



remembrance ni



On 15/04/1945 British forces liberated Bergen-Belsen. Thousands of bodies lay unburied around the camp and some 60,000 starving and mortally ill people were packed together without food, water or basic sanitation. Many were suffering from typhus, dysentery, and

starvation. Medics played a key role in coping with the massive challenge of coping with and responding to the suffering.

The liberation of Bergen-Belsen 15/04/1945

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Bergen-Belsen was first established in 1940 as a prisoner of war camp. From 1943, Jewish civilians with foreign passports were held as 'leverage' in possible exchanges for Germans interned in Allied countries or for money. It later became a concentration camp and was used as a collection centre for survivors of the death marches. The camp became exceptionally overcrowded and, as a result of the Germans' neglect, conditions were allowed to deteriorate further in the last months of the war, causing many more deaths.

As a result of overcrowded and horrific living conditions, where disease and starvation flourished, tens of thousands of people imprisoned there died. Anne Frank was one of the people deported to Bergen-Belsen.

Soon after liberation, Bergen-Belsen gained international notoriety as a site of Nazi mass murder.

THE FIRST LIBERATORS

Major Dick Williams was one of the first British soldiers to enter Bergen-Belsen. In April 1945, he was a staff captain in

the Supplies and Transport branch of VIII Corps Headquarters and was part of a small force sent forward to assess conditions in the camp.

Gilbert King was a gunner attached to 249 (Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Battery of the 63rd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, which was the first British military unit to go into Bergen-Belsen on 15 April.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

32nd Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) and 11th Light Field Ambulance were among the first medical units to arrive at Bergen-Belsen after its liberation. William Arthur Wood, a medical assistant with 32nd CCS, describes the appalling conditions in the barracks and the process of separating the dead from the living.

"Outside the huts were piles and piles of dead bodies'

Many of the soldiers who first entered the camp were desperate to try and alleviate the prisoners' starvation by giving them army rations.

This first intake of food was fatal for many prisoners, who were too weak to digest it. One of the British Army's most important tasks, as Major Dick Williams explains, was to find a safer and more appropriate way of providing food for the starving prisoners.

Nearly 100 British medical students arrived at Bergen-Belsen in May 1945 to assist with the relief effort. They worked directly in the huts to supervise the distribution of food and provide whatever medical care possible. Dr. Roger Dixey, one of the students who volunteered at the camp, describes his work and the condition of the prisoners in the

barracks. 'We were dealing with the killer, the main killer, which was typhus.'

Roll of Honour – June 15

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+LANYON, William Mortimer

Royal Irish Rifles. 5th Btn. Captain. Died 15/04/1915. He entered the Rifles' trench about midnight on Easter Sunday and early the following morning, as he was standing against the parapet, he was hit in the head by a sniper's bullet and killed instantly. Shortly before his death, he was Adjutant of the 5th R.I.R. Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Lanyon; husband to Helen Baird (formerly Lanyon, nee Blizard), c/o The Westminster Bank, Canterbury. His wife and their two young children lived at The Villas, Downpatrick.

+LEE, Joseph

Leinster Regiment, 1st Btn. Private. 5/4745. Died 14/06/1915. Age 20. Born at Belfast. Son of Thomas and Susan Lee, of 153, James St., Dublin. Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France

+O'NEILL, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8951. Died 15/04/1915. Joseph O'Neill was born in Derry. He lived for a time in Maghera. Joseph enlisted at Belfast. Joseph's wife and child

lived at 47 Trafalgar Street, Belfast, There is also another address listed in Belfast, 11 Wansbeck Street. Joseph O'Neill's sister lived at 23 Jamaica Street, Belfast. Sailly-Sur-La-Lys Churchyard, Pas de Calais, France

+MILLS, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private 12095. Died 15/06/1915. Son of Denis and Margaret Mills. Born in Carrickmore and lived in Pomeroy. He served throughout the South African campaign. William was living and working in Scotland at the outbreak of WW1. He enlisted in Ayr. Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+STEWART, James

Connaught Rangers, 1st Btn. Private. 9499. Died 15/04/1915. Aged 30. Son of William and Anne Stewart, of Pontna, Kilrea, Co. Derry. James Stewart enlisted at Coatbridge in Lanarkshire, Scotland. He was living in Kilrea at the time. He enlisted under the name James Gray. No 9499. Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

1916

+BARNES, G

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 12616. Died 15/06/1916. Age 30. Son of Margaret Barnes, of 121, Lawnbrook Avenue, Belfast, and the late Peter Barnes. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

+BARRETT, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Sergeant. 13672. Died 15/06/1916. Husband to Mary Barrett, of 45, Abbey St.,

Londonderry. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+POLLOCK, James

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 107th Coy. Lance Corporal. 19548. Died 15/06/1916. Age 22. Son of David and Letitia Pollock, of 55, Legoniel Place, Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

+SHIELDS, G

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 23667. Died 15/06/1916. Aged 18. Son of Hugh and Alice Shields, of Ballybeg, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+WHITE, William Charles

RNR. Sub-Lieutenant (E). HMS Snaefell. Died 15/06/1916. Age 35. Born 15/06/1883. Entered Campbell College, Belfast (441), in September 1898. Fought in the South African War with the Irish Horse. Son of Patrick and APM While, Carlton, Carolan Rd., Belfast. Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery. Campbell College WM

1917

+BOYD, William

Royal Garrison Artillery, 1st/2nd (Lancs.) Heavy Bty. Gunner. 16897. Died 15/06/1917. Age 35. Son of Mary Boyd, of 8, Chamberlain St., Belfast, and the late William Boyd. Etaples Military Cemetery, France

+KING, William W

South Wales Borderers, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 35127. Died 15/06/1917. William was born in Kilrea about 1883. According to William King's will, which is in the Irish archives, his father was Patrick McAllister of Gortgoll, Portglenone. Although there is no direct evidence, it is believed that William McAllister and William King are one and the same. William King enlisted in Clonmel into the South Wales Borderers. Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand, Somme, France

+POLLOCK, James

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 107th Coy. Lance Corporal. 19548. Died 15/06/1916. Age 22. Son of David and Letitia Pollock, of 55, Legoniel Place, Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

+THOMPSON, James

Royal Irish Regiment, 1st Garrison Btn. Private. 5576. Died 15/04/1917. James Thompson was born about 1881 in Kilrea. He was serving with the 1st Garrison Battalion of the RIR when he died at sea. His unit was traveling to the eastern theatres of war, Salonika, and Palestine, and was on board the troopship SS Arcadian in the Mediterranean. It had left Salonika headed for Egypt when it encountered an enemy submarine. It was torpedoed and the ship sank. In his will, he left all to his grandmother, Mrs. Jane McCotter, who was living at Castle Street in Ballymoney. Son of Mrs. Jamieson (formerly Thompson), of Craghuller, Cloyfin, Coleraine. Mikra Memorial, Greece

1918

+ATKINSON, J

Canadian Army Medical Corps, 3rd Field Amb. Private. 523564. Died 15/06/1918. Aged 29. Son of James and Juanita Atkinson, of Belfast; husband of Nellie Atkinson, of 134, Spamount St., Belfast. Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. Whitehead WM

+BROWNE, Bernard Score

Royal Army Medical Corps, attd. 2nd Bn. Cheshire Regiment. Captain. M C. MiD. Died 15/04/1918. Aged 32. Second son of Col. A. Walker Browne (late R.A.M.C.) and Mrs. Browne. Bernard was born about 1884. His father was the principal medical officer of the North Irish Coast Defences. Bernard was educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen. He then moved on to Edinburgh University, where he qualified M.B., Ch.B. in 1908. Shortly afterward he took up medical missionary work in China. Bernard Browne returned home as soon as he could and took a temporary commission as lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps on 02/04/1915. Bernard then became the medical officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment in France. Bernard Browne was promoted to captain after a year's service. Bernard was awarded the Military Cross. He was mentioned in dispatches by Lord French. He was subsequently stationed at Salonika in Greece where he was killed in action. Doiran Memorial stands near Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece. Dungannon War Memorial

+FORRESTER, George

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 17/619. Died 15/06/1918. Accidentally killed in a train crash. Enlisted Belfast May 1915. He was a joiner. Son of James and

Josepha (nee Ferguson) Forrester. Husband to Sarah Jane (nee Spratt) Forrester of Dandy Street Whitehouse. They married on 27.12.1909 in Whitehouse Presbyterian Church. They had five children, the last of which was born after her father's death. Gwalia Cemetery, West-Vlasnderen, Belgium. Whitehouse Presbyterian Church RH. Family headstone Carnmoney Cemetery

+McCLEAN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 19654. Died 15/04/1918. He was born at Ballycowan, Kells on 17 October 1891 and he lived in Kells village. He was the son of Samuel McClean and Matilda Swan, Kells. The couple had married in 1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church on the 12/07/1890. Members of the family were involved in the factory production of woolen cloth. There were two children of the marriage, William and Rachel. Sometimes the surname is spelt McLean, birth recorded as McClain. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Kells Presbyterian Church RH.

+McVEIGH, John

Royal Garrison Artillery. Gunner. 139483. Died 15/04/1918. Aged 23. Son of Hugh and May McVeigh, 56 Curran Street, Portadown. St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens, France.

+MULHOLLAND, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. Private. 3/7400. Died 15/06/1918. Age 32. Husband of Sarah Mulholland, of 50, Chemical St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

1919

+HAMPTON, Christopher

New Zealand Rifle Brigade. Rifleman. 31847. Died 15/06/1919. Age 61. Enlisted in July 1916. Embarked to England in July 1917 when his age was recorded as 61. He was found to be medically unfit and was discharged back to New Zealand. Born in 1857 at Kilmore, Co. Armagh. In 1887 he and Bedilia Howard married in Christchurch, New Zealand. Son of David and Eliza Hampton. Born in Co. Armagh. Bromley Cemetery, Christchurch, New Zealand

+PATTERSON, John

Royal Army Service Corps. Private. M/372355. Died 15/06/1919. Age 25. Drowned accidentally in the Rhine river. Tributes were paid to him by the Rector of Carnmoney and by his Commanding Officer who testified to his faithfulness and fearlessness whilst on active service. (Larne Times obituary, 28/06/1919). James and Jessie (nee Davison) Patterson married in Carnmoney C of I on 06/09/1918. Cologne Memorial, Germany. Carnmoney C of I WM

1940

+DUGAN, James

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 10th Btn. Rifleman. 6981147. Died 15/06/1940 on a military hospital in Harwich, Essex. Son of Martha Dugan of 24 Arkwright Street, Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery.

1941

+REE, John A

Royal Artillery. 547 Coast Regiment. Lance Bombardier. 1078008. Died 15/06/1941. Aged 22. Son of Robert J. Ree and Isabel Ree of Londonderry. Londonderry City Cemetery



Almost every unit of Canadian 2nd Corps is represented in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery by men who died during the later stages of the battle of Normandy.

1943

+McHENDRY, Joseph Brown

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1133853. Died 15/06/1943. Aged 25. 50 Sqdn. Son of John and Catherine McHendry, Glenarm. Schoonselhof Cemetery, Belgium

+SIMPSON, John Johnston

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Bomber).1045724. Died 15/06/1943. Aged 26. 12 Sqdn. Awarded Diploma of Dairy Science, University College of Cork. Son of Thomas M. Simpson, and of Rachel S. Simpson, of Grovehill, Ballymena. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. First Ballymena Presbyterian Church WM

1944 HMS MOURNE

HMS Mourne (Lt.Cdr. Raymond Spurr Holland, RD, RNR) from the 5th Escort Group was hit and sunk by a Gnat from U-767 in the English Channel while providing cover to the west of the Normandy beaches. There were 111 fatalities and 27 survivors.

+CARLETON, James

RN. Ordinary Telegraphist. D/JX 576903. HMS Mourne. Died 15/06/1944. Age 20. Son of Hugh and Hannah Carleton, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 88

+KELLY, William Robert

Royal Navy. Ordinary Seaman. D/JX 567200. H.M.S. Mourne. Died 15/06/1944. Age 19. Local newspaper reports show him as having served with the RUC or USC and working in the PSV department. The PSV test at that time was carried out by the RUC. His family lived in Victoria St., Armagh and later moved to Bristol. Son of Albert George Kelly, and of Alice Kelly, of Bristol. Plymouth Naval Memorial

+MARSHALL, Matthew Herbinson

RN. Steward. D/LX 31320. Died 15/06/1944. Age 19. HMS Mourne. Died off the beaches in Normandy. Son of H. and

Jeannie Marshall, Ballymena. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 91. High Kirk Presbyterian Church RH

+McNAIR, James

ERA 4th Cl. D/MX 103313. HMS Mourne. Died 15/06/1944. Age 22. Brother of Robert McNair, HMS Victorious. Son of James and Mary McNair, Rosebery Rd., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/07/1944). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 89

+ROONEY, John James

RN. Stoker 1st Class. D/JX 164957. Died 15/06/1944. Age: 27. HMS Mourne. Son of James and Agnes Rooney, Rosslea. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 90. Enniskillen WM.

HMS BLACKWOOD

Blackwood was on patrol as part of the 4th Escort Group in the west end of the English Channel to protect the ships of the Normandy landings, when she was hit by a Gnat from U-764 off Brittany. She foundered while under tow off Portland Bill the following day June 15.

+DRILLINGCOURT, Albert

RN. Ordinary Seaman. D/JX 650412. Date of Death:15/06/1944. Age:21. H.M.S. Blackwood. Son of James and Susan J. Drillingcourt, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 88

+MURPHY, John

RN. Leading Seaman. D/JX 210150. Died 15/06/1944. Age 34. HMS Blackwood. Son of Henry and Sarah Murphy. His

father Mr H Murphy, Teutonic St., Belfast served with the RN in WW1. Husband to Edith Murphy, Teutonic St., Belfast. Father of two children. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 21/07/1944). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 85

1944

+ARMSTRONG, David

RAFVR.Sergeant (Air Gunner).1795827. Died 15/06/1944. Aged 23. 115 Sqdn. Son of Robert and Margaret Armstrong, Belfast. Oisy - le -Verger Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

+CARLETON, James

RN. Ordinary Telegraphist. D/JX 576903. HMS Mourne. Died 15/06/1944. Age 20. Son of Hugh and Hannah Carleton, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 88

+CLARK-HALL, Robert William

Royal New Zealand Air Force. 202 (R.A.F.) Sqdn. Flying Officer. 417266. Died 15/06/1944. Age 23. Son of Air Marshal Sir Robert Clark-Hall, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., and of Lady Clark-Hall (nee Lockhart), of Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand. Air Marshal Sir Robert Clark-Hall, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. had a long career in aviation. Beginning with naval service in the Boxer rebellion, Sir Robert learnt to fly in 1911. Commander of the HMS Ark Royal at Gallipoli. Before the Second World War he retired to New Zealand, and put himself at the disposal of the New Zealand Government and ended up commanding the RNZAF group in the Solomon Islands. Melilla Cemetery, Spanish Morocco, Spain

+DRILLINGCOURT, Albert

RN. Ordinary Seaman. D/JX 650412. Died 15/06/1944. Age:21. HMS Blackwood. Son of James and Susan J. Drillingcourt, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 88

+GRIFFITHS, William Arthur

R.A.C. Reconnaissance Corps. Serjeant. 5114831. Died 15/06/1944. Aged 26. Son of William and Lucy Griffiths; husband to Kathleen Griffiths, of Londonderry. Hottot-les-Bagues War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+HUTCHINSON, Robert Charles

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1133055. Died 15/06/1944. Age 22. 160 Sqdn. Son of Samuel Joseph And Mary Hutchinson; Husband to Minnie Hutchinson, Belfast. Colombo (Liveramentu) Cemetery, Sri Lanka”

+MARSHALL, Matthew Herbinson

RN. Steward. D/LX 31320. Died 15/06/1944. Age 19. HMS Mourne. Died off the beaches in Normandy. Ship sank by U-767. Son of H. and Jeannie Marshall, Ballymena. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 91. High Kirk Presbyterian Church RH

+NIXON, Thomas Lowry

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1796296. Died 15/06/1944. Aged 19. 15 Son of Lowry and Margaret Nixon, of Omagh. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 221

+WEIR, James Kenneth

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 133093. Died 15/06/1944. Aged 31. 15 Sqdn. Bomber Command. He was one of a seven-

man crew aboard an Avro Lancaster Mark I aircraft (LL889) that took off at 11.31 pm from RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk on a mission to bomb E-boat facilities in Le Havre. The aircraft crashed and all but one were killed. Flight Sergeant R.M. Gilleade survived and managed to evade capture. James was born 20/07/1912. Son of William and Mabel Florence Weir (née Edwards) of Roseneath, Cranmore Gardens, Malone Road, Belfast and then The Cottage, Glenavy. James Kenneth Weir attended Rockport and Campbell College and after he left school he worked as an inspector for the Beacon Insurance Company, Belfast. James joined the RAFVR and in 1943 he visited Campbell College, then located at Portrush (because the school premises in Belfast had been requisitioned by the War Office for use as a hospital). His last address was in Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 209, Rockport School RH, Campbell College RH

1945

+LYONS, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Warrant Officer Class II. MiD. 7009916. Died 15/06/1945. Aged 41. Son of James Lyons and Charlotte Edith Lyons; husband to Charlotte Lyons of Belfast. Celle War Cemetery, Germany. Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Belfast, WM

1947

+FULLERTON, Hugh

Royal Artillery. 2nd HAA Regiment, 20th Bty. Gunner.1473076. Died 15/06/1947. Age 28. Husband to

Lizzie Fullerton; son of Hugh and Margaret Ann Fullerton, Randalstown. First Presbyterian Churchyard, Randalstown.

VETERANS

CALDWELL, Matthew Fitzjames

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander. MB BCh BAO, QUB 1907. B 15/04/1883. Son of James Caldwell, Mont Cecil, Bloomfield, Belfast. D. Campbell College 547

+DRISCOLL, William James

RNVR. Surgeon - Lieutenant. MB BCh BAO, QUB 1937 - 42. Post - war, medical practitioner Worcester Park, Surrey. Born 15/06/1919. Son of WJ Driscoll, Ormiston Dr., Knock, Belfast. Campbell College 2467. St Columba's Parish Church, Knock RH

JOHNSON, John Eric

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant. 1939-46. Appointed in 12/1939 to HMS Elgin (ex Troon), a coal-burning minesweeper. In April, 1941, after serving as a Sub-Lieutenant he was promoted to Lieutenant and appointed to HMS Niger, another minesweeper, which was sunk by a mine off the coast of Iceland in 07/1941, he being incorrectly reported missing, presumed killed. Served in the Ulster Division post-war. Born 15/06/1920. Son of John Johnson, Harberton Park, Belfast. Solicitor. Warren Road, Donaghadee. Campbell College 2560

Roll of Honour – June 15

Representing their comrades who died on this day

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 houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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