

Aviation: Atlantic Crossing

James Mollison

Portmarnock Beach with its wide, expansive sands witnessed the daring exploits of a number of pioneering aviators. Particularly James Mollison (husband of Amy Johnson) who took off from Portmarnock Beach on the 18th August 1932 for what was acknowledged as the first solo east to west crossing of the Atlantic. He reached the territory of Canada after 31 and a half hours.

Over 80 years ago, a group of four under the command of Charles Smith, also started off from the beach of Portmarnock and managed to reach the island of Newfoundland. An Irish captain-navigator, Paddy Saul, was a member of the pilot's team.