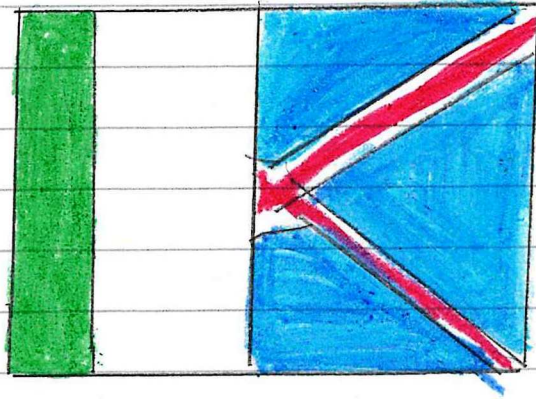


My Great Great Granduncle's story



By Ronan White

John Talvey

World War one soldier, John Talvey was born on February 18th 1891 to Parents William and Kate Talvey in Barryroe County Cork. As a child he was described as well mannered but also a bit daring, thus in 1913 he joined the Royal Navy. He served as a cadet in his first year but as war broke out he was called up for battle. Before he joined the British Ocean Army he was an agricultural labourer and a fisherman. His navy records recall him being 5'6 with a medium frame and blue eyes.

He was the 4944th soldier to join the navy in World War One. He was involved in the infamous Battle of Jutland in 1916 on the H.M.S. Defence for 4 hours. Men from different sides of Europe battled it out for supremacy. Over 100,000 soldiers from 250 ships fought for their country that day. The Royal Navy were pitted with Germany in a fight in which the latter prevailed. I have an eye witness account of the

Battle from Captain Poland of
the U.S.S. Warfite. I saw the
defence coming down our
starboard bow heading
straight at the enemy, with
a cloud of white smoke
amidships and aft. She was
banging away and going at
full speed, mast head colours
and all the rest of it
and made a very gallant
show. I saw three salvo fall
across her in quick succession,
beauties. A flicker of flame
ran aft along her forecastle
head and up her fore
turret, which seemed to melt.
Then a whoof, up she went, a
single huge sheet of flame, 50
feet high mixed up with
smoke and fragments. As it
died down I saw her crumple
bow, red hot, at an angle of
sixty degrees and then she
sank. I nearly vomited - God it
was an awful sight. I
couldn't get to sleep that
night thinking about it. My
great great granduncle died that
day, a hero.

It was a relief at the
time that these brave soldiers

who were born on the Emerald Isle had betrayed Ireland by joining the Navy. However, this could not further from the truth. These men and women and their families were struggling to survive with the little money they had. By joining the Navy these men had a regular income to support their families back at home. Unfortunately it has taken nearly 100 years to commemorate these brave men. In 2015 a memorial was built in Barryroe to remember John and comrades.

By Ronan Whitey
Daniel Crowley
and Gaynor White

Timeline

John Falvey

1891

John Falvey
is born

1913

John Falvey
Joins the
Navy

1916

John
Falvey
dies

2016

Barry
Falvey
Memorial
built

Barry
Memorial
built