

ORCADIAN CASUALTIES IN THE WAR AT SEA, 1914–1919

Details of the Orcadians who died in the war at sea, 1914–1919, with local war memorials shown, (born, but not commemorated on memorial there). Photos of graves and memorial names by self **highlighted**, those by others **highlighted**.

AB THOMAS ALLAN	MMR, HMS <i>Vulcan</i> , 12 th July 1918, age 25, Burray. Grave 21, Burray Cemetery , Orkney
D/Hand ALEXANDER BROWN	MMR, HMS <i>Imperieuse</i> , 7 th June 1918, age 17, South Ronaldsay. South Ronaldsay (St. Peter) Churchyard , Orkney
Deck Hand JOHN BROWN	RNR(T), HM Trawler <i>Perfect</i> , 13 th August 1918, age 34, South Ronaldsay. Grave 00.4.1, Dundee Eastern Necropolis, Angus
Joiner JOHN BROWN	MM, SS <i>Lusitania</i> , 7 th May 1915, age 58, (Walls). Tower Hill Memorial , London
Trimmer WILLIAM BUDGE	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 19, (South Ronaldsay).
Seaman JAMES W BURGHEES	MM, Schooner <i>Janet</i> , after 6 th November 1918, age 17, (Papa Stronsay).
Seaman ANDREW W. CHALMERS	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Freesia</i> , 5 th December 1918, age 25, Walls. Panel 31, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire
PETER CHALMERS	Fishing boat <i>Olive</i> , 1 st July 1919, age 35, (Stronsay).
2nd Engr JOHN S CLOUSTON	MM, SS <i>Princess Melita</i> , 27 th April 1916, age 33, Stromness. Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France ?
Lieutenant ALFRED H COOPER	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Princess Mary</i> , 13 th March 1918, age 33, Kirkwall. Grave Prot. 55, Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery
First Mate THOMAS COOPER	MM, SS <i>Benlarig</i> , 2 nd April 1917, age 31, Westray. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Mate JOHN COOPER	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 42, Kirkwall.
Trimmer JAMES COPLAND	RNR(T), HM Drifter <i>Southesk</i> , 7 th July 1917, age 19, Burray. Panel 28, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire
Leading Stoker JOHN COUTTS	RN, HMS <i>Orion</i> , 20 th May 1918, age 25, Walls. Grave C.396, Rosskeen Parish Churchyard Extension , Ross-shire
Fireman ROBERT CRAIGIE	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 34, Kirkwall.
Seaman JOHN DREVER	MM, SS <i>Borg</i> , 10 th June 1918, age 41, Westray. Tower Hill Memorial , London
AB WILLIAM DREVER	MM, SS <i>Gorsemore</i> , 26 th June 1917, age 47, (Kirkwall). Tower Hill Memorial , London
First Mate WILLIAM DREVER	MM, SS <i>Moidart</i> , 9 th June 1918, age 34, (Westray). Tower Hill Memorial , London
Mate DAVID FINLAYSON	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 17 th November 1916, age 54, Kirkwall. Kirkwall (St. Magnus) Cathedral Churchyard, Orkney ?
DAVID FLETT	Fishing boat <i>Olive</i> , 1 st July 1919, age 27, Firth.
AB GEORGE T F FLETT	MM, SS <i>Era</i> , 1 st May 1918, age 29, Kirkwall. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Seaman GEORGE FOULIS	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 38, Papa Westray & Kirkwall.
Seaman WILLIAM FOULIS	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 37, Papa Westray & Kirkwall.
Seaman JAMES FOX	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 18, Kirkwall.
CPO ADAM FRISKEN	RN, HMS <i>Swiftsure</i> , 10 th February 1916, age 39, Kirkwall. Grave D.309, Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
D/Hand ROBERT L GARRIOCH	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Gurth</i> , 13 th June 1918, age 21, Sanday. Cross Cemetery, Sanday, Orkney
Seaman JAMES W GROAT	MM, SS <i>Coronilla</i> , 25 th December 1918, Eday. North Hartlepool Cemetery, County Durham ?

Mate JAMES B GUTHRIE	MM, Schooner <i>Janet</i> , after 6 th November 1918, age 34, (Burray).
Seaman ANDREW HARCUS	MM, SS <i>Elmtree</i> , 1 st November 1918, Westray. Grave ED.2572, Dunfermline Cemetery, Fife
Seaman ROBERT HARCUS	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Touraco</i> , 13 th September 1917, age 33, Kirkwall. Grave 14.7, Kirkwall (St. Olaf's) Cemetery, Orkney
Trimmer GEORGE R HARVEY	RNR(T), HM Trawler <i>Bega</i> , 18 th June 1917, age 19, Firth. Panel 27, Chatham Naval Memorial , Kent
Captain ROBERT HEDDLE	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 40, Kirkwall.
Artificer DAVID HOURSTON	RN, Submarine <i>E37</i> , 3 rd December 1916, age 21, Holm. Panel 14, Plymouth Naval Memorial , Devon
AB WILLIAM IRVINE	MM, SS <i>Edina</i> , 10 th January 1915, age 53, (Kirkwall).
Smn CHARLES KIRKPATRICK	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Orsino</i> , 28 th September 1916, age 20, Stromness. Panel 23, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire
Seaman ALEXANDER LAIRD	RNR, HMS <i>Victory</i> , 7 th July 1916, age 29, Burray. Grave E.24.28, Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire
Seaman ALFRED I. LEARMONTH	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Capricornus</i> , 9 th November 1918, age 19, Kirkwall. Panel 31, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire
D/H WILLIAM LEARMONTH	RNR, HM Drifter <i>Coronaria</i> , 21 st December 1916, age 21, Sanday. Panel 23, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire
Fireman GEORGE LESLIE	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 29, Kirkwall.
WILLIAM LESLIE	Fishing boat <i>Olive</i> , 1 st July 1919, age 65, (Stronsay).
Seaman DAVID LINKLATER	RNR, SS <i>Belgian Prince</i> , 31 st July 1917, age 27, Sandwick. Panel 27, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire
First Mate JOHN MacDONALD	MM, SS <i>England</i> , 23 rd May 1917, age 34, Shapinsay. Tower Hill Memorial , London
AB ISAAC MANSON	MM, SS <i>Arbonne</i> , 23 rd February 1916, age 29, Stromness. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Engineer ISAAC MARWICK	MM, SS <i>Southford</i> , 25 th February 1916, age 59, Rousay. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Fireman JAMES MARWICK	MM, SS <i>Ruby</i> , 29 th March 1917, age 42, Kirkwall. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Captain WILLIAM MASON	MM, SS <i>Ruby</i> , 29 th March 1917 age 42, Westray & Kirkwall. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Lieut WILLIAM A McNEILL	RNR, HMS <i>Laurentic</i> 25 th January 1917, age 35, Holm. Heisker Island Graves, Outer Hebrides
4th Engineer JOHN MEIL	MM, SS <i>Port Hardy</i> , 6 th July 1918, age 25, Holm. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Signal Boy JOHN MILLAN	RNR, HMS <i>Victory</i> , 9 th September 1918, age 17, Stronsay. Grave E.30.20, Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire
D/Hand ALEXANDER MOAR	RNR(T), HM Trawler <i>Scarborough</i> , 13 th December 1916, age 37, Birsay. Birsay New Cemetery , Orkney
AB JOHN MOWAT	MMR, HMS <i>Isonzo</i> , 17 th August 1918, age 26, Stromness. Grave III.A.48, Mazargues War Cemetery, Marseilles, France
Deck Hand JAMES MUIR	RNR, HMS <i>Pembroke</i> , 16 th July 1917, age 27, Sanday. Grave Naval 26.1362, Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery , Kent
Fireman STANLEY J MUIR	MMR, HM Yacht <i>Zarefah</i> , 8 th May 1917, age 18, Kirkwall. Panel 26, Plymouth Naval Memorial , Devon
Lieut THOMAS F MUIR	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Longset</i> , 6 th February 1917, age 39, Stenness. NW corner, Stenness Parish Churchyard , Orkney
WILLIAM MUIR	Fishing boat <i>Olive</i> , 1 st July 1919, age 28, (South Ronaldsay).

L/Seaman ADAM I NORQUAY	RNR, HMS <i>Pentstemon</i> , 27 th October 1917, age 21, Flotta. Grave Prot. 358, Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery
AB MAGNUS S NORQUAY	MM, SS <i>Tynemouth</i> , 26 th March 1915, age 21, (South Ronaldsay). Cardiff Cemetery, South Glamorgan ?
ALEXANDER M PARK	RF Aux., 22 nd September 1917, age 39, Burray. Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent ?
Asst Cook JAMES PATERSON	MMR, HMS <i>Campania</i> , 22 nd July 1915, age 21, St. Andrews. Grave N.3, St. Andrews New Cemetery, Orkney
Chief Engr CHARLES PEACE	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 32, Eday & Kirkwall.
Deck Hand GEORGE PETRIE	RNR(T), HM Drifter <i>Laurel Crown</i> , 22 nd June 1916, age 32, Burray. Panel 23, Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire
Asst Cook JAMES T PHILLIPS	MMR, HMS <i>Campania</i> , 23 rd March 1916, age 15, Birsay. Grave XIV.425, Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead, Cheshire
L/Seaman ALFRED POTTINGER	RN, HMS <i>Ebro</i> , 14 th January 1916, age 25, St. Andrews. Panel 15, Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent
First Mate DAVID REID	MM, SS <i>Clan Mackay</i> , 25 th March 1918, age 45, Westray. Bristol Cemetery ?, Avon
Engineman GEORGE RENDALL	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Goeland II</i> , 9 th November 1917, age 39, Kirkwall. Grave H3.27, Aberdeen (Trinity) Cemetery
2nd Engr GEORGE I RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 48, Kirkwall.
Mate GEORGE S RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Ruby</i> , 29 th March 1917, age 40, Westray. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Fireman JOHN RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Ruby</i> , 29 th March 1917, age 23, Westray. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Seaman JOHN RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Express</i> , 9 th February 1918, age 51, Papa Westray.
Seaman STEWART RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Ruby</i> , 29 th March 1917, age 30, Westray. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Seaman WILLIAM RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Hunsgate</i> , 11 th March 1916, age 26, Westray. Cardiff Cemetery, South Glamorgan ?
Captain WILLIAM G RENDALL	MM, SS <i>Mordenwood</i> , 19 th May 1917, age 46, Westray. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Steward GEORGE ROBB	MM, SS <i>Don Arturo</i> , 17 th June 1917, age 27, Stromness. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Seaman JOHN G ROBB	MM, SS <i>Clearfield</i> , 23 rd October 1916, age 22, Hoy. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Deck Hand DAVID SCOTT	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Sarah Alice</i> , 26 th September 1916, age 34, Eday. Panel 23, Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire
Fireman FRANK S SHEARER	MMR, HM Water Tank <i>Progress</i> , 21 st December 1916, age 28, Stromness. Panel 20, Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon
Mate PATRICK SHEARER	MM, SS <i>Hangchow</i> , 11 th November 1914, age 34, (Kirkwall).
AB JOHN SIMPSON	MMR, HM Water Tank <i>Progress</i> , 21 st December 1916, age 28, (Graemsay). Panel 20, Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon
3rd Engineer JOHN SIMPSON	MM, SS <i>Clan MacPherson</i> , 4 th March 1918, age 27, South Ronaldsay. Tower Hill Memorial, London
Master ALEXANDER SINCLAIR	MM, Schooner <i>Janet</i> , after 6 th November 1918, age 31, (South Ronaldsay).
L/Seaman ROBERT SINCLAIR	RNR, SS <i>Ventmoor</i> , 14 th February 1918, age 31, Kirkwall. Panel 31, Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire
Lieutenant WILLIAM SINCLAIR	RIM, 18 th March 1916, (Stromness). Bombay (St. Thomas) Cathedral Memorial, Mumbai
Seaman JOHN E L SINCLAIR	HM Transport, SS <i>Hamilton</i> , 10 th August 1919, age 25, Stromness. (Disappeared, supposed drowned, in Constantinople)

Seaman HENRY STEVENSON	MM, Schooner <i>Janet</i> , after 6 th November 1918, age 17, Westray.
Seaman JOHN STEVENSON	RNR, 31 st January 1918, age 26, Stronsay. Stronsay Parish Churchyard, Orkney ?
Seaman WILLIAM R S STOUT	RNR, HM Trawler <i>H.E. Stroud</i> , 27 th October 1916, age 42, Stromness. Grave K3.22, Aberdeen (Trinity) Cemetery
Master JAMES SUTHERLAND	MM, SS <i>Bulgarian</i> , 20 th January 1917, age 34, Stromness. Tower Hill Memorial , London
Mate WILLIAM SUTHERLAND	MM, Schooner <i>Isabella</i> , 1 st November 1918, age 61, (Flotta).
2/Mate WILLIAM SUTHERLAND	MM, SS <i>Slav</i> , 31 st August 1917, age 66, (Flotta). Grangemouth (Grandsable) Cemetery, Falkirk, Stirling ?
Skipper THOMAS SWANNEY	MMR, HM Trawler <i>Columba</i> , 10 th March 1918, age 55, North Ronaldsay. Panel 30, Plymouth Naval Memorial , Devon
AB ALFRED TAYLOR	RN, HMS <i>Vindictive</i> , 24 th April 1918, age 23, Firth. Grave Naval 8.14, Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery , Kent
AB CHARLES TAYLOR	MMR, HMS <i>Tithonus</i> , 8 th January 1917, age 31, Stromness. Grave M.158, Edinburgh (Seafield) Cemetery, Midlothian
Skipper CHARLES THOMSON	Fishing boat <i>Primrose</i> , 5 th February 1917, age 35, North Ronaldsay. Tower Hill Memorial, London
D/Hand JOHN G H THOMSON	RNR, HM Drifter <i>Davda</i> , 15 th August 1916, age 29, South Ronaldsay. South Ronaldsay South Churchyard , Orkney
Mate THOMAS THOMSON	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Morven</i> , 10 th June 1918, age 23, North Ronaldsay. North Ronaldsay Parish Churchyard , Orkney
WILLIAM WILLIAMSON	Fishing boat <i>Olive</i> , 1 st July 1919, age 57, (Stronsay).

The most common cause of death of the 95 Orcadian sailors who died during the Great War was explosion of a mine. The Germans laid 25,000 mines in the North Sea and around the British Isles, a total of 43,000 mines at sea, while the Allies also laid extensive minefields. Other Orcadian sailors died in U-boat attacks, in accidents (notably drowning) at sea and in port, or from illness during difficult and dangerous service.

42 of the Orcadian sailors died serving in the Royal Navy, most in the reserve branches of the RNR and MMR. 47 Orcadian sailors died serving in the Mercantile Marine, including 17 who died when the local boats *Express* and *Ruby* were sunk with the loss of all hands and one in the Royal Indian Marine. Six Orcadians died sailing as fishermen, including five killed when the fishing boat *Olive* exploded a mine in July 1919.

A total of 17 of those listed above are not commemorated on any Orkney war memorial, although born here. Some had moved to live outside Orkney, notably in Leith, and their death may not have been known in the islands, but others were knowingly excluded because the parish or island did not recognise merchant seamen as war dead.

William Budge of South Ronaldsay is the only Orcadian crewman of *SS Express* who is not commemorated in the islands. Seaman Henry Stevenson of the schooner *Janet* is commemorated on Westray, but its Captain, Alexander Sinclair of South Ronaldsay, and Mate, James Guthrie of Burray, also Seaman James Burghes of Papa Stronsay, are not commemorated locally. After the local fishing boat *Olive* exploded a wartime mine in July 1919, David Flett's name was commemorated on the Firth War Memorial, but William Muir of South Ronaldsay, Peter Chalmers, William Leslie and William Williamson of Stronsay, who also died in the explosion, are not commemorated on their local war memorial (nor is Andrew Wilson from Fair Isle, also in *Olive*'s crew).

John Simpson was born on the Caithness island of Stroma. After fisherman John married Isabella Mowat of Graemsay in 1901 they made a home together at the Graemsay croft of Quonaknap and brought up a family there. John died alongside Frank Shearer of Stromness, who is commemorated on Stromness War Memorial. John is not commemorated on either Stroma or Stromness War Memorial.