



remembrance ni



**Wolfhound Major Robert Moore, with wolfhound Brian Boru X, the mascot of the Royal Irish Regiment, pictured on the Giant's Causeway**

# On this Day – January 5

## 1915

Sir Roger Casement spoke to Irish POW's in Limburg, Germany. He was trying to recruit men for an Irish-Brigade to fight for Germany against the British. He was not well received.

"All thought of enrolling the men, I fear, must be abandoned".

The French blow up half-a-mile of German trenches in the Argonne.

## 1915 Belfast Newsletter 5th January

### **Christmas At The Front. A Volunteer's Experiences.**

Driver Fred Thomas, of Roden Street. who a member of the South Belfast Regiment Ulster Volunteer Force before being called up as a reservist of the Royal Field Artillery, describes to a friend his Christmas experience at the front.

He writes:- " We enjoyed our Christmas here very much indeed. Our major allowed each man three pints of beer. We had plum-pudding and plenty of tobacco, and gathering

around camp fire we had a ' sing-song,' and altogether we enjoyed the festive reunion as much as it was possible to do so in our unique surroundings on the battlefield."

Adverting to his experiences from the time he first embarked with the Expeditionary Force, Driver Thomas would seem to have been in the thick of the fighting. He naively remarks, "Fortunately we have not been found out by the Germans yet. The guns are well concealed, but we are constantly in action. Only the other day a shell burst beside us, but a house immediately in front of our position suffered, and we got off without a scratch.

" I will never forget the night of the 18th of December. We made an attack all along the line and captured several trenches, but they were flooded. The weather is trying and good many have been invalided home because of its severity, but everything considered we have had few casualties on our battery. We had two officers wounded as well we two gunners wounded, and one killed."

The letter concludes- " There are four Belfast chaps in my battery here. We are all Covenanters. I have come across large numbers of Sir Edward's army! also some of John Redmond's. We are all doing our best for the flag."

**1915** Belfast Newsletter 5th January

### **Inniskillings at Limavady.**

A scene of great enthusiasm was witnessed at Limavady Railway Station when the party of the 10th (Service) Battalion Royal Inniskillings, which had been home on leave

from Finner Camp, left to resume duty. There was a large concourse of relatives of the men, officers of the local Ulster Volunteer Force, and the townspeople generally, and the soldiers received a hearty send-off. At a later hour a party of young men left Limavady, having been engaged by an officer of the Army Remount Department as grooms. The party numbered about a dozen, and were despatched to England by Mr. Garnett, Ardmore, Limavady.

On the 4th January 1917 Robert Quigg arrived in Bushmills on two weeks leave. A report of Robert's homecoming was published in the Northern Whig on the 5th January 1917.



**1917 A VC'S HOMECOMING** The Northern Whig 5th January

## **Reception to Private Quigg**

*On the 4th January 1917 Robert Quigg arrived in Bushmills on two weeks leave. A report of Robert's homecoming was published in the Northern Whig on the 5th January 1917*

One of the three V.C. heroes of the Ulster Division, Private Robert Quigg, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim Volunteers) was enthusiastically greeted by the people of Bushmills and district on his homecoming from France on a fortnight's furlough. Private Quigg and his parents and sisters accompanied by Rev. Francis Medcalf M.A., rector of Dunluce, took their seats in a brake headed by the Bushmills Flute Band and followed by a jubilant crowd they made a circuit of the town. There were repeated cheers for the hero. A brief halt was made at the Diamond where Mr. David McNeill, J.P. and Rev. Francis Medcalf spoke of the gallantry of Private Quigg. Rev. Mr Medcalf said they were proud of the brave soldier as a Volunteer, as an Orangeman and as an Ulsterman.

Mr J. L. Taggart, J.P. then motored Private Quigg and the members of his family to their home at Carnkirk, about two miles from town. In the evening the band of which Private Quigg was a member before enlistment, turned out in honour of his homecoming.

The following is the thrilling story of the heroic act for which Private Quigg was awarded the V.C. and Russian and French decorations:- He advanced to the assault with his platoon three times. Early next morning, hearing a rumour that his platoon officer Second-Lieutenant Sir Harry

Macnaughton, elder son of Lady Macnaughton, Dundarave, Bushmills was lying out wounded he went out seven times to look for him under heavy shell and machine-gun fire each time bringing back a wounded man. The last man he dragged in on a waterproof sheet from within a few yards of the enemy's wire. He was seven hours engaged in this most gallant work, and finally was exhausted that he had to give up.

Writing of Private Quigg's heroism, Sir Edward Carson paid him this glowing tribute :- "His splendid services to his King and country, his exemplary courage and his unflinching bravery have won glory and undying honour not only for himself, but for his whole country and especially for Ulster. I recall with pride that Private Quigg was a member of the U.V.F. at the outbreak of the war, and joined his Majesty's forces to preserve that freedom and liberty which is so dear to every Ulsterman.

A public testimonial to Private Quigg in recognition of his gallantry has been got up in Bushmills and district. Over £200 has been raised and the money invested for the V.C. in war loan stock. At a meeting to be held next week he will also be made the recipient of some little souvenir from the residents in the town and district.

## **1917**

The British capture two German posts near Beaumont Hamel.

## **1940**

Hore-Belisha resigns as Secretary of State for War and is replaced by Oliver Stanley.



In the Battle of Suomussalmi, Finns encircle 18,000 Russians north of Lake Ladoga, Finland.

## **1941**

General Bergonzoli surrenders the Italian XXIII Corps at Bardia to the Australians. 45,000 Italian prisoners and 130 tanks are captured by the Australians for just 500 casualties.

Australians capture Bardia in Libya, taking 45,000 Italian POWs. Record-breaking

British pilot Amy Johnson who navigated solo from Britain to Australia, is killed when the trainer plane she's ferrying crashes into the Thames Estuary.

## **1942**

80,000 US and Filipino troops successfully complete their withdrawal to the Bataan Peninsula, along with 26,000 civilians, although food stocks are only sufficient to sustain 43,000 men for 6 months. The Japanese quickly close up to the first defensive position, which is based on Mounts Santa Rosa and Natib.

German forces in the Crimea repulse a Soviet landing at Eupatoria.

In the Philippines, US & Filipino forces complete retreat into Bataan peninsula; troops put on half rations.

In US, "enemy aliens" are required to surrender transmitters, shortwaves, and precision cameras.

Franklin D. Roosevelt appears on cover of Time Magazine as 1941 Man of the Year.

## **1943**

US Fifth Army formed in Oujda, Morocco under Lt. Gen. Mark Clark.

Off Guadalcanal, Mk. 32 proximity-fuzed shells are used for the first time by USS Helena.

## **1944**

Koniev's 2nd Ukrainian Front extends the Russian general offensive in temperatures of -20°C.

The last of four German blockade-runners from Japan are sunk in the South Atlantic.

In the US Eighth Air Force in England, the 91st Bomb Group becomes the first group to complete 100 missions.

## **1945**

Australian troops land at Sapporo to engage Japanese forces at Waitavolo.

As Allied invasion force approaches Lingayen Gulf on Luzon, kamikazes damage US heavy cruiser Louisville, US destroyer Helm, US escort carriers Manila Bay and Savo Island, US destroyer escort Stafford, heavy cruiser HMAS Australia, and destroyer HMAS Arunta (54 killed on all ships).



# Roll of Honour – January 5

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

## **+LOUGHINS, David**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9411. Died 05/01/1915. Born Carrickfergus 27/05/1893. 26 Wellwynne St. Belfast. His brother John served in HMS Bellerophon and brother Samuel in HMS Julia. Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

## **+McCAFFREY, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4767. Died 05/01/1915. Age 33. Son of Bridget McCaffrey, of 7, Collyer St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Belgium

## **+McILWRATH, J**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Serjeant. 6317. Died 05/01/1915. Brother of William McIlwrath, of 109, Mayo St., Belfast. Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie, France

## **+WALKER, William Thomas**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 12905. Formerly Royal Irish Rifles (S/N 11835). Died on 95/01/1915, aged 29. St. Guaire's C of I Churchyard, Aghadowey

**1916**



### **Winter Trees Cross cemetery**

#### **+RISK, Wiliam**

South Lancashire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private.10244. Died 05/01/1916. Age 22 years old. Son of William and Annie Risk, of 13, Major St., Belfast. London Rifle Brigade Cemetery, Belgium

**1917**

#### **+ADAIR, William John Warwick**

Canadian Infantry. 78th Btn. Private.186738. Died 05/01/1917. Age 26. Born Artnagullion, Connor on 21/06/1890. Enlisted 10/11/1915 at Winnipeg. Address give as Argyle PO, Manitoba. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Adair, Ballywee, Templepatrick. Canadian Cemetery No2, Neuville-St-Vaast, France. Second Donegore Presbyterian Church  
RH

**+McLAUGHLIN, Joseph Hamill**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private.15873. Died 05/01/1917. Age 22. Son of Samuel McLaughlin, of Drumakeaney, Limavady. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

**1919**

**+McCREELIS, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 759. Died 04/01/1919. Age 27. Son of James McCreelis; husband of Lizzie McCreelis, of Mosside, Stranocum, Go. Antrim. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

**1940**

**+DUNLOP, James**

RNR. Patrol Service. Stoker. Died 05/01/1940. Age 23. HM Trawler Kingston Cornelian. Son of James and Annie Dunlop, Clanmorris St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph, 13/01/40) Lowestoft Naval Memorial.

**1942**

**REILLY, Irvine**

RNVR. Able Seaman. P/UD/X 1343. Died 01/05/1942. Age: 29. H.M.S. Amazon. Son of William H. and Ellen Reilly, Annalong. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 71

**1943**

**+GUNN, Robert Reginald**

RN. Stoker 1st Class. D/KX 133727. HM Submarine P 48. Died 05/01/1943. Age 18. HMS P 48 (Lt. Michael Elliot Faber, RN) sailed from Malta on 23/12/1942. She was sunk on 25/12/1942 in the Gulf of Tunis in position 37°15'N, 10°30'E by depth charges of Italian torpedo boats Ardente and Ardito north-west of Zembra Island. She was attacking an Italian convoy making for Tunis. HMS P 48 was declared overdue on 05/01/1943. Son of Robert R. and Margaret D. Gunn, Ligoniel. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 82

**+SHIELDS, Francis Henry**

RM. Corporal. PO/X 653. Died 05/01/1943. Age 31. HMNZS Achilles. 14 years' service. Son of James and Mary Ann Shields, Lisburn. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/01/1943). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 79. Lisburn WM

**1945**

**+MILLAR, Richard David**

Royal Corps of Signals. 12th Indian Inf. Bde. Signalman. 2324118. PoW executed 05/01/1945. Aged 27. David had been in service for a number of years prior to the war. He was posted to India in June 1939 and then to Malaya in January 1940. He became a prisoner of war in 1942 in Singapore. Richard David Millar was executed along with other prisoners on 05/01/1945. Son of Robert and Margaret J. Millar, of Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone. Singapore Memorial, column 44, Kranji War Cemetery. Stewartstown WM, First Stewartstown Presbyterian Church RH

**+PICKERING, John Moore**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1533083. Died 05/01/1945. Age 39. 77 Sqn. Son of John and Edith Pickering, Lisburn; Husband to Helena A. Pickering. Hanover War Cemetery, Germany

**VETERANS**

**MOORE, John Henry**

RN. Cook. M7606. Enrolled 19/05/1914 for 12 years. Service in Pembroke, Prosperine, President and Tyne. Demobbed 05/01/1920. Born Banbridge 25/12/1895. ADM 188/1033/7606

**WALMSLEY, Robert Gwynne**

RN. Stoker I. K31684. Enrolled 15/03/1916 for hostilities. War service in Pembroke II, Gibraltar, Orion and Colleen I (Bluebell). Demobbed 05/01/1920. Born Kilkeel 23/09/1896. 188/930/31684

**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 [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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**Please forward** - information about those who served - names, regiment, ship or unit, date of death to [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

