"Battlebags" and "Blimps"--Exploring the Legacies of Whitehead's WW1 Aerodrome

Shirin Murphy, Carrickfergus Museum

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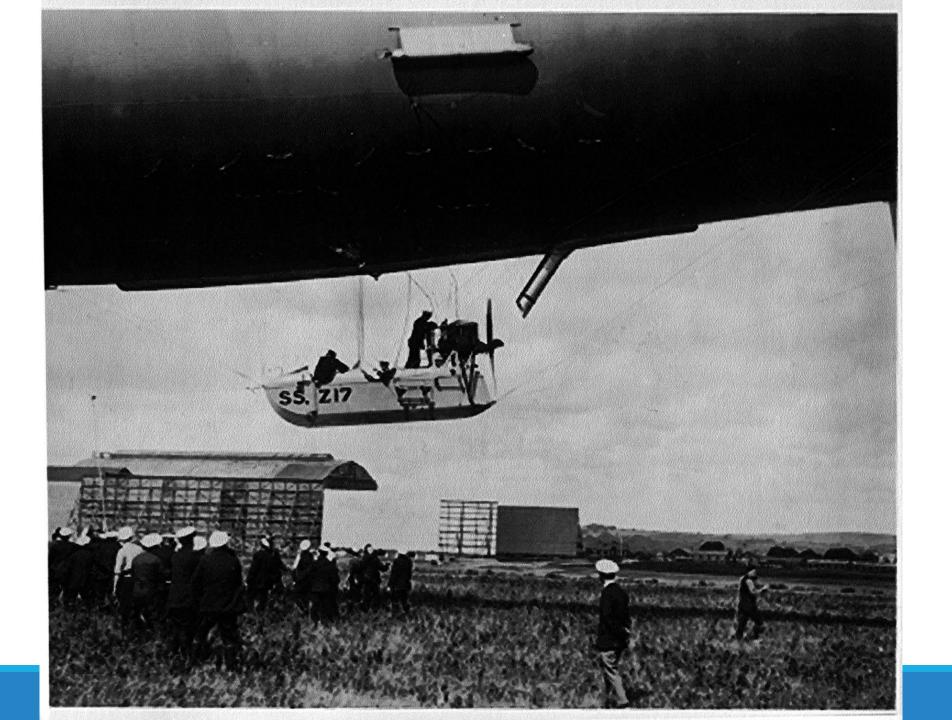




Diamond Jubilee Wood







Bentra and WW1 centenary

- 1917 Airship Station "Class A" and Landing Ground opened at Bentra near Whitehead
- 'SS Class' airships and fixed-wing aircraft could patrol the Irish Sea searching for U-boats
- O Bentra was a sub-station for Luce Bay (in Scotland) for non-rigid RNAS and later RAF airships
- Larne-Stranraer ferry also protected by Bentra
- 5 June 2017 first airship, SS20, arrived at Bentra
- Four airships operated from the station at Bentra SSZ11, SSZ12, SS20 and SS23
- One 'portable' hangar on site for airships, steel and canvas, 150' long by 45' wide and 50' high
- Landing Ground for fixed-wing aircraft and wooden huts for personnel to live in on site
- Flying ceased in 1919
- 20 February 1920 site relinquished by military
- What happened afterwards to Bentra, and what's left of its remains today?

"Battlebags" and "Blimps"--Exploring the Legacies of Whitehead's WW1 Aerodrome

A community heritage project:

Activities

- Learning about the history of the Bentra site
- Carrying out further research in relation to Bentra and coastal defence
- Surveying the Bentra site using GPS, field walking and site photography
- Visualising historical data using Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Visits to further local coastal defence sites, to understand the sites setting in a wider landscape
- Exploring airship technology through STEM related activity

Outputs

- New research on the site of Bentra and coastal defence heritage
- Development and extension of publically-accessible online resources
- Exhibition at Carrickfergus Museum, with accompanying publication
- Public events:
 - May 2018- Outreach event to raise local awareness recording memories and stories.
 - November 2018 Airship Travelling Road Show -

Living Legacies 1914-18

- WW1 public engagement centre
- Three research themes
- Strategic partners
- Collaborations
- Public engagement and WW1
- Projects
- Resources
- Outputs and legacies



Living Legacies 1914-18 > Community Resources > Digital Resources > Story Maps > WW1 Aviation Sites in Ireland — an interactive mapping

WW1 Aviation Sites in Ireland – an interactive mapping resource

By Rebecca Miligan

Ireland is rich in World War 1 aviation heritage, including airfleids, landing grounds, and training facilities. In some cases these sites are still visible in the landscape, in other cases they have disappeared. This online resource has been created in Increase public and state awareness of the surviving aviation heritage of WW1 in Ireland. Using interactive mapping, it can be used to learn about where Ireland's WW1 aviation heritage is located, what facilities were created during the war, and what of these facilities remains to be seen today.

The online resource is based upon a British military map called 'Becret No. 120', drawn in 1918. This map shows the location of British military aviation sites as they were on the 16th November 1918, covering both around Great British and Ireland. The map itself was scanned by the Living Legacies digitisation team (CDDA), and is owned by the Uister Aviation Society, who assisted with the research. The resource derives from a collaboration between the UAB and the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's and was undertaken in summer 2014.



Tied into the Living Legecies centre's interests in WW1 landscapes and mapping, the online resource focuses on 23 eviation sites shown by the map located in Ireland. The resource contains descriptions of the eviation sites, as well as interactive maps, including pre and post livar Ordnance Survey, modern Ordnance Survey and site plans. These show how perticular sites have changed since 1918. The resource should be of benefit to all those interested in exploring Ireland's WW1 heritage, and is linked to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's "Defence Heritage Project".

To access the WW1 eviation interactive resource follow this link; http://go.qub.ac.uk/ww1airfields

Our thanks to the Uister Aviation Society (UAS) for their assistance and support in the creation of this resource, and CDDA and to the Living Legacies geospatial team at Queen's.



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In This Section

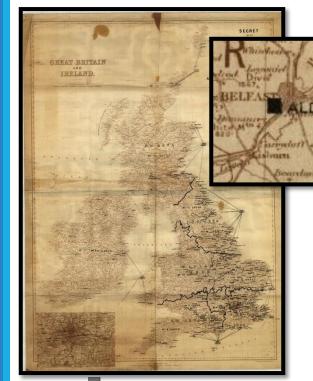
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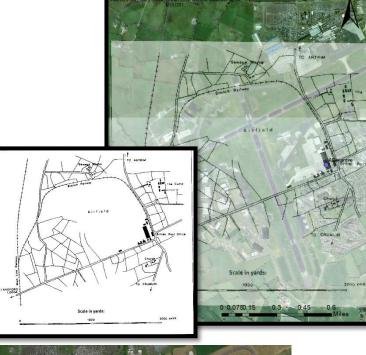


WWI Aviation in Ireland

- Story Map using 'Secret No.120'
 - Map corrected to 16thNovember, 1918
 - Covers all of Great Britain and Ireland
 - Includes a more detailed map of London
- Collaboration between Queen's
 University Belfast (QUB) and the
 Ulster Aviation Society (UAS),
 developed through the AHRCfunded "Living Legacies 1914-18"
 engagement centre

http://go.qub.ac.uk/ww1airfields





A story map

BAS



WWI Aviation in Ireland

Aldergrove Aircraft Acceptance Park

Get Direction

Aldergove is one of only three locations on the Secret No.120 map which is located in Northern Ireland. It is also in the wrong location on the Secret No.120 map as it appears to be in Belfast rather than Aldergrove. The site was originally farmland and was bought by the Air Ministry in 1917 (Warner and Woods, 2001). The aircraft were manufactured by Harland and Wolff in Belfast and then taken to Aldergrove (Warner and Woods, 2001). The location of hangars on the site is visible in the 1920 ordnance survey maps. In modern aerial imagery the site is still occupied but the original hangars remain, albeit in heavily modified form.

1920 Ordnance Survey Map

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Dublin Aeroplane Operation Station and Miscellaneou

Secret No.120 map details an aeroplane operation station and a miscellaneous station. Both of these sites were in Dublin however, it is not clear exactly where. The miscellaneous site referred to in the Secret No.120 map was possibly No.11 distributing stores on Marrowbone Lane. This was located in a brewery and no longer exists. There are a few other sites mentioned in around Dublin including a site for aircraft assembly and another for aircraft storage (Hayes, 1988). There was also an Irish Aircraft Repair Depot at Lucan just outside of Dublin. However, there is no evidence that any of these are what the Secret No.120 map is referring to.

Tracescon Wilmeter & Share

Further Peading



Defence Heritage Project (DHP)

- Collaboration between "Living Legacies 1914-18" and Historic Environment Division (HED), Department for Communities
- Crowdsourcing project
- Reboot for WW1 centenary
- Source of information on defence heritage in NI
- Updating of existing records
- Ground-truthing and site recording
- New sites and records as legacy including WW1 aviation sites...
- Living Legacies workshops using geospatial technologies

DEFENCE HERITAGE PROJECT

Link to Download Android, Linux or Windows Mob

DEFENCE HERITAGE CATEGORIES

Department for
Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

DEFENCE HERITAGE SUB CATEGORIES

Defence Hentage Partner

Explore Northern Ireland's rich defence heritage

Northern Ireland's defence heritage represents a significant cultural legacy. There are many 20th-century defensive structures dotted around the countryside and coast of Northern Ireland. These include training trenches, gun and searchlight emplacements, pillboxes, observation posts, airfields, harbours, naval and flying boat bases, air raid shelters, and many other related structures. The majority of these are derelict, some have been reused or altered, and others are in a state of decay or have been demolished.

The purpose of this web-mapping resource is:

- To raise public awareness of the locations of defence heritage sites in Northern Ireland;
- To provide a tool for finding defence heritage sites and researching them;
- To gather new information about defence heritage sites in Northern Ireland.



New Defence Heritage Submissions





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// Airfield Marker Programme



Podington marker unveiling 2013 at the National Drag Racing Championships

Download the Airfield Marker information sheet here

The charity has been erecting airfield markers across Britain since 2009. Some places commemorated by ABCT include:

Search for an airfield Search by name Airfield Search by area Select an area Search by type Select a type Search by A-Z ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWYZ Find an airfield by clicking the appropriate letter above Search by map

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