



remembrance ni

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## Local Newspapers and the Great War - 1

### July 24, 1916, Belfast News Letter

**Private Isaac Freeman** of Avoca Street in Belfast became the first Belfast Jew to fall in the Great War. He had joined up at the outbreak of the war and served in the Highland Light Infantry.

### 23rd July 1917 Belfast Newsletter

#### Ulster Division Rank and File Fatalities

**Private Edward Adair**, 27059, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 20, Son of Robert and Margaret Adair nee Mullen, of Robert Street, **Newtownards**. missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Private Robert Brown**, 22345, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 29, Son of Mary Jane Brown of Fountain Place, **Londonderry**, missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Private William James Craig**, 18097, 11th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 24, Son of David and Jane Craig, of Ballyarnett, **Londonderry**. Wm was born at The Elms, Londonderry.

Died of wounds 6th July 1917, deceased is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

**Lance-Corporal Donald McGowan**, 15849, B' Company 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 22, Son of George and Jane McGowan of 55 Fountain Street, **Londonderry**, missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval France.

**Private John Norris**, 21081, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 35, Son of Robert and Nancy Norris of Brook Hall, Co. Londonderry ; Husband of Elizabeth Norris of 34 Fountain Place, **Londonderry**. Missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval France.

**Private Thomas Patterson**, 15930, A' Company 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 23, Son of John and Martha C. Patterson of Ardmore Bleachworks, **Londonderry**, missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Private Harry Quinton**, 23226, 11th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 21, Son of William and Ann J. Quinton of **Ballindrait, Co. Donegal**. Missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Lance-Corporal Samuel John Scott**, 21245, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 29, Husband of Edith Scott nee Harkins, of 45 Ashfield Terrace, Creggan Road, **Londonderry**, Missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Lance-Corporal Robert Bacon**, 15303, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 27, Eldest Son of Robert and Mary Jane Bacon of Agherton, **Portstewart**, Co. Antrim. Robert resided in

Cross Lane, **Coleraine**, to who a certificate for gallantry was awarded, and who was missing since 1st July, 1916, is now reported killed on that date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Private Thomas James Finlay**, 15517, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Age 23, Son of Mr. John Finlay, of Burnside, **Portstewart**, Co. Londonderry, who recently was awarded the Military Medal for bravery, has been killed in action, in Belgium 26th June 1917, deceased is buried in Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Belgium.

**Rifleman Daniel Johnston**, 17965, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 24, Son of David and Isabella Johnston, of **Bushmills**, Co Antrim. Previously reported missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is buried in Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France.

**Lance-Corporal Harris Lee Moore Absolom**, 17117, A' Company 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 20, Son of George and Belle K. Absolom of Killiney, **Bangor**, Co. Down, missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval France.

**Rifleman James Adams**, 12/586, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 24, Son of James C. and Agnes Adams, Of Carncullagh, **Dervock**, Belfast. Killed in action 22nd June 1917, deceased is buried Derry House Cemetery No.2, Belgium.

**Rifleman Isaac Richardson**, 17/51, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 36, Husband of Elizabeth Richardson of 39 Abingdon Street, Donegall Road, **Belfast**. Missing since 1st July 1916, now reported killed in action on that same date, deceased is buried in Connaught Cemetery Thiepval France.

**Rifleman David Smyth**, 18802, B' Company 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 26, Son of David and Elizabeth Smyth nee Dickson, of 49 Beersbridge Road, **Belfast**. Previously Mill Street, Comber, Co Down. Missing since 1st July 1916, now reported

killed in action on that same date, deceased is commemorate on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman Samuel Whelan**, 18/1417, 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 19, Son of Charles and Selina Whelan nee Walker of 6 Ewart's Row Belfast. Killed in action 21st June 1917, deceased is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

## **25th July 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **MILITARY CROSS AWARDED**

**LIEUTENANT GEORGE YORK HENDERSON**, Royal Irish Rifles, has been awarded Military Cross in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the field during the great attack on the Messines-Wyschaete Ridge early last month. This officer is the fourth son of the late Sir James Henderson, D.L., Belfast. He received his earlier education at the Methodist College, Belfast, and afterwards proceeded to Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated B.A. in 1914.

He was a divinity student when war was declared, but relinquished his studies on the formation of the Ulster Division to accept a commission in the Army Service Corps. He was adjutant of the 36th (Ulster) Divisional Train, with the rank of captain, for a considerable time. Desirous of getting into the fighting line he transferred to a Belfast battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles in March, 1916, and was wounded during the attack before Thiepval at the opening of the battle of the Somme in July of that year.

On recovering he rejoined his battalion, and had the good fortune to come unscathed through the victorious advance on the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge. Lieutenant Henderson was gazetted on 20th June last to a commission in the regular army, with seniority as from 9th August, 1915, and to remain with his present battalion until ordered to join a regular unit. One of his brothers is in the Senior Service, and two are in the Army.

Remembrance ni note - Lieut. Henderson 10th (Ser) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, was later killed in action 22nd November 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai.

## **26th July 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **REWARDS FOR GALLANTRY.**

**Second-Lieutenant James McMechan.** "A" Company commander, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Derry Volunteers), (Ulster Division), has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the Messines battle.

## **28th July 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **MILITARY CROSS AWARDED**

**Company Sergeant Major John Henry Kelly**, 15/11687, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, who has been awarded the Military Cross, was in the employment of Messrs. Norman Macnaughton & Sons Ltd. Corporation Street, before he joined the colours. He is serving with a Belfast Volunteer Division. Remembrance ni note - CSM John Henry Kelly, 15/11687, A Coy, 15th Bn., Royal Irish Rifles, taken prisoner of war 27th March 1918, he was born 22nd May 1884 Cork, Ireland and resided at 5 Jersey Street, **Belfast**. He would survive the war earning the MC, 1914-15 Star, British War & Victory Medal.

## **28th July 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **MILITARY CROSS AWARDED**

**Second-Lieutenant James McMechan**, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the advance on the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge, is a son of Mr. McMechan, Ballee, **Downpatrick**. He received his commission in the Reserve of the Ulster Division on 23rd April 1915, and left for the front on 9th May last. He suffered from shell shock shortly after his arrived in the front line.

## **26th July 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **MILITARY MEDAL.**

**14481 Sergeant. James Parke**, 11th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, (Ulster Division\*) who has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the Messines battle, is the only son a Mr. Thomas Parke, J.P., Rosebank, **Moville. County Donegal**. He was severely wounded on the 1st July 1916.

**15531 Lance-Corporal John Gallagher**, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, (Ulster Division) son of the late Mr. James Gallagher and Mrs. Gallagher, 8, Foze's Lane, Derry, and grandson of Mr. William Gallagher, Snr. Bishop Street Within, **Londonderry**.

**15909 Corporal William Nicol**, 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, (Ulster Division) son of Mr. Matthew Nicol and Mrs. Nicol, 10, Queen Street, **Londonderry**.

**16012 Corporal Andrew Sinclair**, 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, (Ulster Division\*) son of Mr. Archibald Sinclair, 4, Hawthorn Terrace, **Londonderry**.

**25899 Private Philip McLoughlin, Royal Dublin Fusiliers** (Lewes Gun Section), who recently spent a few days with his sister, Mrs. Cunningham, at **Rostrevor**, has been awarded the Military Medal.

**17273 Corporal Herbert Blackmore**, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, (Ulster Division\*) has been decorated with the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty in holding an advance post against a German attack of 60 men. Corporal Blackmore, had eight men under his command and repulsed the attack, which was assisted by an artillery barrage. Corporal Blackmore is a son of Mr. George Blackmore, Quay Road. **Ballycastle**, and a member of Armoy Company of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

## **27th July 1917, Belfast Newsletter**

### **Bravery in the Field**

**9/15849 Sergeant Edward Reid**, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, who has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field, is a member of the North Belfast Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force.

He is the youngest son of the late Mr. Gregory Reid, of Glengormley, and Mrs. Reid, 52 Stratheden Street, **Belfast**. - Sergeant Edward Reid age 23, was killed in action 7th August 1917.

## **RI RIFLES 4th August 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **Ulster Division Rank and File Fatalities**

**Rifleman Hugh Nicholson**, 15711, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 33, Son of Hugh and Ellen Jane Nicholson, nee Montgomery, Hugh's Daughter Eleanor is listed as next of kin, 30 Ferndale Place, Lisburn Road, **Belfast**. Rifleman Nicholson was killed in action on 1st July, 1916, on which date he was reported missing. He was a member of the South Belfast Regiment, U.V.F., deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman Charles Nixon**, 17/1829, B' Company 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 19, Son of Margaret Ann Nixon, of 13, Curzon St., **Belfast**, and the late William John Nixon. Rifleman Nixon who had been missing since 1st July, 1916, was killed on that date. He was a member of the South Belfast Regiment U.V.F., and prior to enlistment was a sorting clerk in the G.P.O., deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman Mark Nutt**, 15703, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 20, Son of Mrs. Jane Nutt of 36 Ulsterville Gardens, **Belfast**. Rifleman Nutt is presumed to have been killed on 1st July, 1916, on which date he was posted missing. He was a member of the South Belfast Regiment U.V.F., deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

## **12th August 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **Rank and File Casualties**

Three brothers killed.

**Company Quartermaster Sergeant George Frank Newel**, 12102, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles who has been killed in action, was the sixth son of Mr. H. A. Newel, Royal Avenue, and 22 Antrim Road, who has now lost three sons in the war. **Walter a lance-corporal in the Black Watch**, having been killed in 1915 and **Davis a private in a public schools battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, having been killed in 1916**, while a fourth son, **Thomas, also in the Royal Fusiliers, was wounded some time ago**. The deceased was a brother of Mr. Jas. F. Newel, a well known local vocalist. He was educated at the Royal Academy, and before volunteering from the North Belfast Regiment, U.V.F., was in business with his father in Royal Avenue. He was formerly in the Boy's Brigade, and was a member of St. James Church. Deep sympathy will be felt for the family in their terrible loss. Deceased was 36 years of age and is buried in Wieltje Farm Cemetery, Belgium

A handsome memorial cross of Irish Granite has just been erected at the Gobbins with the inscription:- "To the memory of Lance-Corporal Walter Newel, 6th Battalion Black Watch, who fell in action in France, 10th July 1915. Erected by his friends, with whom he spent many happy days at the Gobbin's Farm."

## **14th August 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **Ulster Division Rank and File Fatalities**

**Rifleman John Bourke**, 3863, 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 23, Husband of Annie Bourke nee McMaster, of 39 Stonyford Street, **Belfast**, met his death on or since 2nd July, 1916, deceased is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval France.

**Rifleman Robert Edward Gregory**, 14748, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 25, Son of Robert and Lizzie Gregory, of 55 Great Northern Street, **Belfast**, previously reported missing, now reported killed on 1st July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Riflemen James 14999, and Scott 15008, Johnston**, both 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, sons of Maria Johnston, of 18 Rainey Street, **Belfast**, both men were reported missing on 1st July, 1916, are now officially presumed to have been killed on that date. Both were members of the South Belfast Regiment U.V.F., and both men are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman James Ritchie Jones**, 15025, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 22, Son of George and Hester Jones nee Davidson, of 55 River Terrace, **Belfast**, must be regarded as killed on 1st July, 1916, since which date he had been missing. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman William McElroy**, 15400, 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 26, Son of James and Sarah McElroy nee Smith, of 313 Albertbridge Road, **Belfast**, is now officially reported as killed in action 2nd July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman Henry Gilliland**, 14704, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 23, Son Of Mrs. Martha Gilliland Of 8 Milner Street, **Belfast**, Co. Antrim. Killed in action 1st July, 1916, Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

The War Office has just intimated to Mr. Harry Hanna that his son, **Archibald McMullan Hanna**, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, must be presumed to have been killed on 1st July, 1916, on which date he had been posted missing. Deceased was 19 years of age, was a member of the North Belfast U.V.F., (Cliftonville Special Service Corps), and joined the Ulster Division at its formation. He was a sergeant in 25th (St. Enoch's) Boys Brigade, and prior to enlistment was employed by Messrs. A Millar & Co., Clifton Street. His parents now resided at 7 Hologate Road, Nottingham, formerly of 27 Court Street, **Belfast**. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman George Albert Hawthorne**, 10/14863, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 21, Son of George and Josephine

Hawthorne nee Grimsby, of 19 Mulhouse Street, **Belfast**, previously reported missing, now reported killed on 1st July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman Samuel Hill**, 242, C' Company 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 21, Son of Mrs. L. Hill, of McCleans Entry. North End. **Ballyclare**. Co. Antrim. Succumbed to an illness contracted while on active service, passed away at Edmonton Military Hospital, England, deceased is buried in Ballycor Old Graveyard, Co Antrim.

**Rifleman Joseph Jackson**, 14977, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 21, Son of Peter and Sarah Jane Jackson nee Smith, of **Templepatrick**, Co Antrim, has been missing since 1st July, 1916, now reported as killed on that date. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Lance-Corporal Edward Stewart Lockington**, 6681, C' Company 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 25, Son of John and Mary Lockington of 10 Kinallen Street, Ormeau Road, **Belfast**. who is officially reported killed on 1st July, 1916, is the second brother to make the supreme sacrifice. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman Thomas McCormick**, 13132, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Husband of Sarah McCormick nee Breen, of 87 Glenwood Street **Belfast**, is now officially reported killed on 1st July 1916, Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Private Henry Sharkey**, 17737, 108th Brigade Machine Gun Corps, formerly 18751, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 22, Son of Andrew and Jane Sharkey, of **Carmoney**, Co. Antrim. Died of wounds received in action, at No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, 5th of August 1917, deceased is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**Rifleman Thomas Watson**, 16083, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 19, Son of James Mary Jane Watson nee Galbraith, of

17 Houston Street, Ballyhackamore, **Belfast**, is now officially reported killed on 1st July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

**Rifleman William Wilson**, 13872, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 23, Son of Mrs. Rebecca Wilson of 12 Apsley St., later 27 Dever Street, **Belfast**, who had been missing since 1st July 1916, is now officially reported killed on that date. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

### **17th August 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

#### **ULSTER BANK OFFICIAL KILLED.**

Patriotic County Derry Family Bereaved.

**Company Quartermaster Sergeant Robert Ernest Toye**, Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action on the 6th inst. was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. John Toye, Fortavon. **Garvagh**, and a nephew of Miss M. E. Wilson. Carnroe, Kilrea. Deceased, who is 26 years of age, was an accountant in the Ulster Bank prior to joining the colours on the formation of the Ulster Division. The following is an extract from a letter received from his chum, Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant W. Thornton :-

" Bob Toye has been killed. He was up with rations on the night of the 6th August, and while at the ration dump a shell exploded close to him and killed him instantaneously, along with another, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Newel (Belfast). These two were my best friends. Bob joined with me, and was in stores with me almost all the time, so I can feel a little of the sorrow that his mother will feel. Will you please tell her that her grief is shared by the men of D Company, and by many others in the regiment who, like me, knew Bob to be a straight man and good friend. We are having crosses made, and later on, when they are erected, I will let you have all particulars."

Deceased was one of four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Toye serving their King and country. The eldest son, William Toye, an engineer in civil life, joined the Army in that capacity soon after the outbreak of war, and is now on H.M.S. destroyer Ranger. The second son, David A.

Wilson Toye, is at present serving in France with Hawke's Bay Company, Wellington Infantry, New Zealand Imperial force, having recently returned to France after being wounded for the second time. The fourth son, Samuel Perry Toye, was invalided home to New Zealand in 1916 as unfit for further service, after being seriously wounded in Gallipoli, where he served in the Wellington Infantry.

Admin note:

**C.Q.M.S. Robert Ernest Toye**, 13744, D' Coy. 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 26, Son of John and Elizabeth G. Toye, of Fortavon, **Garvagh**, Co. Londonderry. Killed in action 6th August 1917, deceased is buried in Wieltje Farm Cemetery, Belgium.

**C.Q.M.S. George Frank Newel**, 12102, D' Coy. 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 26, Son of Henry Arthur and Helen Hunter Newel, of 362, Antrim Rd., Belfast. Killed in action 6th August 1917, deceased is buried in Wieltje Farm Cemetery, Belgium.

## **7th September 1917 Belfast Newsletter**

### **ULSTER OFFICERS IN SWITZERLAND**

Passed for Repatriation.

An additional list of officers passed for repatriation from Switzerland next Saturday, forwarded by the Berne correspondent of the " Morning Post," includes the names of the undernoted from the Royal Irish Rifles :—

**Major H. R. Charley** brother of Mr. E. J. Charley, J.P., Seymour Hill, **Dunmurry**, who was wounded and captured in September, 1914.

**Major A. P. Jenkins, Lisburn and Belfast**, who was wounded and captured on 1st July, 1916.

**Captain J. H. Berry**, 304. Springfield Road, **Belfast**, who was wounded and taken prisoner on 1st July, 1916.

**Lieutenant T. C. Shillington**, Glenmachan Tower, **Strandtown**, of the Broadway Damask Company, who was wounded and taken prisoner in December, 1915.

A party which will leave Switzerland for England on Tuesday next includes :—

**Lieutenant Joseph W, Shannon**, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, of **Coleraine**.

**Lieutenant Robert Gracey**, Royal Irish Rifles, of **Helen's Bay**.

It was previously announced in this newspaper that both these officers had been passed for repatriation.

### **8th September 1917 Belfast Newsletter (10th)**

#### **Military Cross Hero Killed**

**Company Sergeant-Major Robert Selkirk Whelan, M.C.**, who has been killed in action, had an exceedingly creditable record. A son of Mr. John E. Whelan, Ravenhill Road, **Belfast**, he was previous to the war a member of the Willowfield detachment of the Ulster Volunteer Force. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty on the 1st July, 1916, and in June this year he was decorated with the Military Cross. In a letter to his parents the deceased's company commander says Sergeant-Major Whelan constantly distinguished himself in the field, and no man was more deserving of the decoration which were bestowed on him.

#### **From the Larne Weekly Times**

#### **Memorial to a Belfast Hero.**

This monument, of which photo is here given, was erected on Metz Cemetery, France, by the officers and men of the 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, in memory of the late **Company Sergeant-Major, R.S. Whelan, M.C., M.M.**, who was killed in action on the 29th August 1917. The late Coy-Sgt-Major R.S. Whelan was the eldest son of John E. Whelan 372b Ravenhill Road, Belfast. He

won the Military Medal when sergeant, on 1st July 1916, and for his bravery during the attack on Messines on 7th June, 1917, he was awarded the Military Cross. A bed in his name has been endowed in the U.V.F. Hospital, a sum of £58 4s being subscribed for the purpose by the officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers of the South Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, for the purpose. The late Coy-Serjt-Major Whelan received the 36th Divisional Certificate for gallantry and good work on the 15th June 1917.

## **11th September 1917 Northern Whig**

### **Memorial Service at Tynan Primate's Tribute to Ulster Division**

A memorial service for the late, **Lieutenant James Matthew Stronge**, Royal Irish Fusiliers, and of all friends, especially of the Ulster and Canadian Divisions, who had laid down their lives in the war, was held in Tynan Parish Church on Sunday. Many members of the Audience wore mourning armlet's with the initials "J. S." ,embroidered thereon. Colonel Fitzgerald and Captain McElwaine represented the Irish Fusiliers. The officiating clergy were his Grace the Lord Primate, Canon Tichboune, Rev. N. St. G. Sides, and. the Rector, Rev. W. H. Fitzmaurice. The "Last Post " was sounded from the chancel by -bugler of the 10th Royal Irish Fusiliers, under Bandmaster F. May. The collection was in aid of the funds of the Ulster Volunteer Hospital. Miss Hannah McMaster presided efficiently at the organ.

The Lord Primate based his address on the words "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" -Rev. 22nd Chap., 10th verse. He said to-day they were face to face with a conflict and a cross, and the only thing that gave them comfort and hope was the assurance of the crown of life. In two memorable engagements the men of the Ulster Division had won undying fame not only for their own province but for the whole of Ireland. First of all on the 1st July last year at Thiepval, and on August 16th this year at what you they might call the fourth battle of Ypres, their province had lost thousands of their noblest and best, and the Division on both occasions tried to do the impossible. In between.

In between these two dates there came the splendid fight at Messines, in which the men of Ulster helped to carry the flag to successful victory. One great war correspondent spoke of the recent battle in these words :-

"For simple heroism and dogged fighting against overwhelming odds there has been no finer effort by any British troops since the war began." It was in that fight that their beloved comrade, Sir James Stronge, fell, wounded unto death, after bringing up through shot and shell the supplies of water, food, and munitions that the men sorely needed. He (his Grace) had read the testimony of officers and men alike to his patience, resourcefulness, and courage, One who had a right to speak said that Lieutenant Stronge never set his men a task to do that he would not gladly do himself. So considerate, so thoughtful of others, so whole-hearted in everything he did in his short life, the gallant young officer seemed to have compressed the work of fifty years and more. Thank God for the record of such a life! And with Lieutenant Stronge's name that day they linked all those Ulstermen who had taught them by their lives and death the glory of sacrifice, of service, of duty and honour, more especially the men whose names were registered on the roll of honour of that parish. In conclusion, his Grace said it was a noble thing for their men to have offered their services in this war for God against the devil than to have rested quietly at home. They were all proud of their Ulstermen who had gone forth to save the world.

### **11th April 1918, Northern Whig Ulster Division Officer Killed**

**Lieutenant James Frederick Daniel McCay**, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 27th March, 1918, was the second son of Rev. James and Jeanie McCay, of **Castlederg**, County Tyrone. He was born in 1892, and was educated at Campbell College, Belfast. He was wounded in July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

## **13th April 1918, Northern Whig**

### **Lieut.-Colonel Blair-Oliphant Died of Wounds**

Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Laurence Kington Blair-Oliphant, D.S.O., 11th/13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, of Ardblair Castle, **Blairgowrie, Perthshire, and Lisburn**, has died of wounds. He was a nephew of the late Mr. Thomas Laurence Oliphant, of Gask, was educated at Harrow, and entered the army in 1888. He received the D.S.O. in 1916. He is succeeded by his eldest son, born in 1901. Colonel Oliphant was the author of several novels. Before the war he was an enthusiastic leader in the Ulster Volunteer Force. He succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Pakenham in the command of the Rifles.

Lieut.-Colonel Oliphant (then Captain Oliphant) came to Lisburn during the time the Ulster Volunteer Force was at its zenith, being specially attached by the powers that were to the 1st Lisburn Battalion of that force. He was a keen soldier, a strict disciplinarian, and a jolly good fellow, and the men were very proud to work under him. When the war broke out Captain Oliphant at once volunteered for the bigger fight, and to the great gratification of the South Antrim Volunteers, who had very soon become the 11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, their old officer was appointed second-in-command with the rank of major. He went to the front with the battalion in October, 1915, and took part in all the Ulster Division fighting. On the historic 1st of July, 1916, Major Oliphant displayed great gallantry for which he was awarded the D.S.O., and subsequently, on the retirement of Lieut-Colonel Pakenham owing to ill-health, advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and was given command of the battalion. The officers and men were exceedingly proud of their C.O.—of that we received many evidences as one after another came home on leave—and while he worked them hard, there was no grumbling or grouching, for each and every man in the battalion knew that the C.O. never did, and never would, ask them to face any danger that he was not wishing to share himself. While intense regret is felt in Lisburn and district at the loss of such a fearless and gallant soldier, our regret is as nothing compared with that of the remnant left of the

South Antrim Volunteers, each of whom feel that they have sustained an irreparable personal loss.

Lieut-Colonel Blair-Oliphant who was 50 years of age died of wounds, 8th April, 1918, he was the son of Philip Oliphant Kington Blair-Oliphant and Henrietta Yaldwyn, of Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie, Perthshire and Husband of Geraldine Blair-Oliphant. Deceased is buried in St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. **15th**

## remembrance ni

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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. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at [houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com](mailto:houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com)

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