

# remembrance ni



## Queen's University War Memorial

## RAF Centenary - Queensmen who served in WW1

Eighteen men from Queen's University and from the Officer Training Corps sponsored by the University served in the Royal Flying Corps and the emergent Royal Air Force.

Thirteen of the eighteen were killed in service. Among them were two brothers, Marcus and Alexander Tyrell from Belfast. Marcus was reading medicine and was a member of the Training Corps before joining the 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers. He subsequently transferred to the Royal Air Force.



### **The crest of the Officers Training Corps**

Alexander, a motor mechanic, served with the Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Car Division until an armoured car crushed his foot. He commissioned into the Royal Flying Corps in July 1917. Alexander was Ireland's fourth ranked air ace, with 17 victories. He was 18 years old when he was killed by ground machine gun fire.

Their brother who was serving as an army medical officer in France later transferred to the



RAF where he was eventually an Air Vice Marshall and Surgeon to HM The King.

Eleven of the eighteen had been members of the Officer Training Corps

The University contingent of the **Officers Training Corps** was created, along with corps in twenty three other universities in Britain, as a result of the Haldane Reforms of the Army. In 1906 Lord Haldene, the Secretary of State for War, decided to address the problem of the shortage of trained officers in the army. He set up a Committee in 1907 and it recommended that an Officer Training Corps be formed, a senior division to be based in universities and a junior division to be based in schools. The Officer Training Corps were established by Royal Warrant in April 1908 and the Queen's University



Officer Training Corps was formed on 21/08/1908.

Two who survived the war became founding members of the **Queen's University Services Club**. They were JW Stewart and Thomas Herriott. Herriott had served with the Royal Naval Air Service and then with the Royal Flying Corps. He also served as a Squadron Leader, in the Pathfinder Force in WW2,

The inaugural general meeting of the Club was held on 21/10/1918. The Club has two fundamental annual duties of remembrance which are to meet at an annual Eve of Remembrance Dinner and to ensure

representation at an Act of Remembrance at the University War Memorial on Remembrance Day.

## **Roll of Honour of those from Queen's University Belfast who served in the RFC and RAF in World War 1**

### **+BARRETT, Ernest William**

Royal Flying Corps. Captain. 29<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Died 29/05/1916. Age 26. He was educated at Campbell College, Royal School, Armagh; and Queen's University, Belfast. He was a noted athlete and a well known cricketer and football player, as well as a keen golfer.

Ernest Barrett spent five years working on an Australian sheep station and then he worked as the assistant manager on a large rubber plantation in Singapore. Shortly after the outbreak of the Great War he returned to London and gained a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. Captain Barrett was killed on May 29th when on patrol duty, in an attack on two German

machines, having the previous day attacked and skilfully outmanoeuvred a Fokker. He was shot in the head during an aerial duel with two German planes. His plane crash-landed behind his own lines and his body was recovered that evening.

His funeral was conducted by a Rev Preston, Church of England Chaplain to the Forces. After this bereavement Ernest's sister Daisy had a very quiet wedding in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast on 28/07/1916. She married Captain RB Purce from Ballymoney who was serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Captain Purce was due to return to the front on 4 August having come home on special leave from France for the wedding. The best man at the wedding was Daisy's brother Cadet St Clair Edward John Barrett (10th Reserve Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, Newtownards).

Norman was the first of the three Barrett brothers to die during the Great War, Ernest the second and Knox the third. Son of James Hunter Barrett JP and Eleanor Jane Barrett (nee Hughes). Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Bangor Masonic Lodge 286 RH. Bangor WM. Bangor RBL plaque. Bangor Parish.

## +BROWNE, William Angus

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8<sup>th</sup>. Battalion, attached Royal Flying Corps. 53rd Squadron. Reported missing in action on 21/09/1917. He was killed on that date. Age 24. Originally formed at Catterick on 15/05/1916, it was planned to use 53 Squadron as a training squadron, but in the December of that year it was sent to St Omer in France in the Corps reconnaissance role. The Squadron operated BE2Es until April 1917, when these were replaced by RE8s, which it continued to use for the remainder of the war.

William Angus Browne attended the Belfast Municipal Technical Institute to do an engineering course and on 01/09/1914 he joined the Training Corps.

He was the younger son of William and Eleanor Browne, Tubber-na-carrig, Kircubbin and Agincourt Avenue, Belfast. He was buried at Post - du - hem military Cemetery, La Gorgue. Commemorated in Kircubbin Parish Church (Holy Trinity) *and* family grave headstone in the adjoining graveyard.

Two of his sisters named their sons after him. James Hawks Stokes and Helen Lyle Stokes (nee Browne) had a son they named William

Angus Bartlett Stokes (named after William Angus Browne) and he was killed in the Second World War. Flying Officer (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) William Angus Bartlett Stokes (No. J/18752) served with 295 (RAF) Squadron in the Royal Canadian Air Force and he was 24 when he died on 11 June 1943. He was buried in Heanton Punchardon (St. Augustine) Churchyard, Devon.

John Boyd Iliff and Emily Davidson Iliff (nee Browne) had a son they named William Angus Boyd Iliff (named after William Angus Browne) and he was knighted by the Queen in 1961.

### **+BUCKLEY, Harold**

RAF. 53rd Training Squadron. Flight Cadet. Died 17/07/1918. Age 19. He was killed when his training aircraft spun and crashed in the Midlands. Trinity School and Halifax Secondary School.

Member of the Training Corps 15/05/1917. Gibraltar Rd., Halifax. Warley Congregational Cemetery. Halifax Town Books of Remembrance, Halifax Secondary School WM, St Hilda's Church, Halifax WM

### **+COLLIER, Reginald John**

Royal Flying Corps. Second Lieutenant. Died 12/02/1918. Aged 19. Educated at Bangor Grammar School and Kings Hospital School, Dublin, he took up a position in the Belfast Banking Company, working in their Cromac Street branch.

He was also a member of the Training Corps 1916 - 17. He enlisted in early 1917. He transferred from the General List to the the Royal Flying Corps with the rank of Second Lieutenant in August 1917. On 12/02/1918, he was killed in a flying accident while training with 13 Training Squadron at RAF Yatesbury. Born 15/10/1898. Son of William F. Collier and Marion F. Collier (nee Townsend) of Belfast and Hamilton Rd., Bangor. Interred in Bangor Cemetery. St. Comgall's Parish Church, Bangor WM.

### **+ELLISON, Sydney Wright**

Royal Air Force, 28<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Wing. Lieutenant. Died 16/06/1918. Age 19. Member of the QUB Training Corps 1917. Son of Thomas Harlow and Ethel Ellison, Ockbrook, Derbyshire. Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery

## **HERRIOT, Thomas Hunter**

RN. Flight Officer. MBE. DSC.(Heligoland and Zeebrugge). Mercantile Marine Medal. Croix de Guerre (Belge). Foundation member of QUB Services Club in which he is recorded as RFC. Captain. Gained pilot's licence 04/06/1917. On Ulster XV v. All Blacks, 1919. In WW2 he was a Squadron Leader, Pathfinder Force, RAF. Born 23/01/1894. Son of J. S. Herriot, Beaconsfield, Belmont Church Road, Belfast. Campbell College. QUB. B.Sc. (Engin.) A.M.I.A.E. M.Inst. B.E. Post war - Inspector, Ministry of Commerce, Transport Division. Victoria House, Armagh.

## **+McKISACK, Lawrence Hill Wilson**

5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Lancers, attached Royal Flying Corps. Lieutenant. Died 13/11/1916. Age 23. Marlborough College, Dublin. An apprentice in the linen trade. Joined Training Corps 29/01/1912. and was promoted from Cadet to Second Lieutenant (on probation) on 22/01/1915. He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery and the Royal Engineers. He was with 12 Reconnaissance Squadron (RS) flying out of RFC Thetford (Snarehill) aboard a Maurice Farman Shorthorn A2500 aircraft which side-slipped in a steep banking manoeuvre and

crashed in the Thetford area. The Maurice Farman Shorthorn French aircraft was used as a reconnaissance aeroplane and light bomber. Son of Dr Henry Lawrence McKisack MD (born in Carrickfergus) and Emily McKisack (nee Matier), College Square East, Belfast and University Road, Belfast. Dr Henry Lawrence McKisack MD was physician to the Ulster Volunteer Force. Lawrence is commemorated on the Credence Table in Helen's Bay Church of Ireland Parish Church. Belfast City Cemetery.

**+MERCIER, Herbert Blenner-Hassett,**

Royal Air Force, 55th Squadron. formerly Royal Irish Rifles. Lieutenant. Died 03/11/1918. Age 20. Member of the Training Corps 1916 - 17. Son of Claude Cochrane Mercier and Jennie F. Mercier, of "Redgarth," Douglas Rd., Cork. Native of Limerick. Charmes Military Cemetery, Essegney

**+MILLIKEN, James**

Royal Irish Rifles 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, attached Royal Flying Corps. 2nd Lieutenant. Died 31/12/1918. Age 26. He was employed as a motor mechanic when he enlisted, serving under the name Milligan. He had previously been a member of the Queen's University Training Corps and at the

time of enlistment, was living at "Oatlands", Carnmoney.

He initially served with the Royal Engineers (Inland Water Transport) and the 1st Royal Irish Rifles. He embarked for France on 29/09/1916 and was appointed to a temporary commission with the 20th Royal Irish Rifles on 15/10/1917. A medical report dated 23/06/1918 stated that James had been "blown up twice between March 21st and 31st 1918. He was 9 days in No. 2 Stationary Hospital. He has been through the most heavy fighting."

He was killed in an aeroplane crash at Turnberry, Scotland and is buried in Ballylinney Old Graveyard, Northern Ireland. James was born on 24/07/1892, the son of Samuel and HESSIE G Millikin, Ballyclare and later of "Scouthush", Carrickfergus. QUB WM

### **+MOLYNEUX, George**

Royal Air Force. Second Lieutenant Died 11/05/1918. Age 21. Member of the Training Corps 1917. Accidentally killed in Middlesex, whilst on active service. Only son of Mr. George Molyneaux, Ulsterville Gardens, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery.

## **NELSON, Samuel Banks**

RAF. Lieutenant. Campbell College. QUB 1913. Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, 1914-15. Born 13/07/1896, son of Rev. S. Banks Nelson, D.D., Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn., USA. Died 20/06/1942

## **O'NEILL, Thomas Malcolmson**

RFC and RAF, 1916-19. Campbell College. M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., 1925. D.O.M.S. (London), 1928. 1930-34, Resident Officer at Eye Hospitals. 1936, Ophthalmic Surgeon, East Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Canterbury and Thanet group of Hospitals. Born 12/06/1896, son of H. O'Neill, M.D., Benthamville, Knock, Belfast. Resided at New Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent.

## **+SCOTT, David Harden**

Royal Flying Corps, 65th Squadron. Lieutenant. MC. Died 12/12/1917. Age 21. Educated at Bangor Grammar School. On 08/09/1914 he joined the QUB Training Corps. Prior to the outbreak of the Great War he was employed by the County Down Weaving Co Ltd which he

entered from the Trade Preparatory School of the Municipal Technical Institute.

Harden Scott joined the Army in October 1914 and shortly afterwards received his commission in the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles (County Down Pioneers). For a time he served with the Army Cyclist Corps before being transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.

Lieutenant Scott was awarded the Military Cross on 28/08/1916 and the citation stated that, along with Second Lieutenant Herbert H Turk as pilot, he attacked seven hostile machines flying in formation and brought down one as a wreck. When turning to engage another machine the rudder controls were shot away and his machine went into a spinning nose-dive. After falling 5,000 feet the pilot partially regained control and, although the machine kept on turning, he managed to land safely. Lieutenant Scott was injured and required a lengthy period of convalescence; Second Lieutenant Turk was subsequently killed in action on 03/11/1916.

Harden received his Military Cross from the King on 29/08/1917 and on 27/10/1917 he returned to France as a scout pilot. Two weeks later, on

12/11/1917, he was killed in action whilst on patrol over the German lines. His machine was brought down by a direct hit from an enemy anti-aircraft gun.

Major Cunningham described it as 'cruel luck for it is only once in many thousand or even million times that a direct hit is obtained'.

Memorial services were held in four Ballynahinch churches – Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Congregational and Methodist. Harden Scott had presented a gold medal to Ballynahinch Boy Scout Troop to be used as a competition trophy.

Born on 24/11/1895 in Abbey Street, Bangor and he was the eldest son of Matthew and Elizabeth Craig Scott (nee Lemon). Matthew Scott was the railway station-master in Bangor. At the time of Harden's death, the Scott family was living at 43 Railway Street, Ballynahinch where Matthew Scott was the station-master. Post du Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue Nord France. Lieutenant David Harden Scott is commemorated in Bangor Masonic Lodge No. 746 and as J H Scott in both First Bangor Presbyterian Church WM and Bangor Grammar School WM.

## **+SHIELDS, William**

Manchester Regiment, attached Royal Flying Corps. Lieutenant. Flying Officer. Died 05/09/1917. BA 1913. At the outbreak of war he was working as a teacher at Skegoneil School in Belfast. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Belfast on 18/02/1915. Soon after he applied for a commission and was made a second lieutenant in the infantry. Early in 1916 he embarked for Egypt where he joined a battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

He later returned to England and in April 1917 he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps as a flying officer. On 22 August he was posted to No.45 Squadron in France. At 7.10 am on 05/09/1917 Shields took off on an offensive patrol, flying a Sopwith Camel.

According to his commanding officer, writing to Shields' father: "Your son was killed in aerial combat. Eye-witnesses whom I have questioned inform me that your son put up a most magnificent fight. It appears that he was fighting a Hun 'plane, and would have shot it down, when another German 'plane, which your son couldn't see, dived down on his tail. Your son was killed instantaneously, as his machine fell completely out of control in front of our lines. His

body was recovered, and buried behind the lines with military honours."

Three of Lieutenant Shields' brothers also served in the war. Samuel of the Royal Irish Rifles was killed in action on the Somme on 02/07/1916. Neil also served in the Rifles before joining the Tank Corps. Robert served in the Royal Flying Corps.

William Shields was born on 31/01/1889 at Seaforde, County Down, son of coachman Samuel Shields and his wife Sarah. Lieutenant Shields was buried at Voormezele Enclosures No.1 and No.2, in Belgium.

## **STEWART, JW**

RAF. Cadet. Foundation member of QUB Services Club

## **+TURNBULL, Alexander Miller**

Royal Flying Corps. 12th Squadron. Lieutenant. Died 25/04/1917, in the Battle of Arras, while flying a BE2d/e biplane over the village of Avesnes Le Conte, south west of Boulogne. Educated at RBAI and QUB (Faculty of Commerce, 1912-1913). Alec was the son of

Martin Harper Turnbull, a governor of Inst, and Agnes Edgar Turnbull of Belfast, Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucour Pas de Calais, France. He is also commemorated on the Solicitor's Memorial, Four Courts, Dublin, and RBAI WM

### **+TYRELL, John Marcus**



Royal Irish Fusiliers, attached Royal Air Force. Captain. Died 20/06/1918. Age 23. RBAI and QUB where he read medicine and was a member of the Training Corps. He joined the 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers. Marcus was granted two months medical leave on 15t/



## The memorial plaques awarded to the family of the Tyrrell brothers

11/916 on account of "debility and anaemia". He subsequently transferred to the Royal Air Force. He was killed on 20/06/1918, aged 23, during the course of an attempt to bring his aircraft back to the aerodrome after he had been shot. Marcus was born on 27/03/1895, the son of John Tyrrell, JP, and Jeanie Tyrrell (nee Todd) of Fairview Buildings, Crumlin Road, Belfast, and later "The Cairn", Ballyholme, Bangor. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. First Bangor Presbyterian Church WM, Bangor WM. RBAI WM

**+TYRELL, Walter Alexander**

RNAS. Petty Officer. 32nd Squadron RAF, Flight Lieutenant. MC. Alexander was Ireland's fourth ranked air ace, with 17 victories. The first was on 30/10/1917 over Passchendaele, the last two being at 1845 and 1850 on 06/06/1918.

Alexander attended RBAI (Inst) and the Belfast Municipal Technical Institution. He was a member of the Queen's University Training Corps and was working as an apprentice motor engineer. He served in the RNAS (Armoured Car

Section) as a Petty Officer from 26/12/1914 to 24/11/1915. (The purpose of this unit formed by a cousin of Sir Edward Carson was to drive into no-mans land to rescue downed airmen). During this time, Alexander spent 8 months in France and suffered an injury, when an armoured car crushed his foot. Subsequently he used a specially made boot.

He commissioned into the Royal Flying Corps in July 1917 and was posted to No 32 Squadron RFC, to pilot Air DH.5s. Using No B4916, he scored five victories between 30 October and 5 December 1917.

One particular victory, his second, on 11/11/1917 was described thus: "Three 32 Sqn DH5s flown by 2nd Lts Howson, W A Tyrrell and Clayton, were engaged on an OP. At 1000 over Westroosbeke, Clayton & Tyrrell first intercepted an Albatros with a yellow and green fuselage and yellow nose. Clayton was forced to pull out of the fight with a gun jam, but Tyrrell carried on the attack. The German began a staggering flutter in a downward direction. As the pilot attempted to pull the stricken Albatros out of the dive, Tyrrell fired again, his bullets striking the pilot's head and the instrument panel in front of him. The Albatros reared upwards before spinning down again. Tyrrell lost sight of his



## The War Memorial at the Royal Belfast Academical Instituton (RBAI/Inst) on which the Tyrrell brothers are remembered

quarry at 300 feet as it fell through and below other circling German aircraft - it was too dangerous to follow. There were no German pilot fatalities on this day. Nevertheless, Tyrrell added this out of control' to his score."

His squadron then re-equipped with Royal Aircraft Factory SE.5s and became No 32 Squadron of the newly formed Royal Air Force, and he flew No 8374 to twelve more victories. In

the process, he scored triple victories on April 7, May 3 and June 6, 1918.

He was awarded the Military Cross, the citation for which read: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On one day this officer attacked two enemy triplanes, destroying one and driving down the other out of control. After this he was attacked by two other machines, one of which he forced to land, taking the occupants prisoners. On various other occasions, he has destroyed or driven down out of control enemy machines."

Alexander was killed, at the age of 19, while flying his Fouquierolles SE5a biplane. He was brought down by enemy machine gun fire from the trenches. Born 23/08/1898. Son of John Tyrrell and Jeanie Tyrrell (nee Todd) of Fairview Buildings, Crumlin Road, Belfast, and later Ballyholme. Beauvais Communal Cemetery, Oise, France. Bangor WM. RBAI WM.QUB WM. First Bangor Presbyterian Church WM. RBAI WM

---

Acknowledgments -

Barry Niblock  
Campbell College Register

Halifax Town Books of Remembrance,  
Inst in the Great War  
Queen's University Services Club

---

## remembrance ni

---

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI.

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.

To receive a copy of **remembrance ni** please contact -

[houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com](mailto:houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com)

