

**+GEORGE, James**

Connaught Rangers. 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Private. 6940. He was shot and wounded in his right shoulder at the front. Admitted into No11 General Hospital, Boulogne where he died 29/10/1914. Age 38. Enlisted aged 19 years and 11 months on 09/10/1900 at Glasgow, occupation, driller. He gave his father, James as his next of kin. Served in India 09/11/1901 to 28/03/1908. Transferred to Army Reserve 09/10/1908. Re-engaged 22/07/1912 for a further four years. Mobilized at Galway 07/08/1914. Born 1876 to James (Sailor) and Elizabeth George of 43 Ship Street, Belfast. His mother Elizabeth on the 24/05/1919 was residing at 173 Nelson Street, Belfast. Husband to Mary Charlotte George, nee Saunders of Tullynora, Hillsborough, Co. Down. They married on 30/03/1910 at Holy Trinity Church, Belfast City. Residence given as 43 Ship Street, Belfast. His widow was informed by a Captain of No 12 District Record Office, Cork Station dated 03/12/1914 that her husband died of wounds at No 11 General Hospital, Boulogne. She was residing at that time at 5 Tobergill Street, Belfast. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France.

**+LONSDALE, James Raymond McLintock**

4th (Queen's Own) Hussars. Lieutenant. Died 29/10/1914. Age 20. His grandmother lived at Fellows Hall, Tynan, and his family were related to the Stronge family of Tynan Abbey. Son of Thomas Lonsdale, of Hooton, Cheshire. Willaston WM Christ Church churchyard. Killylea C of I WM

## **+MONTGOMERY John**

Gordon Highlanders. 2nd Btn. Sergeant. 7486. Died 29/10/1914. Born Ballymena enlisted Hamilton. Son of Sarah, 94 Main Street, Calderbank, Airdrie. Tyne Cot memorial.

## **+MUIRHEAD, Alexander**

Scots Guards, 1st Btn. Guardsman. 4773. Died 29/10/1914. He was born in Londonderry. 1st Battalion The Scots Guards were based in Aldershot, Hampshire, with the 1st (Guards) Brigade when war broke out in August 1914. They proceeded to France landing at Le Havre on August 14, being amongst the first troops of the British Expeditionary Force. They fought in the 1914 battles of Mons, Marne, Aisne and the First Battle of Ypres.

Guardsman Muirhead died at the Belgian village of Gheluvelt, in the province of West Flanders, 4 miles south east of Ypres on the Ypres-Menin road. It was the scene of desperate fighting in the Great War, especially in the First Battle of Ypres, October 24-31, 1914. Gheluvelt was attacked on October 29. Under cover of a fog the Germans broke through down the Menin road, and then, attacking the 1st Grenadiers from the rear, reduced the battalion to 150 fit men. Not far away the 1st Coldstreamers were nearly destroyed, and some of the 1st Scots suffered a like fate.

An excerpt of one of the original 1st Scots Guards diary entries for the day reads: "29th Oct 1914. In trenches at Gheluvelt. Attack commenced punctually at 5:30 am on North front. Heavy exclusion done by C and LF. At about 12 noon, the line on the east side at the cross roads on the Ypres road, held by the 1st Btn Gloucestershire Regt., is

broken and the 1st Btn Coldstream Guards, and 1st Btn Black Watch are successively rolled up and retire. RF ½ Battalion and 2 sections of C Coy are thus isolated and surrounded, and nothing more heard of them. 2 Platoons of C Coy and ½ LF are brought to E side and with the help of stragglers collected by Capt Stephen hold enemy off all day and accounts for many Germans. 3rd INF BDE is brought up in the evening and line readjusted.” Alexander Muirhead is named on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

### **+O'NEILL, J**

Army Service Corps 2nd Labour Coy. Private SS/3545. Died 29/10/1914. Age 38. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Neill, of Lurgan. Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery, France

## **1915**

### **+HARRISON, William**

Royal Irish Rifles. 6th Btn. Rifleman. 11164. Died 29/10/1915. Age 22. Son of Ellen Harrison, of 3 Hill Street, Belfast, and the late Nathaniel Harison. Kirechikoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece

### **+MAGEE, William**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Private. 19789. Died 29/10/1915. Husband to Sarah Magee of Black's Court, Lurgan. They had only been married for three months at the time of his death. James Magee, a brother of William also served during the war, after the war he was employed as a barber in Lurgan. Dorian Memorial, Greece.

**1917**

**+FISHER, Thomas James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 17637. Died 29/10/1917. Age 20. Thomas James Fisher enlisted in Comber. Born on 12/07/1897. Son of Robert J. and Isabella Fisher, of High St., Comber. They had six children. Isabella Fisher was 32 when she died of tuberculosis on 15 December 1906. Thomas James Fisher was nine when his mother died and in 1911 he was living in High Street, Comber with his widowed father and his widowed maternal grandfather, James Ferguson. Both his father and grandfather were working as farm labourers. Comber Cemetery. Comber and District WM. First Presbyterian Church Comber Memorial Pulpit

**+GALLAGHER, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 5702. Died 29/10/1917. Age 23. His brother Thomas also serving died in hospital in Liverpool on 14/10/1918. Son of John and Mary Gallagher, Castle Street, Ballycastle. Pont D'Achelles Military Cemetery, Nieppe

**+MacLAUGHLIN, Alexander Wilson**

Royal Flying Corps, 1st Sqdn. Lieutenant. Died 29/10/1917. Age 23. On 16/09/1916 the Armagh Gazette reported "Motor despatch rider AW MacLaughlin, Royal Engineers, is in hospital suffering from a fractured skull (accidental). Mr MacLaughlin went out to France in October 1914 as a despatch rider in the Indian Cavalry, Lahore division. He had been wounded four times. His father was working among

troops at Mudros, Isle of Lemnos, in connection with the YMCA". Alexander MacLaughlin later served with the RFC and died in action. Son of the Rev. David MacLaughlin, Ph.D., and Annie MacLaughlin, of Druminnis Manse, Armagh. Arras Flying Services Memorial, France

### **+SEMPLE, John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 6013. Died 29/10/1917. Age 36. Son of William John and Ellen Semple, of 7, Wolfhill Lane, Ligoniel, Belfast. Berks Cemetery Extension, Belgium

## **1918**

### **+DINSMORE, J**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 3rd Btn. Private. 595456 . transf. to 566th Coy. Labour Corps. Private. 12/26370. Died 29/10/1918. Aged 22. Born Macosquin. Enlisted Coleraine. Son of James Dinsmore, Englishtown, grandson of John Dinsmore, Farranseer, Macosquin . St Mary's C of I Churchyard, Macosquin

### **+GIBSON, Matthew Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Captain. MC and Bar. Died 29/10/1918. Aged 28. Having returned from Mexico in 1915, he enlisted and took a commission in the 12th Irish Rifles. He joined his regiment in France on 06/06/1916. Promoted Temporary Lieutenant the following year, by the time of his death a year later he was a Temporary Captain. One of his two MCs was gazetted on 18/10/1917, the citation published in the London Gazette on 02/12/1918 -

"For great determination and gallantry. He was ordered to attack and clear up a village which was a nest of machine guns. After one and a half hours' severe house to house fighting, he succeeded in establishing his company on the far side of the village. Being short of officers, on six separate occasions he personally led his platoons forward, and captured four machine guns at the point of the bayonet."

The citation for his other MC was published on 07/03/1918 - "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in rallying men of other units who were falling back owing to loss of their officers, leading them forward again and again and holding on to his position under heavy fire."

Gibson died of wounds near Ypres. The 12th Irish Rifles had been withdrawn from the line with the rest of the 36th Ulster Division on the 27th, but had been in action on the 25th. The History of the 36th Ulster Division recorded that the work of 12th Irish Rifles, "was probably the best performed by that battalion, amid much good work accomplished since the beginning of offensive operations. Repeatedly the men had charged in upon houses defended by machine-guns, and bayoneted the detachments".

Son of David and Annie E. Gibson, of 1, Chesnut Gardens, Cliftonville, Belfast. Duhallow ADS Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Duncairn Presbyterian Church WM (on display at the Somme Museum, Conlig). Family memorial, Dundonald cemetery

**+HARRISON, Samuel Dunlop Henderson**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th Btn. attd. 13th Btn.  
Lieutenant. Died 29 /10/1918. Age 30. Son of the late  
Joseph and Jane Harrison, of Limavady. Cretinier Cemetery,  
Wattrelos, France

### **+McCLURE, John Richard Smythe**

Royal Engineers, 250th Tunnelling Company. Mentioned in  
Despatches. Died 29/10/1918. Age 26. Born Drumcullen,  
Duneane on 10/11/1892. He was educated at Capetown  
and Johannesburg, gained a BSc. He was a member of the  
Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He later served in South  
Africa and in German South-West Africa with the Transvaal  
Light Horse. He returned to England in 1915, and joined the  
Royal Engineers, being gazetted a Temporary Second  
Lieutenant on the 17 October that year. He served with the  
BEF in France, was gazetted Acting Captain on the  
14/11/1917 and served in the 250th Tunnelling Company.  
This company was involved in the mining of Messines Ridge  
in June 1917. He was twice wounded and on the second  
occasion was sent to hospital in London. He was  
discharged, but then died of influenza at 23 Netherhall  
Gardens. His brother Hugh Cecil McClure died in action  
23/10/1918. He was the son of the Rev. Dr. John James  
McClure and Mary McClure whose family roots were in  
Dervock, County Antrim. A family history - The McClure  
Family, by James Alexander McClure, printed by Frank A.  
Owen, Petersburg, Virginia in 1914, (available on the  
Internet) - Rev. John J. McClure, D.D., of Capetown, South  
Africa, writes September 9, 1913: "My father, Rev. Samuel  
McClure, who ministered at Crossroads, near Londonderry,  
and who died in 1874, came from Dervock (Dernock sic),  
near Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, where his forefathers had  
been for some generations. They came originally from some

place in the southwest of Scotland." John Alexander McClure states - The boys' parents had clearly moved to South Africa at some point before the Great War. St John additional burial ground, Hampstead

**+McGRATH, DAVID**

RNR. Trimmer. 7920TS. Died 29/10/1918. Aged 50. HM Trawler Thomas Cornwall. Father of Evelyn McGrath, of 21, Lorton, St. Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

**+MULLEN, Patrick**

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 2nd Bn. Private. 7370. Died 29/10/1918. Born in Dungannon. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France. The cemetery at Terlincthun was begun in June 1918 when the space available for service burials in the civil cemeteries of Boulogne and Wimereux was exhausted. It was used chiefly for burials from the base hospitals

**+PORTER, Alan Grey**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Bn. attd. 1st Bn. Captain. MC. Died 29/10/1918. Aged 24. Son of Thomas and Mary Porter, of Clogher Park, Co. Tyrone. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France

**1940**

**+CARSON, John Leadbetter**

RAF. Sergeant. 543418. Died 29/10/1940. Aged 21. 201 Squadron. Son of Robert and Elizabeth Carson of Whitehead. Carnmoney C of I Churchyard

**+JACKSON, Stanley Arthur**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 976956. Died 29/10/1940. Age 19. MCB. Born 10/06/1920. Son of William James

Jackson and Sarah Ann Jackson of Wellesley Ave., Belfast.  
Belfast City Cemetery

## 1942

### **+MARTIN, John Sinclair**

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 115649. Died 29/10/1942. Age 23.  
104 Sqdn. B.A. (Cantab.). Son of John And Mary Evelyn  
Martin, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Column 248, Egypt

## 1943

### **+BRIMAGE, David**

Royal Engineers. 42 Field Coy. Sapper. 1874237. Died  
29/10/1943. Aged 26. Served with the allied forces that had  
made rapid progress throughout Southern Italy after landing  
on 03/09/1943. By late October British Forces were moving  
with stiff persistence at the German winter defensive known  
as the Gustav Line. It was during this fighting that Sapper  
Brimage was killed. Son of Hugh and Jane Brimage,  
Pomeroy. Minturno War Cemetery, Marina di Minturno,  
Naples

### **+KIRWIN, Philip**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1368099. Died 29/10/1943.  
Aged 21. 2766 Sqdn., R.A.F. Regt. Son of Philip and Mary  
Kirwin; husband to Mary Ann Kirwin, of Lisnarick, Co.  
Fermanagh. Southend-on-Sea (Sutton Road) Cemetery,  
Essex

## **VETERANS**

## **McCONNELL, Albert Arthur McGown**

RNVR. Surg. Lt. MB, 1942 QUB Born 29/10/1919 in Belfast. Played rugby for QUB, Collegians, Barbarians and Ireland. Prop forward. 7 international caps and 3 Barbarian caps.

## **MORROW, Archie Morrow**

Archie Morrow, 6975767, served in the army from 1926 until 1946 in both the Royal Irish Fusiliers and Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. His number is a 'joint depot' number from the period when the Faughs and Skins were 'brigaded' as The Corps of Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Royal Irish Fusiliers when the depot was at St Lucia Barracks in Omagh.

He was in Bombay in 1932. Two years later he was in China and then Malaya - All of this before the start of the Second World War.

September 1939 saw Archie serving with 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and seeing action with the British Expeditionary Force in France.

At one stage he was reported Missing in Action and Family legend has it that he borrowed a bicycle from a French mademoiselle and made his way back to his unit outside Ypres before getting back to the U.K. on 1st June 1940.

During 1942 Archie saw service in Madagascar (Where he caught Malaria), India and Iraq before joining the British North Africa Force on 29th August 1943.

He was badly wounded in Sicily. This is believed to have happened at Lemon Bridge when Archie was driving a company commander in a jeep. The jeep was hit and the officer was killed with Archie receiving a leg wound from which he suffered for the rest of his life.

Having recovered sufficiently from his wounds Archie rejoined his unit just in time for Anzio and Monte Casino!

He finished his war in Villach, Austria, where there was a stand off with the partisans whom they'd just fought alongside before returning to Number 1 Military Disembarkation Unit Camp on 28th October 1945.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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

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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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