

SEPTEMBER

SEP

Ballycastle miners on strike.

8th

Around 200 Sinn Féin members march through Kilrea.

12th

Battle of St Mihiel and battles of the Hindenburg Line begins.

18 - 28th

Recruiting meetings at Portrush, Bushmills, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Limavady.



OCTOBER

OCT

Club for discharged soldiers opened in Waterside, Coleraine.

4th

German and Austro-Hungarian Governments send notes to President Wilson proposing an armistice.

8th

The first soldiers arrive at the convalescent home established in the former Golf Hotel, Portrush.



Coleraine Museum Collection

10th

Irish mailboat (Dublin to Holyhead) *RMS Leinster* is torpedoed and sunk by German U-boat SM UB123 in the Irish Sea with the loss of some 500 lives, including passengers from Coleraine and Limavady.

NOVEMBER

1st

Battle of Valenciennes.

4th

General one-day teachers' strike.

11th

Ceasefire Treaty signed at 5am in the forest of Compiegne, signalling the end of World War I at 11am on 11/11/1918, Armistice Day.

16th

Allied armies begin march into Germany.

21st

The *Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act* is passed, allowing women over 21 years of age to stand for election as a Member of Parliament.

Belgian government reinstated at Brussels.

28th

Kaiser Wilhelm II signs abdication.

NOV/DEC

Influenza is reported throughout Ballycastle, Limavady, Kilrea, Garvagh, Dervock, Portstewart, Portrush, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Dungiven and rural districts.

DECEMBER

4th

Demobilisation of the British Army begins.

9th

Coleraine Foundry strike taking place.

14th

Polling takes place for the General Election in Britain and Ireland. Many women go to the polls for the first time.

Armistice on the Western Front prolonged to 17th Jan 1919.

A procession to celebrate the victory for female suffrage takes place in Dublin

28th

Votes counted - Sinn Féin gain in the Irish General Election, winning 73 of the 105 seats in the Irish Parliament.

Constance Markievicz, Sinn Féin candidate, is the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons at Westminster while still a prisoner at Holloway, England.

DEC

At a public meeting in Limavady a decision was taken to build a war memorial including a library, reading and recreation rooms.



1918

Local Voices

Closing stages of World War One | Outbreak of Spanish Flu | General Election | Social changes

Key Events

JANUARY

2nd

Air Ministry formed in Great Britain.

9th

HMS Racoon is lost off Donegal. Bodies are washed ashore at Ballycastle, Rathlin and the Giant's Causeway.



HMS Racoon. © IWM (Q 75065)

21st

Sir Edward Carson resigns from the British War Cabinet after a revised All-Ireland Home Rule Bill is proposed.

FEBRUARY

5/6th

Redistribution of Seats Ireland Act is passed.

The *Representation of the People Act* is passed, allowing all male agricultural labourers and urban workers to vote, as well as women over the age of 30 who meet minimum property qualifications.

5/6th

SS Tuscania, carrying US troops, is torpedoed by a German U-Boat, SM UB 77, and sunk off the Irish coast (c. 7 miles North of Rathlin Island).

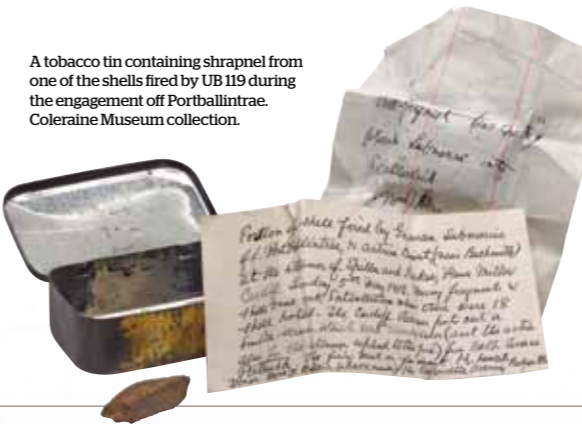
18th

Coleraine and Portrush painters' strike.

MAY

5th

The armed steamer, *SS Wheatear*, is attacked by a German U-Boat as it passes Portballintrae.



A tobacco tin containing shrapnel from one of the shells fired by UB 119 during the engagement off Portballintrae. Coleraine Museum collection.

17 - 18th

73 Sinn Féin leaders are arrested on the basis of an alleged 'German Plot' among Sinn Féiners. Those arrested were taken to prisons in England.

19th

49 people killed and 177 wounded by a German night time aeroplane raid on London. This was the last one to result in casualties.

JUNE

30th

First United States troops arrive in Italy.

29th

An anti-conscription demonstration organised at Culmore (near Kilrea) on this date is banned by the authorities. Military police/soldiers are placed in Kilrea to enforce the prohibition.



The Old Church Ruin, Kilrea.
Coleraine Museum Collection.

MARCH

1st

British Auxiliary Cruiser, *Calgarian* is torpedoed by German U-Boat SM U 19 and sunk near Rathlin Island. 49 lives lost.

6th

John Redmond, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, dies suddenly. He is replaced as leader by John Dillon.



Courtesy of National Library Ireland.

7th

England is raided by a German aeroplane for the first time.

21st

The Spring Offensive is launched by the German Army on the Western Front.

APRIL

1st

Royal Air Force and the Women's Royal Air Force are formed.

5th

The Irish Convention in Dublin ends in failure to reach agreement on self-government in Ireland.

10th

Battle of Messines.

16th

The Military Service Act (1916) is extended to bring conscription to Ireland.

2,000 - 3,000 Nationalists and Unionists opposed to conscription attend a protest meeting in Ballycastle.

18th

An Irish Anti-Conscription Committee is convened to devise plans to resist conscription at the Mansion House, Dublin.

21st

An anti-conscription meeting is held at Ballymoney. The Bishops' anti-conscription pledge is administered at Armoy, Ballycastle, Loughguile, Kilrea and Magilligan.

JULY

3rd

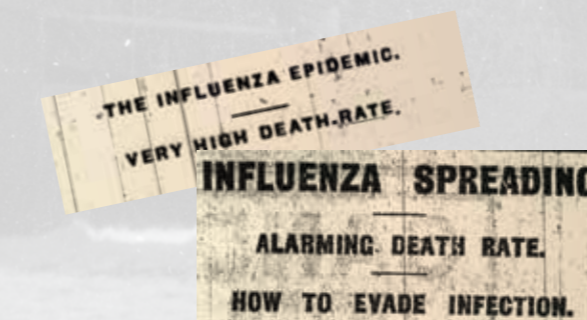
Sinn Féin, the Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and the Gaelic League are proclaimed 'dangerous' organisations and their meetings are banned.

4th

The General Officer Commanding in Chief, Ireland, issues an order, under the Defence of the Realm regulation, prohibiting the holding of, or taking part in any meetings, assemblies or processions in public places within the whole of Ireland without written authorisation from the appropriate (RIC) authorities.

6th

Influenza cases are reported in Coleraine.



AUGUST

3rd

Derry and Antrim Flax-Scutchers' Trade Union is formed at Coleraine.

8 - 12th

Battle of Amiens, a decisive British-led victory beginning an Allied counter-offensive campaign ultimately leading to the German defeat on the Western Front.

13th

A Nationalist demonstration is organised at Glenkeen.

The Czecho-Slovaks declare war on Germany.

15th

An 'unlawful assembly' takes place in Dungiven.

18th

British advance in Flanders begins.