



Saturday 5th December @ 1pm.
Victoria Lock, Upper Fathom, Newry.

Prayer Service and "Fisher Flag" Wreath Laying.

2pm Flagstaff Road Newry.
Commemorative Plaque unveiling at the former home of Seaman Lorcan Murphy.

Sunday 6th December.
St Marys Cemetery, Chapel Street, Newry.
Plinth in tribute to Fireman Jimmy Carr being placed on Carr family grave and "Fisher Flag" Wreath laying.

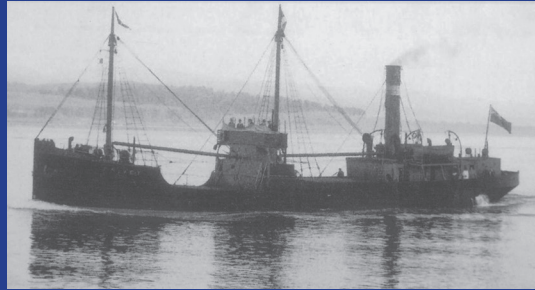
NMA sincerely wish to thank, Peter Crilly and Crilly Sweets and Helena Carr and the extended Carr family for their very generous sponsorship and support of this commemorative project.



**80th Anniversary
and Commemoration of
the loss of
"SS Privet", Newry.**
Saturday 5th December 2020.
Compiled by, James mc Arevey.

FISHER FLEET NEWRY.

The ship was built by Scotts of Bowling, Glasgow, Fishers preferred builder and was launched in 1936 under the command of one of the firms leading skippers, Captain Paddy O'Neill, whose father James was the Lockmaster at Victoria Lock.



"SS Privet" on sea trials 1936.

"Privet" was a typical collier of the time in general and the Fisher fleet in particular. Little had changed in the design of these steamers in almost 40 years and they were described by one Newry seaman as "Floating Workhouses. The crew lived and worked in harsh and spartan conditions, insects and vermin were often unwelcome shipmates. Men made improvised oilskins, there was no electricity and wet clothes were dried on the fidley, a stove in the focsle head. The bedding was usually a "Donkeys Breakfast", a sack filled with straw.

Navigational aids were primitive also, a magnetic compass (not always accurate) and a few basic charts bolstered by the skippers knowledge was the norm.

On the evening of 5th December 1940 "SS Privet" left Birkenhead bound for Belfast with a cargo of coal. The Irish coal trade was lucrative at the time and it was quite common for up to 15/ 16 ships to leave the River Mersey on a tide bound for ports across the island of Ireland. That particular night was no different and "Privet" joined a convoy of colliers bound for the Liverpool Bar.

A legendary Newry seaman and long standing Fishers employee, Mickey Fearon now deceased, recalled that evening.

"There was maybe a dozen coal boats steaming down the Mersey and I was on the "SS Rowan" and we were ahead of the "Privet". When we came to the bar we swung South for Waterford and "Privet" took a Northerly course for Belfast. Communications were poor at the best of times and the War made things even more difficult. It was over a week before we heard that the "Privet" had never arrived in Belfast"

"SS Privet" disappeared in the Irish Sea that night with her crew of 9 men. No trace of the ship or her crew has been found.

*No crosses mark the ocean waves,
No monuments of stone,
No roses grow on Sailors graves,
The Sailor rests alone.*

*His tributes are the sea gulls sweeps,
Forever wild and free,
And teardrops that his Sweetheart weeps,
To mingle with the Sea.
(Naval Ode, Author Unknown)*

**Today, we remember with pride those who
perished on the "SS Privet"**

Captain	Sam Parry (40) Annalong.
Mate	David Burns (34) Newry.
Chief Engineer	William Hilditch (33) Carrickfergus.
2nd Engineer	Joseph Barrett (50) Waterford.
Fireman	Henry Clawson (37) Carrickfergus.
Fireman	Jimmy Carr (23) Newry.
Lamptrimmer	Pat Mc Veigh. (41) Fathom, Newry.
Seaman	Lorcan Murphy (21) Fathom, Newry.
Deck boy	John Hearn (20) Dublin.

"They hath no grave but the sea"