



# remembrance ni



**Meilo War Cemetery is near the village from which it takes its name in the south of the Netherlands, some 12 Kms east of Eindhoven.**

The cemetery was started in the spring of 1945 when graves were brought in from the surrounding district, most of them being casualties of September-November 1944. At that time the main fighting was concerned with clearing the region south and west of the Maas and with opening up the

Scheldt estuary further west. Helmond itself was occupied on 25 September, 1944. Mierlo War Cemetery now contains 664 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, seven of them unidentified, and one Dutch war grave.



On 5 May 1945 German forces in the Netherlands officially surrendered to the Canadians, ending the fighting there. The Dutch people had suffered greatly and are forever grateful to Canada who played a leading role in their freedom, together with appreciation of the hospitality of Canada towards the Dutch Royal Family during WW2.

## May 6 - Roll of Honour

**Representing their comrades who died on this day**

**1915**

### **+BEW, John Vincent**

RN. RND. Chief Petty Officer. Dev/167694. Anson Battalion. Died 06/05/1915. Age 39. Born Carrickfergus 19/05/1876. Son of late Charles and Elizabeth Ann Bew. Helles Memorial, Turkey. ADM339

### **+BUNTING, William James**

RN. RND. Stoker 1st Class. SS1077140. Hood Battalion. Died 06/05/1915 in Gallipoli. Aged 26. Enlisted 27/05/1908 serving to 24/05/1913. Enrolled in RFR 25/05/1913. Service resumed 02/08/1914. In Pembroke II and Victory IV (RND Hood). Hood Battalion A/211 and A/193 17/09/1914 - 06/05/1915. A cabinetmaker. Single. Born Lurgan 21/02/1887. Son of Mr. T. Bunting. Brother of Thomas Bunting, Sloan Street, Lisburn. 1914 Star issued to father 12/03/1925. Listed in the Hood Muster Roll for Antwerp, in Len Seller's book "The Hood Battalion" as "'A' Company 1st Platoon.". Lurgan WM. IMR. ADM 188/1113/107140

### **+McGOWAN, David**

RNVR. RND. AB. 20119. KX/432. Howe Btn. Died 06/05/1915. Age 24. Enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry 01/09/1914 and transferred to the RNVR 09/09/1914 ; Hood Battalion B/212 09/09/1914 - 06/05/15. Born Coatbridge 17/09/1891. An Iron Worker he resided at North Square,

Gert Skerric, Coatbridge, Scotland, on enlistment.. Son of John McGowan, Ringclare, Donaghmore, Newry, Helles Memorial. (Gallipoli). Glascar - PCI RH

**1916**

**+McKEOWN, David Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 6744. Died 06/05/1916. Age 24. Enlisted at Belfast. Born in Dromore, Co. Down, he lived at Tullynishey. Son of George McKeown of Tudyniskey, Dromara, Co. Down. A member of the Orange Order. A wreath left in front of the headstone in July 2002 read "In proud and loving memory of Bro [brother] D.T. McKeown from the officers and members of Waringsford Rising Star LOL 545 Co. Down. July 2002". Authuille Military Cemetery, France

**+TOLERTON, George**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 6050. Died 06/05/1916. Born in Magheragall, Co. Antrim, he lived in Portadown, where, before the war he was employed by the Great Northern Railway Company. He enlisted at Belfast. Eldest son of Private Thomas and Jane Tolerton, Knocknarea, Magheragall, and brother of James Tolerton, KIA on the Somme on the 01/07/1916. His father and another brother also served. His wife and two children lived in Portadown. Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Magheragall Parish Church WM

**+WALKER, Jerome Lennie**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 06/05/1916. Aged 27. Son of F. Manderson Walker and

Helen Lennie Walker of Mount Royal, Whitehead. Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme, France.

**1917**

**+ASHMORE, Richard Howell.**

Canadian Army Medical Corps, Attached to 2nd Field Ambulance. Private. 525078. Died 06/05/1917. Age 45. He was educated at RBAI and QUB ( BA, 1892), before becoming the principal of the Intermediate School in Lisburn and later the College, Clonmel. Headmaster, Bangor Grammar School (1903 - 05). However, chronic laryngitis forced him to give up teaching for a number of years and for a time he studied in Germany. He subsequently emigrated to British Columbia where he lived in McKay, returned to the teaching profession, and became principal of Cranbrook High School, BC. Enlisting at Victoria, BC. on the 11/11/1916 aged 44 having been in the 18th Field Ambulance in Vancouver for one month. Born in Creevelea, Co. Leitrim on the 22.2.1872. He was the son of the Rev. John and Mrs. Ashmore of Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim and husband to Mary Ashmore of McKay and subsequently Mission City, British Columbia. Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. It was used by the 1st Canadian CCS in 1917 during the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Corps.

**+MOORE, R**

North Irish Horse. Private. 2206. Died 06/05/1917. Age 23. He enlisted at Antrim. He died in Belfast and is buried in Annahilt Presbyterian churchyard in the family burial ground of James Moore. He was the son of the late James and Sarah Moore.

## 1941

### **+NELSON, Edward John**

RM.Marine. CH/X 1707, Died 22/05/1941. Age 33. HMS Gloucester. Brother of Samuel Nelson, RN. Son of Samuel Nelson. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 28/08/1942). Chatham Naval memorial

### **+McKINNELL, William John**

Boy 1<sup>st</sup> Class.D/JX 162882. Died 22/05/1941 Age 17. HMS Gloucester. Joined aged 15. Father served in RN during war. Son of Mr and Mrs J McKinnell, Bournalon St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/06/1941, and 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49

## 1942

### **+ERVIN, Graham Hamilton**

RNVR. FAA. Sub Lieutenant (A). Died 06/05/1942. Age 23. Operating from HMS Illustrious when the Swordfish he was piloting failed to return from strikes against Vichy warships in Diego Suarez, Madagascar. Son of Walter Kennedy and Maude Jane Ervin, Ravenhill Pk., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/05/1942). Diego Suarez War Cemetery, Madagascar. RBAI WM. QUB WM

## 1943

### **+GRAHAM, William**

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver.T/1475605. Died 06/05/1943. Aged 38. Son of William and Agnes Graham, of

Newtownards; husband to Sarah Graham, of Newtownards.  
Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

### **+MAGUIRE, Thomas**

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Lance Serjeant. 2718338. Died  
06/05/1943. Aged 26. Son of Bernard and Rose Ann  
Maguire, of Tullyrosmearn, Co. Fermanagh. Massicault War  
Cemetery, Tunisia

**1944**

### **+LAWSON, David**

Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 4196588. Died  
06/05/1944. Aged 29. Son of Robert Lawson, and of Annie  
Lawson, of Newcastle, Co. Down. Kohima War Cemetery,  
India.

## **May 6 - the newspapers**

### **6th May 1918, Northern Whig**

**Rifleman Ralph Anthony Parker**, 8/3139, 15th Battalion  
Royal Irish Rifles, 28 years of age, died of wounds 11th  
April, 1918, in No. 36 casualty clearing station. He was a  
son of Richard Parker and Husband of Mary Parker nee  
Dailey, of 27 Mount Street, **Belfast**. Deceased is buried in  
Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**Corporal Robert Patterson**, 8902, 2nd Battalion Royal  
Irish Rifles (Ulster Division), 28 years of age, killed in action

22nd March, 1918. He was a son of Mr. William Patterson of 54 Foundry Street, **Belfast**. Deceased is buried in Savy British Cemetery, France.

**Private John Seymour**, 23735, 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 22 years of age, died of wounds 28th March, 1918. He was a son of Robert and Elizabeth Seymour, of **Randalstown**, County Antrim. Deceased is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.

## **6th May 1915 Belfast Newsletter**

### **14th ROYAL IRISH RIFLES. Young Citizens Arrive in Belfast.**

The 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Young Citizen Volunteers) left camp Randalstown yesterday morning, and marched via Crumlin to Belfast for the purpose of taking part in the review of the Ulster Division on Saturday. The men carried their rifles, packs, and entrenching tools, and notwithstanding the long distance they had covered- 22 miles - they appeared to be in excellent condition as they passed through the centre of the city at six o'clock in the evening on their way to the yard of Messrs. Davidson & Co. Ltd., Mountpottinger Road, where they piled arms and were dismissed.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. D. Spencer Chichester, the commanding officer, rode at the head of his men, and the battalion band played appropriate airs. A large number of spectators witnessed the progress of the men through the city. The battalion was accompanied by its cyclist, signalling, and ambulance detachments, as well as by its transport.



This evening the rank and file will be the guests of the officers at the Royal Hippodrome, and at six o'clock tomorrow evening they will attend a meeting in the Ulster Hall. On Sunday they will attend a Divine service in the Ulster Hall at 2:30 p.m., and at noon on Monday they will leave the city on the return march to Randalstown.

## **6th May 1915 Belfast Newsletter**

### **THE DIVISIONAL REVIEW**

Progress with the Arrangements. Major - General Powell's Views.

The arrangements in connection with the review and parade of the Ulster Division in Belfast on Saturday next are rapidly approaching completion, and the display promises to provide military spectacle on a scale such has never been seen before in the city. After the review at Malone the division will proceed via Lisburn Road, Shaftsbury Square, Great Victoria Street, and Wellington Place, past the City Hall, up Chichester Street, and through Victoria Street, High Street, Castle Place and Royal Avenue to the junction of North Street. When they reach the junction of North Street and Royal Avenue, the cavalry and cyclists will move off at once, keeping clear of the route.

The dispersal arrangements for the other units are briefly as follows :--

The three Field Companies of the Royal Engineers will proceed at once to Midland Railway terminus and entrain for Antrim;

The Signal Company, Royal Engineers will march via North Street, Waring Street, and Albert Square to the County Down terminus, or to billets as may be arranged;

The 107th (Belfast) Brigade will proceed up North Street, Peter's Hill and Shankill Road;

The 108th Brigade will turn down North Street, and march up Waring Street, Albert Square and Queen's Bridge to the County Down terminus or other place arranged;

The 109th Brigade will proceed directly up Royal Avenue and Donegall Street, possibly resting in the Alexandra Park, before proceeding to the Midland terminus;

The 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles may be detached in to a side street, as they are not returning to Randalstown that evening;

The 16th Royal Irish Rifles will return to the Great Northern Railway by a route east of Royal Avenue, and entrain for Lurgan;

The Army Service Corps, Divisional Train, and Reserve Park will proceed up York Street, into Great George's Street and Corporation Street; and the R.A.M.C. may select their own route.

The route of the 108th Brigade from the County Down terminus to the Ormeau Park in the morning has been altered. Instead of proceeding via Short Strand the brigade will march via Lagan Bank Road and Albert Bridge to Ravenhill Road.

First aid dressing stations, marked by a Red Cross flag, will be established at intervals along the route by which the

troops will march from Deramore Park to Royal Avenue. The tram traffic will be stopped in certain districts, and no trams will pass through the column of troops.

Sir Edward and Lady Carson have arranged to cross from London to-morrow evening, and will be present at the review and at the saluting base, City Hall.

The 107th Infantry Brigade from Ballykinlar, will reach the city by road to-morrow evening.

Arrangements for a church parade on Sunday are being made by various units. The 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles will attend service in the Ormeau Park at 10:30 a.m., the officiating clergymen being Rev. Canon Harding, Rev. Dr. McKean, and a Methodist clergyman.

## **May 6 - On this day**

### **1915**

During the Gallipoli Campaign, the main Allied landings took place around Helles and Anzac Cove. The Plymouth Battalion RND (Royal Naval Division) took part

At the Second Battle of Ypres the British recover some lost trenches on Hill 60.

### **1917**

The French successfully resist all German counter-attacks on the Aisne. It is reported that 29,000 German prisoners are taken by the French since the 10th of April 1917.

## **1940**

Hitler again delays X-Day, this time till the 10th May.

Francis Sayre is sent to Tokyo for talks with Foreign Minister Arita.

## **1941**

Bob Hope gives his first USO show at California's March Field.

US Secretary for War advocates US Navy protection for British supply convoys.

Stalin declares himself 'Chairman of the Council of Peoples Commissars', in other words Premier of the Soviet Union

The last Brigade of the British 10th Indian Division arrives at Basra with its commander Major General Bill Slim. Axis aircraft begin to land at the Mosul airfield in northern Iraq.

## **1942**

in 1942 the Madagascar Campaign was underway to deny the island as a base for the Japanese.

At about 2000 hours on the 6th May fifty Royal Marines from HMS Ramillies commanded by Captain Martin Price RM, sailed from anchorage in the destroyer HMS Anthony at high speed and, after running the gauntlet of shore batteries in the dark, landed on the quay at Antsirabe.

After storming the French army barracks and taking the troops there by surprise, the marines captured the arsenal and took 500 prisoners. Their impact was so successful that they were embarrassed by the number of prisoners they

took, and by 0300hrs on 7 May the town and its defences were taken.

Antsirabe is the third largest city in Madagascar and the capital of the Vakinankaratra region.

Corregidor surrenders after five months resistance, with 15,000 prisoners taken by 1,000 Japanese.

B-17's from Australia spot the Port Moresby Invasion Fleet south of Bougainville. They attack the Japanese Carrier Shoho but miss. Admiral Fletcher is now convinced that the main Japanese force would make for the Jomard Passage between Papua and the Louisiade Archipelago and so organizes his forces for the coming battle.

## **1943**

Hitler makes one of his increasingly rare visits to Berlin for Viktor Lutze's funeral.

## **1944**

In India, British release Gandhi from prison on medical grounds – Gandhi opposed India supporting the British war effort without a promise for independence. He had been imprisoned since August 1942.

## **1945**

### **38 (Irish) Brigade - 2 Inniskillings – Treviso/Udine**

1700 A conference was held at Btn HQ at which the Commanding Officer outlined the political situation in the area. The situation was rather complex and, on no account, were we to get involved in any political quarrels that might

arise. Tension existed between Tito's Yugoslavs & the Green scarf Partisans of Italy. The Yugoslavs claimed to be Patriots, while the "Greens" claimed "they" were democratic. The situation was further complicated by the presence of Garibaldi Partisan Red Scarfs and the Italian Regular Army.

The last U-boats of the war sunk with all hands: U-853 and U-881 in the North Atlantic by US destroyer escorts, and U-3523 in the Baltic by the RAF.

Axis Sally makes her final propaganda broadcast to Allied troops.

The U.S. Fifth Army enters Austria from Italy.

Breslau surrenders after an 82-day siege, during which the Russians inflicted 29,000 civilian and military casualties and took more than 40,000 prisoners.

German SS troops try to crush uprising in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

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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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