



remembrance ni



The Britannic was made as part of the same 'Olympic project' that created the supposedly unsinkable Titanic and the Olympic ships. Britannic was a hospital ship for the British forces in WW1

Britannic, sister ship to the Titanic, sinks in Aegean Sea

The *Britannic*, sister ship to the *Titanic*, and being used as a Hospital Ship, sinks in the Aegean Sea on 21/11/1916, killing 30 people. More than 1,000 others were rescued.

In the wake of the *Titanic* disaster on April 14/04/1912, the White Star Line made several modifications in the construction of its already-planned sister ship. First, the name was changed from *Gigantic* to *Britannic* (probably because it seemed more humble) and the design of the hull was altered to make it less vulnerable to icebergs. In addition, it was mandated that there be enough lifeboats on board to accommodate all passengers, which had not been the case with the *Titanic*.

The nearly 50,000-ton luxury vessel, the largest in the world, was launched in 1914, but was requisitioned soon afterward by the British government to serve as a hospital ship during WW1.

In this capacity, Captain Charlie Bartlett led the *Britannic* on five successful voyages bringing wounded British troops back to England from various ports around the world.

On November 21, the *Britannic* was on its way to pick up more wounded soldiers near the Gulf of Athens, when at 8:12 a.m., a violent explosion rocked the ship. Captain Bartlett ordered the closure of the watertight doors and sent out a distress signal. However, the blast had already managed to flood six whole compartments—even more extensive damage than that which had sunk the *Titanic*. Still, the *Britannic* had been prepared for such a disaster and would have stayed afloat except for two critical matters.

First, Captain Bartlett decided to try to run the *Britannic* aground on the nearby island of Kea. This might have been



A breach in the hull from a German sea mine laid by a U-boat just one month previous to the sinking allowed water to pour in and the ship began to list to the starboard side, where water was gathering following the explosion to this flank. The 883-foot wreck was discovered largely intact in 1975 by famed marine explorer Jacques Cousteau

successful, but, earlier, the ship's nursing staff had opened the portholes to air out the sick wards. Water poured in through the portholes as the *Britannic* headed toward Kea. Second, the disaster was compounded when some of the crew attempted to launch lifeboats without orders. Since the ship was still moving as fast as it could, the boats were sucked into the propellers, killing those on board.

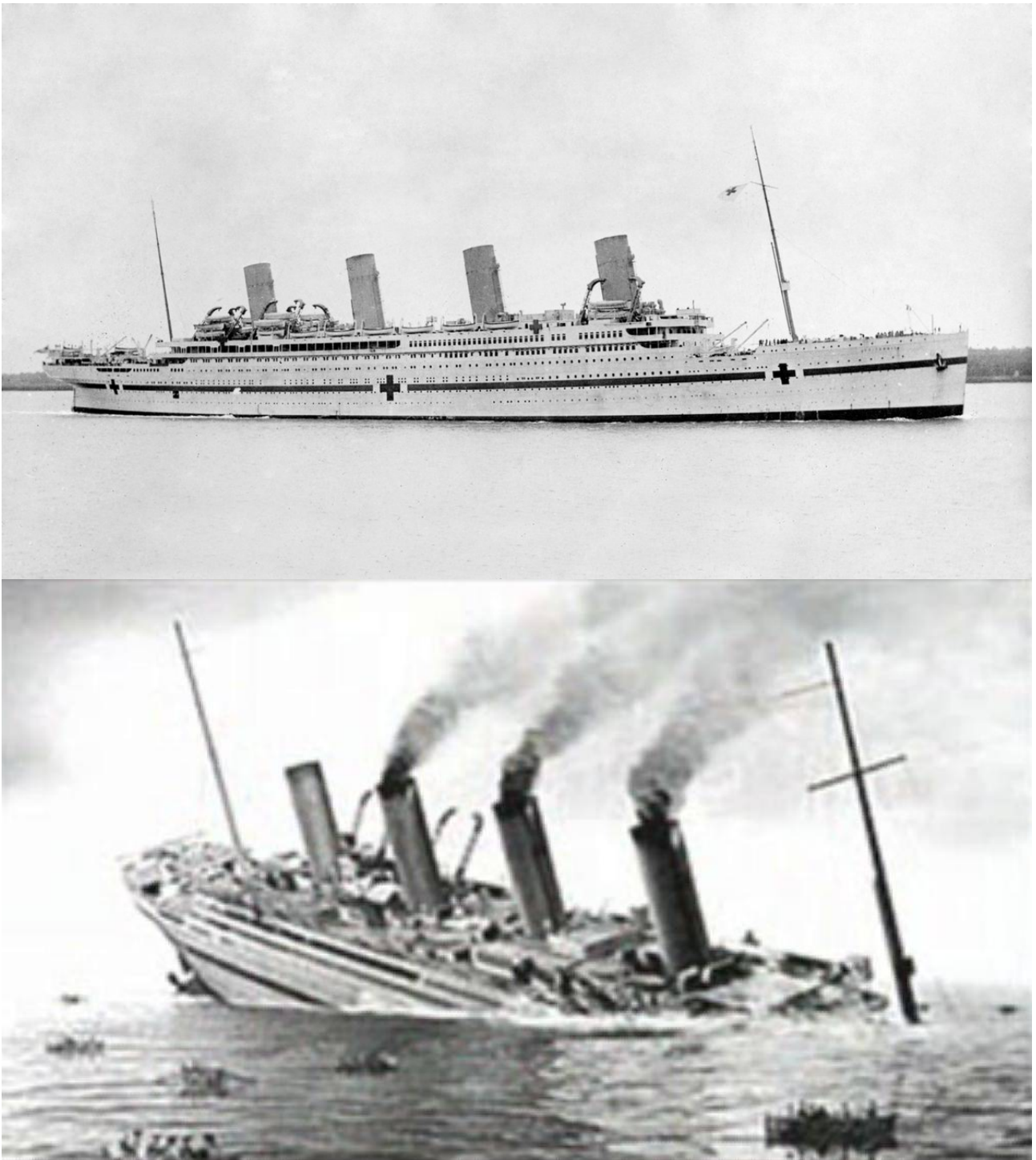
Less than 30 minutes later, Bartlett realized that the ship was going to sink and ordered it abandoned. The lifeboats were launched and even though the *Britannic* sank at 9:07, less than an hour after the explosion, nearly 1,100 people managed to make it off the ship. In fact, most of the 30 people who died were in the prematurely launched lifeboats.

In 1976, famed ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau found the *Britannic* lying on its side 400 feet below the surface of the Aegean. The cause of the explosion remains unknown, but many believe that the *Britannic* hit a mine.

On this Day – November 21

1916

British hospital ship *Britannic*, sister of *Titanic*, sunk in 55 mins by German mine near Greek island of Kea, in Aegean Sea. 30 died, 1,035 survived. Largest ship lost in WW1 and the world's largest sunken passenger ship. In 1915-16 she completed 5 trips b/w UK & Dardanelles.



She sank in less than an hour. 21 died of 1.125 crew and staff. It is believed that the mines had been laid in the channel by the U-73 (Lt. Cdr. Siehs).

1918

The German High Seas Fleet surrendered to the Royal Navy Grand Fleet under Admiral Beatty. The Fleet was

THE DAILY MIRROR, Monday, November 18, 1918.

BRITISH PRISONERS BACK FROM GERMANY

The Daily Mirror

CERTIFIED CIRCULATION LARGER THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER DAILY PICTURE PAPER

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GERMAN HIGH SEAS FLEET SURRENDERS TO THE ALLIES



Rear Admiral von Meurer confers on board the British flag-ship to arrange details of handing over German vessels of war to be surrendered to the Allies—(Official photograph.)



The battle-cruiser Von der Tann, one of five handed over to Allies' naval forces.



The battleship Kaiserin, one of the ten to be placed in internment in Allied ports.

To-day a great fleet of battleships, cruisers and smaller craft "comes out" at last from the naval ports of Germany—to meet the British squadrons, with naval detachments of the Allies, that will escort them to the places where they will be held in duration until settlement of the conditions of peace shall determine their final fate. So ends the dream of the Pan Germans who hoped to be able successfully to challenge the naval power which for a hundred years has enabled Britain to maintain freedom of the seas.

VICTORIA CROSS.



Lance Corporal William Henry Mahood, M.M., of the Machine Gun Corps, who has been awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during an attack. His courageous action relieved a very critical situation.

WHY GERMAN SUBMARINE CREWS ARE PARTICULARLY NERVOUS.



The sinking of the hospital ship Gloucester Castle. Thinking of such outrages as these, Hun submarine crews have been wondering what will happen to them when they deliver up their pirate ships to the Allies. They have been assured that their persons, liberty and safety will be respected on this errand.

VICTORIA CROSS.



Sergeant Arthur George Knight, late Albert's Regiment, posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in attacking enemy machine-gun positions and bomb-hunter crews, when his party was held up on the bank of the river.

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escorted to the Firth of Forth by the Grand Fleet under Admiral Beatty.

1918

The German High Seas Fleet surrendered to the Royal Navy Grand Fleet under Admiral Beatty. The Fleet was escorted to the Firth of Forth by the Grand Fleet under Admiral Beatty.

1921



On Monday 21st November 1921 the story of 'ULSTERMEN'S MEMORIAL ON THIEPVAL BATTLEFIELD' made the front cover of the Daily Mail.

The story read, "At Thiepval on Saturday, where some of the severest fighting of the war took place a tower to the memory of the Ulster men who fell was dedicated by the Primate of All Ireland, in the absence of Lord Carson. The memorial chamber within was unveiled by General Weygand."

General Maxime Weygand was a French military commander in the First World War. He had served as a staff officer to General Ferdinand Foch, Supreme Allied Commander.

In 1931, Weygand was appointed Chief of the French Army. He retired in 1935 at the age of 68 but was recalled in 1940 and took command of the French army during the German invasion of the 1939-1945 war. He died in 1965 at the age of 98.

From The Somme Museum Collection

1937

The first stretch of the German Autobahn is opened for use. The main purpose of the road is to deploy and supply its forces throughout the country. Eventually, 4,500 miles of four-lane highway will cover Germany.

1939

Prime Minister Chamberlain imposes an embargo on all German trade, with goods currently in Britain, but destined for shipment to Germany to be confiscated.

Prime Minister Chamberlain announces the seizure of German merchant shipping in retaliation for the sinking of neutral ships and indiscriminate mine warfare. The German Battlecruiser's Scharnhorst and Gneisenau set off from Germany on a mission to harry British sea routes in the North Atlantic.

1940

Greeks capture Koritza, defeating Italian IX Army.

The United States government announces that Nazi agents are active in eight American cities for sabotage, propaganda, espionage, and fomenting strife.

1942

The situation for the 6th Army is deteriorating fast, not least owing to the fact that Army HQ is being relocated which leads to serious disruptions in communications with the troops in and outside the city.

1943

Field Marshal Kesselring is appointed commander-in-chief of all German forces in Italy, while Rommel leaves his command to organize the Atlantic wall.

1944

Albanian patriots free the capital, Tirana.

The US 8th Air Force launches heavy attacks against Hamburg and the synthetic fuel producing plants of Leuna at Merseburg.

1945

All the top ranking Nazis at Nuremberg plead innocent.

Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch dies of pneumonia at Fort Sam Houston TX, age 55.

Roll of Honour – November 21

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+EMMETT, Albert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 10521. Died 21/11/1914. Age 19 years old. Son of Mrs. Susan McCabe, of 27, Queen St., Enniskillen. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

+MAHAFFEY, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 6612. Died 21/11/1914. Husband of Mary Ann Mahaffey. Born at Lurgan. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

1915

+MAXWELL, William John

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 17/990. Died 21/11/1915. Age 22. Son of James Edward and Annabella Maxwell, of 59, Utility St., Belfast. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France

+McKEE, Alexander

Royal Engineers. 150th Coy. Sapper. 64380. Died 21/11/1915. Age 20. Born Markethill. He was a cabinet

maker. The Armagh Guardian of 03/12/1915 said he was the first Armagh volunteer in the Division to be killed. "He was working in a trench and the explosion of a German shell which fell in it killed him". He was a member of Richill LOL 111. Son of John McKee, of Richhill, Co. Armagh. Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France

1916

+BROWN, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 9237. Died 21/11/1916. Son of James and Jane Brown, of Moneymore, Co. Derry. Theipval Memorial

+CARSON, Andrew James

Canadian Infantry, 1st Btn. Private. 400738. Died 21/11/1916. Age 23. Andrew James Carson was the son of Joseph and Lizzie Carson. Andrew Carson was born on 02/01/1893 in the Eskermore area of Dungannon. They were a farming family. Andrew Carson emigrated to Canada. Prior to enlisting, he worked as a turner. Andrew enlisted in January 1915 in London, Ontario. He gave his next of kin as his father, Joseph, who was living in London, Ontario. Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+HILL, Jonathan

Cheshire Regiment, 21st Btn. Private. 48531. Died 21/11/1916. Age 36. Mobilised 07/08/1916. Son of Thomas Hill, of Newtownhamilton; husband to Margaret Hill, of 92, City Rd., Walton, Liverpool. Becourt Military Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, France. Newtownhamilton Second Presbyterian Church RH

+MAGEE, John Edward

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 26473.
Formerly Private 4144 8th Royal Munsters Fusiliers. Died
21/11/1916. Born 01/07/1877 at Hillsborough to Patrick and
Alice Magee, nee Gorman. Enlisted at Lisburn Co. Antrim.
He and Rose McDonald married 05/05/1902 at Lisburn.
Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

+McCULLOUGH, William James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23299. Died
21/11/1916. Age 27. Native of Loughgilly. His brother
Johnston McCullough also died serving with the same
battalion on 01/07/1916. Son of John and Mary Anne
McCullough, of Bessbrook. Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre,
France.

+SMITH, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Bn. Private. 17555. Died
21/11/1916. Aged 19. Son of Thomas and Jane Smith, of
Caledon St., Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone. They were married
about 1891. William was born about 1897 in Carnteel,
Aughnacloy. He enlisted in Aughnacloy. Pond Farm
Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+STAFFORD, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Bn. Private. 22618. Died
21/11/1916. Born in Clonfeacle, County Tyrone about 1890.
The 1901 census lists John as age 11 living with his family
at house 4 in Culkeeran, Moy. His father was a farm
labourer. Son of Thomas and Mary Stafford, of Moy, Co.
Tyrone. John enlisted in Omagh. Pond Farm Cemetery,
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

1917

+BRYANS, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 12583. Died 21/11/1917. Age 19. Son of Samuel and Rachel Bryans, of 150, Cambrai St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+FLYNN, P

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 24279. Died 21/11/1917. Age 24. Son of Patrick Flynn, of 77, North Queen St., Belfast; husband to Mary Jane Leneghan (formerly Flynn). Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Fuchaux, France

+McCONNELL, Samuel Morton

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Lance Corporal. 15374. Died 21/11/1917. Age 20. Son of Alexander and Annie McConnell, of 198, My Lady's Rd., Belfast. Grevillers British Cemetery, France

+SMYTH, Frederick W

Royal Irish Regiment. Corporal. 1534. Died 21/11/1917 of pneumonia in a Dublin hospital. From Caledon. Serving in the regiment's Omagh base. 1911 records state he and his wife Martha with their two children were living in Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+STEWART, Robert James

N.Z.E.F. Canterbury Regiment, 3rd Btn. Private. 42825. Died 21/11/1917. Aged 32 Son of John and Agnes Stewart, of Ballyhacket, Cairncastle, Larne, Ireland. He was one of nine children. Robert Stewart enlisted in New Zealand on

03/01/1917, stating that he was born on 01/02/1885. He said he had been in NZ for two years and that he was an orchardist employed by Tasman Fruit Lands at Nelson. He was described then as being 5' 8" and as having blue eyes and fair hair. He nominated his father at Ballyhackett, Cairncastle as his next of kin and also gave the name of his brother, John M Stewart, Tasman, Nelson, NZ. He left NZ on 02/04/1917 aboard HMNZT 80, 'Corinthic', from Wellington and disembarked at Devonport/Plymouth, England on June 10. He completed training at Sling Camp and went to France and Flanders after 06/07/1917. He was at Etaples on the 9th and was sent to 12th Company, 3rd Canterbury Regiment, 4th NZ Infantry Brigade. He was slightly wounded, probably by gas, and treated in France by No 4 NZ Field Ambulance from the 9th - 20th October. He rejoined his unit on the 25 October and his short military career ended when he was killed in action on the 21/11/1917. For details of the action see The History of the Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F. 1914 - 1919, Chapter 12, by Captain David Ferguson. Son of John and Agnes (nee White) Stewart, of Ballyhackett, Cairncastle, Larne. They married in Glenarm Presbyterian Church on 04/03/1879. Buttes New British Cemetery (NZ), Polygon Wood, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Cairncastle Presbyterian Church WM

+WILLIAMSON, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 14766. Died 21/11/1917. Age 22. Before enlistment he worked in a local linen mill. One of eight siblings. Son of James and Elizabeth Williamson (nee McConnell), of 7, College Square, Bessbrook. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

1918

+DAVIS, W

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 16411. transf. to (411151)
Labour Corps. Died 21/11/1918. Age 47. years old. Husband
of Fanny Davis, of 103, Charles St. South, Sandy Row,
Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+McMASTER, David

Army Service Corps. 62nd Div. Mechanical Transport.
Private. M/341498. Died 21/11/1918. Age 21. Son of Anna
M. McMaster, of 94, Castlereagh Rd., Belfast, and the late
David McMaster. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen,
France

+O'NEILL, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 7579. Died
21/11/1918. Age 20. Son of Robert O'Neill, of
Magheramorne, Belfast, and the late Mary O'Neill. Berlin
South-Western Cemetery, Germany

+RICHMOND, S

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 15969. Died
21/11/1918. Age 19. Son of John Richmond, of Ballyowen,
Waterside, Londonderry. Tourcoing (Pont-Neuville)
Communal Cemetery, France

1939

+DALTON, David

RN. AB. D/J 87462. Died 21/11/1939. Age 38. HMS Gipsy.
Son of David and Mary Ann Dalton, Ballee, Antrim (Belfast

Weekly Telegraph 02/12/1939). Husband to Alice Emmeline Dalton, Devonport. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 33

1941

+TONER, Patrick

Royal Artillery, 9 HAA Regiment, 6th LAA Bty. Gunner. 1460770. Died 21/11/1941. Aged 35. Killed when the column was strafed by a German Bf110 fighter. His 3-ton truck had just taken a field-gun tractor in tow when the column was attacked by a group of Junkers, Fiat bombers and Bf 110's. Paddy was on board a Canadian 3-ton Chevy truck, trapped between two 40 gallon drums of fuel when he was strafed. Paddy was the first Garvagh man to die in action. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Toner, North View Cottage, Feeney; husband to Margret Toner, of Coleraine. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

+WISONER, William

Royal Artillery. 9 HAA Regiment, 6th LAA Bty. Gunner. 1450762. Died 21/11/1941. Aged 21. 6 Bty., 2 Lt. A.A. Regt. Son of John and Mary Ann Wisoner, of Tobermore, Co. Londonderry. Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Port Said, Egypt. Tobermore WM

1942

+LYNN, John Joseph

RAFVR. Pilot Officer (Observer), 120916. Died 21/11/1942. Aged 28. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. Son of William Lynn, M.B.E., J.P., and Charlotte Lynn; husband to Anne V. Lynn, of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Solicitor. Pihen-Les-Guines War Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

1943

+McCARROLL, William

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant. 103019. Died 21/11/1943 flying off the Italian coast. Age 25. Ballymena Academy. Son of William John and Minnie McCarroll; Husband to Gwendoline Mary, nee Sheridan from Enniskillen. Father to William who was born after his father's death. Runnymede Memorial

+MONTGOMERY, George

US Army. Private First Class. 32004368. Died 21/11/1943. Dungannon WM

1944

+CORRY, David

Royal Scots Fusiliers. Serjeant. 3126332. Died 21/11/1944. Age 38. Son of David and Margaret Corry; of Newtownards; husband of Sarah Corry, of Newtownards. His brother Henry Corry also died in service on 05/05/1941 with the Royal Artillery. Movilla Cemetery, Newtownards. Newtownards WM

+McCOO, Thomas David

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 619940. Died 21/11/1944. Age 23. Son of Samuel and Emily McCoo, of Lurgan. Ramleh War Cemetery. Israel. Lurgan WM

1945

+COOKE, Elizabeth

WAAF. Aircraftswoman (1st Class). 209875. Died 21/11/1945. Born in December 1917, she was the daughter of James Petrie Cooke and Catherine "Kitty" Cooke (née Atkinson) of Belfast, Co. Antrim. Elizabeth had two younger

sisters, Lily and Gwen, and a younger brother James.
Dundonald Cemetery Dundonald Cemetery

VETERANS

BEATH, R Maitland

RAMC. Captain. QUB Services Club President 1939, 40.
RBAI. QCB BA, 1907, MB 1914, BCh, BS (London).
Captain RAMC 06/08/1914. In France from 15/08/1914 as
Battalion MO. Served on an ambulance train, as radiologist
in the 18th CCS and also on hospital ship St. Andrew. He
authored several papers in the Ulster Medical Journal. An
article in the Ulster Medical Journal, April 1934 which was a
tribute to Sir William Whitla quoted a paper by RM Beath.
He was Hon Secretary of the Ulster Medical Society 1925 -
30. "With the passing of Maitland Beath on November 28,
radiology has lost one of those natural leaders of men who
can so ill be spared" - British Journal of Radiology. Died
21/11/1940, Belfast.

DUNLOP, Charles William Julius

Ophthalmic surgeon. QUB 1880. Served 1914 - 18. Born
1864 Ballylesson. Son of Charles and Ellen Dunlop.
Husband to Rosa. Died 21/11/1945, Hornsea, Middx

Every day is a Remembrance Day

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

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