



Lt. Surgeon Bertram Flack R.N.

A talented young life cut short

By Ted Flack, PhD, JP

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Lt Surgeon Bertram Flack, RN., was born 3 February 1882 at Burnley, Lancs. England, 3rd and youngest son of the six children, born to William Henry Douglas Flack and Eliza Alice Flack, nee Parker.

181 BIRTHS registered in January, February, and March 1882. [FIT—FLE

	District.	Fol.	Page
FLABELL, Mabel Florence	Lambeth	1 d.	501
FLACK, Alice Louisa.....	Ongar	4 a.	256
— Arthur Charles.....	Saffron W.	4 a.	560
— Bertram	Burnley	8 e.	220
— Catherine.....	Bury St. E.	4 a.	647
— Catherine Alice	Westminster	1 a.	515
— Kate	Warrington	8 c.	219
— Mary Ellen	Manchester	8 d.	268
FLANNERY, Andrew	S. Shields	10 a.	729

He was baptised on 12 March 1882 at St Stephens Church Burnley. The Baptism Register records that his parents were William Henry Douglas and Eliza Alice Flack, living at “13 Fair View”, that the father’s trade of profession was “Banker’s Clerk” and that the officiating minister was Rev James Cranbourne (?).

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London: Printed by Shaw and Sons, Peter Lane.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>St. Stephen, Burnley</u> in the County of <u>Lancaster</u> in the year One thousand eight hundred and <u>eighty two</u> .						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian	Surname.			
No. 324 18 <u>82</u> <u>March Bertram</u> <u>12th</u>		<u>William Henry Douglas</u>	<u>Flack.</u>	<u>13 Fair-View.</u>	<u>Banker's Clerk</u>	<u>James Cranbourne</u>
No. 325 18 <u>82</u> <u>John</u>		<u>John</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>James</u>

with the Rev. J. D. Cranbourne, Minister.

It is not know where Bertram Flack attended school, although it is likely that he attended Burnley Grammar School, were his father had been head boy. The later Medical Directory (see below) indicates that he studied medicine at Victoria University of Manchester (Owens College).

The Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh’s “Register of Licentiatees” contains a listing of those “Candidates who have passed the Final Examination” and an entry dated 22 October 1910, lists Bertram Flack of “Brookside, Scott Park, Burnley”. He was officially registered as a medical practitioner on 29 October 1910.

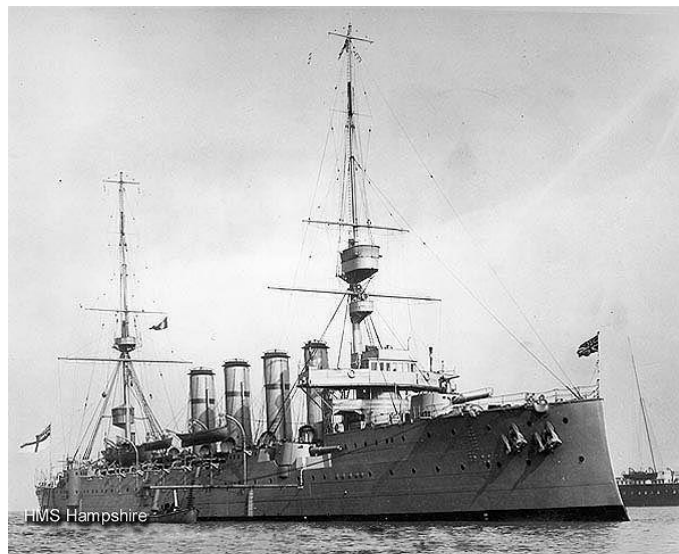
1910 to 1914. A later Medical Directory shows that he undertook his medical residency at Torbay Hospital, Torquay and later served at the Royal Hospital Devonport and Royal Navy Hospital at Chatham.

On 21 October 1914, Bertram Flack was awarded a Temporary Commission in the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant Naval Surgeon.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE ACTIVE OFFICERS
OF THE ROYAL NAVY AND ROYAL MARINES. 41

Where serving.	Name.	Rank.	Seniority.
160	Fitzroy-Williams	S	3 Apr 14
225	Flack Bertram	S	21 Oct 14 (tempy.)

His first sea-going posting was on "225" HMS Hampshire, which was sunk on 5 June 1916.



Burnley News - Saturday 13 March 1915

BURNLEY J.P.'S SON.

Dr. Bertram **Flack** son of Mr. W. H. D. **Flack** J.P., of Burnley, and a brother of Dr. **Flack** of Nelson, is now stationed on H.M. battle cruiser Hampshire. The vessel is one of the "County" class of 23,000 tons, and carries a crew of 700. Dr. **Flack** has been serving at the Royal Naval Military Hospital, Chatham.

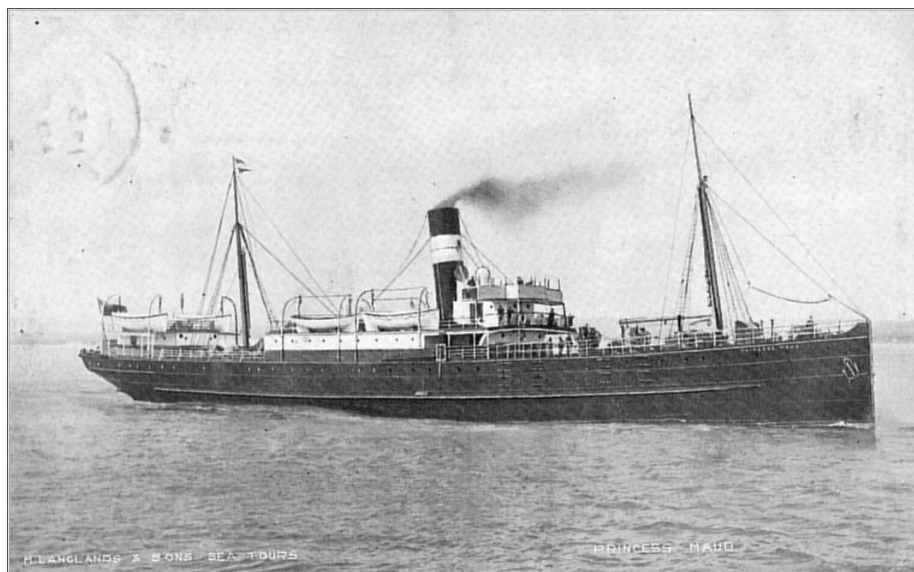
The following is an extract from the World War 1 history of HMS Hampshire:

HMS Hampshire was one of six Devonshire-class armoured cruisers built for the Royal Navy in the first decade of the 20th century. At the start of the First World War in August 1914, she was tasked with hunting for German commerce raiders until she was transferred to the Grand Fleet at the end of 1914. She was assigned to the 7th Cruiser Squadron upon her return home. She was transferred to the 2nd Cruiser Squadron in 1916 and was present at the Battle of Jutland. Several days later, she was sailing to Russia, carrying the Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, when she is believed to have struck a mine laid by a German submarine on 5 June. She sank with heavy loss of life, including Kitchener and his staff.

One of those who survived was Lt Surgeon Bertram Flack. As a part of his recovery, he was posted to "790a" (HMS Princess Maud) in 1916.

02e **MERCANTILE FLEET AUXILIARIES.**

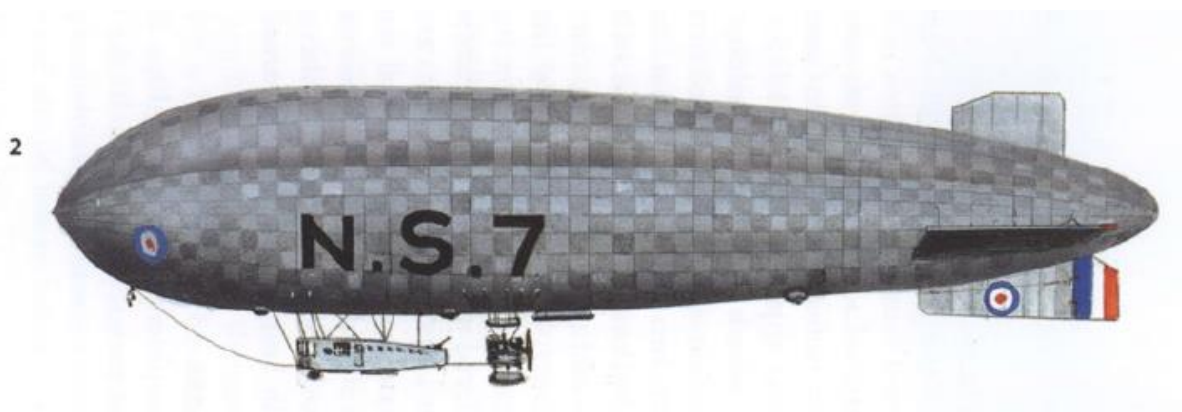
790a PRINCESS MAUD.	
<i>Lieut. R.N.R.</i>	John McKinlay.....16 May 16
<i>Eng. Lieut.</i>	{ Frederick S. Nicholson 16 May 16
<i>R.N.R.</i>	
<i>Tempy. Surgeon</i>	Bertram Flack 11 May 16
<i>Sub-Lieut.</i>	{ Thomas Potter. 16 May 16
<i>R.N.R.</i>	{ Thomas H. Gale.....16 May 16
	Henry Davies.....16 May 16
<i>Eng. Sub-</i>	{ George McChesney ...15 May 16
<i>Lieut. R.N.R.</i>	{ Douglas Archer.....15 May 16
<i>Asst. Paym.</i>	{ John D. Bell.....12 May 16
<i>R.N.R.</i>	



PRINCESS MAUD SS was a 1,566grt defensively-armed British Passenger/Cargo Steamer built in 1902 by Napier & Miller, Yoker for M. Langlands & Sons, Glasgow. In 1916 Admiralty requisition as fleet messenger. In 1918 the ship was returned to owners. On the 10th June 1918 when 5 miles Ne by N, from Blyth, England the UB-88 torpedoed and sunk the PRINCESS MAUD.

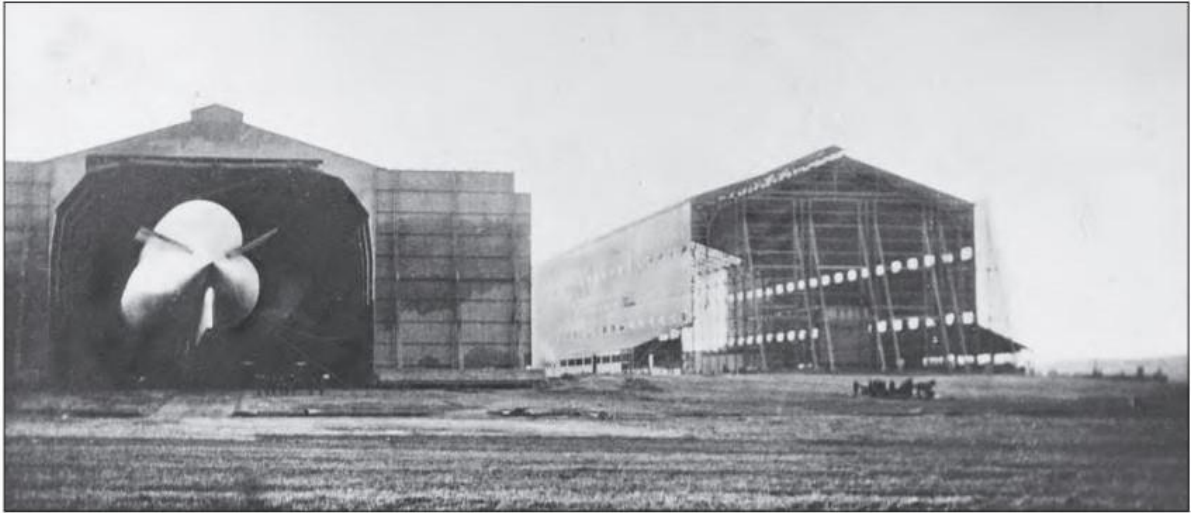
The Royal Navy List indicates that Lt Surgeon Bertram Flack was posted to Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) Station "Longside" in 1917. RNAS Longside was an Airship Station located near the port of Peterhead in the Scottish region of Aberdeenshire and two miles south of the village of Longside. Airships at the station patrolled the North Sea and kept an eye on north/south coastal shipping. They also kept watch on the approaches to Aberdeen, the victualling port for the Grand Fleet at Scarpa. Lt Surgeon Flack was the medical officer on the base.

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48 ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE ACTIVE OFFICERS			
Where serving.	Name.	Rank	Seniority
703	Fitzroy Henry S.BA,LLD	N I	<i>emergency</i>
490	Fitzroy Robert O. ...	L	15 Dec 15
681	Fitz Roy John M. ...	S L	15 Jan 17
NH } Hong } Kong }	Fitzroy-Williams	S	3 Apr 18
	Herbert W. ...	S	21 Oct 18
Long- } side }	Flack Bertram ...	S	(<i>tempy.</i>)
124	Flanders John ...	Gr	1 Aug 18

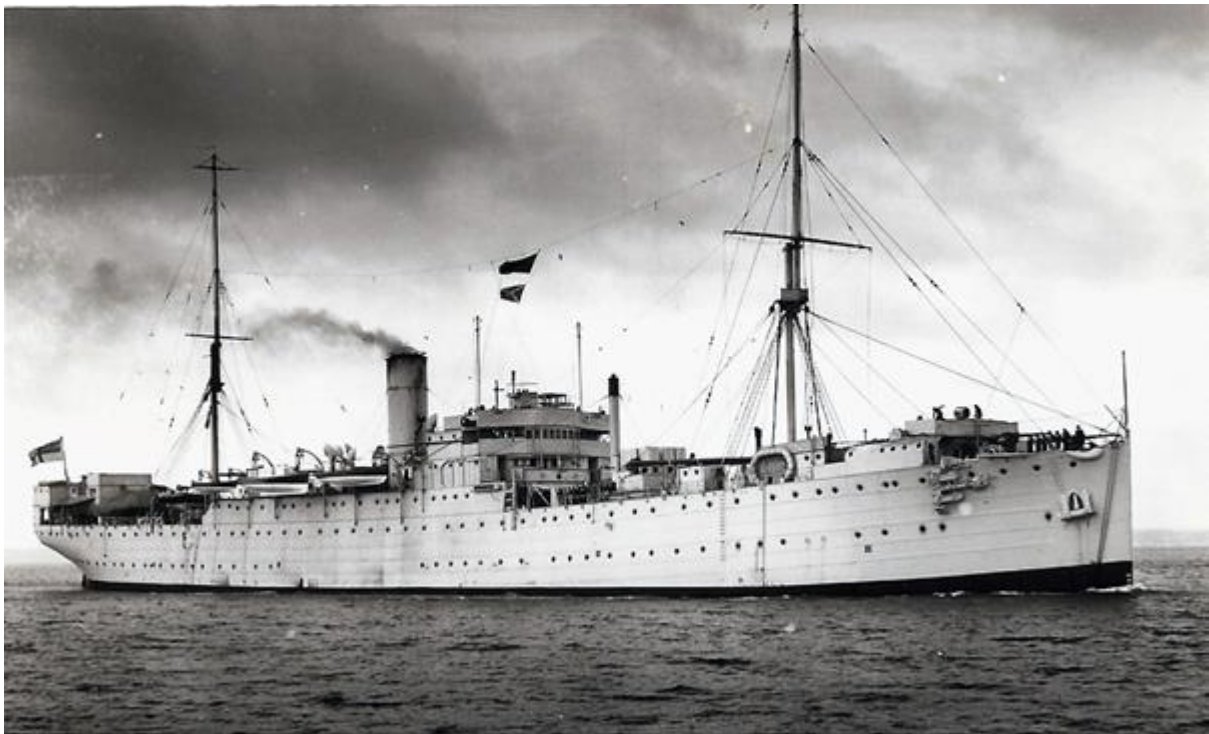


Coastal Class dirigible C14 housed in Longside's south Coastal Shed. The Rigid Shed is under construction.

:JMB/GSL Collection



After the Armistice, Lt Surgeon Bertram Flack was posted to HMS Cyclops pending his discharge from wartime service; however it was some time after the war that he was finally discharged in February 1919



The Royal Navy Medal Roll shows that Surgeon Lt. Bertram Flack was awarded 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal..

Roll:- R.N., R.N.V.R., R.N.A.S.					
Name 1	Rank or Rating 2	No. 3	Medals, &c. earned 4	How issued or disposed of. 5	Remarks 6
FLACK, Bertram	Surg. Lt.	R.N.	St. V. B.	ELDER JOINT RESID. LEGER	J. C. N ^o 39 477



Three of the British campaign medals: The 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Medical Directory 1919 lists "Flack, Bertram, "Brookside," Scott-Pk, Burnley, Lancs. Alongside his brother, Dr Frederick Henry Flack

FLACK, Bertram, "Brookside," Scott-pk. Burnley, Lancs. (*Tel. Burnley 627*)—L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Ed., L.R.F.P.S. Glas. 1910; (*Owens Coll. Manch.*); Temp. Surg. R.N.; late Ho. Surg. Torbay Hosp. Torquay & Asst. Res. Med. Off. Roy. Albert Hosp. Devonport, & Roy. Naval Hosp. Chatham.

***FLACK, Frederick Hy.**, 54, Railway-st. Nelson, Lancs. (*Flack & Haworth; Tel. 184 Nelson*)—M.B., Ch.B. Vict. 1900; (*Owens Coll.*); late Sen. Ho. Surg. Blackburn and E. Lancs. Infirm.

Bertram Flack died suddenly, aged 37, on 19 June 1919. The family oral tradition says that he died in the Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1919. His death was registered at Blackburn in the June Quarter of 1919.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 5945782-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		BLACKBURN							
1919 DEATH in the Sub-district of Blackburn Northern		in the County of Blackburn C.B.							
Columns - 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
416	Seventeenth June 1919 Burton Road, 18 Shearwood Road, W.D.	Bertram Flack	Male	37 years	86 Walsley Barton Road Burton W.D. L.B.S. L.B.S.	Pulver Infection Certified by W. Briggs M.B.	F. H. Flack Father 54 Railway Street Nelson	Seventeenth June 1919	J. H. Flack Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 22nd day of September 2014

DYD 753609

See note overleaf

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

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Bertram Flack was buried in Burnley Cemetery on 19 June 1919 in the family plot.

Probate was granted in London on 9 August to William Henry Douglas Flack, bank manager and his effects were valued at 985 pounds 14 shillings. The certificate stated that he lived at Underleigh Darwen, Lancashire and that he died on 16 June 1919.

1919.

FLACK Bertram of Underleigh Darwen **Lancashire** died 16 June 1919 at Blackburn Probate **London** 9 August to William Henry Douglas Flack bank manager. Effects £985 14s.