

March 1



remembrance ni



The Australian War Memorial, Canberra

Men from Northern Ireland who had emigrated served with Australian forces in both World Wars.

William Cross was one of the significant number of NI men who served with forces from the British Empire in WW1. He came to France with a New Zealand infantry regiment and died in hospital in Dungannon. Romance figures in the veterans recalled today. A member of the WRNS from

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Coleraine met her husband at Londonderry naval base. They married and went to USA and then Canada.

On this Day – March 1

MILITARY IN RATHFRILAND.

A detachment of the R.A.M.C., at present stationed at Newry, numbering about 350 officers and men, visited Rathfriland on Thursday, under the command of Major Pierce. The day was observed as a half-holiday in the town, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. The detachment arrived shortly before noon, and after making a tour of the town proceeded to the George Hotel premises, which were fitted up as a kind of temporary military barracks. Subsequently the soldiers were entertained to tea by the inhabitants of Rathfriland, the catering being done by the ladies of the Rathfriland Ambulance Corps attached to the 3rd Battalion of the South Down Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force. At three o'clock the band of the R.A.M.C. rendered a short programme of music in the square, and before the return journey was commenced each soldier was presented with cigarettes. The march back to Newry was made via Mayobridge.

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1915 Military in Rathfriland.

Belfast Newsletter

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1918 German raids prior to spring offensive

At the beginning of March 1918 with the Kaiserschlacht three weeks away, the final piece of the re-organisation of **36th (Ulster) Div.** took place with the establishment of 36th Machine Gun Bn commanded by Lt Col Guy de Hoghton MC formerly KOYLI.

As the date of the anticipated Spring 1918 German offensive approached, enemy patrols continued to probe the Ulster Division defences.

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On 1 March 1918 two men were killed during these raids - **Lance Corporal James Clegg** from Birkenhead was attached to 1st Bn. Royal Irish Rifles and had previously served with the Army Service Corps.

2nd Lt. William Brown aged 22 was attached to 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. From Cootehill, Co. Cavan, he had been a Bank Official before the war.

The remains of L/Cpl Clegg and 2nd Lt. Brown are buried beside each other at Grand Seraucourt British Cemetery.

1940

The US Under Secretary of State, Sumner Welles arrives in Berlin at the start of a peace tour of the belligerent countries.

The Soviet Unions peace ultimatum to Finland expires.

1941

Bulgaria finally joins the Tripartite pact after the discovery of a planned pro-British coup.

Italian civilian rations are halved in order to allow food exports to Germany.

Himmler makes his first visit to Auschwitz, during which he orders Kommandant HÃ¶ß to begin massive expansion, including a new compound to be built at nearby Birkenau that can hold 100,000 prisoners.

The 11th African Division begins a lighting pursuit of the retreating Italian forces north from Mogadishu, towards the Ogaden Plateau.

1942

A US Hudson of squadron VP-82 which is based at



Argentia, Newfoundland sinks U-656 off Cape Race. The heavy cruiser USS Houston and light cruiser HMAS Perth, along with 1 British, 1 Dutch and 2 US destroyers, fleeing from the debacle at the Battle of Java Sea, surprise an IJN landing force at Bantam Bay near the Sunda Strait, and are sunk by torpedoes and gunfire. The Japanese force, comprising 2 heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, 9 destroyers, and various transports, manage to sink a minesweeper and a transport of their own, and seriously damage 3 more transports, through the unprecedented firing of 87 torpedoes.

1943

The RAF conducts strategic bombing raids on all European railway lines.

The Russians announce that new offensive to the South of Leningrad and led by Timoshenko, 'has made considerable gains'. German troops begin the evacuation of the Rzhev area.

In New York, American Jews hold a mass rally at Madison Square Garden to pressure the U.S. government into helping the Jews of Europe.

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1944

Wing Commander John Cunningham, now on 20 'kills', gets the 2nd bar to his DSO, the first pilot to receive this triple honour.

Both German and Russian forces in the Baltic region go on the defensive.

The 'Chindits' cross the Chindwin in Burma.

1945

The US Ninth Army captures Mönchengladbach and Rheindt west of the Rhine.

Units of Army group Centre recapture Lauban in lower Silesia.

A U.S. submarine sinks a Japanese merchant ship loaded with supplies for Allied POWs, resulting in a court martial for the captain of the submarine, since the ship had been granted safe passage by the U.S. government.



Roll of Honour – March 1

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+McCLOSKEY, Patrick

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 9th Bn. Private. 19355. Died 01/03/1916. Aged 20. Son of Patrick and Catherine McCloskey, of Derry. Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France

1917

+CROSS, William

Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F. Private. 21664. Died 01/03/1917 at the Union Hospital, Dungannon. Son of Margaret Cross. Born on 14/02/1871. By the 1901 census his mother was a widow. The family had a farm in Bovean, Drumaspil, Tyrone. He emigrated to New Zealand, where his war records report he worked as a railway labourer. Enlisted on 01/06/1916. He was 45 years old. Lance Corporal William Cross embarked from Wellington, New Zealand (Unit 16th Embarkation) on 21/08/1916 destined for Plymouth. He took scabies and then suffered burns and was eventually returned to Dungannon. A brother lived in Moy County Tyrone. Killyman (St. Andrew) C of I Churchyard, County Tyrone.

1918

+BROWN, William

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 3rd Btn, attd. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 01/03/1918. Aged 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Brown (nee Moore), of Cootehill, Co. Cavan. The 1911 census records that William was a boarder at the Royal School Dungannon. After leaving school, he worked for the Provincial Bank in Londonderry and at Head Office in Dublin. In May 1915, he enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers. He acted as interpreter for several months to his battalion, and was promoted Corporal. William was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant to the Royal Munster Fusiliers in April 1917. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France

1944

+CARRAGHER, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980511. Died 01/03/1944. Age 31. Son of Patrick and Alice Carragher, of

1945

+HARRISON, Richard John Michael

Coldstream Guards. 4th Btn. Lieutenant. 320633. Died 01/03/1945. Age 20. Lieutenant Michael Harrison served in the Coldstream Guards and was posted to the Independent Tank Brigade which was part of the Guards Armoured Division. He was 20 when he was killed by a sniper on

01/03/1945 while taking part in a heavily resisted tank advance on Kervenheim in North Germany. Michael Harrison loved poetry and kept hand-written copies of some of his favourites in a small notebook – poems by W.H. Auden, Walter de la Mare, T.S. Eliot and others. He always carried the notebook with him into battle and, after he was killed, it was found and returned to his family.

Known as Michael, he was born 06/09/1924. He was the elder son of Major General Desmond Harrison CB, DSO and Kathleen Frances Harrison (née Hazley) who lived at Shalom, 52 Bryansburn Road, Bangor. Desmond Harrison was born in County Kilkenny and served in France and Palestine during the First World War. Desmond was a Lieutenant when he and Kathleen Hazley were married on 08/12/1920 in Bangor Parish Church of Ireland Church (St. Comgall's). They had four children: Desmond Roger Wingate; Patricia Katharine ; Richard John Michael and Felicity Mary, all of whom attended Rockport School. The two girls attended Rockport because their friend Mercy Bing, daughter of the then Headmaster, Geoffrey Bing, was being educated there.

Michael Harrison was Head Boy at Rockport and then Head of his House at Rugby School. He was a keen ornithologist and a skilled fisherman. Michael had won a classical scholarship to attend Worcester College, Oxford but instead of going there to read Japanese (he was an accomplished linguist) he went straight into the Army and entered Sandhurst in May 1943.

During the Second World War, Michael's father, Major General Desmond Harrison CB DSO was Chief Engineer in Lord Louis Mountbatten's South East Asia Command; his mother Kathleen was the Personnel Officer in the Short and Harland Glen Works in Newtownards; his maternal

grandfather, William Hazley, owned a linen business in Belfast and his maternal grandmother was a sister of Canon Bradley of Bangor Parish Church; his uncle, Richard (Dick) Harrison was Police Commissioner in Belfast; his sister Felicity Harrison (later Preedy) served with the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), first in Sydenham, Belfast, then in Leeds and then in Donibristle, Dunfermline; his sister Patsy Harrison (later Dingwall) was a Land Girl in England. Michael's mother retired to Alresford in Hampshire. Reichwald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, St. Comgall's Parish Church Bangor RH, Rockport School RH.

+STEWART, James

King's Shropshire Light Infantry. 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment. Corporal. MM. 3854813. Date of Death: 01/03/1945. Age: 32. The Ballymena Observer reported, "He had plenty of action packed into his eight years' service. He was serving in the Far east when war was declared and after the fall of Singapore was reported missing, presumed killed but he turned up a year later and subsequently served in Malaya. He had been on the Western front since D-Day. One of his brothers, Samuel, is serving in the

Slatt Soldier Killed in Action

CORPORAL JAMES STEWART.

Cpl. James Stewart, M.M., killed in action on the Western front, was a son of Mr. Wm. Stewart and the late Mrs. Stewart, Maine View, Slatt, Ballymena, and a brother of Mrs. S. M'Dowell, Bridge Street, Ballymena. When the war broke out he was serving in the Far East, and after the fall of Singapore was reported missing, presumed killed, but turned up twelve months later and afterwards served in the Malayan campaign. He was unmarried.

Cpl. Stewart and a number of Australians escaped from Singapore by swimming to an unattended boat, in which they made their way to Sumatra after a hazardous journey in which they had to use their water supply most sparingly. They trudged across the island and on the other side were picked up by a fishing trawler and taken to Ceylon. From there they went on board a sailing vessel to Capetown, and after about two months there Cpl. Stewart sailed for home, where he was welcome by overjoyed parents and friends.

In his battalion he was outstanding as a boxer, cross country runner, and as an individual shot. In his youth he was a well-known competitor at agricultural shows.



Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

army and another, Gaston, is in the Royal Navy. Cpl. Stewart was unmarried.” Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart, of Slatt, Ballymena. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery (Photo above).

VETERANS

ALLEN, Ezekiel

Royal Irish Rifles. Born Carrickfergus, 1887. Enlisted Belfast, 23/09/1914 aged 27. Discharged 01/03/1915.

BOYD, Clarence James

Seaforth Highlanders. Second Lieutenant. Campbell College. QUB, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., 1924. D.P.H., 1929.

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D.T.M. (Liverpool), 1930. Malayan Medical Services, 1930. Died at Durban, 01/03/1950. Son of Robert Boyd, M.D., Connsbrook House, Strandtown, Belfast. QUB RH

FALLIS, James Elmour Carson

Born in Enniskillen. On leaving school Elmour became a mechanic at Erne Engineering before becoming Foreman at Kennedy's Garage, Ballymena in 1937 at the age of 23.

In 1939 he enlisted in 26 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, 9th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery and began training at Lowfield Camp, Ballymena.

In November of that year the Regiment moved to Surrey and then by ship from Southampton to Cherbourg from where they continued by train to Marseilles.

The journey continued by ship from Marseilles to Alexandria via Malta aboard HMT Ettrick.

Finally, in January 1943, the Regiment arrived in Tripoli and Elmour volunteered for M.A.C. Troop which had four captured German 88mm Guns.

They saw action in the Battle of Medenine, Tegaga Gap, the breaking of the Mareth Line, The Battle of Wadi Akarit and The Battle of Takrouna.

With the end of the war in North Africa M.A.C. Troop was disbanded with Elmour being highly commended.

In September Elmour took part in Operation Avalanche and the landings at Salerno, Italy.

He saw action at Salerno, Naples, Anzio, Livorno and The Gothic Line along the River Arno.

Mount Vesuvius erupted and the Regiment was involved in evacuating Civilians.

Elmour had some Home Leave in September 1944 after which he was stationed in the Humber Anti-Aircraft Zone in defence against V.1 Flying Bomb attacks.

After the war he returned to Ballymena and started his own Petrol Filling Station and Garage.

GORMLEY, Joseph Andrew

Brigadier Surgeon. MiD. QUB MD 1873. Surgeon, March 1874. Served Perak 1875 - 76, Afghanistan 1878 - 80, Sudan 1884 - 85, Matabeleland 1896, S Africa War 1899 - 1902. Re-engaged for 1914 - 18. Born 1848 Ireland. Died 01/03/1926, Bournemouth.

MOORE, James Bernard

RAMC. Captain. St Malachy's College, Belfast. QUB MB 1890. 1914 - 18 Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast. Consultant surgeon to Victoria Barracks Hospital. Born 1867. Son of James and Ellen Moore, Ballymena. Husband to Eileen. Died 01/03/1942, Camden St., Belfast

STAFFORD, Elizabeth

WRNS. Born in Coleraine. The youngest of 5 children, she worked in a restaurant before enlisting. Trained as a cook. Whilst stationed in Londonderry she met Staff a sailor whom she married in Coleraine in 1945. In 1954 they moved with their family to California and later in 1961 to Duncan, BC, Canada. She became a grandmother and great-grandmother. 17/06/1920 - 01/03/2014

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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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

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