

ORCADIAN CASUALTIES IN THE WAR AT SEA, 1939–1945

Details of Orcadians who died in the war at sea, 1939–1945, with local war memorials shown (born, but not commemorated there). Photos of graves and memorial names by self **highlighted**. Those who died in the Arctic convoys **highlighted**.

Boy WILLIAM G.M. BAKER	RN, HMS <i>Royal Oak</i> , 14 th October 1939, age 17, Stromness. Panel 34, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire	Scapa Flow, by U-47
Seaman ALEXANDER BARNETT	MN, SS <i>Ratray Head</i> , 5 th April 1941, age 34, Walls. Section G, Grave 23, Craill Cemetery, Fife	8 miles ENE of Aberdeen, by bomb in air attack
Seaman NORMAN D. BRUCE	RNR, HM Trawler <i>Kingston Cornellion</i> , 5 th January 1940, age 23, Burray. Panel 2, Lowestoft Naval Memorial, Suffolk	Mediterranean, collision with liner <i>Chella</i>
R/Officer JOHN A.P. CAMPBELL	MN, SS <i>Cape Corso</i>, 2nd May 1942, age 22, Kirkwall. Panel 23, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Arctic in convoy PQ-15, by torpedo from Heinkel He-111 bomber
Ldg. Steward JAMES CHALMERS	RNPS, HM Trawler <i>Gairsay</i> , 3 rd August 1944, age 27, Stronsay. Grave III.B.3, La Delivrande War Cemetery , Douvres, Calvados, France	Off Normandy, by human torpedo
Seaman JAMES S. CHALMERS	RN, HMS <i>Calcutta</i> , 1 st June 1941, age 18, Stromness. Panel 50, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire	Eastern Mediterranean, by Junkers-88 bombers
Sailor WILLIAM R. COGHILL	MN, SS <i>Minorca</i> , 26 th February 1941, age 26, Stenness. Grave 12, Row 18B, Stenness Parish Churchyard , Orkney	North Sea, off Norfolk, by E-boat torpedo
Stoker JOHN L. DELDAY	RN, HMS <i>Courageous</i> , 17 th September 1939, age 43, Birsay. Panel 34, Plymouth Naval Memorial , Devon	Western Approaches, by U-29
2/Officer ALISTER S ^T C. DUNCAN	MN, SS <i>Anglo Saxon</i> , 21 st August 1940, age 28, Burray. Panel 8, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Atlantic, by gunfire from <i>Widder</i> (Raider D)
A.B. JOHN R. D. FIRTH	MN, MV <i>San Victorio</i> , 17 th May 1942, age 29, Kirkwall. Panel 92, Tower Hill Memorial , London	SW of Grenada, by U-155
Petty Officer JAMES S.M. FLETT	RN, SS <i>Baltonia</i> , 7 th February 1943, age 23, Flotta & Kirkwall. Panel 74, Chatham Naval Memorial , Kent	Mediterranean, convoy MKS-7, by mine laid by U-118
Seaman JOHN FOULIS	MN, SS <i>Diplomat</i> , 27 th November 1940, age 19, Westray. Panel 35, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Atlantic, straggler from convoy HX-88, by U-104
Master ROBERT GRAY	MN, SS <i>Earl Thorfinn</i> , 2 nd December 1942, age 50, Westray. Pierowall Old Churchyard, Westray, Orkney	Natural causes, at home
Captain HENRY GROAT	MN, April 1941, age 56, Papa Westray. Liverpool ?	Heart failure, during air raid on Liverpool docks
Seaman STEWART GROAT	MN, SS <i>Empire Might</i> , 28 th October 1943, age 26, Papa Westray. St. Boniface Churchyard, Papa Westray, Orkney	Of injuries, from accidental fall on board
Seaman JOHN M. GUNN	RNR, HMS <i>Cape Howe</i> , 21 st June 1940, age 20, South Ronaldsay. Panel 44, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire	SW Approaches, by U-28
A.B. GILLIES HARCUS	RN, HMS <i>Afridi</i> , 3 rd May 1940, age 19, Eday. Panel 38, Portsmouth Naval Memorial , Hampshire	After left Namsos, Norway, by Junkers-87 bombers
Seaman ROBERT R. HARCUS	RN, HMS <i>Mahratta</i>, 25th February 1944, age 19, Kirkwall. Panel 88, Plymouth Naval Memorial , Devon	Arctic, Barents Sea while escort to convoy JW-57, by U-990
Seaman MAGNUS HENDERSON	MN, SS <i>Empire Statesman</i> , 5 th December 1940, age 34, South Ronaldsay. Panel 45, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Atlantic, convoy SLS-56 straggler, by U-94
Master JOHN M. HEWISON	MN, 19 th February 1940, age 60, Westray. Pierowall Old Churchyard, Westray, Orkney	Natural causes, at home
2nd Engineer DANIEL HORNE	MN, SS <i>Fort Chilcotin</i> , 24 th July 1943, age 29, Stronsay. Panel 50, Tower Hill Memorial , London	South Atlantic, dispersed from convoy JT-2, by U-172
Bosun HUGH HUGHSON, B.E.M.	MN, SS <i>Cape Corso</i>, 2nd May 1942, age 23, Eday. Panel 23, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Arctic, in convoy PQ15, by torpedo from Heinkel He-111 bomber
Marine NORMAN ISBISTER	RM Engineers, HMS <i>Proserpine</i> , 8 th July 1944, age 21, Kirkwall. Grave 319, Finstown Old Cemetery , Orkney	Of injuries, from road accident in Longhope.

Carpenter JOHN W. JOHNSTON MN, SS *Larpool*, 2nd November 1941, age 21, Holm. [Panel 64, Tower Hill Memorial](#), London Atlantic, convoy ON-27 straggler, by U-208

Engineer FRANCIS D. JOHNSTON RN, HMS *Trinidad*, 14th May 1942, age 25, Harray. [Panel 68, Plymouth Naval Memorial](#), Devon Arctic, north of North Cape, by Junkers-88 bombers

Seaman JERRY W. KELDAY RNR, HMS *Curacoa*, 2nd October 1942, age 29, Kirkwall. [Panel 65, Chatham Naval Memorial](#), Kent NW Approaches, collision with liner *Queen Mary*

Steward DAVID KING MN, HMS *Forfar*, 2nd December 1940, age 29, Sanday. [Panel 12, Liverpool Naval Memorial](#) Atlantic, by U-99

Seaman HARRY KIRKPATRICK RNR, HMS *Patroclus*, 3rd November 1940, Walls. [Grave 1, Achill \(Holy Trinity\) Churchyard, Ireland](#) Off Northern Ireland, "Bloody Foreland", by U-99

A.B. THOMAS KIRKPATRICK RN, HMS *Pomona*, 7th January 1944, age 30, Walls. [Osmondwall Cemetery, Hoy](#), Orkney Asthma and cardiac failure, at home

A.B. JAMES LINKLATER MN, tug *Imperious*, 14th December 1939, age 61, Kirkwall. [Grave 20, Plot 9, St. Olaf's Cemetery, Kirkwall, Orkney](#) Drowning accident, near Scapa Pier

L.A.M. JAMES S. MAINLAND RN, HMS *Dasher*, 27th March 1943, age 24, Egilsay & Rousay. [Bay 4, Panel 4, Lee-on-Solent Memorial](#), Hampshire In the Clyde, internal explosions (fuel)

Private DUNCAN G. MANSON RAOC, SS *Benalbanach*, 7th January 1943, age 39, Firth. [Panel 19, Brookwood Memorial](#), Surrey Mediterranean, in convoy KMS-6, by He-111 bombers

Stoker JAMES MOAR RN, HMS *Royal Oak*, 14th October 1939, age 19, Birsay. [Panel 35, Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#), Hampshire Scapa Flow, by U-47

Seaman GEORGE S. MORRIS RNPS, HM Drifter *British Crown*, 10th November 1941, age 29, Kirkwall. [Grave 9, Plot 16, St. Olaf's Cemetery, Kirkwall](#), Orkney Drowning accident, in Kirkwall

Leading Seaman WILLIAM MILLS RN, HMS *Kipling*, 3rd February 1942, age 27, Burray. [Grave 1.B.6, Alexandria \(Hadra\) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt](#) Brain haemorrhage, on hospital ship, *Maine*

Seaman WILLIAM MUIR RN, HMS *Charybdis*, 23rd October 1943, age 19, Stromness. [Panel 80, Plymouth Naval Memorial](#), Devon Bay of Biscay, by T23 and T27 torpedo boats

Master JAMES G. NORQUAY MN, SS *St. Catherine*, 14th November 1940, age 55, (Flotta). [Panel 90, Tower Hill Memorial](#), London North Sea, near Aberdeen, by air attack

D/Hand ALEX^R. DUNCAN PARK MN, SS *Briarbank*, 27th November 1944, age 31, Burray. [Burray Cemetery, Orkney ?](#) Drowning accident, in Lyness

Seaman JAMES W. PARK RNR, HMS *Cape Howe*, 21st June 1940, age 25, Burray & Stromness. [Panel 44, Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#), Hampshire SW Approaches, by U-28

C.P.O. GEORGE REID RN, HMS *Dainty*, 24th February 1941, Westray. [Panel 46, Chatham Naval Memorial](#), Kent Mediterranean, in Tobruk Harbour, by air attack

Ldg/Stoker GEORGE ROBERTSON RN, HMS *Courageous*, 17th September 1939, age 32, Kirkwall. [Panel 34, Plymouth Naval Memorial](#), Devon Western Approaches, by U-29

Seaman WILLIAM B. ROSIE MN, SS *Radhurst*, 21st February 1943, age 36, South Ronaldsay. [Panel 86, Tower Hill Memorial](#), London Atlantic, convoy ONS-165 straggler, by U-525

2nd Officer WILLIAM S. ROSIE MN, SS *Waziristan*, 2nd January 1942, age 21, South Ronaldsay. [Panel 117, Tower Hill Memorial, London](#) Arctic, near Bear Island, convoy PQ-7A straggler, by U-134

L/Seaman JAMES RUSSELL RN, HMS *Baranca*, 25th April 1940, age 22, South Ronaldsay. [Panel 38, Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#), Hampshire Drowning accident, in Scapa Flow

Shipwright GEORGE SHEARER RN, HMLST 420, 7th November 1944, age 23, Eday. [Panel 90, Plymouth Naval Memorial](#), Devon North Sea, off Ostend, by mine

E.A.1 WILLIAM SHEPHERD RNVR, HMS *Dunedin*, 24th November 1941, age 36, (Stromness). [Panel 61, Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#), Hampshire South Atlantic, by U-124

Seaman J. ALEX SINCLAIR Canadian MN, SS *Bic Island*, 29th October 1942, age 35, Walls. [Panel 22, Halifax Memorial, Nova Scotia, Canada](#) Atlantic, convoy HX-212 straggler, by U-224

Seaman JAMES W. SINCLAIR RNR, HMS *Avenger*, 15th November 1942, age 24, Kirkwall. [Panel 65, Chatham Naval Memorial](#), Kent Atlantic, escort to convoy MKF-1X, by U-155

Seaman WALTER SINCLAIR MN, SS *Daxhound*, 11th October 1941, age 43, South Ronaldsay. [Grave 120, Torshavn Cemetery, Faroe Islands](#) Skala Fjord, Faroe Islands, by air attack

Lieutenant ALLEN KENT SMITH	FAA, RNR, HMS <i>Dasher</i> , 15 th November 1942, age 27, Stronsay. Atlantic, escort Bay 3, Panel 7, Lee-on-Solent Memorial , Hampshire (HMS <i>Avenger</i>) convoy MKF-1X, by U-155	
Riggers Mate JOHN SMITH	RN, 6 th November 1944, age 44, Stromness. Stromness Cemetery, Orkney ?	Kidney failure, at Melsetter, Hoy
3rd Officer JOHN SUTHERLAND	Australian MN, SS <i>Iron Crown</i> , 4 th June 1942, age 26, Stromness. Panel 8, Sydney Memorial, Australia	Pacific, SE of Cape Howe, by I-27
Seaman JOHN SUTHERLAND	RNR, HMS <i>Cormorant</i> , 4 th October 1939, Orphir. Grave E.50.23, Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire	Drowning accident, in Southampton
Deck Hand JAMES SWANNEY	Steam Trawler <i>Compaganus</i> , 17 th December 1939, age 53, Westray. Panel 124, Tower Hill Memorial , London	North Sea, by air attack
Mate WILLIAM A SWANSON	MN, SS <i>Tinhow</i> , 11 th May 1943, age 36, Stromness. Panel 108, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Indian, Mozambique Channel, by U-181
Seaman GEORGE TAYLOR	MN, 9 th January 1941, age 53, Stronsay. Stronsay Parish Churchyard, Orkney	Brain haemorrhage, Mackay's Camp, Lyness
Capt. ANDREW THOMSON	MN, SS <i>Benavon</i> , 11 th September 1940, age 43, South Ronaldsay. Panel 16, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Indian, by German raider <i>Penguin</i>
Lieut. KATHLEEN H. WALKER	QAIMNS, SS <i>Khedive Ismail</i> , 12 th February 1944, age 24, Westray. Panel 22, Brookwood Memorial , Surrey	Indian, near Maldives, by I-27
3 rd Engineer JOHN WILSON	MN, SS <i>Tacoma Star</i> , 1 st February 1942, age 35, Firth. Panel 105, Tower Hill Memorial , London	Atlantic, by U-109

The above list of 59 Orcadians who died in the War at Sea, 1939–1945, includes 28 Royal Navy sailors and airmen, 27 sailors of the Merchant Navy (one Australian and one Canadian) and 2 of its passengers, a single fisherman and a marine who died ashore. The 57 who are listed on Orkney war memorials (three on two of them) make up almost half (45%) of the total of 127 Second World War names recorded, indicating the importance of the continuous and costly struggle to keep open the sea lanes of the world for Allied ships. Although five Orcadian sailors died by accidental drowning, many more died from the effects of the most deadly weapon employed at sea by the Germans and Japanese during World War 2: the torpedo, launched by submarines and dropped from planes.