



Appendix D: Islay Remembers ... 2018

By Marilyn Gahm of Spooner, Wisconsin, privileged to attend the May 2018 commemoration events

Index at end of document – Text intended to supplement “The Sinking of the *Tuscania*” book

Today there are daily reminders to the people on Islay, one of the Inner Hebrides islands on the west coast of Scotland, of the 1918 losses of life on two World War I troopships, the SS *Tuscania* and HMS *Otranto*, carrying U.S. soldiers to the conflict in Europe.

Across the beautiful sea loch Loch Indaal, looking east from the town of Port Charlotte, appears the American Monument, erected by the American Red Cross to commemorate both ships, standing high on the Mull of Oa above its 400- to 600-foot cliffs on which the *Tuscania*'s lifeboats crash-landed.

Above Kilnaughton Bay, just west of Port Ellen on Islay's south coast, the Kilnaughton Military Cemetery holds the grave of *Tuscania* casualty Roy Muncaster, the only American soldier still buried on Islay, and four identified and other unidentified casualties of the *Tuscania*.

On the cliffs above the visitors to beautiful Machir Bay on Islay's west coast is situated Kilchoman Military Cemetery, in which lie *Otranto* crewmen and its captain, Ernest G.W. Davidson, as well as one *Tuscania* crew member, telegraphist John Jenkins.

In 2018, the people of Islay paid extra attention to these monuments of war. The islanders, who had showed care and concern for both the living and the dead who came to their shores in 1918, now one hundred years later commemorated the losses of American servicemen and British crewmen aboard the two ships.

The people of Islay also remembered the losses of their own sons, husbands, brothers and relatives in the Great War. More than one out of every five men the island sent to war did not return. About 225 of its 1,000 soldiers died; many of their bodies were never returned to their home island so their loved ones could grieve at their burial places.

The WW100 Islay committee, chaired by Jenni Minto of the Museum of Islay Life, planned and coordinated these events. (*website: ww100islay.com*) The events were part of the WW100 Scotland observance of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I (*website: ww100scotland.com*). Of the 700,000 Scots who served in the war, more than 100,000 gave their lives.

Professor Norman Drummond served as chairman of the Scottish Commemorations Panel, which oversaw the WW100 commemorations on behalf of the government of Scotland.

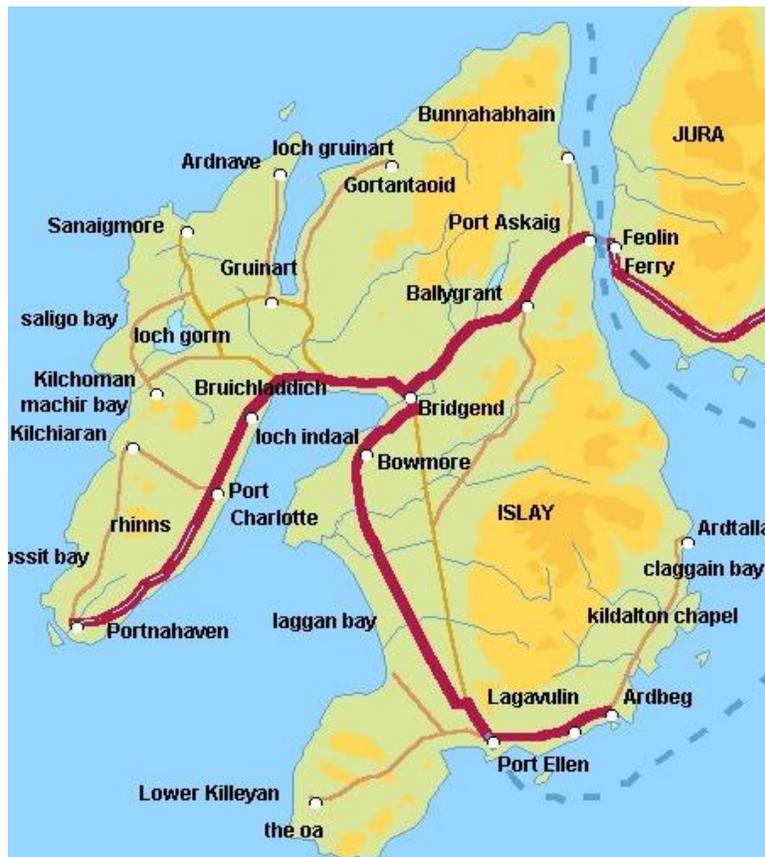
WW100 SCOTLAND

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ALL THIS?

Although Americans usually refer to the First World War as World War I [with a Roman numeral], the use of World War 1 [Arabic numeral] is more common in the United Kingdom. The "1" was cleverly turned into "100" for the centennial commemoration.

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Islay and Jura - From www.islayinfo.com

Tuscania's 100th anniversary – February 5, 2018:



The Reverend Valerie Watson at the American Monument, 5 February 2018

On Monday, February 5, 2018, an 11 a.m. service was held at the American Monument, on the Mull of Oa (pronounced “oh”). At the service was the replica 1918 flag, with its 48 stars representing the 48 states of the United States in 1918. The replica flag was sewn by the Islay Quilters, beginning in 2017 and completed in 2018. It is a copy of the flag sewn through the night by women of Islay in February 1918, when residents realized there was no American flag available for the first burials of the *Tuscania* victims.

Also present was the Union Jack flag, carried by serving members of the Islay Coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).



Wreaths were placed in memory of the American soldiers and British crew on *Tuscania*, and to honor the families in the U.S. and on Islay who lost loved ones during the Great War. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the Coastguards and the RNLI also laid wreaths.



This service was followed by a commemoration service held at Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, on the south coast of Islay, at 12:30 p.m. The Primary Gaelic Choir began the service by singing “An Eala Bhàn” (“The White Swan”), composed during the Great War’s Battle of the Somme by Dòmhnall Ruadh Chorùna. The service was attended by about 100 people.



Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, May 2018, grave of U.S. soldier Roy Muncaster – photograph by Marilyn Gahm



Islay bagpiper Isobel Ferguson, at the grave of Roy Muncaster, Kilnaughton Military Cemetery

<https://ww100islay.com/2018/01/31/centennial-anniversary-at-the-oa-monument/>

Bagpiper Isobel Ferguson played a lament. Scott McDermott followed the period of silence with reveille. Lewis Davy gave a reading in Gaelic.



photograph from WW100 Scotland



Steven Haag of Ohio, at the grave of U.S. soldier Ray Muncaster, the only American soldier left buried on Islay, Kilnaughton Military Cemetery -photograph from WW100 Scotland



Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, with Port Ellen in the background, 5 February 2018



From Commonwealth War Graves Commission - <http://blog.cwgc.org/blog/the-tragedies-that-rocked-islay>

The poem “The Watcher (American Monument, Islay)” by American poet Ryan Van Winkle, a resident of Edinburgh, Scotland, was read.



Ryan Van Winkle (from www.ryanvanwinkle.com)

Poem used with permission of Ryan Van Winkle; further use requires his permission.

The Watcher (American Monument, Islay) [as read on Islay]

By Ryan Van Winkle

*I am on a cliff
watching the sea roll into the rocks, the shore,
churning white foam and all that shipyard black
far below. I could be any where
water meets land. But I am here,*

*watching silhouettes and shadows roil
towards sharp rocks. If I kicked a stone,
it would fall, it would sink, disappear
like a black kite, flown in the middle
of a moonless night. Bodies*

*face down in the sand. Night, day, then night
over & over again. I hold the high ground,
no longer count the corpses piling up stiff,
a horizontal terracotta army. The dangers
of water and war, rock by rock,*

*build a sad, stoic cairn. Limbs crack,
arms and legs discover whole new geometries,
unfathomed angles. Clothes tear, exposing
a chest too cold to touch and smooth
as a varnished hull. Another doll-like body*

*of a boy, carried to a new land. Like a cliff,
I remain, unmoved two thousand years old and water*

*water everywhere. Green water, brackish water,
stone water, starlit water, the north star guiding
some souls home, some souls on course*

*heading away. I want to come down.
Attend to the meaty things broken
on the beach, stacked up. I want to bake
scones all night and use up all the flour
in the village. From this cliff*

*I shall kiss every shore
touched by loss. When the moon is high,
when new rocks get kicked hard, when
it is night again and those heavy terrors
begin to drop.*

The Watcher (American Monument, Islay) as will be published

*He is on a cliff watching the sea roll into rocks,
churning white foam and all that shipyard black
far below. If he is not a tragedy, what is he for?
He could be any where water meets land.
But he is here*

*watching silhouettes and shadows roil
towards sharp rocks. If he kicked a stone,
it would fall, it would sink, disappear
like a black kite, flown in the middle
of a moonless night. Bodies*

*face down in the sand. Night, day, then night
over & over again. He holds the high ground,
no longer counts the corpses piling up stiff,
a horizontal terracotta army. The dangers
of water and war, rock by rock,*

*build a sad, stoic cairn. Limbs crack,
arms and legs discover whole new geometries,
unfathomed angles. Clothes tear, exposing
a chest too cold to touch and smooth
as a varnished hull. Another doll-like body*

*of a boy, carried to a new land. Like a cliff,
he remains, unmoved, two thousand years old and water*

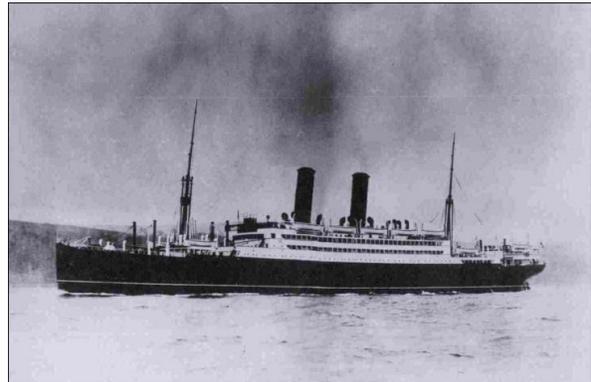
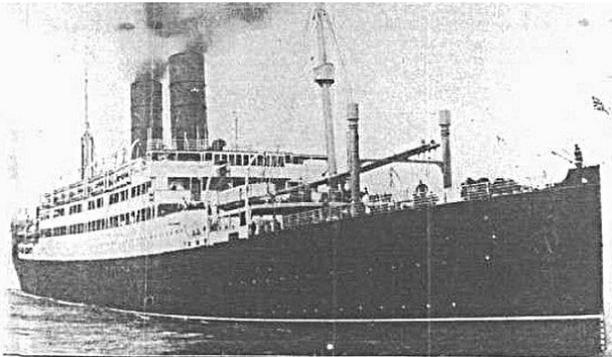
*water everywhere. Green water, brackish water,
stone water, starlit water, the north star guiding
some souls home, some souls on course*

*heading away. He wants to come down,
attend to the meaty things broken
on the beach, stacked up. He wants to bake
scones all night and use up
all the flour in the village. From his cliff*

*he dreams he could kiss every shore
touched by loss when the moon is high,
when new rocks get kicked hard, when
it is night again and those heavy terrors
begin to drop.*

The services were conducted by Islay's two ministers, the Reverend Valerie Watson and the Reverend Jim McNulty.

The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), which operates a sanctuary and trails on the Mull, also improved its interpretation panels around the American Monument, by adding more information about the loss of the two troopships and some personal stories from Islay people and American servicemen. New boardwalks were added in advance of the 2018 events.



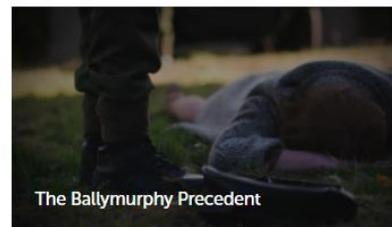
SS Tuscania

The Documentaries

The one-hour documentary “Call air Cladach Ìle/The Loss on Islay’s Shore” was produced for BBC Alba (a digital channel) by Caledonia TV. It aired on BBC Alba on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at 9 p.m., and was presented again on Friday, May 4, 2018, at 9 p.m. The program was narrated in Gaelic by Iain Mac ‘Ille Mhìcheil. Some of the interviewees spoke Gaelic, some English. English subtitles were provided for Gaelic selections. The program closed with a portion of the lament “Cumha an Otranto (In Memory of the Otranto Disaster)” composed by Islay bard Charles MacNiven, and sung in Gaelic by Libby Morris. In 2019, the documentary was nominated as the Scottish candidate for the Celtic Media Awards in the “history” category. The awards were presented in June 2019 at the Celtic Media Festival (Fèis nam Meadhanan Ceilteach) (June 4-6) at Aviemore, Scotland. (<http://www.celticmediafestival.co.uk>). The category’s winner was “The Ballymurphy Precedent.”

The nominees were:

HISTORY



The documentary is described as:

Call air Cladach Ìle

The unknown story of how nearly 700 men died when World War 1 crashed onto to the coast of the inner Hebridean island of Islay. In February, 1918, the troopship *Tuscania* was torpedoed by a German U-boat. More than 200 American soldiers and British crew died as lifeboats were dashed against Islay's cliffs. Eight months later, HMS *Otranto* collided with another ship in its convoy in a terrible storm, killing nearly 500 men. Just 19 reached Islay's shore alive.

Note: HMS "Otranto" collided with HMS "Kashmir."

The program included drone photography of Islay, filmed in September 2017 by Perfect View Productions Ltd./Kirk Watson Films.

Muncaster Mountain in Olympic National Park in Washington state, United States of America, was also featured in the documentary. This mountain is named for Roy Muncaster, the only American soldier casualty who is still buried on Islay.

A summary of the program (photographs) can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p065fb9g/p065dyh6>. The video is available at: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6iyzve>

A 26-minute program, entitled "Islay: For Those in Peril," narrated by Islay native Glenn Campbell, produced by BBC Scotland, is an English-language production. It was produced and directed by Craig Williams. The program can be viewed at: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6knmtz>

The hour-program "Call air Cladach Ìle" featured:

- Historian Tom MacAilpein
- Author Stuart Graham
- James McFarlane, Port Ellen fisherman and preserver of Islay lore
- Hugh Smith
- Historian Niall Bartlett
- Journalist Andreas Wolff
- Christy Simpson of the U.S., granddaughter of *Tuscania* survivor Thomas Conway
- Islay Lifeboat mechanic David McArthur and coxswain David MacLellan (who has earned the RNLI medal for gallantry)
- Marion Warnock, niece of Duncan Campbell, Mull resident who rescued victims of the *Tuscania*
- Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, former secretary-general of NATO and former British cabinet member

- Bella Cameron, niece of *Tuscania* crewman Donald John Morrison, who was from South Uist
- Islay Quilters Marian Senior and Myra Prentice, who helped sew the replica flag
- Mark Jabbusch of the U.S., grandson of *Otranto* survivor David Rhys Roberts
- Ms. Chris Johnson-Howland of the U.S., grand-niece of *Otranto* casualty Jonas Ossian Johnson
- Nick Hide, grandson of *Otranto's* captain, Ernest G.W. Davidson, son of Jean Davidson Hide
- Eric Smith, a Northern Lighthouse Board skipper
- Calum Anderson, Portnahaven, Islay, native and resident, formerly fleet commander of the China Navigation Company
- Marian Roberts-Jabbusch of the U.S., daughter of *Otranto* survivor David Roberts
- Morvern McPhee, great-granddaughter of Donald McPhee, who rescued *Otranto* survivors from the surf on Machir Bay
- Etta Shaw, great-niece of Islay bard Charles MacNiven, author of the “Cumha an *Otranto*” lament

Please note the following corrections/additions when watching this documentary: The *Tuscania* did sail several passenger voyages between its launching in 1915 and its requisitioning as a troopship in 1916. The United States did not have a national anthem in 1918; the “Star-Spangled Banner” was not so designated until 1931. The two McPhee brothers – Donald and James – who rescued survivors were teenagers; the man who is 68 years old would be Duncan McPhee, the father of Donald and James.

The shorter “Islay: For Those in Peril” film featured:

- Islay resident Les Wilson, author of the 2018 book, *The Drowned and the Saved*
- Royal Navy Lieutenant Sam Velickovic, commander of HMS *Tracker*
- Bob Siplon of the U.S., youngest son of *Tuscania* survivor Arthur Siplon
- Alistair Carmichael, farmer on the Oa, Islay, who knew Robert Morrison, *Tuscania* rescuer
- Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen
- James McFarlane
- Jennifer Jones, of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- Jenni Minto, of the Museum of Islay Life
- Chuck Freedman of the U.S., grandson of *Otranto* survivor Sam Levy
- Donald-James McPhee, descendent of the McPhee family who rescued *Otranto* survivors
- Susan Watson, of the American Red Cross
- Joni Thompson of Screven County, Georgia, U.S.A., part of the *Otranto* Memorial Appeal which constructed a memorial in 2017 in Sylvania, Screven County, Georgia
- Rose Thomison of Georgia, U.S.A., great-niece of *Otranto* survivor Donald Cooper, who, when he died at age 103, was the last survivor of *Otranto*. An African-American (Black)

contingent sailed aboard the *Otranto*; Cooper was a Black American serviceman who died June 14, 2001.

Please note when watching this documentary: The *Tuscania* turned into the North Channel on February 5, 1918, instead of on February 6. There were about 60 men aboard Arthur Siplon's lifeboat, instead of the two passengers implied. It was likely Duncan Campbell who rescued Arthur Siplon, instead of Robert Morrison.



Christy Simpson, granddaughter of Tuscania survivor Thomas Conway, interviewed in "Call air Cladach ìle"



Depiction by Renée Graef of Arthur Siplon and his lifeboat companions leaving the sinking *Tuscania* – designed for the Tuscania Memorial, Baraboo, Wisconsin

The Flags – 1918, 2018

On February 8, 1918, the day before the first burial of American casualties of the *Tuscania* at Port Charlotte, the residents of Islay realized there was no American flag on the island. Finding an image of the Stars & Stripes in the Laird of Islay's encyclopedia, the estate's joiner (finish carpenter in "American speak") John MacDougall drew up a plan, and four women at Islay House began to hand-sew a flag that measured 37 by 67 inches around 4 p.m. The women were Mary Armour, Mary Cunningham, Jessie McLellan and Catherine McGregor. At 2 a.m. on the 9th, the flag was completed and it was used at all American burials on Islay.

The flag had been made of fabric available at the store in Bridgend, Islay. The stripes and 48 stars were made of white cotton calico. The red stripes were of Turkey twill. The blue fabric was figured on one side, so that side was turned inside out so plain blue would appear on the surface of the flag. Alaska and Hawaii were not yet states, so the flag bore only 48 stars.

The flag was then presented to Mr. Frank America of the Associated Press in London, the first reporter who arrived after the *Tuscania* sinking, who gave it to his boss Frank E. Melville in New York City, who in turn presented it to U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. President Wilson donated this special flag to the Smithsonian Institution.

In 2017, the women of the Islay Quilters began sewing a reproduction (replica) flag, completed January 20, 2018, to be used for the 100th anniversary commemorations.

The people of Islay had petitioned the Smithsonian Institution two years earlier to see if it would loan the original 1918 flag to be housed in the Museum of Islay Life during the commemorations. Permission was granted, and the framed flag was accompanied to Islay by Jennifer Locke Jones, chair and curator, Division of Armed Forces History, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History, and Richard Kurin, Distinguished Scholar & Ambassador at Large at the Smithsonian. Additional time for the display on Islay was added to the original request, so the flag was to remain on display until the year 2020. The flag's visit to Islay has now been **extended into 2021**.

Richard Kurin said, "We are prouder still that the flag now returns home to be exhibited on Islay where it can invoke in the current generation an appreciation of how their forebears so respected those brothers in battle who'd washed up upon their shores.

"It's a flag that exemplifies the long-standing bonds between the people of the United States and those of Scotland and the United Kingdom."



Jenni Minto (Museum of Islay Life, left) and Jennifer Locke Jones (Smithsonian Institution, right) in front of the 1918 flag sewn by Islay women, plus the bell from the wreck of the Tuscania. Jenni is the wife of Islay author/filmmaker Les Wilson. (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 3 May 2018)



Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, holding the notebook of his grandfather Malcolm MacNeill, Islay policeman, describing the victims of Otranto, in front of the 1918 flag and the Tuscania bell (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 3 May 2018)



Marian Senior of the Islay Quilters, and the group's 2018 replica flag, in the Museum of Islay Life (3 May 2018, photograph by Marilyn Gahm)



Jenni Minto of the Museum of Islay Life (left); David Mundell (member of Parliament and Secretary of State for Scotland, center); and U.S. Ambassador to the UK (right) Robert (Woody) Johnson - in front of the 1918 flag on loan from the Smithsonian, 4 May 2018



Museum of Islay Life, from its website: <https://www.islaymuseum.org/>



Jenni Minto (left) of the Museum of Islay Life, and Rhona McKenzie, who sewed one of the state flags, at the home of the Islay Quilters in Islay House Square (photograph by, and courtesy of, Les Wilson)



Islay Quilters shop, in Islay House Square, with the replica 2018 flag and U.S. state flags they sewed on display (photograph by Marilyn Gahm 8 May 2018)

Katharine Lee Bates, author of “America the Beautiful,” wrote these words about the 1918 flag, and the Islay women who sewed it, in her poem “The Dead of the Tuscania”:

 Their country blessed all who did them honour
 The fishermen who sought those broken bodies
Among the rocks, the grief-wise Scottish women,
 Who all night long before the burial labored,
 Stitching with mother-tears a Starry Banner
 That so their flag might wave above them,
 Lying at their supreme salute of loyal dying



Myra Prentice, sewer of the Wisconsin flag (left) and Katie Watt (right), sewer of the Minnesota flag, at the home of the Islay Quilters (photographs by Marilyn Gahm, 8 May 2018)

The *Reader's Digest* featured an article, “12 Surprising Places You’ll Find the American Flag,” by Suzanne Rowan Kelleher. Besides noting places like the moon and the South Pole, the presence of the Smithsonian flag on “A Wee Scottish Isle” was noted.

<https://www.rd.com/culture/surprising-places-american-flag/>



The WW100 Islay Tweed

The WW100 Islay tweed was woven by the Islay Woollen Mill on Islay. The tweed combines the colors of

- green, for the isle of Islay
- blue, for the sea that surrounds it
- red, for the poppies of World War I
- gold, for Gold Star mothers.

The tweed was available for sale made into neck scarves and hats. Sashes of it were worn by volunteers assisting at the May 4 commemoration. A scarf is available for sale on the mill's website: <https://www.islaywoollenmill.co.uk/shop/scarves/wool-scarves/>

The sales tag on the plaid reads:

Commemorating and celebrating the actions of Islay men and women who rose to the challenges of World War 1 with dignity, honour and compassion.

And remembering those American servicemen and crews from the troopships SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto, whose lives were lost in the seas around Islay.



Islay Woollen Mill Co. Ltd. - Photographs by Marilyn Gahm

The Book

Award-winning author and filmmaker Les Wilson, a resident of Islay, released his book *The Drowned and the Saved: When War Came to the Hebrides*, in January 2018.

Published by Birlinn Ltd. of Edinburgh, Scotland, the 225-page paperback features a foreword by Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen.

The book discusses the SS *Tuscania* and HMS *Otranto*, their sinkings, and the dead and alive - the drowned and the saved - who came to Islay in 1918.

Lord Robertson completes his foreword with these words:

So many lives lost. So many lives saved. So many survivors looked for. A community rising to the tragic occasion, everyone pulling together to counter what fate had thrown at them. In many ways this is the story of a special island and its strong, resilient, resourceful people. Out of tragedy came inspiration, and out of misery and death came kindness, generosity and enduring humanity.

A century has passed but the memories live on.

The book launch was held in the Tasting Room of the Bowmore Distillery, in Bowmore on Islay, on Monday, January 26, 2018, at 6 p.m.

The book is available at Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle ereader versions.

In December 2018, *The Drowned and the Saved* was the recipient of the prestigious Saltire Society award for the best history book published in Scotland in 2018.

JOIN US FOR THE LAUNCH OF

THE DROWNED AND THE SAVED

MONDAY 29TH JANUARY, 6PM
LES WILSON in conversation with
SCOTT McCALLUM

The Tasting Room | Bowmore Distillery
School Street | Bowmore | PA43 7JS

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Souvenirs from Islay

Wreath-Laying – May 2, 2018



<http://ww100scotland.com/news/british-american-french-and-german-navies-pay-their-respects-on-islay/>

Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, aboard HMS Raider

On May 2, 2018, the American, British, French and German navies paid their respects at sea off the coast of Islay, to commemorate the approximately 700 U.S. servicemen and British crew members who lost their lives in the sinkings of the SS *Tuscania* (February 1918) and HMS *Otranto* (October 1918).

A ceremony was conducted onboard the Royal Navy patrol boat HMS *Raider* by the Reverend Doctor Karen Campbell, national chairman of the Royal British Legion Scotland, on the site of the sinking of *Tuscania*. In attendance were Royal Navy Captain Chris Smith and Legion Scotland's chairman Charlie Brown and its chief executive officer, Kevin Gray.

A wreath was laid upon the waters by Islay native son, Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, whose grandfather Malcolm MacNeill was the police sergeant on Islay when both ships sunk. MacNeill had meticulously cataloged the dead bodies to identify them. Lord Robertson reminded those aboard: "Although a century has passed, we will not forget."



USS Ross, near the site of the Tuscania sinking

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/uk-news/2018/05/04/in-pictures-moving-tribute-to-ww1-soldiers-lost-at-sea-off-islay/>

HMS *Raider* was joined by Royal Navy warship HMS *Montrose*, the USS *Ross* of the U.S. Navy, FS *Andromede* from France and FGS *Lübeck*, from Germany. The American, British and French ships were offshore during the American Monument rededication 8 a.m. service on Friday, May 4, having recently completed an offshore NATO exercise.



<http://ww100scotland.com/news/nations-gather-on-islay-to-remember-ww1-losses/>





Left to right: Nick Hide, Lynne Vandertie, John Roberts, Morvern McPhee and Mark Jabbusch, direct descendants of Otranto crewmen, survivors and rescuers, walk along the Machir Bay beach where casualties washed up.

U.S. resident John Roberts, 88 years old, is the son of David Roberts, a 17-year-old American soldier aboard the *Otranto*, and Mark Jabbusch is David's grandson. David was rescued from the surf by the McPhee brothers – Donald and James. Donald, the rescuer, age 18, only a bit older than the soldier in the water, extended a shepherd's crook into the surf while his younger brother James (age 17) held onto his brother Donald's belt to hold him secure. The McPhees went into the sea seven times, each time rescuing an American soldier, at the risk of their own lives. There were only 21 survivors from *Otranto* who came ashore, and two died soon after being rescued. On Islay in May 2018, John Roberts met Morvern McPhee, the great-granddaughter of his grandfather's rescuer, Donald McPhee.

Nick Hide's grandfather, Captain Ernest George William Davidson, was the captain of the *Otranto*. Captain Davidson is buried at Kilchoman Military Cemetery, on the heights above Machir Bay.



Grave of Otranto captain Ernest George William Davidson, in Kilchoman Cemetery - photograph by Marilyn Gahm, May 2018



<https://www.submerged.co.uk/capt-ernest-george-william-davidson-otranto/>



Nick Hide places a cross on his grandfather Captain Davidson's grave

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/inverness-highlands-islands/memorial-held-on-islay-for-us-soldiers-lost-in-sinkings-1-4734667>

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/islands/1468183/us-soldiers-relatives-meet-descendant-of-islay-man-who-saved-him-in-1918/>

<http://www.timesandstar.co.uk/news/national/article/In-Pictures-Moving-tribute-to-WW1-soldiers-lost-at-sea-off-Islay-ac4cf65d-286f-456d-b328-78c16839ce74-ds>

Numerous photographs of the World War I events on Islay available at:

https://www.google.com/search?q=islav+may+images+world+war&tbn=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjOn66G7aPcAhVJG6wKHRTKCSsQsAQIKA&biw=1384&bih=786#imgarc=iOOw_3rtlyvU2M:

Rear Admiral John Weale OBE, Royal Navy, said:

“It is a great honour to be here as Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland representing the Royal Navy in this, the WW1 100 year. We are gathered on Islay to commemorate all those who lost their lives defending the ideals that have stood the test of time. To remember, not only those who lost their lives but also to remember those lives saved on this island due to the heroic actions of service personnel and Islanders. The shared sacrifices and commitments made by both the UK and US Armed Forces are particularly evident here as we commemorate the heroic actions of HMS MOUNSEY.”

U.S. General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USEUCOM Commander, commented:

“During the centennial of U.S. entry into World War I, we commemorate America’s sons and daughters who defended peace—many of them descendants of European immigrants who came to America seeking freedom, opportunity and a better life. Today, the European and western ideals they fought and died for are being challenged in a new way.

Although attrition warfare has been replaced by terrorism, state-sponsored aggression and malign influence, what hasn’t changed is our commitment to strengthening trusted relationships, forging new ones and continuing to develop the capabilities required to meet these emerging challenges. U.S. European Command stands together with our NATO Allies and partners to ensure a Europe that is whole, free prosperous and at peace.”

Telling the Story of Islay's War and Concert – May 3, 2018



The Islay Community Pipe Band, in the Round Church balcony (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)

The commemorative program in Bowmore (Bow-MORE) was to have been held outdoors at the town square, but was moved inside to the Kilarrow Round Church due to inclement weather. The Round Church, built in 1767, has no corners the devil can hide in! The bodies of two of *Tuscania's* casualties who had washed ashore had been carried here in February 1918. The program was entitled "Telling the Story of Islay's War," written by Les Wilson and Stuart Graham. It was narrated by Iain Gibson and included readings by Lewis Davy, Isobel Ferguson, Islay high school senior Ryan Johnston and Emma McHarrie. Some of these readings were from 1918 newspapers.

Bagpipe performances were provided by the Islay Community Pipe Band, led by Neil MacTaggart. Alison Gray conducted the Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Bhagha Mòr choir. Arlene McKerrell conducted the Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle and the Coisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle. The choirs sang in Gaelic. The choir members ranged from adults to grade-school students.

Museum of Islay Life director Jenni Minto, who chaired the WW100 Islay committee, also spoke.



*Jenni Minto at the Round Church
(photograph by Marilyn Gahm)*

Attendees were given a 53-page illustrated booklet, *Overnight:*

When the War Came to Islay, written by Stuart Delves. This is available online at:
<http://ww100.publishingthefuture.info/islay/50/>



Islay author/filmmaker Les Wilson, co-author of the evening's program

The program concluded with the singing of the song, *Westering Home*. Several versions of its lyrics, sung by various people and groups, can be found on the Internet. This song was written by Hugh S. Robertson in the 1920s.

The lyrics sung that night:

Westering Home

*Westering home and a song in the air,
Light in the eye and its goodbye to care,
Laughter o' love and a welcoming there
Isle of my heart, my own land.*

*Tell me a tale of the Orient gay,
Tell me of riches that come from Cathay,
Ah, but it's grand to be waken at day*

And find oneself nearer to Islay.

*And it's westering home with a song in the air,
Light of me eye and it's goodbye to care,
Laughter and love are a welcoming there
Pride of my heart, my own love.*

*Where are the folks like the folks of the west,
Canty and couthy and kindly, our best,
There I would hie me and there I would rest
At home with my own folks in Islay.*

*And it's westering home with a song in the air,
Light of me eye and it's goodbye to care,
Laughter and love are a welcoming there
Pride of my heart, my own love.*

*Now I'm at home and at home I do lay
Dreaming of riches that come from Cathay,*

*I'll hop a good ship and be on my way
And bring back my fortune to Islay.*

*And it's westering home with a song in the air,
Light of me eye and it's goodbye to care,
Laughter and love are a welcoming there
Pride of my heart, my own love.*



Tell me o' lands o' the o- ri- ent gay, Sing me o' ri- ches and joys o' Ca- thay;



Man! but it's grand to a- wa- ken each day, And find your- self nea- rer to Is- la, For we're



wes- ter- ing home with a song in the air, Light in me heart and it's good- bye to care;



Laugh- ter o' love and a wel- co- ming there, Isle o' my heart, my own land.

<https://www.8notes.com/scores/6860.asp>



After the program, the attendees head from the Round Church down the street to the village hall for the musical performances. (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)

At the village hall, the program at 8 p.m. was chaired by Islay native Glenn Campbell of the BBC, who had recently discovered that one of the Islay heroes of the *Tuscania* disaster, Duncan Campbell, was his great-grandfather's brother. Duncan was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) for his actions.

Two laments were sung in Gaelic by Libby Morris a cappella, followed by two Gaelic laments, also a cappella, by Alasdair Currie (winner of the gold medal in Royal National Mòd competition 2017). Fiddler Archie McAllister had the crowd stamping its feet, followed with a concert by the combination American/U.K. bluegrass band, *The Coal Porters*, based in London.

(<https://ww100islay.com/2018/04/13/live-music-the-coal-porters/>)

Thursday 3rd May at 8.00pm, Bowmore village Hall

On the eve of the International Service of Remembrance the world's first "alt-bluegrass" act, The Coal Porters, will be performing in Bowmore Village Hall. Having played to numerous



audiences around the world, The Coal Porters are five musicians from the U.S. and U.K. who bring old themes and melodies into the 21st century.

The evening will be chaired by Glenn Campbell of the BBC and will also feature Archie McAllister on fiddle and Islay songs from Libby Morris and Mod Gold Medallist Alasdair Currie.

Tickets: £12 (includes an interval refreshment)

Tickets can be purchased on the door or in advance from The Celtic Shop, Bowmore, and Lauries of Islay, Port Ellen.

The concert is organised by Islay Arts Association with support from Lagavulin Legacy Fund and Mactaggart Third Fund.

THE COAL PORTERS

UK/US BLUEGRASS COMBO

ALSO FEATURING

ARCHIE MCALLISTER ON FIDDLE

ISLAY SONGS FROM LIBBY MORRIS AND
ALASDAIR CURRIE, MOD GOLD MEDALLIST

CHAired BY GLENN CAMPBELL, BBC

THURSDAY 3RD MAY, 8PM

BOWMORE VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS: £12

ON THE DOOR

OR IN ADVANCE FROM THE CELTIC SHOP, BOWMORE
AND LAURIES OF ISLAY, PORT ELLEN



ORGANISED BY ISLAY ARTS ASSOCIATION WITH SUPPORT FROM
LAGAVULIN LEGACY FUND AND MACRAGART THIRD FUND



The Coal Porters feature Kerenza Peacock (fine fiddle and vocals); Paul Fitzgerald (banjo and vocals); Sid Griffin (mandolin, harmonica, autoharp and vocals); Andrew Stafford (bass) and Neil Robert Herd (guitar and vocals). <http://www.sidgriffin.com/thecoalporters/epk/>



WW100 Scotland National Day of Remembrance - May 4, 2018

The re-dedication service of the American Monument at the Mull of Oa began the day of remembrance.



On the way to the American Monument, Mull of Oa (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 4 May 2018)

The attendees gathered at the car park (“parking lot” to Americans) on the southern end of the Oa at 7:15 a.m., and began their uphill trek – through sheep and cow pasture, some boggy ground, on boardwalks and through three

“kissing gates” - to the site of the American Monument, standing 65 high above the 429-foot cliff upon which the *Tuscania*’s lifeboats had come crashing ashore.



Warship off the American Monument 4 May 2018 (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)



Homage shown to the Stars & Stripes (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)



photograph by Marilyn Gahm



Reverend Karen Campbell, standard bearers, Scottish, British and American officials



Captain Mark Rudesill, Naval Attaché, U.S. Navy

Attendees included Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL) standard bearers and the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, of Campbeltown. The service was led by Royal British Legion Scotland's national padre Reverend Karen Campbell.

Reverend Campbell's address [no longer available online], was found at <https://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-oban-times/20180510/281530816658474>, from "The Oban Times"):

On behalf of WW100 may I welcome you to this poignant memorial to all those whose lives were lost in the sinkings of the Otranto and Tuscania.

In the pitch dark of night, from these hills and this land, from croft and farm, from police station and distillery, Islay people heard the call to serve and to save.

They delivered the soldiers and sailors from the tumultuous waves; they brought dignity to the dead; sustenance, shelter, food, clothing and care to the living; they made a record of the people; they did what was right.

And from the sea came those, whose service was yet to begin, or whose service was complete in their drowning, as they gave of their best and their all in the war to end all wars.

Together Islay people, who had waved their own sons away, brought succour to their mother's sons and forged a bond over the oceans never to be forgotten with the families of those who were on the Otranto and the Tuscania.

Yesterday, Lord Robertson, the grandson of George [sic/Malcolm] MacNeill, the Islay police officer in charge that night, laid a wreath at the site of the sinking of the Tuscania.

And together, we remember the events; all those who lost their lives, as well as the survivors: and all those who cared for them in the aftermath of tragedy.

We re-dedicate this war memorial; a sentinel over the headland, as a reminder, of what was and is a part of the story of Islay and America.

The service included prayers, the reciting of the Ode of Remembrance, and Islay bagpiper Neil MacTaggart circling the monument twice, once playing the hymn "Amazing Grace" and once the traditional Scottish lament, "Flowers o' the Forest."



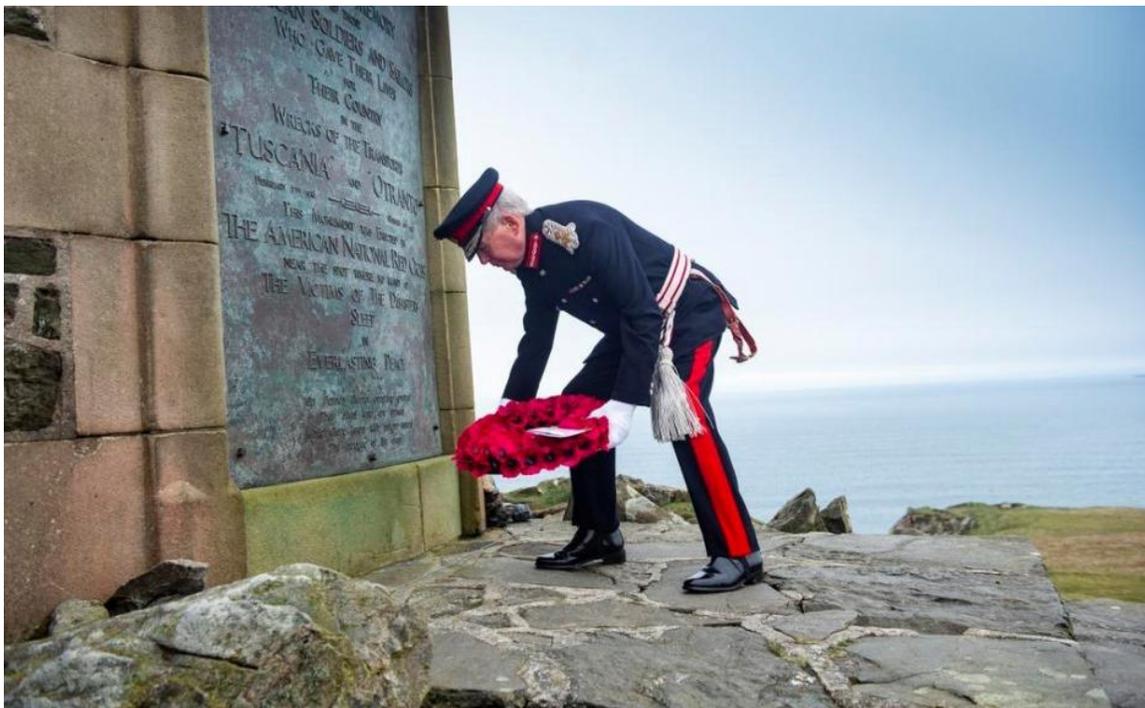
Islay bagpiper Neil MacTaggart backed by the warships of the British, French and U.S. navies



Photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 4 May 2018



Bagpiper Neil MacTaggart - Photograph by Marilyn Gahm



Patrick Stewart, Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute



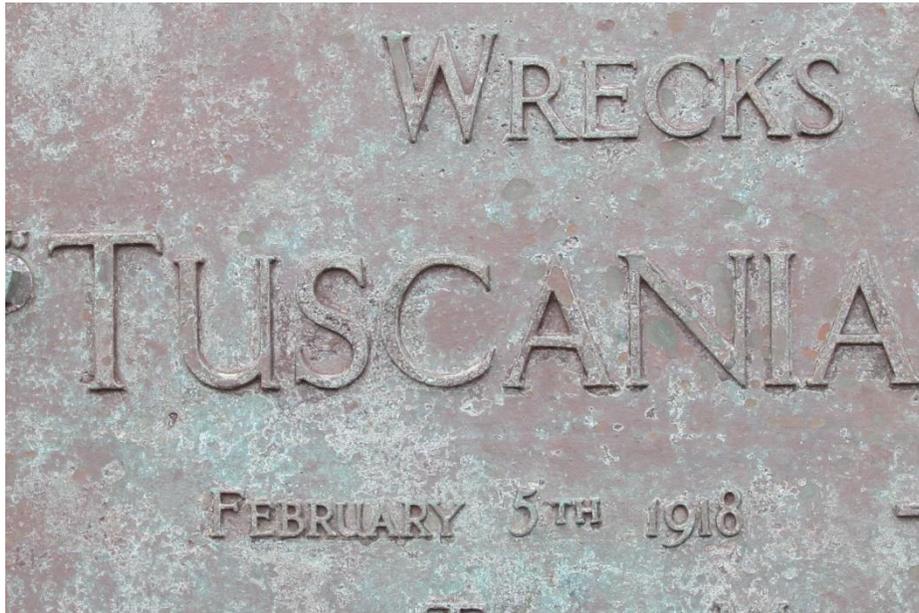
The Reverend Karen Campbell and Patrick Stewart, Lord Lieutenant of Argyll & Bute
<https://www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/2018/05/05/princess-anne-commemorates-world-war-one-islay-sinkings/>



U.S. Naval Attaché Captain Mark Rudesill with Rev. Karen Campbell at far left - Photograph by Marilyn Gahm



“On behalf of a grateful nation, we remember. Defense Attaché Office, United States of America” - photograph by Marilyn Gahm, who suggested to the planning committee that the Great Seal of the United States be the image used in the poppy wreath



From the plaque on the American Monument, 4 May 2018, photograph by Marilyn Gahm



The crowd disperses - photograph by Jane Barlow
(<https://www.aol.co.uk/news/2018/05/04/islay-ceremony-remembers-hundreds-killed-in-first-world-war-ship/>)



From the American Monument (looking west toward Ireland) - the shore where some of the *Tuscania* lifeboats landed (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 6 May 2018)



One of the "kissing gates" on the path to the American Monument. A barrier to livestock, but not people. The swingable gate "kisses" the sides and does not require a lock. (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 6 May 2018)

At Port Ellen, invited dignitaries were seated outdoors facing the Port Ellen War Memorial, the statue of a kilted World War I soldier atop plaques engraved with the names of Islay's dead. About 1,000 people attended the event.

The Islay Bagpipe Band, which is sponsored by the Kilchoman Distillery, marched down the street, followed by the school children of Islay, headed by Marian Senior bearing the replica 48-star U.S. flag. Marian Senior and the children lined up alongside the side of the street, awaiting the arrival of the Princess Royal, Anne.





<https://www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/2018/05/08/island-pupils-joined-salute-to-first-world-war-heroes/>



Marion Senior holding the 1918 U.S. replica flag and the school children with state flags



U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom Robert (Woody) Johnson reviews the 41 state flags held by Islay school children

From Ambassador Robert Johnson's farewell statement as he departed the ambassadorship to the U.K. – 15 January 2021

<http://www.pairclondon.net/archive/index.php/2021/01/15/ambassador-johnsons-farewell-statement/>

It has been a tremendous privilege to discover that shared history over the past four years. I've celebrated some great moments which helped forge our Special Relationship. I visited Plymouth to see the site where the Mayflower Pilgrims left on their great voyage to America four centuries before. I travelled up to Islay in the Hebrides of Scotland, to pay my respects at the graves of the brave Americans who lost their lives there during the First World War in 1918. And I heard the most amazing stories about the millions of American servicemen and women who were stationed in Britain during the Second World War.

WW100 Commemorative Edition

Heach



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Islay pays its respects



Islay Piper, Neil MacTaggart playing at the American Monument on the Oa with naval warships and Islay Lifeboat in the waters below.
Photo: Ben Shakespeare



Islay schoolchildren displaying American State flags made by members of Islay Quilters Photo: Island Light



The Princess Royal laying a wreath at Port Ellen War Memorial.
Photo: Warren Media

Those waiting in Port Ellen could see Princess Anne's helicopter fly by over Port Ellen. She then arrived at the site by car.



Princess Anne's car at Port Ellen (and Scottish palm tree) with Islay Quilters Marian Senior in sunglasses behind the car – photograph by Marilyn Gahm

The *Commemoration of the Loss of SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto* began at noon. The remembrance was moderated by the Right Reverend Dr. Derek Browning, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and featured the Reverend Valerie Watson, minister of north and west Islay.

Besides the Princess Royal (Princess Anne) and her husband Vice-Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, attendees included the U.S. ambassador to the UK, Robert (Woody) Johnson; the acting ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany, Tania Freiin von UslarGleiche; and the Consul General of France, Emmanuel Tocher.

Other guests included David Mundell, Secretary of State for Scotland; Argyll and Bute MSP (member of the Scottish Parliament) and Brexit Minister Michael Russell; Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute Patrick Stewart; and U.S. Navy Attaché Mark Rudesill.

U.S. ambassador Johnson said the event's organizers had "carried out the arrangements with the dedication and skill which was shown by past islanders in their treatment of my people who lost their lives on these shores.

"I will make sure that the American people will learn about and remember the outstanding part played in those awesome tragedies by a selfless people on this small island."



Port Ellen War Memorial, with Frederick Crescent (Port Ellen street) along the bay – Princess Anne in front row, left section

Program:

- Reading from Deuteronomy 4:9 (“Take care: keep careful watch on yourselves so that you do not forget the things that you have seen with your own eyes; do not let them pass from your minds as long as you live, but teach them to your children, and to your children’s children.”)
- “The Welcome” (tune of “Glasgow,” which ends with the words “No longer hosts encountering hosts / Shall crowds of slain deplore: / They hang the trumpet in the hall / And study war no more.”)
- Commemoration by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, member of the Scottish Parliament (“Let us all together be mindful of the loss of so many young Americans on the Tuscania and the Otranto and the merchant seamen who died with them ... Let us all together be mindful of the people of this Island who saved the lives of those who could be saved, and recovered as many as possible from the sea ... Let us all together be mindful of the men of Islay and Jura who went to war and never returned ... ”)
- Opening Prayer
- “Lament for the Brave” (“Tuireadh Nan Treun”), written by Islay bard Duncan Johnston), sung in Gaelic (*Gal-lic*, “gal” rhymes with “pal”) by the Islay Gaelic Choir [words below]. Duncan Johnston served in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders during the war, until gassed in 1916.
- Psalm 21 (“The Lord is My Shepherd”) read by Ryan Johnston of Islay High School, then sung by all to the tune “Crimond”
- “Fair Sheena” (“Sine Bhàn”) by Duncan Johnston, sung by Alasdair Currie, Royal National MÓd Gold Medal Winner 2017 (in Gaelic) [words below]
- Islay Reflections, by Dr. Angus MacTaggart (Islay physician)
- Reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew (25: 31-40), read by Malcolm MacNeill, great-grandson of Islay police sergeant Malcolm MacNeill, who cataloged the bodies of the dead from *Tuscania* and *Otranto*
- The Act of Remembrance (*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them* - also recited at the Mull rededication ceremony of the American Monument earlier that day)
- The Last Post (four trumpets, signifying sunset, commonly played at Commonwealth commemorations and military funerals)
- “The Flowers o’ the Forest” (centuries-old bagpipe lament, written to commemorate the Scottish loss to the English at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, played by bagpiper James MacEachern)
- The Silence
- Reveille (trumpets, signifying sunrise, used at Commonwealth commemorations and military funerals)
- Laying of the Wreaths
- The Islay Centenary Prayer (composed by the Right Reverend Dr. Derek Browning, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, which included the

petition: “Loving God, at this time on this island, We remember help and kindness offered a century ago. Lord, do not forget us, we pray.”)

- The Lord’s Prayer
- “Amazing Grace” (sung by all, credited to an “American folk hymn melody)
- Benediction



Sir Timothy Laurence, Princess Anne, Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart of Argyll and Bute



*Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence -
Princess Anne - Lord Lieutenant of Argyll
& Bute Patrick Stewart*

<https://www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/2018/06/27/councils-formal-tribute-to-islays-ww100-group/>



<https://www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/2018/05/09/islay-remembered-first-world-war-tragedies/>







Laying of wreaths by U.S. Ambassador Robert Johnson and Cabinet Minister for Culture, Tourism and Special Affairs Fiona Hyslop

A select group of about 100 people were invited to attend a reception to meet Princess Anne at Ramsay Hall in Port Ellen. The attendees grouped themselves into various “horseshoes” (U-shaped circles), each under the direction of a guide. The princess, followed by her husband Sir Timothy Laurence and U.S. ambassador to the U.K. Robert (Woody) Johnson, shook hands and spoke with each attendee.



https://www.google.com/search?q=tuscania+1918+images&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiLr_v9zp_cAhUFHqwkHTiKBXcQsAQIKA&biw=1299&bih=779#imgrc=qseGKRC04BbdTM:

Tuireadh nan Treun

Lament for the Brave

By Duncan Johnston

Verse 1:

Am feasda bidh m'íargainn gam lìonadh le bròn,
Forever my lamentation will fill me with sorrow,
 'S mi caoidh is ag iarraidh le iartasan mòr.

As I weep and pine with great desire.

Na fleasgaich òg, fhiachail a shìneadh fon fhòid,
The young gallant heroes stretched out under the turf,
 'S nach till rinn gu siorraidh a dh'innseadh dhuinn sgeòil.

And who will never return to tell us their tales.

Verse 2:

Bu ghaisgeil a sheas iad sa chaonnag gun stàth,
How heroic they stood in that futile struggle,

Gun strìochdadh, gun ghèilleadh, fir threun nam beann àrd
Without yielding, without submitting, brave men from the high bens
Luchd breacan an fhèilidh ron teicheadh gach nàmh,
Those who wore the belted plaid (and) from whom all enemies
would flee,

`N àm tarruing nan geurlann cò sheasadh nan dàil.

When the sharp swords were unsheathed who would stand against them?

Verse 3:

Tillidh sruth air a' charraig `s seòl-mar' air a' chaol,

The stream will return to the rock and the tide return to the strait,

Tillidh luibhean an Earraich is barrach nan craobh;

The wild flowers of the spring will return and the top branches of the trees;

Thig cuthag don doire le caithream a gaoil,

The cuckoo will come back to the grove with its joyful anthem of love,

Ach na fiùrain òg fhearail am fearann cha taobh.

But the young manly heroes will not come near their land.

Verse 4:

O Thì anns na h-Àrdaibh! O Thusa don lèir!

Oh Thou in the Highest! Oh You Who sees all!

Bi maille rin càirdean gan stiùireadh `s gach ceum,

Be with their relatives guiding them at every step,

Thoir furtachd dam muinntir gu mùirneach `s gu sèimh,

Give comfort to those so tender and mild,

Mar dhriùchda a' tùirlinn air Sùirneig nan geug.

As the dew falls on the leaves of Surnaig.

A verse from "Fair Sheena" ("Sine Bhàn"), by Duncan Johnston

Parting time is drawing nigh,
Flags are waving at masthead,
Darling child, O do not sigh!
Do not cry, my lovely maid!
It isn't war or cannon's roar
Unmans me now and makes me mourn,
My heart is left on yonder shore,
My lonesome lass; my sweet, forlorn.



Two weeks later – Port Ellen War Memorial - 16 May 2018, photograph by M.J. Richardson – copyrighted, see site for details on use - <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/5783124>

The monument includes the Gaelic words: *Mairidh an ainm gu siorruidh – Your name will last forever*. It is a monument to the dead from Kildalton and Oa parish. There are 78 names from World War I, eleven military and two civilians killed in World War II, one in 20th-century wars, and one from the troubles in Northern Ireland 1969-1998. The granite monument was dedicated on May 21, 1922. It depicts a kilted Highlander soldier, wearing a bonnet and carrying a backpack and canteen. His head is bowed, and his hands rest on the butt of his rifle, whose barrel stands on the ground.



Princess Anne at Ramsey Hall – in the background, the 48-star replica flag



*Princess Anne, with Lord George Robertson to her right, Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen
Photographs courtesy of Ben Shakespeare*



On stage at Ramsay Hall were 1,010 clay figures, one for each Islay casualty during World War I – 230 from Islay and the neighboring island of Jura, 230 from the Tuscania and 550 from the Otranto. (Museum of Islay Life Facebook blog)



Royal Scottish Marines “beating retreat” on the streets of Port Ellen - Photograph by Marilyn Gahm

The event in Port Ellen ended with a performance by the Royal Scottish Marines band on the street. This military ceremony is called “beating retreat” and has been conducted in England since the 16th century.

Photographs of Islay commemorative events are available from Ben Shakespeare Photography – Islay – www.benshakespeare.com – under the subheading “WW100.” [These are no longer available online as of 2023.]

Events of May 4 can be viewed in a video produced by Ron of the Islay Info website at: <https://ww100islay.com/ww-100-news/>

After the events at Port Ellen, Princess Anne and her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, who serves as the vice-chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, visited the two military cemeteries on Islay – Kilchoman (west coast) and Kilnaughton (west of Port Ellen, on the Mull) - and laid poppy wreaths at both. (Kilchoman is pronounced *kil-HOME-un*.) They also visited the American Monument, surprising some tourists when their helicopter landed!



Sir Timothy Laurence at Kilchoman Military Cemetery, above Machir Bay, 4 May 2018



Wreath laid by Sir Timothy Laurence at Kilchoman Military Cemetery, overlooking Machir Bay (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 5 May 2018)



Wreath laid by Sir Timothy Laurence at Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, west of Port Ellen, at the grave of an unidentified Tuscania crewman (photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 6 May 2018)



From left: Sir Timothy Laurence; Princess Anne; Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen; Mary Ann Stewart (wife of Patrick Stewart, Lord Lieutenant of Argyll & Bute; at Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, 4 May 2018

Sources:

<http://ww100scotland.com/news/nations-gather-on-islay-to-remember-ww1-losses/>

<https://www.royal.uk/princess-royal-attends-ww100-scotland-national-day-remembrance-service>

<https://www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/2018/05/05/princess-anne-commemorates-world-war-one-islay-sinkings/>

<https://www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/2018/05/08/island-pupils-joined-salute-to-first-world-war-heroes/>

The Trees – First World War Centenary Wood



Tree seedlings in protective plastic shields - Photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 3 May 2018

In 2017, on Remembrance Day (November 11), over 100 volunteers planted a Centenary Wood on the grounds of the Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay. This event, organized by the WW100 Islay group, was assisted by Woodland Trust Scotland. Over 2,000 native trees were planted here, with another 2,000 saplings held in reserve at the Bridgend Community Garden for a future planting. The Bruichladdich Distillery furnished food and beverages to the tree planters. (Bruichladdich is pronounced *brook-lah-dee*.)



entrance to Bruichladdich Distillery, with the body of water known as Loch Indaal across the road – photograph by Marilyn Gahm



The plaque reads: This wood was created as part of the Centenary Woods project to commemorate all those involved in the First World War. *Photograph by Ian Baird,* <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2017/11/islay-s-first-world-war-centenary-wood/>

In March 2018, on a cold day, 40 volunteers planted another 2,000 trees including willow, rowan, alder and birch through the Woodland Trust's Croft Woodlands project. The trees were planted on the 18,500-acre Dunlossit Estate in the northeast part of Islay.



March planter – from <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/04/islay-royal-visit/>



Before she left Islay, Princess Anne, patron of the First World War Centenary Woods project, planted a tree on the Dunlossit Estate.

Left: From the Campbell Courier:

https://www.google.com/search?q=dunlossit+estate+islay+anne&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiAx_SJjprcAhUJPK0KHd7oAoMQsAQINQ&biw=1291&bih=779#imgrc=wIHW1UPwPbJpFM:

At Islay House, the Community Garden featured a raised bed, planted with the state flowers of the U.S. casualties of *Tuscania* and *Otranto*.

Victoria Cross Centenary Commemoration – August 24, 2018



The villages of Portnahaven (right) and Port Wemyss (left) – photograph by Marilyn Gahm, 3 May 2018

On Friday, August 24, 2018, a ceremony was held at the fishing village of Portnahaven, Islay, from 11 a.m. to noon, the birthplace of Victoria Cross recipient David Lowe MacIntyre.

The event honored the 100th anniversary of the events in which 23-year-old Lieutenant (later

Captain) David Lowe MacIntyre merited the Victoria Cross at Henin and Fontaine-les-Croisilles, near Arras, France. Lieutenant MacIntyre, who had joined the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders while at Edinburgh University, had been assigned to the 1/6 Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (HLI). He was cited for his heroism on August 24, 1918, and August 27, 1918.

MacIntyre received his Victoria Cross from King George V at Buckingham Palace, London, on December 13, 1918.

The August 2018 ceremony was attended by MacIntyre's 92-year-old daughter, three of his grandchildren and their families. The simple ceremony was conducted by Lord-Lieutenant Patrick Stewart of Argyll & Bute, who summarized the heroic events that led to the awarding of the Victoria Cross. Stewart was chairman of the Argyll & Bute World War I steering group. David's grandson, also named David, read a personal tribute. The event had a high attendance.

Also in attendance were some old and young soldiers from the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and the Highland Light Infantry, the units in which MacIntyre had served. After the ceremony, a tea party was held in the Portnahaven village hall, with songs by four members of the Gaelic Choir.

The ceremony was organized by Jenni Minto of the Steering Group and the Museum of Islay Life.

David Lowe MacIntyre was born in Portnahaven on June 18, 1895. He was the second son of United Free Church of Scotland minister Archibald MacIntyre and his wife Elizabeth. MacIntyre died July 31, 1967, in Edinburgh. Following the war, he joined the British civil service, ultimately becoming the undersecretary of Scotland in the Ministry of Works.

MacIntyre also received the Companion of the Order of the Bath (Civil Division); the British War Medal (1914-20); the Victory Medal (1914-19); the King George VI Coronation Medal (1937); and the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal (1953). His Victoria Cross and other medals are on display at the Scottish National War Museum at Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, Scotland.



David Lowe MacIntyre, 1895-1967

His Victoria Cross is at the far left of the display, found at <http://www.vconline.org.uk/david-l->

War Office,
26th October, 1918.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer, Non-commissioned Officers and Man:—

T./Lt. David Lowe MacIntyre, Arg. & Suth'd Highrs.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack when, acting as Adjutant of his battalion, he was constantly in evidence in the firing line, and by his coolness under most heavy shell and machine-gun fire inspired the confidence of all ranks.

Three days later he was in command of the firing line during an attack, and showed throughout most courageous and skilful leading in face of heavy machine-gun fire. When barbed wire was encountered, he personally reconnoitred it before leading his men forward. On one occasion, when extra strong entanglements were reached, he organised and took forward a party of men, and under heavy machine-gun fire supervised the making of gaps.

Later, when the greater part of our line was definitely held up, Lt. MacIntyre rallied a small party, pushed forward through the enemy barrage in pursuit of an enemy machine-gun detachment, and ran them to earth in a "pill-box" a short distance ahead, killing three and capturing an officer, ten other ranks and five machine guns. In this redoubt he and his party raided three "pill-boxes" and disposed of the occupants, thus enabling the battalion to capture the redoubt.

When the battalion was ordered to take up a defensive position, Lt. MacIntyre, after he had been relieved of command of the firing line, reconnoitred the right flank which was exposed. When doing this an enemy machine gun opened fire close to him. Without any hesitation he rushed it single-handed, put the team to flight and brought in the gun. On returning to the redoubt he continued to show splendid spirit while supervising consolidation.

The success of the advance was largely due to Lt. MacIntyre's fine leadership and initiative, and his gallantry and leading was an inspiring example to all.

From the *London Gazette*, 25 October 1918



Islay WW100 Trail

Over 30 locations on Islay and six on Jura, Islay's neighboring island, are included in the WW100 Trail. These locations and buildings on the two islands played a role in events connected to World War I. Each site was to be marked by a bronze plaque, emphasizing the theme of "Remembrance and Reconciliation."

The trail was launched November 4, 2018, at the WW100 Islay tree-planting at the Bruichladdich Distillery. Plans called for an accompanying guidebook, with work by Islay school children, which was to be available on the Museum of Islay website (www.islaymuseum.org). The trail's development was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and has not been completed according to the original schedule.

On Islay, the following sites are marked as part of the historical trail:

On the Oa:

- The American Monument, on the Mull of Oa, built by the American Red Cross in 1920 in memory of those who died on *Tuscania* and *Otranto*.
- Port nan Gallan, the bay near the American Monument, on the Mull of Oa, where *Tuscania* lifeboats came ashore and where the dead lay at Killeyan Cemetery until exhumed.
- Upper Killeyan Farm, the home of *Tuscania* rescuer/hero Robert Morrison, O.B.E., on the Oa.
- Stremnishmor, the home of *Tuscania* rescuer/hero Duncan Campbell, O.B.E., on the Oa.
- Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, where lies the only American soldier left buried on Islay, Roy Muncaster, and crew casualties, both identified and those "known unto God," of the *Tuscania*.

Trail On The Oa:



Left: American Monument – Right: Port nan Gallan, where many of the lifeboats landed
(photographs by Marilyn Gahm)



Left: Morrison house – Right: Campbell house –
photos by Les Wilson



Kilnaughton Military Cemetery (photo by Marilyn Gahm)

At Port Ellen:

- Port Ellen War Memorial, a statue of a Highlander soldier, with plaques of the names of the dead, at the pier [see list of names below].
- The Drill Hall at Port Ellen, currently the Cyber Café, which served as the temporary morgue for *Tuscania* casualties.
- The house of Miss Jetty Shanks at 85 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, where she and her sister Belle Shanks sheltered seven *Tuscania* survivors.
- Other houses in Port Ellen which sheltered *Tuscania* survivors. If homeowners request a plaque, one will be placed on the house. One of the sheltering homes is the current Trout Fly Bed & Breakfast, at 8 Charlotte Street. In 1918, this was the residence and shop of Mrs. MacGibbon who cared for her motherless granddaughters, Anna and Mary. Islay girl Isabella Macgilvary sang to soldiers who stayed here. There was a story that Anna MacGibbon had gone to the U.S. and married one of these survivors. This was confirmed by California newspapers and marriage records. The "Hanford Sentinel" newspaper of Hanford, California, 6 September 1922, page 5, noted that 30-year-old Stanley Pemberton Brady of Coalinga, California, and Annie Macgibbon, age 18, of Port Ellen, Scotland, had applied for a marriage license. The couple had married on 5 September 1922 in Hanford, Kings County, California. By the 1930 U.S. census, Sidney lists himself as "single" – and Annie's trail has gone cold. While the local school housed four American soldiers, all the houses at the Port Ellen Distillery housed two apiece.
- The White Hart Hotel, Port Ellen, which served as an emergency hospital and sheltered *Tuscania* survivors.

1914 - 1918.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders : Lieutenant A. MacKinnon, Company Quarter Master Sergeant, J. McNab, Cpl J. Hunter, L/Cpl N. Graham, L/Cpl W. Whyte, Private D. Whyte, Private J. MacCallum, Private A. MacLachlan, Private H. MacArthur, Private D. Anderson, Private D. MacDougall, Private P. Brown, Private O. Quintin, Private G. Qunitin, Private A. Torrie, Private J. MacDougall, Private N. Fraser, Private J. C. Ferguson, Private J. Campbell, Private A. Smith, Private J. Grant, Private J. MacIntyre, Private C. MacEachern, Private J. White, Private R. Black, Private J. MacLellan, Private N. Kennedy, Private D. MacTaggart, Private R. MacPhail, Private M. MacDougall, Private A. Heads, Private D. MacKerrell,

'Mairidh an ainm cu siorruidh'

Gordon Highlanders : R.S.M N McPhail, Private R. Johnston, Private H. MacDougall, Private J. Donald, Private A. Currie, Private D. MacDougall, Private H. MacTaggart.

Highland Light Infantry : Captain N Leitch, Private D. Sinclair, Private N. MacDonald, Private D. MacArthur, Private J. Hutchinson.

Cameron Highlanders : Lieutenant M. McIntyre, Private D. Johnston, Piper C. McCalman.

Merchant Service : Chief Officer A. MacMillan, Chief Officer D. Gilchrist.

M.C. Corps : Private D. MacKay, Private D. McMillan.

King's Own Scottish Borderers : R. MacArthur,

Australian Imperial : J McKerrell.

Canadian Infantry : Corpl D. MacMillan.

Canadian Highlanders : D. Bell.

Port Ellen War Memorial plaque (partial list) - see also list on page 78 -
<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~steve/islay/ptellen.htm>

Trail at Port Ellen:



Left: Port Ellen War Memorial during 4 May 1918 commemoration – Right: Drill Hall (1918 morgue)

Photographs by Marilyn Gahm



Left: Frederick Crescent, morning of 4 May 2018, preparations for royal visit (photograph by Marilyn Gahm) – Right: Trout Fly B&B



White Hart Hotel

From the Port Ellen War Memorial plaques:

To the glory of God
and in memory of
the men of this parish
who made the supreme sacrifice
in the Great War
1914 – 1918

**Argyll & Sutherland
Highlanders**

Lieut. A. MacKinnon
C.Q.M.S. J. MacNab
Cpl. J. Hunter
L/Cpl. N.
L/Cpl. W. Whyte
Pte. D. Whyte
Pte. J. MacCallum
Pte. A. MacLachlan
Pte. H. MacArthur
Pte. D. Anderson
Pte. D. MacDougall
Pte. P. Brown
Pte. D. Quintin
Pte. G. Quintin
Pte. A. Torrie
Pte. J. MacDougall
Pte. N. Fraser
Pte. J.G. Ferguson
Pte. J. Campbell
Pte. A. Smith
Pte. J. Grant
Pte. J. MacIntyre
Pte. C. MacEachern
Pte. J. White
Pte. R. Black
Pte. J. MacLellan
Pte. N. Kennedy
Pte. D. MacTaggart
Pte. R. MacPhail

Gordon Highlanders

R.S.M. N. MacPhail
Pte. R. Johnston
Pte. H. MacDougall
Pte. J. Donald
Pte. A. Currie
Pte. D. MacDougall
Pte. H. MacTaggart

Highland Light Infantry

Capt. N. Leitch
Pte. D. Sinclair
Pte. N. MacDonald
Pte. D. MacArthur
Pte. J. Hutchinson

Cameron Highlanders

Lieut. M. McIntyre
Pte. D. Johnston
Piper. G. McCalman

Merchant Service

Chief Officer A. MacMillan
Chief Officer O. Gilchrist

Machine Gun Corps

Pte. D. MacKay
Pte. D. McMillan

**King's own Scottish
Borderers**

Royal Naval Reserve

Q.M. J. MacGibbon
Q.M. H. MacAllister
Seaman R. Paul
Seaman J. Burns
Seaman A. MacFarlane
Seaman D. MacFarlane
Seaman J. MacGibbon
Seaman A. Johnston
Seaman D. MacArthur
Seaman D. MacMillan
Seaman A. McInnes

Royal Marines

Seaman D. Campbell

Royal Engineers

Sgt. P. McNeill
Pte. J. MacMillan

Royal Field Artillery

Sgt. J. MacIntyre
Gunner. A. MacDougall

Royal Garrison Artillery

Gunner. A. MacCalman

R. E. West Africans

Lieut. M. McGilvray

Seaforth Highlanders

Pte. M. MacDougall
Pte. A. Heads
Pte. D. MacKerrell

Pte. R. MacArthur.
Australian Imperial Force
Pte. J. McKerrell

Canadian Infantry
Corpl. D. MacMillan

Canadian Highlanders
Corpl. D. Bell

L. Col D. MacDougall
Pte. A. McLellan
Pte. J. Morrison

Scots Guards
Pte. N. Cameron

Scottish Rifles
Pte. J. MacDougall

"MAIRIDH AN AINM GU SIORRUIDH"

Trail on the Rhinns of Islay:

- The pier at Port Charlotte, where bodies of *Tuscania* casualties were laid on the pier. The current pier is on the same location as the one in 1918. About 10 survivors landed in a boat; bodies numbering more than twice as many were laid out on the pier.
- Distillery buildings The Lochindaal Distillery at Port Charlotte (closed in 1929) was used as a temporary morgue for 47 bodies.
- The Port Charlotte Hotel, at Port Charlotte, which housed survivors of the *Tuscania*. The *Oban Times* described the survivors as "kindly treated."
- Port Mòr, south of Port Charlotte. This was the site about one-half mile south of Port Charlotte of the Port Charlotte Cemetery for *Tuscania* casualties, no longer in existence since all American bodies were exhumed and removed. The property for this cemetery was donated by Hugh Morrison, the laird of Islay.
- Craigfad, south of Port Charlotte, where 10 bodies from the *Tuscania* came ashore.
- Easter Ellister, south of Port Charlotte, where 15 bodies from the *Tuscania* came ashore.
- At Portnahaven, the stone commemorating David Lowe MacIntyre, born in Portnahaven on June 18, 1895. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military award, for his actions on August 24 and August 27, 1918, during the Hundred Day Offensive in France. He was a (temporary) lieutenant in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the time of his heroics, seconded to the Highland Light Infantry. MacIntyre died July 31, 1967, in Edinburgh.
- Port Wemyss/Portnahaven War Memorial, to the men from the twin ports killed in the war.
- Bruichladdich Distillery - Coffins for casualties were made at Bruichladdich Distillery by 30 British Labour Battalion soldiers and three local carpenters, one of whom was James MacTaggart. The soldiers had arrived with a load of timber. Mrs. William Harvey, the wife of the owner of the distillery, billeted the soldiers and provided a workshop.
- Bruichladdich Distillery Woodland, site of the First World War Centenary Wood, planted in November 2017.
- Kilchoman Church, its cemetery and manse, above Machir Bay, where casualties of the *Otranto* were first laid in the church, and when it was full, then in its adjacent graveyard. By October 10, there were 200 bodies on site, carried to the church on stretchers and in cars. The manse is now a holiday home; the church is in ruins. The manse was the

residence of the Reverend M.D. (Donald) Grant and his wife Elizabeth. After Islay girl Katie McLellan had given her overcoat to one of the first three survivors rescued by the McPhee brothers, she ran to the manse to inform Mrs. Grant, who made coffee and tea. Mrs. Grant worked for hours assisting the three survivors at her house. Two recovered; William Cooney died of pneumonia with Mrs. Grant and an American Red Cross officer at his side. Although Reverend Grant was away on October 6, he recovered bodies from the wreckage for days. Lieutenant James Jeffers gave funds to Reverend M.D. Grant, so he could repair his church; the floor was covered with bloodstains. In the Kilchoman graveyard stands a 14th-century Celtic cross, over eight feet high.

- Rockside School, Kilchoman – adjacent to Kilchoman church and cemetery, now a holiday home. Its schoolteacher, Mrs. Isabella McIntyre, is shown in a photograph with Lieutenant James Jeffers of the American Red Cross, following the *Otranto* sinking. Isabella was alerted by Katie McLellan after Katie had run to inform the minister's wife, Mrs. Grant, and Isabella headed for the shore. While the McPhee brothers were taking 17-year-old David Roberts to their home, they met survivors Sergeant Charles McDonald of Illinois and Earl Garver of Ohio, and directed them to Kilchoman, where Isabella McIntyre took them in and cared for them. Isabella noted in her log that her school had closed for a week: "Owing to premises being occupied in connection with shipwrecked crew of *Otranto* no openings have been made from Oct. 7th until October 14th." Lieutenant Jeffers wrote "The little schoolhouse was turned into a hospital, and the school mistress, Mrs. M'Intyre, the wife of a soldier in France, with her father, nursed the injured men for over a week until help arrived."
- Kilchoman Military Cemetery, above Machir Bay, where *Otranto* casualties are buried, among them its captain, Ernest Davidson, as well as *Tuscania* telegraphist John Jenkins. On Friday, October 11, 1918, a mass funeral was held at this new cemetery, on a site overlooking where the *Otranto* foundered. One of the only three coffins available held the body of *Otranto* captain Ernest Davidson; the other two held American Army officers. Two long mass graves held 120 American soldiers and 46 British sailors and Breton fishermen, who had been rescued by *Otranto* after it collided with their fishing boat. There were 52 unidentified bodies. The service was led by Reverend M.D. (Donald) Grant of the nearby church. The American flag was held by Sergeant Charles McDonald of Galesburg, Illinois, who had recuperated in the nearby schoolhouse. Only six days before the Armistice, the graves at Kilchoman had increased to hold 315 casualties. Five weeks later, the body of *Otranto* signalman James Brennan was found on November 13, followed by another body on December 6. In early March 1919, the body of American soldier Frank Dinsmore was found among the onshore wreckage.
- *Otranto* rescuers, near Machir Bay. *Otranto* survivors were rescued from the surf by Donald and James McPhee, and brought to their home for shelter. Local plowman Donald MacLachlan, who lived less than half a mile off Machir Bay, had first seen the *Otranto* foundering. He ran four to five miles to Kilchiaran to call out Islay's volunteer lifesaving crew, then ran back to the shore to help. First on the scene was David McTaggart, a Kilchiaran farmer, who had sent a horse and van with lifesaving equipment. Armed with a broom handle, McTaggart went into the surf as MacLachlan held onto the tails of his jacket. David McTaggart and Donald Ferguson secured

themselves with a rope, and rescued another man. The duo saved three men who latched onto the broom. Since the lifesaving equipment brought by horse and wagon was useless, the wagon was used to transport survivors to the McTaggart farm at Kilchiaran, where *Otranto* passengers were tended by Mrs. McTaggart and the farm servants. Donald McPhee (age 18) and his brother James (age 17), who held onto Donald's belt, went into the surf seven times, extending a walking stick (or perhaps a shepherd's crook) and each time rescued a survivor. The boys' father, Duncan, age 68, and his wife carried men on his back to his nearby house, where Duncan's daughter Margaret helped tend to survivors. The McPhee family turned over their house to survivors, and slept 10 nights in the nearby barn.

Trail at the Rhinns (southwest part of Islay):



The pier at Port Charlotte



The Port Charlotte Hotel



Left: Distillery House B&B (once part of the Lochindaal Distillery) – Right: Funeral procession at Port Charlotte to Port Mòr
(color photographs by Marilyn Gahm, May 2018)

Some of the bodies of *Tuscania* casualties returned aboard USAT *Antigone*, which left Liverpool, England, for Hoboken, New Jersey, on July 26, 1920, exhumed from Cemetery #155, Argyll County, Port Charlotte, Islay Argyll, Scotland – the cemetery at Port Mòr.

To be filled in by Personnel Adjutant at U. S. Port of Debarcation		Arrived at U.S.A.T. ANTIGONE		LIVERPOOL Date of JULY 26, 1920.		
No.	NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER Example: HENDERSON, HARRIS F. 1,234,567	Rank & Title or Staff Corps Example: Capt. & U. S.	Organization (regiment and company or detachment)	NOTIFY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. (Give name in full, for example: Mrs. Mary A. Smith.)	Relationship Example: Foster- mother	ADDRESS (Number, Street, City and State.) Do not abbreviate.
Leave double space between entries. All typewriting must be in CAPITAL LETTERS.						
GROUP OR CLASSIFICATION (See Par. 2, above). (Not more than one group on this sheet)						
MILITARY DECEASED						
CITY. #155, ARGYLL CITY., PORT CHARLOTTE, ISLAY ARGYLL, SCOTLAND.						
BARNES, EDGAR C. PVT. CASUAL CO. #1						
BISHOP, J. B. PVT. CASUAL CO. #2						
BUCKLEY, J. J. PVT. CO. F, 6th BN. 20th ENGRS.						
COCHRAN, JOE PVT. CASUAL CO. #2						
DIAZ, ROSANDO PVT. CAS. CO. #2						
EDMONDSON, ELTON L. PVT. CASUAL CO. #2						
ERRAS, FLORENCIE PVT. CASUAL CO. #2						
FLORES, SIXTOL PVT. CASUAL CO. #1						
GARZA, GUADALOUPE PVT. CASUAL CO. #2						
GRAHAMER, EDWARD C. PVT. 158th AERO SQUAD. S.C.						
LE BRON, LEO P. CAPT. CASUAL ENGRS. R.C.						

Misspelled names of U.S. soldiers on this form are correct in the index (at end of this document).



Graves at Port Mòr (Port Charlotte) Cemetery 1918, The cover photograph for Les Wilson's *The Drowned and the Saved*



Port Wemyss/Portnahaven War Memorial



Easter Ellister



Near Craigfad



Making coffins at Bruichladdich Distillery for *Otranto* casualties, October 1918



Centenary Woods on Bruichladdich Ground



Kilchoman Church and graveyard



May daffodils at Rockside School, 2018

(all photographs on this page by Marilyn Gahm, May 2018)



The manse buildings at Kilchoman



The manse at Kilchoman (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)



Ruins of Kilchoman Church, with Rockside School in corner right, and McPhee house to its left --
https://i.ytimg.com/vi/oa_6UeIRHmA/maxresdefault.jpg



Photograph by Marilyn Gahm



Kilchoman Military Cemetery – one *Tuscania* casualty and identified and nameless *Otranto* casualties

At Islay House/Bridgend:

- Islay House, home of the Laird of Islay Hugh Morrison in 1918, where the American flags were sewn, first the original in 1918 and then the replica in 2017/2018.
- Community Garden at Islay House, where some of the state flowers of U.S. casualties were planted in three raised beds in the summer of 2018. Scotch thistles were also planted, which promptly took over the garden.
- Bridgend Hotel, which housed survivors of the *Otranto*, including David Roberts. It served as headquarters for the American Red Cross and U.S. Army Captain R.H. Puffer following the sinking of *Otranto*. A photograph shows survivors being treated to afternoon tea, with one soldier wearing a tea cosy on his head. Another soldier wears the bonnet of Private Woodrow of the Seaforth Highlanders, who had played the bagpipes at the *Otranto* funerals.



Islay House – 2017/2018 workroom for the Islay Quilters – the original 1918 flag was also sewn in Islay House

<http://islayquilters.org.uk/ww100/>

Trail at Islay House/Bridgend:



Tea party for Otranto survivors, at the Bridgend Hotel – note the tea cosy and piper hats on soldiers to the right – October 1918

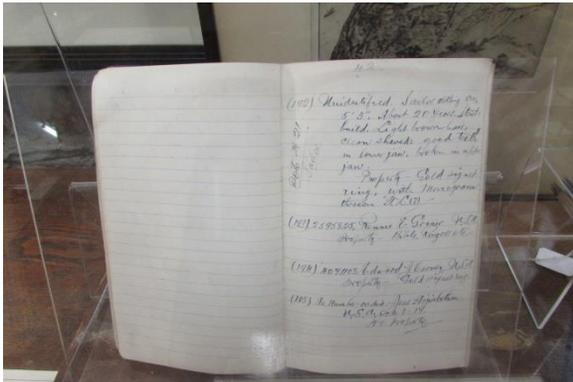


Left: Islay House (photograph by Marilyn Gahm) – Right: Islay House Community Garden

At Bowmore:

- Bowmore Police Station, where Malcolm MacNeill was stationed, and from he traveled around Islay on his bicycle to record the *Tuscania* and *Otranto* casualties.
- Round Church, Bowmore, where two *Tuscania* casualties, Otis Edgar Hutchins of Wisconsin and William Arthur Moore of California, whose bodies had washed up at Bowmore, were taken, and which contains a plaque to the dead of the parish in the Great War.

Trail At Bowmore:



Malcolm MacNeill's notebook with details on *Otranto* casualties, in the Museum of Islay Life (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)



Plaque in the Bowmore Round Church:

"Time but th' impression stronger makes, As streams their channels deeper wear."

In the Bowmore Round Church:
To the glory of God and in
grateful memory of the men from
this parish who gave their lives
for us in the Great War

Capt. [Murdoch A. MacTaggart](#),
Bowmore, A.&.S.Hs.

Lieut. [John Cullen](#), Bridgend, A.&.S.Hrs.

Lieut. [Bruce Forbes](#), Eallabus,
A.&.S.Hrs.

Sgt. [Walter Mackay](#), Bowmore,
A.&.S.Hrs.

Sgt. [John Mackay](#), Bowmore, A.&.S.Hrs.

Sgt. [Angus Shaw](#), Carnain, A.&.S.Hrs.

Bomr. [Andrew Barr](#), Gartbreck, R.G.A.

Cpl. [Duncan Bell](#), Bowmore, Canadian
Hrs.

L/Cpl. [James Anderson](#), Carnain,
A.&.S.Hrs.

L/Cpl. [William Campbell](#), Newhouses,
A.&.S.Hrs.

L/Cpl. [Angus McKechnie](#), Redhouses,
M.G.C.

Pte. [John Anderson](#), Carnain, A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [John Cameron](#), Newhouses,
Royal Hrs.

Pte. [Neil M. Cameron](#), Newton, R.S.
Fusiliers

Pte. [Arch. J. Campbell](#), Bowmore,
Seaforths

Pte. [Willm. Campbell](#), Balitarsin,
Royal Hrs.

Gnr. [Robert D. Currie](#), Bowmore,
R.N.V.R.

Pte. [James Dunlop](#), Raw, A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [John Gilchrist](#), Bowmore,
A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [John Grant](#), Gartachossan,
A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [James Gray](#), Gartmain,
American Army

Pte. [Donald Gray](#), Knockanbiorch,
Royal Hrs.

Pte. [James Gray](#), Knockanbiorch,
Royal Hrs.

Gnr. [Neil Hamilton](#), Bowmore, R.F.A.

Pte. [Dugald Johnston](#), Bowmore,
A.&.S.Hrs

Pte. [Donald Logan](#), Bowmore, Seaforths

Pte. [Duncan MacDougall](#), Bowmore. S.R.

Pte. [John MacArthur](#), Bowmore, S.R.

Pte. [Gilbert MacIndeor](#), Lyrabus, M.G.C.

Pte. [John McKinnon](#), Bunanuilt, H.L.I.

Pte. [Angus McLellan](#), Blue House, A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [Willm. McMillan](#), Bowmore, A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [Arch. McNiven](#), Knockanbiorch, A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [Alex. McPhail](#), Gartnatra, Austn. Army

Pte. [James McVorrán](#), Bowmore, A.&.S.Hrs.

Pte. [Alex. Shaw](#), Islay House Sq., R.S.F.

Pte. [Neil Shaw](#), Monachorra, H.L.I.

Pte. [George Weir](#), Bowmore, A.&.S.Hrs.

Erected by the Kilarrow Branch of the Church of Scotland Woman's Guild 1920

At Ballygrant:

- Kilmeny Church, Ballygrant, designed by Thomas Telford. The church, from a design by Thomas Telford (1828), adapted by William Frederick Campbell.

Kilmeny Church, photograph by Marilyn Gahm, May 2018



The 1828 Telford church

<https://www.britainexpress.com/scotland/Strathclyde/churches/kilmeny.htm>



Kilmeny Church war memorial – includes the names of 22 men of the parish - photograph by M.J. Richardson – copyrighted, see site for details on use - <https://www.geograph.ie/photo/5821590>



The bluebell woods of the Telford Church – photograph by Marilyn Gahm May 2018

100th Anniversary of Otranto: October 6, 2018

To commemorate the loss of the 470 who died on the *Otranto*, including 358 American soldiers, a service and wreath-laying ceremony was held at Kilchoman Military Cemetery, on the west coast of Islay, on Saturday, October 6, 2018. One-half mile off this shore lies the final resting place of the *Otranto* (55 degrees, 45 minutes, 46 seconds north - 006 degrees, 28 minutes, 40 seconds west). About 600 men were rescued from the *Otranto* by HMS *Mounsey*, but the rest of those aboard were thrown into the sea when the *Otranto* hit a reef off Islay. Twenty-one survivors came ashore at Machir Bay; two died soon after.

A rainbow appeared during the October 6, 2018, ceremony.



Kilchoman Military Cemetery, above Machir (Kilchoman) Bay – photograph by Marilyn Gahm, May 2018



*Kilchoman Military Cemetery, morning of October 6, 2018 – and its rainbow -
Reverend Valerie Watson officiating (red stole), with Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen to her
right*
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-45769900>



The burials at Kilchoman 100 years earlier



Burials at Kilchoman of the Otranto dead, 1918

Lord George Robertson led the tributes. Praising the "heroism" and "raw courage" of the Islay residents who assisted the survivors and buried the dead, he asked, "In the comfortable lives we lead today, how can we possibly begin to imagine what the *Otranto* disaster meant to this island?"

"The dramatic shock of the event, made so much worse by the miserable fact that it was happening for the second time in only eight months, must have been both sobering and sickening.

"What we can do though is to remember and commemorate and honour those who died in our service, those who were saved and their descendants alive today because of it, and of course those remarkable folk from our strong, resilient, generous and spirited Islay who did so much for so many a hundred years ago from today."

Jenni Minto, chair of WW100 Islay, said: "One hundred years ago the people of Islay were faced with the horrors of war arriving on their shores for the second time that year.

"Again they worked with compassion and humanity to ensure those who survived the *Otranto* tragedy were cared for as though they were their own, and those who sadly died were buried with dignity and respect. Today we paid tribute to those selfless acts and remember those who were lost."

Following the ceremony, a reception with soup and sandwiches was held at the nearby Kilchoman Distillery.



The bodies of the Otranto dead, in the Kilchoman Church cemetery, October 1918



HMS Otranto



The wreckage of the Otranto on Islay's shore





Kilchoman Distillery, photo from its website (<http://www.kilchomandistillery.com/our-farm-distillery/>)



The Whisky

U.S. residents please note: it might be spelled whiskey in the United States, but it is spelled whisky on Islay.

From the Kilchoman Distillery website (<https://kilchomandistillery.com/distillery-news/harvest-2018-2/>):

WW1 SINGLE CASK

April 11, 2018

Half a mile west of Kilchoman lies the spectacular, yet treacherous, Machir Bay. The western coastline of Islay is one of the most exposed areas of the island, with nothing but the North Atlantic between it and Newfoundland. It was here, in Machir Bay and the waters around Islay, that in 1918 troopships the SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto were sunk during World War 1 resulting in the loss of nearly 700 men.

To mark the 100th anniversary of both tragedies and to celebrate the community of Islay and the spirit of friendship and self-sacrifice shown by its people during World War 1, we have bottled a special single cask to raise funds for WW100 Islay, supporting the on-going remembrance of those lost and continued celebration of Islay's unique community spirit.

This single cask bottling, cask 742/2010 was distilled here at Kilchoman, within a mile of Machir Bay and matured in an American bourbon barrel for eight years. It is available from the distillery shop for £95, bottled at cask strength, 58% alc. All funds raised from the sale of the 252 individually numbered bottles will be donated to WW100 Islay.



American Monument - from the Islay blog

The Logo

The WW100 Islay logo was designed by Brian Palmer, of *The Heach: The Independent Newspaper for Islay and Jura*. The green stem turns the red shape of the island of Islay into a poppy, with a black center. In the United Kingdom, the poppy is called the “remembrance poppy” while in the U.S., there are two versions: the “buddy poppy” of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the poppy introduced by the American Legion in 1920 to commemorate the dead of World War I.



Remembrance Day Poppy used in the U.K. – The U.S. “Veterans Day” commemoration is called “Remembrance Day” or “Poppy Day” in the United Kingdom.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remembrance_Sunday



American Legion poppy (<https://www.legion.org/poppyday>)

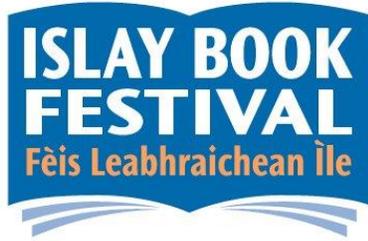


Veterans of Foreign Wars "buddy poppy" <https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/buddy-poppy>



The poppies of Flanders Fields – www.discoveringbelgium.com

The Islay Book Festival/Fèis Leabhraichean Ìle



The annual Islay Book Festival, held September 27-30, 2018, had a World War I theme. <https://www.islaybookfestival.co.uk/>

The volunteer-run, community-led festival, first held in 2006, includes fiction and non-fiction authors, children's events, school visits, poetry, performances and workshops.

Scheduled for the adult program: Lin Anderson, Catriona Black, Lorna Dawson, Stuart Graham, Brian Johnstone, Lynn MacDonald, Bernard MacLaverty, Ciara MacLaverty, Donald S. Murray, Trevor Royle, Chrys Salt, Ian Stephen, Malachy Tallack, Les Wilson.

Scheduled for the children's program: Catriona Black, Alan Dapré, Janis Mackay, Mary McGregor, Mike Nicholson, Michelle Sloan.

The Tuscania Memorial, Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA

"Across the pond" from Islay, the only U.S. monument to the *Tuscania* was unveiled Saturday, November 10, 2018, in Lower Ochsner Park in Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin. The city has always celebrated its "Baraboo 21" survivors from the ship. Spearheaded by Baraboo High School history teacher Steve Argo, the sculpture by Wisconsin artist Homer Daehn along the Baraboo River commemorates those who died on the ship, some of them buried with care by the residents of Islay. It also thanks the generosity of the people of Scotland, Ireland and England who tended the living. (www.tuscaniamemorial.org)



Tuscania Memorial, November 10, 2018, the day of its commemoration, with two of the information plaques and the commemorative bricks (photograph by Marilyn Gahm)



The people of Islay assist American soldiers who came ashore from the "Tuscania" – photograph by Marilyn Gahm

Reflecting on the *Tuscania* and *Otranto*:

Today, these century-old tragedies remain part of the warp and weft of Islay's lore, tradition and life. Graves are tended. Relatives of the lost American soldiers and British sailors visit the island. Records are requested and examined in the Museum of Islay Life. Pilgrimages are made to the great monument to the American dead, which stands on the Islay peninsula called the Mull of Oa. Stories of the two ships are told, and passed on. Points on the landscape are recognized as being imbued with significance. The men and women who pulled exhausted, frozen survivors from the sea, and fed and comforted them, still have descendants living on the island. Islay's volunteer Coastguards and Lifeboat crew of today are the spiritual and sometimes the blood-descendants of those whose bravery and kindness saved lives nearly a century ago.

Les Wilson, *The Drowned and the Saved*, p. xix

The great and powerful Republic of America ... and the little island of Islay. Two very different communities forever linked by events that were tragic, but which were shot through with heroism, fortitude, kindness and respect.

Les Wilson, *The Drowned and the Saved*, p. xxi



The American Monument, 11 November 2018 – the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending World War I. Photograph by, and courtesy of, Ben Shakespeare Photography, Islay.

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