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 HRH The Prince of Wales was published as, “a tribute to the late Ted Bingham whose skip and enthusiasm for dog driving became a tradition and feature of the British Antarctic Survey for 50 years...

On this Day – October 29

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 Tromso.
Soviets withdraw from Norway and northern Finland.

Roll of Honour – October 29

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914
+DEVLIN, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. 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. 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

+MUIRHEAD, Alexander

Scots Guards, 1st Bn. 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 1/2 Battalion and 2 sections of C Coy are thus isolated and surrounded, and nothing more heard of them. 2 Platoons of C Coy and 1/2 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.
+LONSDALE, James Raymond McClintock

4th (Queen's Own) Hussars, Lieutenant. Died 29/10/1914. Age 20. Disembarked France 18/08/1914. Son of Thomas Lonsdale, of Hooton, Cheshire. His grandmother lived at Fellows Hall, Tynan and his family were related to the Stronge family of Tynan Abbey. Memorials at Christ Church Churchyard, Willaston. Willaston WM, Killylea C of I Parish Church WM

+O’NEILL, James


1915

+MAGEE, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers.5th Btn. Private.19789. Died 29/10/1915 of illness (dysentery). William was the husband of Sarah Magee 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 James was employed as a barber in Lurgan. Dorian Memorial, Greece. Lurgan WM

1916

+LAVERY, James

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 2nd Btn. Private. S/11411. Died 29/10/1916. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France
1917

+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

1918

+GIBSON, Matthew Henry

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Captain. Died 29/10/1918. Age 28. Son of David and Annie E. Gibson, of 1, Chesnut Gardens, Cliftonville, Belfast. Duhallow ADS Cemetery, Belgium

+McCLURE, John Richard Smythe

Royal Engineers, 250th Tunnelling Company. MiD. Died 29/10/1918. Age 26. He was educated at Capetown and Johannesburg, gained a BSc, and 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. 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.

+McGRATH, DAVID


+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


+THOMPSON, Stanley J


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

Fermanagh. Southend-on-Sea (Sutton Road) Cemetery, Essex

VETERAN

MORROW, Archie Morrow

Archie Morrow, Service Number 6975767 served in the army from 1931 until 1946 in both the Royal Irish Fusiliers and Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. However, his Army number dates from 1926 and suggests that he enlisted before 1931. It 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 enlisted in August 1931 and after training found himself 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 his Commanding Officer in a Jeep. The jeep was hit and his C.O. 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 Disembarcation Unit Camp on 28th October 1945.

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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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