

SCAPA FLOW HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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Further sources from the Kirkwall Archive database

CO5/93/5 Orkney Education Authority : 1915 - 1929
STROMNESS Public School Log book (Infant school) - Includes note on 21st June 1919 of school children witnessing the scuttling of the German Fleet.

D1/37/2 2 folders of miscellaneous photographs of Orkney life and people c 1855-1930
The earliest ones are portraits of unknown persons, their interest mainly being in the dress of the period. Includes:
Folder 1:
11 German Fleet in Scapa Flow, 28 November 1918
12 'Bremse', German light cruiser being refloated in Scapa Flow

D1/119[MF] History of the Fleet Base - Scapa Flow 1937 - 1946. Inception and development 1937-1946
Contents:
Introduction
Chapter I The "Base Ships" and the work they carried out for the Fleet
Chapter II The Extended Defences
Chapter III Supplies to the Fleet - Naval and Dockyard Departments
Chapter IV Supplies to the Merchant Ships
Chapter V The Naval Air Stations
Chapter VI The Defence of the Fleet Base on Shore
Chapter VII Medical and Dental
Chapter VIII The King's Harbour Master, Scapa Flow and Captain of the Dockyard
Chapter IX Base Communications
Chapter X Welfare etc.
Chapter XI W.R.N.S.
Chapter XII Salvage Organisation - Messrs Metal Industries (Salvage) Ltd
Chapter XIII The Army: The Royal Air Force
Chapter XIV Royal Marine Stevedores

D1/167/5 Scapa Flow defence documents 1937-1944
Account of the closing of the causeways, pp 116- 120 of file ; salvage of blockships, pp 246 - 263 of file [ADM 116/5790 - History of the Fleet Base, Scapa Flow, 1937 - 1944. Microfilm copy of entire file available at D1/119]

D1/641 John Gray, Stromness: reminiscences 1993-1993
Manuscript reminiscences of John Gray of his experiences at sea, including mention of the scuttling and salvage of the German Fleet in Scapa Flow, 1921 - 1993.

D1/645 Surrender of German Fleet: news cutting 1919-1919
Photocopy of two pages from 'Daily Mail "Golden Peace Number"', including feature on surrender of German fleet and its internment in Scapa Flow, 30 June 1919.

D1/884 PRO records on the scuttling and salvage of the fleet. 1918-1919
PRO Ref - ADM 116/1825
22/11/1918. Draft Order RE: Surrender of German Fleet - Message from Board of Admiralty. 1 x A3.
20/11/1918. Enclosure No. 2 to Memorandum of 20/11/1918. Diagram 1. Cruising order when approaching rendezvous with German ships proceeding to Rosyth for internment. Diagram 2, showing the order of the British Fleet escorting units of the German High Sea Fleet for internment into harbour. 2 x A3.
No Date. Translation of letter from Rear Admiral Von Reuter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, Berlin. RE: unrest in German Fleet prior to Scuttling and action taken by Reuter and Vice-admiral Levenson. 2 x A3.

PRO Ref - ADM 116/1989
20/10/1919. Memorandum by the Naval Section, British Delegation. RE: Matters arising from the Scapa Flow Incident. 2 x A3.

29/10/1919. Report of the meeting of the Naval representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers, sent from the Naval Section, Paris to the Secretary of the Admiralty. RE: reparation for the Scapa incident. 2 x A3.

10/10/1919. Account of German Docks. Re: above report conditions. 1 x A3.

PRO Ref - ADM 116/2074

09/05/1919. Translation of a letter from Rear-Admiral Trotha, Chief of the Admiralty, to Rear-Admiral von Reuter, Scapa Flow. 1 x A3.

17/06/1919. Translation of Admiral von Reuter's orders to the Chief of the Interned Squadron. RE: preparations for sinking the fleet. 3 x A3.

23/06/1919. Scuttling of German Warships at Scapa Flow. Report of the meeting of the Admirals at the Ministry of Marine, Paris. Includes list of surface war vessels left to Germany by the draft treaty. 2 x A3.

23/06/1919. Correspondence from Rear-admiral, Commanding, Orkney and Shetland to the Vice-admiral Commanding, First Battle Squadron. Report on action taken by Rear Admiral Prendergast (H.M.S. Victorious) at the time of the Scuttling of the Fleet. 4 x A3.

24/06/1919. Report 506/281 from Vice Admiral Commanding, First Battle Squadron. Senior Naval Officer Afloat, Scapa to The Secretary of the Admiralty, the Commander-in-chief, Atlantic & Home Fleets. H.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth". RE: Sinking of the German Fleet at Scapa. Also schedule of appendices to this submission 15 x A4.

24/06/1919. Plan of the Anchorage of German ships at Scapa Flow. 1 x A3. Plan.

16/06/1919. Appendix C of 24/06/1919 Report 506/281. From Vice-Admiral Commanding First Battle Squadron to The Commander-in-chief, Atlantic and Home Fleets. RE: Transfer of interned ships. 2 x A3.

28/06/1919. Translation from French of the German Peace Delegation No. 168. Versailles 2 x A4.

02/07/1919. Extract from Report of Interrogation of German prisoners of War. 1 x A3.

PRO Ref - ADM 137/3816

29/11/1918. 7/12/1918 & 4/12/1918 Memorandum "G.S.S." - Section B Orders for Despatch drifters attending on German vessels at Scapa. 5 x A3. Including a plan of the anchorage of German ships at Scapa Flow. 5 x A3.

7/01/1919. Memorandum "G.S.S." - Section C Emergency Ships. Armed Guards for Dealing with Disturbances on Board German Ships. 1 x A3.

15/01/1919. Memorandum "I.G.S" instructions for German Ships. Berths occupied by German Ships. 1 x A3.

16/06/1919. Correspondence from Vice-Admiral, Commanding First Battle Squadron to The Commander-in-chief, Atlantic and Home Fleets. Transfer of Interned German Ships. 2 x A3.

PRO Ref - ADMI/8562/172

28/03/1919. Correspondence from the Admiral, Second-in-command, Grand Fleet to the Secretary of the Admiralty. RE: The disposal of the German Fleet. 2 x A3.

04/04/1919. Correspondence from the Commander-in-chief, Grand Fleet to The Admiralty. RE: Disposal of Surrendered German Ships. 2 x A3.

17/04/1919. Correspondence from Vice-admiral, commanding, Home Fleet to Commander-in-chief, Atlantic Fleet. RE: Taking over of interned German ships now at Scapa. 7 x A3.

PRO Ref - ADMI/8571/296

13/09/1919. Memorandum by the Naval Section, British Delegation, representing the views of the British Admiralty that the officers and men should be repatriated. Including a report from Law Officers of the Crown and Scottish Law Officers on the German Rear Admiral Von Reuter and his officers. 4 x A3.

PRO Ref - ADMI/8575/331

27/11/1919. Memorandum from the German Government concerning the Scapa Flow incident to His Excellency Mr Clemenceau, President of the Peace Conference, Paris. With Extracts from the "Times" from 16/06/1919 & 17/06/1919. 8 x A3.

PRO Ref - FO 369/1145

14/10/1919. Translation of letter from Chairman of the German Peace Delegation to His Excellency Mr Clemenceau, President of the Peace Conference. Versailles. Re: repatriation of crews of Germans ships sunk at Scapa Flow. 1 x A3.

27/09/1919. Letter from the Secretary, Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office. RE: Loss of a box stated to contain documents, relative to the accounts of the German interned ships at Scapa Flow. 6 x A3.

02/10/1919. Return letter from Army Council to Foreign Office. Re: as above. 1 x A3.

Read only

D1/938 Fleet in Scapa Flow 1918+

Photograph album of photos and postcards showing the Fleet and its subsequent scuttling and raising. 33 images.

D1/939 Scrapbooks of photos and newspaper cuttings 1901-1933

Mainly relating to Tom Kent, Orkney photographer, compiled by the grandfather of the depositor.

D1/939/1

Volume One. "The channel fleet in Kirkwall bay"; various photographs including - Scapa Flow, Kirkwall scenery, cars,

opening of Lammas Fair, unveiling of Kirkwall war memorial, ba, two-headed lamb, electric lighting at Kirkwall 1924, The New York Herald article "Must fight tidal monster of Scapa Flow for sunken German Fleet";

D1/1072 Account of visit to Orkney 2009

Account of a visit to Orkney in June 2009 for the 90th Anniversary of the scuttling of the German Fleet in 1919 and related events. Journey begins in Dundee. Contains pictures. Trip organised by the publishers of "Warship World". Computer printout.

D8/G/28[G1] Orkney Library Miscellaneous Collection 1919
German High Fleet - positions when scuttled

D23/30/7 Joseph Storer Clouston papers 1914-1945
Newspaper cuttings from both World Wars
Names of soldiers killed in active service, sinking of the German Fleet, diary of main events of World War II, and VE Day celebrations, honours lists for Orphir, where Harald and Erlend Clouston appear. Various sources including The Scotsman, The Orkney Herald, The Orcadian

D30/2/12 Mary Robertson Sinclair papers 1894-1925
Bundle of printed papers and magazines

'The Orcadian', containing report of the scuttling of the German Fleet in Scapa Flow, 26 June 1919.

D31/20/3/15 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection: 24 Feb 1959
Death of Ernest Cox, man who raised most of the scuttled German High Fleet

D31/36/1 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection 1926-1976
Folder entitled Scapa Flow and Sinking of Hampshire containing press cuttings and correspondence from eye witnesses relating to the sinking of 'H.M.S. Hampshire', in June 1916 with Lord Kitchener aboard.
Other subjects are Scapa Flow as a naval base during two World Wars, the scuttling of the German High Fleet in 1919 and subsequent salvage operations.

D31/78/18/3[F6] Ernest Walker Marwick Collection : Photograph of German Fleet in Scapa Flow 1919

D31/TR/1 Ernest Walker Marwick Sound Archive Collection c 1960-1975
Illustrative history and folklore tape containing the following:

TR/1/13 c 1960 - 1975

Part of a description of the sinking of the German Fleet by the late Mrs Rosetta Groundwater. Miss Groundwater and her husband were on a drifter, with a party of Stromness schoolchildren, when all around them the German ships began to keel over and sink.

D31/TR/112/2 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection c 1960-1975
The scuttling of German Fleet in Scapa Flow in June 1919, described by eye witnesses Mr. and Mrs. William Groundwater of Stromness

D31/TR/114 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection 1969
The scuttling of German Fleet in Scapa Flow in June 1919, described by eye witnesses Mr. and Mrs. William Groundwater of Stromness, who were on a school boat trip at the time (different from TR/112)

D66/6/2/1 Albert J Thomson papers c 1900-1950
Postcards depicting scenes of Orkney, notably the German fleet in Scapa Flow, Sanday, and Kirkwall and Stromness street scenes

D114 Karlsruhe Postcards c.1945
Postcards recovered from the wreck of SMS Karlsruhe underwater in Scapa Flow and then carefully conserved on behalf of Historic Scotland (see notes below). Four different images were recorded: ships steaming in formation at sea, an image of two small children reading letters, a (wounded) man in uniform with a lady, and part of an image of a child with a toy elephant and a jar of marmalade!

OSA/127 Orkney Sound Archive c.1980-1993
MOAR, JOHN DAVID, Vinbrake, Birsay.
Topics: house repairs, wages, Lyness & WW2, air raids, piers, boom defense, Royal Oak, raising fleet, thatch roofs

OSA/408 Orkney Sound Archive 17 Feb 1994
MacKENZIE, Mr A.G.M.
Topics: Retrieving bodies after the sinking of the Royal Oak, secrecy and curfews, delivering meat to the fleet.

Duration: 32 minutes

OSA/C1 Orkney Sound Archive Compilation Tapes c.1914-1918

WORLD WAR 1: Excerpts of BBC programme "The Story of Scapa Flow" [D31/TR/153]; Eye-witness accounts of the sinking of H.M.S. Hampshire off Marwick Head in 1916, and of her survivors [D31/TR/111, 113, 115]; Interview with Mr Jock Mears of Kirkwall, who took part in the Battle of Jutland [D31/TR/116/1] second interview by Radio Orkney.; Eye-witness accounts of the sinking of the German Fleet in Scapa Flow [D31/TR/112/2, 114]

OSA/RCAHMS/004/1 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 3 Jun 1998

Interviewee: HARRY RUSSELL Interviewer: K. Towsey.

Synopsis: Born Shapinsay, 1926. Moved to Mainland (Orkney). Description of agricultural work. Memories of the Royal Oak being sunk Local German being suspected of and arrested for spying. Sinking of the Royal Oak. Father auxiliary coastguard. Arrival of Fleet indicating War was approaching. Boom defences being erected. Coastguards reporting dropping of mines. Accident with a mine which had drifted ashore. [battery failure] Dry dock. Building on the wrecks in the Flow. Collecting drift and souvenirs. Being called out to look for escaped Italian Prisoners of War. De-mobbed 1946. Description of the stop line [interview refers to the attached map]

OSA/RCAHMS/004/1/SUPP Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 25 Jun 1998

Interviewee: HARRY RUSSELL Interviewer: K. Towsey.

Synopsis: Born Shapinsay, 1926. Moved to Mainland (Orkney). Description of agricultural work. Memories of the Royal Oak being sunk Local German being suspected of and arrested for spying. Sinking of the Royal Oak. Father auxiliary coastguard. Arrival of Fleet indicating War was approaching. Boom defences being erected. Coastguards reporting dropping of mines. Accident with a mine which had drifted ashore. [battery failure] Dry dock. Building on the wrecks in the Flow. Collecting drift and souvenirs. Being called out to look for escaped Italian Prisoners of War. De-mobbed 1946. Description of the stop line [interview refers to the attached map]

OSA/RCAHMS/004/2 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 3 Jun 1998

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OSA/RCAHMS/005/1 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 27 Feb 1999

Interviewee: GORDON LINKLATER, 5 Craigiefield Park, Kirkwall

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Subject: Childhood memories of WW2 and working as mess boy at Lyness

Synopsis: Born 1923, London. Three sisters, one brother. Father a seaman. Went to Kirkwall Grammar School. Playing in the town. First work as a messenger boy. Accommodation. Free time. Work in Lyness as a mess boy. Description of work/conditions. Work on a salvage tug as a mess boy. The Spy in Black film premier. Sinking of the block ships. The Soriana. Explosives used. Leave. Navy inspections. Boom boats. Joined the NAAFI. Lyness. Prospects. The Royal Oak. Posting to the Royal Oak. Aerodrome. Work around the Harbours. Home Guard. Argument with the Navy. Joined the Navy in Glasgow. Coming back to Orkney, Working for the T.A. Drawing the gun sites etc. Rifle practice. Air raids. Dummy Fleet. Barrage balloons. Sinking of the Danish tanker in Inganess Bay.

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Barrage balloons. Sinking of the Danish tanker in Inganess Bay.

OSA/RCAHMS/006/1 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 28 Feb 1999

Interviewee: ALFIE FLETT, St Marys, Holm

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Subject: worked with barrage balloons on trawlers

Synopsis: Born St Mary's 1931. Father a builder, mother a housewife. One sister. Village very busy. father in charge of Air Raid Wardens. German reconnaissance planes. Staff in the village. Schooling. Enemy action after the Royal Oak. Forbidden for going down to the shore. Collecting sailors' hats. Watching the Fleet. Block ships moved by the tide. Fishing round the wrecks. Spent a lot of time on boats. Family's boat. Searchlights and barrage. Local batteries. Children's parties. Pier very busy. Balloons going out. Requisitioned trawlers. Crew. Filling the balloons. Service drifters. Going on the drifters. Building of the barriers. Arrival of POWs. Chapel, railway at Lambs Holm. Finishing of barriers. Bombs on St Mary's. Shrapnel. Air raid warnings. Gun barrage. Black-market. Winding down of camps. Taking equipment away.

OSA/RCAHMS/006/2 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 28 Feb 1999

Interviewee: ALFIE FLETT, St Marys, Holm

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Subject: worked with barrage balloons on trawlers

Synopsis: Born St Mary's 1931. Father a builder, mother a housewife. One sister. Village very busy. father in charge of Air Raid Wardens. German reconnaissance planes. Staff in the village. Schooling. Enemy action after the Royal Oak. Forbidden for going down to the shore. Collecting sailors' hats. Watching the Fleet. Block ships moved by the tide. Fishing round the wrecks. Spent a lot of time on boats. Family's boat. Searchlights and barrage. Local batteries. Children's parties. Pier very busy. Balloons going out. Requisitioned trawlers. Crew. Filling the balloons. Service drifters. Going on the drifters. Building of the barriers. Arrival of POWs. Chapel, railway at Lambs Holm. Finishing of barriers. Bombs on St Mary's. Shrapnel. Air raid warnings. Gun barrage. Black-market. Winding down of camps. Taking equipment away.

OSA/RCAHMS/010/1 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 11 Mar 1999

Interviewee: WALTER ROSS, Clara, New Scapa Road

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Synopsis: Born 1921, North Walls School. Saw the fleet being salvaged, Work laying tarmac. Started with Balfour Beatty's surveyor. Moved into the tunnels, working with the black gang. Methods of constructing the tunnels. Safety equipment. Arrival of equipment. Naming of the roads. Conditions. Phone out of the tunnels. Accidents in the tunnels, electricity. Power. Royal Oak. Radar reflector disc on the Royal Oak. Being called up at 19. Going to Canada with the RAF. Came back to Orkney to work in the care and maintenance programme for the Admiralty. Some camps were maintained. Some torn down. Slipways down to the piers. Rail track on the pier. Closing everything down in the 1950s. Boats going out to Scapa.

OSA/RCAHMS/010/2 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 11 Mar 1999

Interviewee: WALTER ROSS, Clara, New Scapa Road

Interviewer: K. Towsey

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OSA/RCAHMS/011/1 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 14 Mar 1999

Interviewees: JIMMY WATT, Holm Branch Road, Kirkwall & JOHNNY MEIL, Dyke-end, Scapa

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Subjects: Ness Battery, Royal Oak, Air Raids, Iron Duke beached, Iron Duke guns mounted at Wellington Battery at Carness, descriptions of batteries, boom defences,

Synopsis:

Jimmy Watt: Born 1916, farm. Went to work in a shipping office. Joining the Territorials Called up 1939. Went to Stanger Head. Food. Description of the battery Posting to Dover. Work as a Pay Sergeant. Doodlebugs in Dover.

Johnny Meil: Born 1924 on a farm. Apprenticed to Scarth's at 15. Wanted to be a lighthouse keeper. First signs of war. Straightening the roads.. Laying underground cables. Boom nets. Fleet coming once a year. Beachcombing. Drift.. Sinking of the Royal Oak. Defences against U-boats and E-boats. Fuel tanks being built at Scapa. Activity at Hatston. Planes coming down/having difficult landings. Work at Scarth's. Barrage balloons. Planes towing gliders. Kirkwall air raid shelters. Gun barrage. Home Guard. Loading boats at the harbour with supplies. Social life. Dunluce Castle. Stop line. Degaussing station. Mines exploding at Scapa Pier and on the shore. Links battery. Graemsey. Shrapnel. Blackout. Barriers. Rescuing part of a plane engine. Seaplane station. Flying Boats. Schneider Cup. Helicopters. List of all boats which visited Kirkwall

Harbour during the War. Measured mile markers.

OSA/RCAHMS/011/2 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 14 Mar 1999

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OSA/RCAHMS/011/3 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 14 Mar 1999

Interviewees: JIMMY WATT, Holm Branch Road, Kirkwall & JOHNNY MEIL, Dyke-end, Scapa

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Synopsis:

Jimmy Watt: Born 1916, farm. Went to work in a shipping office. Joining the Territorials Called up 1939. Went to Stanger Head. Food. Description of the battery Posting to Dover. Work as a Pay Sergeant. Doodlebugs in Dover.

Johnny Meil: Bom 1924 on a farm. Apprenticed to Scarth's at 15. Wanted to be a lighthouse keeper. First signs of war. Straightening the roads.. Laying underground cables. Boom nets. Fleet coming once a year. Beachcombing. Drift.. Sinking of the Royal Oak. Defences against U-boats and E-boats. Fuel tanks being built at Scapa. Activity at Hatston. Planes coming down/having difficult landings. Work at Scarth's. Barrage balloons. Planes towing gliders. Kirkwall air raid shelters. Gun barrage. Home Guard. Loading boats at the harbour with supplies. Social life. Dunluce Castle. Stop line. Degaussing station. Mines exploding at Scapa Pier and on the shore. Links battery. Graemsey. Shrapnel. Blackout. Barriers. Rescuing part of a plane engine. Seaplane station. Flying Boats. Schneider Cup. Helicopters. List of all boats which visited Kirkwall Harbour during the War. Measured mile markers.

OSA/RCAHMS/011/4 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 14 Mar 1999

Interviewees: JIMMY WATT, Holm Branch Road, Kirkwall & JOHNNY MEIL, Dyke-end, Scapa

Interviewer: K. Towsey

Synopsis:

Jimmy Watt: Born 1916, farm. Went to work in a shipping office. Joining the Territorials Called up 1939. Went to Stanger Head. Food. Description of the battery Posting to Dover. Work as a Pay Sergeant. Doodlebugs in Dover.

Johnny Meil: Bom 1924 on a farm. Apprenticed to Scarth's at 15. Wanted to be a lighthouse keeper. First signs of war. Straightening the roads.. Laying underground cables. Boom nets. Fleet coming once a year. Beachcombing. Drift.. Sinking of the Royal Oak. Defences against U-boats and E-boats. Fuel tanks being built at Scapa. Activity at Hatston. Planes coming down/having difficult landings. Work at Scarth's. Barrage balloons. Planes towing gliders. Kirkwall air raid shelters. Gun barrage. Home Guard. Loading boats at the harbour with supplies. Social life. Dunluce Castle. Stop line. Degaussing station. Mines exploding at Scapa Pier and on the shore. Links battery. Graemsey. Shrapnel. Blackout. Barriers. Rescuing part of a plane engine. Seaplane station. Flying Boats. Schneider Cup. Helicopters. List of all boats which visited Kirkwall Harbour during the War. Measured mile markers.

OSA/RCAHMS/014 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 1998-1999

Interviewee: SANDY ROBERTSON

Interviewer: K Towsey

Subjects: Working life as a diver, salvaging the German Fleet from Scapa Flow, diving in the Flow during wartime including on the Royal Oak.

Length: 2:00:00

Synopsis: Interview 1 Bom Edinburgh, 1908. Family came back to Hoy for health reasons when three. Didn't enjoy school. Wanted to whaling. Started as a dinghy wallah. Watching the divers Started as a diver's linesman. The Bayern was the first ship. Putting the air lodes in. Went with them to Rosyth on the ships. Better pay as a diver. The Derfflinger. Dived with different firms. Keeping warm. Didn't get the bends. Decompressing. Two shifts of 3 hours. Light. War. Commodore Mackenzie. Admiral Macnamara. Hospital. Iron Duke. Patching Iron Duke. Royal Oak. Radar dish on Royal Oak. Interview 2. Grims school. Floating shops. Croft, description. Brother bought it Boats Dinghy wallah. Learning from divers. Working in air locks. Men travelled from the south of England Casualties. Laying men off to save wages and keep union away. Being taken over during the war Measuring wrecks for Lloyds. Being depth charged. No survivors. Diving to assess cause of sinking Checking marker buoys. Found electric torpedo. Bodies taken to the slaughterhouse. . Sometimes bored. Westray cargo ship full of grain, refloating. Offered a job with the council Illness Hospital Diving on Boom nets. Strong

tide. Safety flag. Mines dropped. Degaussing ranges. Look at photographs. Derfflmer. Dances to celebrate raising of the ships. Working at night. Stacking wrecks in the Clyde. Working in deep water. Malacca bean found by father.

OSA/RCAHMS/016 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 1998-1999

Interviewee: JOHN CLOAD

Interviewer: K Towsey

Subjects: Wartime life around Hackness and Lyness 1939-43

Length: 1:00:00

Synopsis: Born Longhope 1920. Grandfather an English soldier stationed at the Battery. Father a crofter. Moved to Hackness in 1923. Father fished. Mother worked in the harvest. Arrival of Fleet in the summer. Boats built in Orkney. Work on farm. Saving up. Progress of war. Change in Lyness. Boom nets. Little ships.

Minesweepers. Iron Duke. Work on the roads. Air raids. Royal Oak. Pollution from the oil. Air raid warnings. Magnetic mines. Permit to fish. Being called up. Training. Being torpedoed. Rescue. Stationed in Greece. Accident. Lyness after the War.

OSA/RCAHMS/018 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 1998-1999

Interviewee: MALCOLM (Mack) ROSS

Interviewer: K Towsey

Subjects: Work on the construction of Stanger Head and as a wartime policeman at Lyness and Kirkwall.

Length: 1:00:00

Synopsis: Born 1912. Crofting. Work with horses. War coming. Signed on with Aims [CHECK], building Stanger Head. Had dug up wire and bullets to sell left over from first war. Irish people building concrete. Made concrete all day. Air raids. Many went with NAAFI. Took all summer to build. Patrolling beaches. Guns. Went on trawler on patrol. Joined up police force. First job, laying out the dead. Drink worst problem. Emptying canteens. Got caught having a drink on duty. Knew all the store people. Wife swapped eggs for cigarettes. Gambling. Delivering summons to people back from leave. Blackout in Kirkwall. Being accidentally drunk on duty. Air raid attack on Flotta. Barrage balloon fabric having alternative uses. Digging a magazine at Innan Neb. Seeing Fleet going down in 1919. Seeing Germans shot. Father's dog. Men taking shelter in a cave, being buried. Went to Norway. Rounded up Quisling.

OSA/RO5/451 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney Collection/5 inch Reels 25/8/1987

Artist: HARRY TAYLOR Topics: German fleet, salvage, Cox & Danks

OSA/RO5/452 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney Collection/5 inch Reels 25/8/1987

Artist: HARRY TAYLOR Topics: German fleet, salvage, Cox & Danks Duration: 3' 14"

OSA/RO7/266 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels c.1980s

Programme: Looking Back KITTY TAIT Stromness

Stromness, herring fishing, WWI, Zeppelin, grand fleet, Childrens attitude, fleet sinking, 'flying Kestrel' trip, WWII, sirens & air raids, commandeered buildings.

OSA/RO7/266 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.

Topics: Stromness, herring fishing, WWI, Zeppelin, grand fleet, Childrens attitude, fleet sinking, 'flying Kestrel' trip, WWII, sirens & air raids, commandeered buildings, ammunition

OSA/RO7/281 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.

Programme: Looking Back Artist: PROF. MILLAR Feature: Stromness Topics: Craigholm, occupations, harbour, shops, library, the school, Lammas Market, Stromness Ba', Yule log, 1920s herring fishing revival, German fleet

OSA/RO7/295 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.

Programme: Looking Back Artist: WILLIAM MARWICK Feature: High Seas fleet and Herring fishing Topics: German fleet scuttled, Raising German fleet by Cox & Danks, loading drifters, No. of Stronsay boats, coal hulk working day, mock wedding, gutting stations

OSA/RO7/310 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.

Programme: Looking Back Artist: HARRY FOTHERINGHAM Feature: WWI, WWII, Tinkers, Ba, Storm Topics: Royal Oak, Vanguard, submarines, Scuttling the fleet, lifting, Lammas Fair, Tinkers, Ba' 1909-1910, Storm 1909-1910. Comments: 3 yellow leaders

OSA/RO7/312 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.

Programme: Looking Back Artist: COLONEL BERTRAM FAUNCE Feature: WWI, Navy Topics: Fleet size, supplies, Jutland, Scapa.

ACCESS RESTRICTED UNTIL DIGITISED COPIES MADE

OSA/TA/49 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/Tapes 1970s-1980s

World War Series part 3: Scuttling of German Fleet. Accounts by Henrietta Groundwater, Peggy Gibson and Maureen Heddle.

Angus Findlater singing "Lonely Scapa Flow"; Henrietta Groundwater on school trip to see fleet; Peggy Gibson also on school trip; Maureen Heddle accounts events as if she had been there.

D1/740 Photocopies of two newspaper articles relating to the story of Sandy Robertson who was a diver working for Cox and Dank's in the salvaging of the scuttled German battleship The Hindenburg 2000
Photocopies of two newspaper articles relating to the story of Sandy Robertson who was a diver working for Cox and Dank's in the salvaging of the scuttled German battleship The Hindenburg. Sources, The Times Weekend, Saturday 1st April 2000 and Daily Mail, 6th May 2000. Both articles by Kath Gourlay.

D1/59/10 Diaries of H Murray Taylor about Scapa Flow c.1934
3 files of notes, mainly classification of the main ships scuttled in 1919, their position, working details etc.

D1/660/9[H1] Edition of The Edinburgh Evening Courant 24th June 1782
Edition of The Edinburgh Evening Courant. Contains extract of a letter from Stromness detailing that a large cutter privateer (name unknown) from Dunkirk, has arrived at Hoxa, South Ronaldsay and some of the crew have plundered the area for valuables. Word has been given, by Robert Crookshank, that the boat is headed from Stromness after they plundered and scuttled his boat, the Margaret and Elizabeth. [1 item]. (H1).

D8/G/28[G1] Orkney Library Miscellaneous Collection 1919
German High Fleet - positions when scuttled

D1/641 John Gray, Stromness: reminiscences 1993-1993
Manuscript reminiscences of John Gray of his experiences at sea, including mention of the scuttling and salvage of the German Fleet in Scapa Flow, 1921 - 1993.

D114 Karlsruhe Postcards c.1945
Postcards recovered from the wreck of SMS Karlsruhe underwater in Scapa Flow and then carefully conserved on behalf of Historic Scotland (see notes below). Four different images were recorded: ships steaming in formation at sea, an image of two small children reading letters, a (wounded) man in uniform with a lady, and part of an image of a child with a toy elephant and a jar of marmalade!

D1/938 Fleet in Scapa Flow 1918+
Photograph album of photos and postcards showing the Fleet and its subsequent scuttling and raising. 33 images.

OSA/RO7/310 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.
Programme: Looking Back Artist: HARRY FOTHERINGHAM Feature: WWI, WWII, Tinkers, Ba, Storm Topics: Royal Oak, Vanguard, submarines, Scuttling the fleet, lifting, Lamma Fair, Tinkers, Ba' 1909-1910, Storm 1909-1910. Comments: 3 yellow leaders

D31/TR/114 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection 1969
The scuttling of German Fleet in Scapa Flow in June 1919, described by eye witnesses Mr. and Mrs. William Groundwater of Stromness, who were on a school boat trip at the time (different from TR/112)

D31/36/1 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection 1926-1976
Folder entitled Scapa Flow and Sinking of Hampshire containing press cuttings and correspondence from eye witnesses relating to the sinking of 'H.M.S. Hampshire', in June 1916 with Lord Kitchener aboard.
Other subjects are Scapa Flow as a naval base during two World Wars, the scuttling of the German High Fleet in 1919 and subsequent salvage operations.

D1/345 German Naval Documents 1917-1917
'Kennung der deutschen Kriegsschiffe und Torpedoboote' (Recognition of German Warships and Torpedo boats), published by Admiralstab der Marine, 1917; Diary for 1917. (photocopies)

D31/TR/112/2 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection c 1960-1975
The scuttling of German Fleet in Scapa Flow in June 1919, described by eye witnesses Mr. and Mrs. William Groundwater of Stromness.

D31/20/3/15 Ernest Walker Marwick Collection: 24 Feb 1959
Death of Ernest Cox, man who raised most of the scuttled German High Fleet.

D1/1072 Account of visit to Orkney 2009
Account of a visit to Orkney in June 2009 for the 90th Anniversary of the scuttling of the German Fleet in 1919 and related events. Journey begins in Dundee. Contains pictures. Trip organised by the publishers of "Warship World". Computer printout.

CO5/93/5 Orkney Education Authority : 1915 - 1929

STROMNESS Public School Log book (Infant school) - Includes note on 21st June 1919 of school children witnessing the scuttling of the German Fleet.

PLEASE NOTE: Some school log books contain sensitive information about individuals. In some cases therefore, access to these records may be restricted to those records over 75 years old.

OSA/RO7/295 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/7inch reels n.d.

Programme: Looking Back Artist: WILLIAM MARWICK Feature: High Seas fleet and Herring fishing Topics: German fleet scuttled, Raising German fleet by Cox & Danks, loading drifters, No. of Stronsay boats, coal hulk working day, mock wedding, gutting stations.

OSA/TA/49 Orkney Sound Archive/Radio Orkney/Tapes 1970s-1980s

World War Series part 3: Scuttling of German Fleet. Accounts by Henrietta Groundwater, Peggy Gibson and Maureen Heddle.

Angus Findlater singing "Lonely Scapa Flow"; Henrietta Groundwater on school trip to see fleet; Peggy Gibson also on school trip; Maureen Heddle accounts events as if she had been there.

D1/758 Large file entitled 'Ship Info from Wrecks of Scapa Flow' 1999

Large file entitled 'Ship Info from Wrecks of Scapa Flow'. Contains Miscellaneous information such as ship specifications, ship alterations and modifications, location of shipwrecks, build costs, drawings and plans of ships, etc., mostly photocopies from publications (from various dates) but some original work. Deposited by David Ferguson.

OSA/RCAHMS/014 Oral History Recordings relating to Wartime Orkney 1998-1999

Interviewee: SANDY ROBERTSON

Interviewer: K Towsey

Subjects: Working life as a diver, salvaging the German Fleet from Scapa Flow, diving in the Flow during wartime including on the Royal Oak.

Length: 2:00:00

Synopsis: Interview 1 Bom Edinburgh, 1908. Family came back to Hoy for health reasons when three. Didn't enjoy school. Wanted to whaling. Started as a dinghy wallah. Watching the divers Started as a diver's linesman. The Bayern was the first ship. Putting the air lodes in. Went with them to Rosyth on the ships. Better pay as a diver. The Derfflinger. Dived with different firms. Keeping warm. Didn't get the bends. Decompressing. Two shifts of 3 hours. Light. War. Commodore Mackenzie. Admiral Macnamara. Hospital. Iron Duke. Patching Iron Duke. Royal Oak. Radar dish on Royal Oak. Interview 2. Grims school. Floating shops. Croft, description. Brother bought it Boats Dinghy wallah. Learning from divers. Working in air locks. Men travelled from the south of England Casualties. Laying men off to save wages and keep union away. Being taken over during the war Measuring wrecks for Lloyds. Being depth charged. No survivors. Diving to assess cause of sinking Checking marker buoys. Found electric torpedo. Bodies taken to the slaughterhouse. . Sometimes bored. Westray cargo ship full of grain, refloating. Offered a job with the council Illness Hospital Diving on Boom nets. Strong tide. Safety flag. Mines dropped. Degaussing ranges. Look at photographs. Derfflinger. Dances to celebrate raising of the ships. Working at night. Stacking wrecks m the Clyde. Working in deep water. Malacca bean found by father.

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