



remembrance ni



William Gregg from Purdysburn died on this day in 1942 serving with the RAF. His remains rest in Durnbach War Cemetery, south Germany

The cemetery is about 45 Kms south of Munich. The site was chosen, shortly after hostilities had ceased, by officers of the British Army and Air Force, in conjunction with officers of the American Occupation Forces in whose zone

Durnbach lay. The cemetery contains 2,934 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 93 of which are unidentified.

The great majority of those buried here are airmen shot down over Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Austria, Hessen and Thuringia, brought from their scattered graves by the Army Graves Service. The remainder are men who were killed while escaping from prisoner of war camps in the same areas, or who died towards the end of the War on forced marches from the camps to more remote areas.

May 5 - Roll of Honour

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

RICHEY, Robert Edwin

Canadian Infantry, 2nd Btn. Private. 675965. Died 05/05/1915. Eldest son of the late William Richey and Mrs Richey, Hollymount, Ballydugan, Co. Down.

1916

+WALKER, Jerome L

Royal Irish Rifles, Lieutenant. Died 05/05/1916. Only surviving son of F. M. Walker, Courtrai, Belgium, and Helen Lennie, late of Cork and Helen's Bay, Co. Down.

1917

+SHARKEY J.

1st Bn. Australian Infantry, A.I.F. Private. 2350. Died between 05/05/1917 and 08/05/1917. Age 32. Served as John Devlin. Born in Belfast and educated at Raglan Street School, he emigrated to Australia when he was 29 in about 1914. He lived in Sydney, New South Wales, he was a hairdresser by profession and had served in 2 RIR. He enlisted on the 5.5.15 and served in 1 AIF 2350. Wounded at Gallipoli. Son of James and Jane Sharkey. According to his brother William John Sharkey of 136 Tymond Street, Auckland, New Zealand who supplied the biographical details to the AWM, "He was one of Ireland's greatest Gaelic footballers." Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France.
Lisburn WM

1919

+GREER, J

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 3rd (Garr.) Btn.transf. to (390371) 156th Coy. Private. G/26349. Died 05/03/1919. Aged 42. Son of John and Martha Greer, of Banbridge; husband to I. P. Greer, of 22, Colchester St., Belfast. Blargies Communal Cemetery extension. Oise, France

1941

+BERNER, Robert Victor

RN: Leading Writer. D/MX 60040. HMS Hood. Died 24/05/1941. Age 22. Son of Robert Victor and Catherine Berner, Killyleagh. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 55.
Killyleagh WM

+BROWN, John

Royal Artillery. 66 LAA Regiment. 175 Bty.
Gunner.1465501.Died 05/05/1941. Aged 28. German Air
Raid (died at Twin Islands, Belfast). Son of William and
Ellen Brown (nee Cassidy) of Greenwell Street,
Newtownards and husband to Sarah (Sadie) Wallace of 80
East Street, Newtownards. Newtownards (Movilla)
Cemetery

+CORRY, Henry

Royal Artillery. 66 LAA Regiment. 175 Bty. Gunner.
1544177. Died 05/05/1941. Son of David and Margaret
Corry, of Newtownards.; husband to Margaret M. Corry, of
Newtownards. His brother Serjeant 3126332 David Corry,
Royal Scots Fusiliers, also died on service on 21/11/1944.
Aged 38. Newtownards (Movilla) Cemetery

+DENNANT, Eric

Pioneer Corps. Private. 13058707. Died 05/05/1941. Aged
21. German air raid. Son of Charles and Lucy Dennant.
Husband to Kathleen Dennant of Banbridge. Banbridge
Cemetery

+Hamilton, John Nelson

Pioneer Corps. Second Lieutenant. 183105. Died
05/05/1941. Aged 36. German Air Raid on Belfast (died at
Eglinton Street Schools). Son of Thomas D and Maude C
Hamilton of 5 Waverley Drive, Bangor, and husband to
Murial Hamilton of "Moyheelan", Coolmoyne Road, Belfast.

1942

+GREGG, William Humphreys

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 994457. Died 05/05/1942. Age 25. 218 Sqd. Son of James and Margaret M. A. Gregg, Purdysburn. Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany

+KING, Desmond Robert

Royal Indian Army Service Corps. Second Lieutenant. Died 05/05/1942. Son of Robert and Florence King, of Enniskillen. Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan

1943

+ARMSTRONG, Thomas

RAFVR. Pilot Officer (Navigator). 134072. Died 05/05/1943. 57 Squadron RAF Volunteer Reserve. Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Armstrong of Lisnafillan, Ballymena. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany.

+COLEMAN, Robin Benjamin Bunch

Royal Artillery. Lieutenant. 87490. Died 05/03/1943. Aged 33. 9 H.A.A. Regt. Ballymena Academy and Campbell College. Son of James and Doris Coleman, of Ballymena. Singapore Memorial, Singapore

+BUCHANAN, Thomas Alexander Stuart

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 1123751. Died 05/05/1943. Aged 24. 166 Sqdn. Son of Thomas Alexander Osborne Buchanan and Ellen Elizabeth Howe Buchanan, of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Vlaghtwedde General Cemetery,

Groningen, Netherlands. Dungannon WM, St Anne's C of I Parish Church, Dungannon WM

1944

+GRAHAM, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980079. Died 02/05/1944. Aged 22. Son of Samuel and Mary Graham, of Garvagh, Co. Derry. Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy

+McILWAINE, William Ernest

RAFVR.Sergeant (Air Gunner).1796516. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 24. 50 Sqdn. Son of Francis and Mary McIlwaine, of Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland. Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

May 5 - On this day

1916

At the Battle of Verdun the Germans gain a foothold on Hill 304.

1917

The French co-operating with the British, on a front of 20 miles north of the Aisne, take the crest of the Craonne ridge, including Chemin des Dames and the capture of 6,000 German prisoners.

Sloop HMS Lavender was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine UC-75 off the coast of Co Waterford, Ireland, south of Mine Head. 22 of her complement of 93 were lost.

1918

Sloop HMS Rhododendron was torpedoed by German submarine U-70 between Orkney and Shetland and sank with the loss of 15 crew.

1940

Germans advance north to Trondheim.
Norwegian government-in-exile established in London.

1941

Major General Bernard Freyberg VC, is appointed by General Wavell to command approximately 40,000 British, New Zealand, Australian and Greek troops which are stationed on Crete. While a strong force on paper, these troops have virtually no artillery or tanks and are very disorganised after their hurried evacuation from Greece.

Emperor Haile Selassie returns to Addis Ababa 5 years after his country was occupied by the Italians.

1942

Corvette HMS Auricula struck a mine north of Madagascar and sank next day while under tow. No fatalities.

Convoy PQ-15 arrives at Murmansk.

British forces land at Diego Suarez and Antsirene on Vichy French held Madagascar in a pre-emptive strike to stop the Japanese from using it as an advanced base.

The Japanese advance into China along the Burma Road. Japanese troops make amphibious landings against the US-Filipino garrison on Corregidor.

The main Japanese striking force which is built around the carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku, enters the Coral Sea and bombs Port Moresby.

Japanese begin preparations to invade Midway and the Aleutian Islands.

A combined force under Rear Admiral Syfret in HMS Ramilles with Major General Sturges successful landed and took the Madagascan port of Diego Suarez from Vichy French Forces. The text book demonstration of sea, air and land power would set future standards.

1943

British forces break through the defenses of the 5th Panzerarmee to the South of Tunis.

1944

The Russians launch their attack the fortress city of Sevastopol in the Crimea.

1945

38 (Irish) Brigade: 5th/6th May 1945, CQMS O'Sullivan 2 London Irish Rifles:

"We moved north in TCVs & passed through Udine. E & H Coys were pushed up on to the Yugoslavian border at Caporetto & Plezzo. Here, with some tanks, we hoped to persuade partisans from Tito's army, who had crossed into Italy, to go back."

1945

The home of the German Navy, Kiel, fell into British hands – and with it secrets of new U-boats which may have changed the course of at sea had they entered service.

American and Wehrmacht soldiers join forces to defend an Austrian castle full of captured French dignitaries from a regiment crack SS troops. The Battle of Schloss Itter will be remembered as one of the oddest moments of WW2.

The beginning of the Prague uprising - an attempt by the Czech resistance to liberate the city of Prague from German occupation, and is aided by defecting units of the anti-Bolshevist Vlasov Army. The U.S. Third Army prepares to drive on to Prague. The city was captured by the Soviets on May 9, 1945.

Liberation Day in the Netherlands, the end of 5 years of occupation by Nazi Germany. German troops in Holland surrender to Canadian army.

German forces in Denmark surrender.

Admiral von Friedeburg arrives at General Eisenhower's HQ in Rheims. General Blaskowitz, the German C-in-C of the Netherlands, surrenders at a ceremony in the small Dutch town of Wagenungen in the presence of Prince Bernhard. The first British victory salvo of war is fired at 3pm from Montgomery's HQ. Amsterdam is liberated. Eisenhower announces the capitulation of German Army Group 'C', which was covering the front from Linz to Swiss frontier. The U.S. Third Army takes Pilsen, Karlsbad and prepares to drive towards Prague.

Mauthausen concentration camp is liberated.

Reverend Archie Mitchell and his wife and five children discover a deflated Japanese balloon containing a bomb that had been let loose in the West Winds traveling over the Pacific to land in Oregon. It killed the wife and children, the only civilian casualties of the war on the continental United States.

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

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** or notice of new postings on web site please contact -
houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

Contact - Simply input Remembrance ni in the title bar and give your first and second names with e-mail address in body of text. There is also a contact facility on the web site. See Menu at <https://remembrancen.org/>
