



remembrance ni

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## Local Newspapers and the Great War - 6

**10th October 1918 Northern Whig**

### **Ulster Division Officer Killed**

**Captain George J Bruce, D.S.O., M.C.**, killed in action on the 2nd inst., was the eldest son of Mr. Samuel Bruce, D.L., Norton Hall, Campden, Gloucester (chairman of the Comber Distilleries), a nephew of Mr. James Bruce, D.L., Thorndale, Belfast, and the Manor House, Benburb, County Tyrone, and a son-in-law of Mr. J. Blackiston-Houston, D.L., Orangefield, Belfast. He was born 3rd June, 1880, and was educated at Winchester. Before the war Captain Bruce resided at Cuan, **Comber**, and was managing director of the Comber Distilleries. On the formation of the Ulster Division he obtained a commission in the 1st (County Down) Battalion, and was promoted to the rank of Captain on 14th September, 1914. In February, 1916, he was gazetted as a general staff officer (3rd grade) on the Headquarters staff of the Ulster Division. Captain Bruce was mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig, and was awarded the Military Cross on the King's birthday, of 1915, and got a bar to that decoration in the battle of Cambrai last year, while during the present year he won the D.S.O., the particulars of his gallantry only being gazetted a few weeks ago.

Captain George James Bruce, 109th Brigade Major, previously of B' Company 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 2nd October, 1918. Son of Samuel and Julia Bruce, of Norton Hall, Campden, Gloucester ; husband of Hilda Bruce, of Corriewood,

**Castlewellan**, County Down. Deceased was 37 years of age and is buried in Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium.

### **12th October 1918 Northern Whig (9)**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman Joseph Uprichard**, Ser. No. 75, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 6th September, 1918. Son of William John and Jane Uprichard, of Moira, County Down ; Husband of Margaret Uprichard, of 24, Templemore Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 33 years of age and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

### **13th October 1918 Northern Whig**

#### **Ulster Division Captain Killed/**

**Captain W.S.B. Hay**, R.A.M.C., killed in action on the 5th inst., was a son of the late Mr. J.C. Hay and Mrs. Hay, 9 Cameron Street, Belfast. Mrs. Hay has received a letter with reference to her son's death which contains the following :- "Your son was quite one of my best officers, and I feel personally that in his death I have lost a very dear young friend as well as a most promising, loyal, courageous, and capable officer. To know poor Steve Hay was to love him, and he leaves many friends in this division. It is some comfort to know that his death was instantaneous and quite painless. A shell actually struck the shelter he was in. If he had to die, poor boy, it is the death he would have wanted . . . He will be buried in the military cemetery among other heroes who have given their all for our county and the cause of justice.

Yours sincerely,

H. G. Rock, A.D.M.S."

Captain William Stevenson Brown Hay, 153rd Brigade Royal Field Artillery (Ulster Division), killed in action 5th October 1918. Son of George C. and Mary F. Hay, of 9 Cameron Street, Belfast. M.B., Queen's University, Belfast, 1914. Gazetted 1915 and attached to the 110th Field Ambulance 36th (Ulster) Division, later he was attached to 153rd Brigade R.F.A. Deceased was 27 years of age and is buried in Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, Belgium.

### **13th October 1918 Northern Whig**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman William Martin**, 1684, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, previously reported missing 22nd November, 1917, now reported has having been killed in action on the date. Son of Samuel and Catherine Girvan, of 20 Carew Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was only 18 years of age and is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France.

Rifleman William Martin is commemorated on the memorial tablet in St Patrick's Church of Ireland on the Newtownards Road.

### **14th October 1918 Northern Whig**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Sergeant John Albert Saunders**, 6065, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 30th September, 1918. Son of John and Sarah Saunders nee Martin, of 127 Old Park Road, **Belfast**. Deceased was 21 years of age and is buried in Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium.

John Albert Saunders is commemorated on the Roll of Honour for Cliftonville Presbyterian Church - his brother, Harry, served with 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers and was discharged to Class Z Reserve on 27th January 1919.

### **16th October 1918 Northern Whig**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

##### **Private S. Broomfield.**

At the early age of 19 years 28687, Private S. Broomfield, Royal Irish Fusiliers (Armagh Volunteers), was killed in action on the 4th September. This gallant young soldier, who has made the supreme sacrifice, joined the colours on the 27th September, 1917, and went to France in April of the present year. The second son of Mr. S. J. Broomfield, Moneyquin, Armagh. Private Broomfield was a young man of exemplary character. He was a prominent member of Armagh " Nimshi " Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templers, and was also identified with Crosskeys Loyal Orange Lodge No. 88. At the time of his enlistment he was in the employment of Mr. W. J. Lennox, Market Street, where he served

his apprenticeship in the drapery business. He was held in the highest esteem.

Private Samuel Broomfield, 28687, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, killed in action 4th September, 1918. Son of Samuel James and Martha Broomfield nee Freeland, of Moneyquin, Armagh, County Armagh. Deceased who was born 20th April, 1899 was only 19 years of age when he was killed, he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

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**17th October 1918 Northern Whig  
Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Lance-Corporal William John Russell**, 5843, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died of wounds received in action, 3rd October, 1918. Son of Robert and Catherine Russell nee Best, of 6 Jennymount Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 18 years of age and only two

months shy of his 19th birthday, L/Cpl Russell is buried in Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium.

### **17th October 1918 Northern Whig**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Private David Currie**, 42413, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, formerly 22571, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. Died of wounds 8th October, 1918. Son of Richard and Agnes Currie nee O'Brien, of 6 Dickson Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 19 years of age and is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

### **18th October 1918 Belfast Newsletter**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Private Robert Moorehead**, 29345, 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, formerly of the 11th Inniskilling Fusiliers, killed in action 2nd October, 1918. Son of Robert Moorehead, of Kennaught Street, Limavady, County Londonderry and brother of Mrs. Scott also of Limavady. Deceased was 25 years of age and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Belgium.

### **18th October 1918 Northern Whig**

#### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman Robert John Parker**, 10/15758, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, previously 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (South Belfast Volunteers). Robert who was twice wounded has been Killed in action 19th August, 1918. Son of Margaret Parker nee Graham and the late John Parker, of 11 City Street, **Belfast**. Deceased who was born 10th September, 1893, was 24 years of age when he was killed and is buried in Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre, France.

Prior to the outbreak of war Robert was a painter by trade, and on September 28th, 1912 along with his brother James signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant while his mum and sister signed the women's Declaration.

Rifleman Robert John Parker was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medal. He is also commemorated on the St. Andrew's Parish Church of Ireland Roll of honour which is



currently held in St. Aidan's Parish Church of Ireland, Sandy Row, Belfast.

**19th October 1918 Northern Whig**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Lance-Corporal Thomas Henry Bradshaw**, 10/4319, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, previously of the 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. Died of wounds 1st October, 1918. Son of Thomas Henry and Catherine Bradshaw nee Devlin ; Husband of Martha Bradshaw nee Hyles, of 25 Scott Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 34 years of age and is buried in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium.

**19th October 1918 Northern Whig**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman Alexander Scott**, 7840, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 6th June, 1918. Son of Alexander and the late Caroline Scott nee Higgin, step son of Margaret Scott nee Miller, of Tobergill Street ; Husband of Catherine Scott nee McQuiston, of 20, Dundee Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 26 years of age and is buried in Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**20th October 1918 Belfast Newsletter**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Lance-Corporal Thomas Diver M.M.**, 15459, 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, previously of the 10th Inniskilling (Derry Volunteers). Killed in action 29th September, 1918. Son of George William and Elizabeth Diver nee Wilson, of 5 North Street, Rosemount, **Londonderry**. Previously of 24 Creggan Road, Londonderry. Deceased was 20 years of age and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Belgium.

**20th October 1918 Northern Whig**

**Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman David Robinson**, 18/20677, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 24th March, 1918. Son of Hugh and Alice Robinson nee McCullough, of 3 Castle Place, **Newtownards**, County Down. Deceased was 26 years of age and is commemorated the Pozières Memorial, France.

## **21st October 1918 Northern Whig**

### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman Francis Gourley**, 9790, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Ulster Division), died of wounds 27th March, 1918. Son of Joseph and Jane Gourley nee McKaig, of 31 Winetavern Street, **Belfast**. Deceased was 30 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

Rifleman Francis Gourley, who has died of wounds, was one of five brothers serving, while the sixth brother- Sergeant Joseph Leo Gourley, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, made the supreme sacrifice on the 22nd March, 1918.

## **22nd October 1918 Northern Whig (21)**

### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Rifleman George Whitley**, 42394, 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, formerly 22479 Royal Irish Rifles, died of wounds in the Australian Casualty Clearing Station 6th October 1918. Husband of Elizabeth Whitley of 52 Canmore Street, **Belfast**. Deceased aprx. 30 years of age and is buried in Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium.

## **23rd October 1918 Belfast Newsletter**

### **Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality**

**Lance-Corporal Thomas George McIlroy, M.M**, 19878, 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, previously 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (The Derrys), died as a result of gas poisoning on the 21st March 1918. He was 23 years of age and a son of Elizabeth McIlroy nee McFarland and the late Thomas McIlroy, of Maghera, County Londonderry. He was born George McIlroy 31/01/1895, he added his father's forename Thomas sometime after his father's death in August 1899 of heart failure. L/Cpl Thomas George McIlroy is buried in St. Souplet British Cemetery, France.

Lance Corporal Thomas McIlroy, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, of Upperlands, has been awarded the Military Medal for good work in the recent fighting. It appears that, with a number of others, he was on patrol when they walked into a German stronghold. A fierce struggle, lasting over two hours ensued, and through the good work and devotion to duty of Lance Corporal McIlroy and two other

members of the party, the Germans were held up and the patrol saved from capture. Corporal McIlroy was amongst the first batch of volunteers from Upperlands to join the Ulster Division at its formation. He has been at the front ever since the 36th Division went out. Before joining the colours he was a member of Upperlands Company of the U.V.F., and was connected with Upperlands Loyal Orange Lodge. He is a respected member of Maghera Presbyterian Church, and was employed on the clerical staff of Messrs. W Clark and Sons Ltd.

## **Acknowledgments**

Belfast Newsletter

Northern Whig

36th Ulster Division Facebook



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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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