

**Belfast City Cemetery,  
Belfast, Northern Ireland**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SENIOR FOURTH ENGINEER OFFICER**

**S. A. McDONALD**

**S.S. "CELTIC"**

**MERCANTILE MARINE**

**31ST MARCH, 1918 Age 28**

## Stanley Angus McDONALD

Stanley Angus McDonald was born on 9th October, 1890 at Harrisville, Queensland to parents Angus & Minnie McDonald (nee Finch).

Angus McDonald, father of Stanley Angus McDonald, died on 16th May, 1909, aged 62.

A "Stanley McDonald, aged 27, Mariner" was a passenger on *Medic* which departed from the port of Liverpool, England & arrived at Brisbane, Queensland on 10th August, 1914.

Stanley Angus McDonald, "Sen 5 Engineer", aged 25, was listed as Crew on *Celtic* which arrived at New York on 11th June, 1917 from the port of Liverpool, England.

Stanley Angus McDonald, "Sen 5 Engineer", aged 25, was listed as Crew on *Celtic* which arrived at New York on 28th July, 1917 from the port of Liverpool, England.

Stanley Angus McDonald, "Sen 4 Engineer", aged 25, was listed as Crew on *Celtic* which arrived at New York on 15th September, 1917 from the port of Liverpool, England.

Stanley Angus McDonald, "Sen 4 Engineer", aged 26, was listed as Crew on *Celtic* which arrived at New York on 4th November, 1917 from the port of Liverpool, England.

Stanley Angus McDonald, "Sen 4 Engineer", aged 36, was listed as Crew on *Celtic* which arrived at New York on 26th December, 1917.

Stanley Angus McDonald, "Sen 4 Engineer", aged 26, was listed as Crew on *Celtic* which arrived at New York on 27th February, 1918.

### **RMS *Celtic* (1901)**

RMS *Celtic* was an ocean liner owned by the White Star Line.

*Celtic* was launched on 4 April 1901 from the Harland and Wolff shipyards in Belfast, and set off on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York City on 26 July.

At the beginning of the First World War, *Celtic* was converted into an armed merchant cruiser; however since the vessel had a high fuel consumption it was decided to convert her into a troop ship in January 1916 when she was used to carry soldiers to Egypt. She was put back on the transatlantic route in March 1916.

In 1917, *Celtic* struck a mine off the Isle of Man. Seventeen people on board were killed, but *Celtic* survived. A number of passengers were rescued by the London and North Western Railway ship *Slieve Bawn*. *Celtic* was towed to Peel Bay and repaired in Belfast.

In March 1918, U-Boat UB-77 torpedoed *Celtic* in the Irish Sea. Six people on board were killed, but again *Celtic* remained afloat. Eventually the damaged vessel was towed to Liverpool and repaired again. (*Wikipedia*)

Newspaper item – *Van Wert Daily Bulletin*, Van Wert, Ohio, United States of America – 2 April, 1918:

### ***BIG LINER CELTIC***

### ***HIT BY TORPEDO***

### ***Efforts Being Made to Save***

### ***White Star Steamship***

### ***ON WAY TO UNITED STATES***

### ***Vessel Has Gross Tonnage of 20,904***

## **Tons and is One of the Largest**

### **Vessels in the Transatlantic Service**

*New York, April 2 – The steamship Celtic, one of the big White Star liners, was torpedoed by a German submarine, according to reliable information received in marine circles here, during a voyage from England to America.*

*Efforts are being made to save the vessel, which, it is believed, carried no passengers.*

*The Celtic has a gross tonnage of 20,904 and has for many years been one of the largest steamships in transatlantic service. She was built at Belfast in 1901 and flies the British flag.*

### **Hits Mine Off Liverpool**

*More than a year ago the Celtic hit a mine off Liverpool, but was damaged only slightly.*

*In 1916 it was reported that a bomb, presumed to have been placed on board at New York, was discovered on the Celtic upon her arrival at Liverpool, but this was denied by officers of the White Star line.*

*It was the Celtic which brought \$25,000,000 worth of American securities from England in October, 1916.*

### **No Wounded Aboard**

*Washington, April 2. – If there were any American soldiers at all on board the Celtic, it was said here they were very few in number and carried as “casuals” returning home. It was stated that there were no sick or wounded on board.*

Newspaper item – Evening Independent, Massillon, Ohio, United States of America - 3 April, 1918:

### **CELTIC, HIT BY**

### **TORPEDO, SAFE**

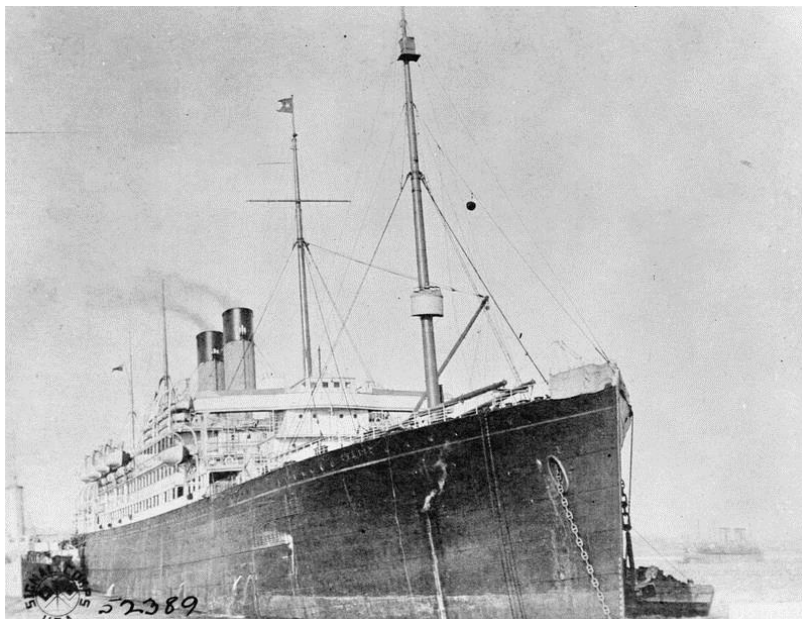
*New York, April 3 – The big White Star Line steamship Celtic, which was torpedoed a day or two ago while on a voyage to the United States, has reached a British port safely.*

*The White Star Line Tuesday received a cable message reading:*

*“Celtic safe.”*

Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald died on 31st March, 1918 as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine. Five other crew died – Robert Bodie (Refrigerator Greaser), William Edwin Gleave (Trimmer), Charles Jeffers (Chief Boots), George Richardson (Fireman) & Samuel Routledge (Fireman).

A death for Stanley A. McDonald, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Belfast, Ireland.



**RMS Celtic in 1919**

Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald was buried in Belfast City Cemetery, Belfast, Northern Ireland – Plot number P. 167 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

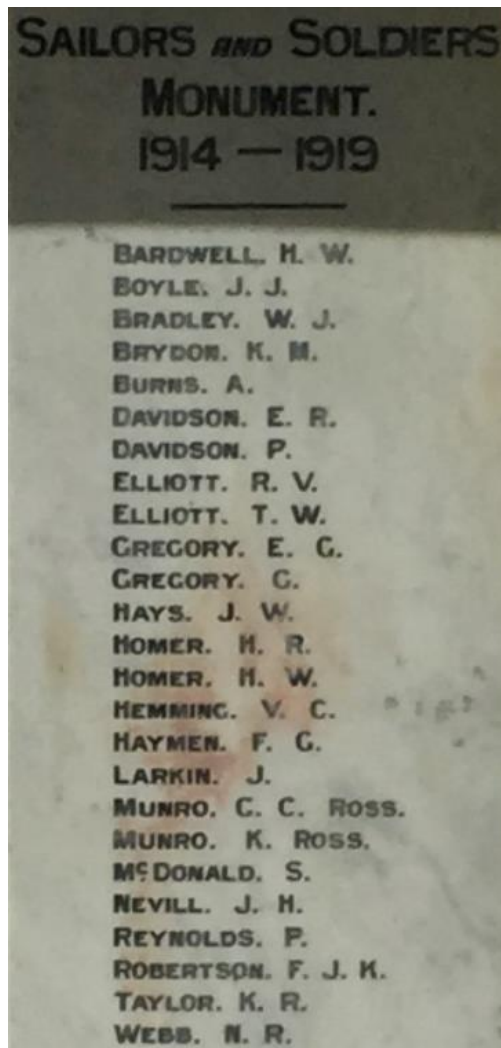
Probate Details:

*McDonald, Stanley Angus of 20 September Road, Liverpool, Marine Engineer died 31 March, 1918 at Sea. Administration (with Will limited) Liverpool, 20 November to Catherine Elizabeth Postlethwaite, widow the attorney of Minnie McDonald. Effects £350 6s. 8d.*

Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald was entitled to Mercantile Marine Medal & the British War Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald, aged 28, of S.S. "Celtic" (Liverpool), Mercantile Marine. He was the son of Minnie McDonald, of Indooroopilly, Queensland, Australia.

S. McDonald is remembered on the Indooroopilly Fallen Sailors and Soldiers Monument for World War 1. It is located in Keating Park, Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland.



**Indooroopilly Fallen Sailors and Soldiers Monument** (Photo by Kgbo)

Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

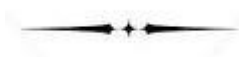


**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)





**Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **SUBMARINE WARFARE**

#### **R.M.S. CELTIC TORPEDOED**

PORTLAND (Ore), Monday

New York advises from Liverpool state that the White Star liner Celtic, 20904 tons, has been torpedoed, but is still afloat.

(*Daily Post*, Hobart, Tasmania – 4 April, 1918)

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### **SUBMARINE STRIFE**

#### **S.S. CELTIC REACHES PORT**

London, Wednesday – The liner Celtic which was torpedoed has reached port safely.

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 5 April, 1918)

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – Killed at sea by enemy attack, April 1st, 1918, Stanley A. McDonald, aged 27 years 6 months, 2nd Engineer Celtic, son of the late Angus McDonald, Harrisville and dearly loved only son of Mrs M. McDonald, Station-road, Indooroopilly.

“His duty done.”

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 13 April, 1918) & (*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 13 April, 1918)

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 15 April, 1918)

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Mrs M. McDonald, Station-road, Indooroopilly, has received a cable, notifying her that her only son, Stanley A. McDonald, second engineer of a large steamer, was killed on board, by enemy attack.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 April, 1918) & (*Cairns Post*, Queensland – 15 April, 1918)

(*The Northern Herald*, Cairns, Queensland – 25 April, 1918)

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, engineer s.s. Celtic, who gave his life for his country, 31st March 1918, aged 26 years and 7 months.

When alone in my sorrow, bitter tears flow,  
There stealeth a dream of a dear long ago;  
But unknown to the world, he stand by my side,  
And whispers, dear mother, death cannot divide.  
Far, far away on the hilltop,

In the city that has no pain,  
He will watch at the beautiful doorway,  
To bid us a welcome again.

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1919) & (The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1919)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, engineer s.s. Celtic, who gave his life for his country, March 31st, 1918.

Some day our hand shall clasp his hand

Just over in the Morning Land.

Mother.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1920)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, engineer Celtic, killed at sea by enemy attack, March 31st, 1918.

In the morning we think of thee, and in the evening we do not forget.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1921)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, Engineer Celtic, killed at sea by enemy attack, March 31, 1918.

“He lives in hearts that loved him.”

(Inserted by mother).

*(The Daily Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1922) & (The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1922)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, engineer, Celtic, killed at sea by enemy attack, 31st March, 1918.

He lives in hearts that loved him.

Mother

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1922) & (The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland -31 March, 1922)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, engineer, Celtic, killed at sea, by enemy attack, March 31, 1918.

Lovingly remembered

Mother

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1923) & (*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1923)

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, Engineer Celtic, killed at sea by enemy attack, March 31st, 1918.

Lovingly remembered

Mother

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1924)

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley Angus McDonald, engineer “Celtic”, killed at sea by enemy attack, March 31, 1918.

Lovingly remembered

Mother

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1925)

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, killed at sea by enemy attack, March 31st, 1918.

Lovingly remembered

Mother

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1926)

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

McDONALD – A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A. McDonald, Engineer, Celtic, killed at sea by enemy attack, March 31, 1918.

Lovingly remembered

Mother

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1928)

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Stanley Angus McDonald is remembered on the Family Headstone in Brisbane General (Toowong) Cemetery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.



**McDonald Family Headstone in Brisbane General (Toowong) Cemetery**



*In Loving Memory*  
*of*

**STANLEY A. McDONALD**

**ENGINEER S. S. "CELTIC"**

*YOUNGEST SON OF THE LATE*

**ANGUS McDONALD,**

*KILLED AT SEA BY ENEMY ATTACK*

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1918,**

**AGED 27 YEARS.**

*INTERRED CITY CEMETERY BELFAST*

**17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1918.**

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*HE DIED BRAVELY, WE LEAVE HIM RESTING  
IN A DISTANT, BUT HONOURED GRAVE.*

## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald has a Private Headstone which was erected by the White Star Line.

## **Belfast City Cemetery, Belfast, Northern Ireland**

The cemetery has commemorations from both world wars and a Cross of Sacrifice is erected within the site. There are now 296 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 274 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated here. Of the 1939-1945 burials 5 are unidentified. There are also 3 Norwegian Foreign Nationals and 7 non world war burials here. Those of the 1914-1918 war whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall memorial in Plot H.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Belfast City Cemetery** *(Photo by Martin – Find a Grave)*



**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo from CWGC)



**Belfast City Cemetery** (Photo from CWGC)

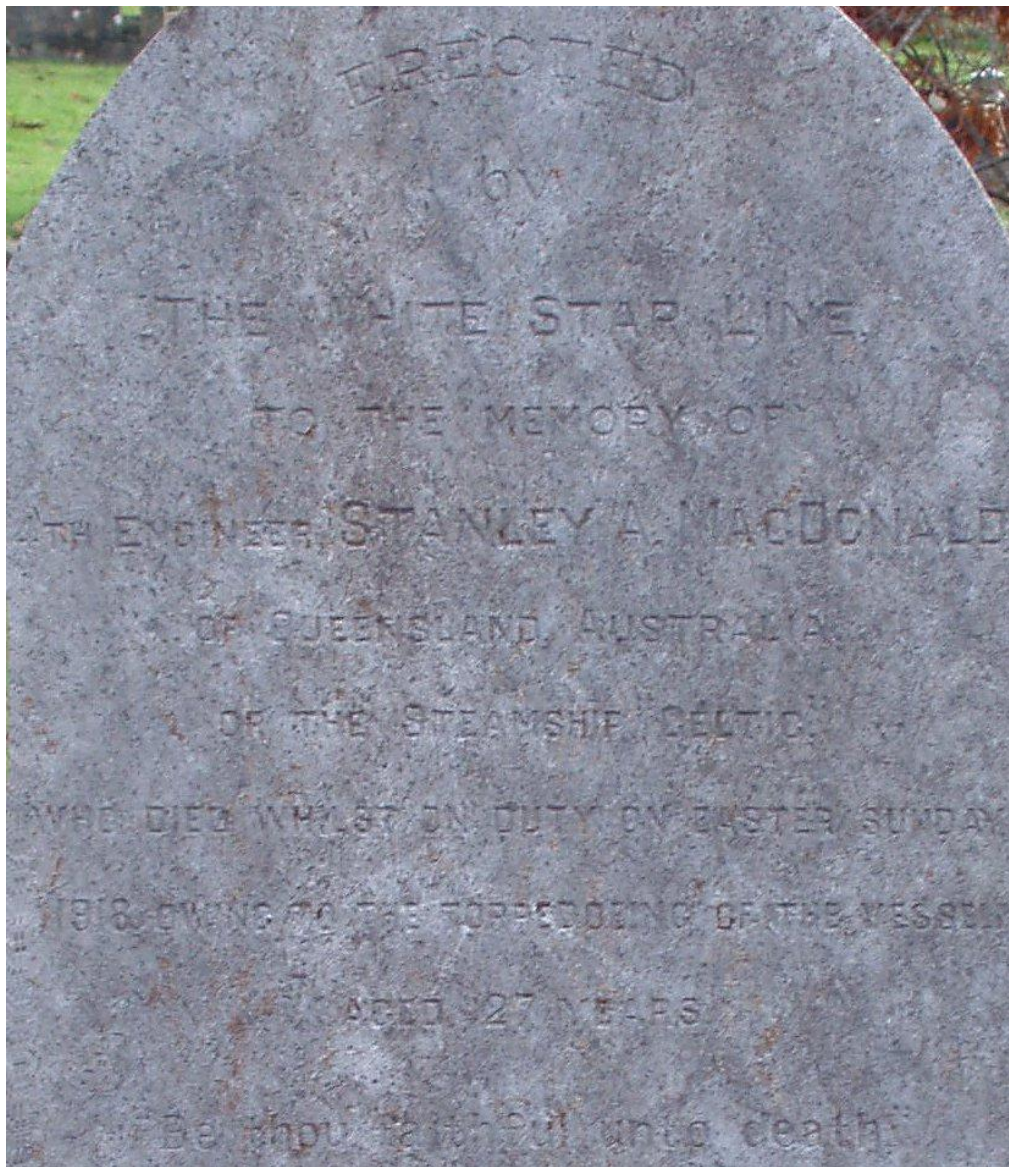
Photo of Senior Fourth Engineer Officer Stanley Angus McDonald's Private Headstone in Belfast City Cemetery, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

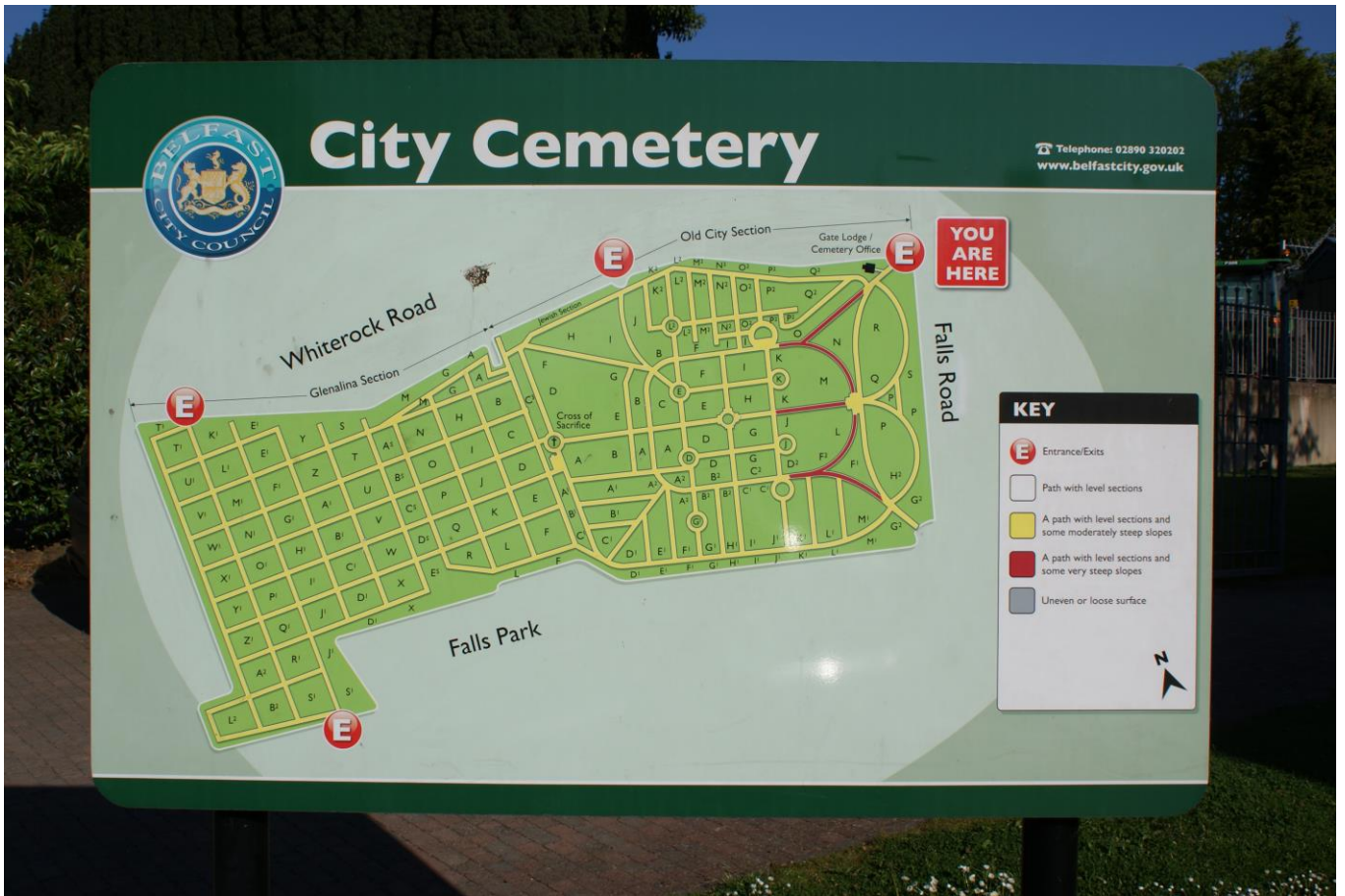


*(Headstone Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)*

*Erected*  
*by*  
*The White Star Line*  
*To The Memory Of*  
**4TH ENGINEER STANLEY A. MACDONALD**  
*Of Queensland, Australia*  
*Of The Steamship "Celtic"*  
*Who Died Whilst On Duty on Easter Sunday*  
*1918 Owing To The Torpedoing Of The Vessel*  
*Aged 27 Years*

*"Be thou faithful unto death"*





(Photo by JFH – Find a Grave)