



remembrance ni



Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

Visitors to a Pearl Harbor memorial can view vessels sunk in the attack by Japan on this day in 1941. The US Navy launches the Battleship New Jersey, one of the four “Iowa Class” battleships, the largest ever built for the US Navy, and 11 other ships on the anniversary of Pearl harbor.

On this Day – December 7

1914

The Indian Expeditionary Force completed by the arrival (western front) of the Sirhind Brigade from Egypt.

1917

The United States declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire during WW1.

1918



The 28th Infantry Brigade reaches Cologne.

1939

Norway, Denmark and Sweden declare their neutrality. The Soviet Ninth Army launches an offensive in central Karelia. Britain and France agree to send troops and material to help Finland fight against the Soviet Union. However, there is virtually no way to get these forces to Finland and so the promises mean little.

Italy reaffirms her neutrality.

1940

The Admiral Hipper leaves Kiel for an anti-shipping sortie into the Atlantic.

1941 - Pearl Harbor





At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appears out of the clouds above the island of Oahu. A swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes followed. Much of the Pacific fleet was rendered useless. The attack drew the United States irrevocably into World War II.

At 6:15 Honolulu time, the first wave of Japanese aircraft take off from their carriers which are located about 200 miles north of Hawaii. At 7:50, 43 fighters, 51 dive-bombers, 70 torpedo-bombers and 50 ordinary bombers arrive over Hawaii. They launch attacks against the airfields at Wheeler, Kaneohe, Ewa and Hickham and against the American warships anchored at 'Battleship Row'. Surprise was complete and within a few minutes 5 battleships and 2 light cruisers had been sunk and a large number of aircraft (180)



destroyed on the ground. Within an hour, the second wave of Japanese strike aircraft (36 fighters, 80 dive-bombers, 54 bombers) had arrived over the target, sinking a further 3 destroyers and dam

aging another battleship. By 10:00 the attack was over and the casualties could be accounted for. The Americans lost 2,729 killed and 1,178 wounded, while the Japanese losses amounted to just 29 aircraft (59 airmen) and five mini-submarines. The Japanese launch air attacks against Manila.

Japan declares war on Britain and the USA.

The US begins mobilization.

Field Marshal von Brauchitsch after suffering a recent heart attack tenders his resignation to Hitler, although this is not accepted immediately. Zhukov issues orders to the left flank armies of his West Front to begin offensive operations against Panzer Group 2, which is attempting to withdraw out of a salient near Tula. The aim of this offensive would be to cut off Panzer Group 2 and destroy it in the area of Stalinogorsk.

Panzer Army Afrika retreats westwards through Libya, completing its withdrawal to the Gazala line.

1942

The US Navy launches the Battleship New Jersey, one of the four "Iowa Class" battleships, the largest ever built for the US Navy, and 11 other ships on the anniversary of Pearl harbor.

US make a beachhead South of Buna, cutting off Japanese forces there.

Cockleshell Heros - Operation Frankton

British Commandos make daring raid on Bordeaux harbor, rowing 50 miles up the River Gironde and attaching limpet mines to German shipping.

On 07/12/,1942 10 Royal Marine Cockleshell Heroes disembarked from the submarine HMS Tuna, and set out in canoes nicknamed "cockles" to attack the German-occupied

port of Bordeaux. Only two were to make it back from Operation Frankton.

Under the command of **Dublin-born Major H Hasler and Oban-born Lieutenant J W Mackinnon**, the team had set sail in HMS Tuna from Holy Loch on 30th November.

The aim was to paddle into the Port of Bordeaux, avoid the heavy naval presence, sink 6-12 cargo ships, and then escape overland to Spain.

Corporal Sheard and Marine Moffat were to perish in the sea.

Lieutenant Mackinnon, Sergeant Wallace, Corporal Laver, and Marines Conway, Mills and Ewart were to be captured and die by firing squad.

Major Hasler and Marine Sparks were to make it home after an incredible overland escape.

A plaque commemorating the Cockleshell Heroes was installed on the war memorial at Lazaretto point, on the shores of Holy Loch, in 2012 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary.

A striking Stockport memorial to Marine James Conway was designed by Luke Perry of Industrial Heritage Stronghold. It is a bronze sculpture with a steel armature of James' torso and paddle to depict his efforts between HMS Tuna and the shore. He was only 20 years old when he was executed on the 23/03/1943.

1943

The Cairo conference ends.

1944

Nazi women's leader Gertrud Scholtz-Klink asks all German women over 18 to volunteer to serve in army or Luftwaffe to release men to the front.

1945

Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita is sentenced to death for his role in atrocities in the Philippines.

Roll of Honour – December 7

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+BELL, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 3rd Btn. Private. 10742. Died 07/12/1914. Age 17. Son of Richard Samuel and Martha Bell, of Ligoniel, Belfast. In South-East part. Christ Church Churchyard, Lower Fahan, Ireland

+CLARKE, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 5598. Died 07/12/1914. Born in Bessbrook. 1911 Census records his occupation as "soldier" visiting a family called Kidd in Bessbrook. It is thought he lived in Craigmore in the village. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

+KILLOPS, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8145. Died 07/12/1914. Age 27. Husband of Margaret Killops, of 81, Palmer St., Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Rue-du-Bacquerot (13th London) Graveyard, Laventie, France

1915

+BLEAKLEY, Westley

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 5th Btn. C Coy. Private. 11735. Died 07/12/1915. Age 29. Son of Mr. and Mrs R. Bleakley, of Clounagh, Portadown; husband of Mary Bleakley, of 86, Methuen St., Belfast. Dorian Memorial, Greece

+DORAN, John Philip

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 10024. Died 07/12/1915. Age 27. Born in Randalstown. Jack Doran, as he became known, was a clerk at Toome Railway Station. Jack was a pianist of exceptional merit, and was in high demand at entertainments and social functions in the district, according to a report in the Belfast Newsletter. John Doran enlisted in Glasgow at the outbreak of the war. Son of James and Hessie Doran, Main St., Randalstown. Salonika (Lembit Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

+HARVEY, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, D Coy. 6th Btn. Private. 12763. Died 07/12/1915. Age 25. Son of Mary Harvey, of 10, Johnston St., Belfast, and the late James Harvey. Dorian Memorial, Greece

+HUSTON, Gerald Marcus

Royal Engineers. 7th Div. Signal Coy. Corporal. 28763. DCM. Died 07/12/1915. Age 19. The Belfast Telegraph reported, "When war broke out he had been for close on three years an apprentice draughtsman in the Sirocco Engineering works. Though scarcely twenty years of age he at once volunteered with a number of his chums and being a skilled motor cyclist, joined the Royal Engineers as a dispatch rider, He was early sent to the front, and came through the terrible ordeal of the first Battle of Ypres, which was prolonged for many days and in which he played his part so bravely that he was awarded the DCM in the words of the official announcement.

"For Gallant conduct in conveying messages under shell fire until machine was destroyed by shrapnel."

A similar honour was bestowed at the same time on his chum, Corporal Jack Erskine, R.E. son of Mr. John Erskine, J.P. Longwood, Whitehouse. Young Huston served right through the winter and again distinguished himself at the bloody fighting at Neuve Chapelle between 10th and 15th March, in which the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles suffered so heavily. In that engagement, in company with three Belfast men in his section of the 7th Divisional Signal Company, Huston showed the utmost gallantry, with the result that the entire four were presented by their commanding officer with handsomely printed and illuminated acknowledgement of their services, which contained the following paragraph:-

"Owing to the terrific shell fire and the constant re-arranging of units in the attack it was impossible to use telephonic

communication and the dispatch orderlies by their devotion to duty and gallant conduct, contributed in no small degree to the success of the operations.

“The other recipients were Corporal Erskine (already mentioned), Corporal W.H.C. McConnell, son of Mr. T. E. McConnell, J.P. University Street, Belfast, and Corporal A. J. McKibben, son of Mr. John McKibben, Waring St, Belfast.

“It is one of the tragedies of the war that having come though so much fighting unscathed Corporal Huston should have met his death by accident. It appears that when on duty he was run down by a motor lorry and received injuries, from which he passed away shortly afterwards in a clearing hospital.”

"Jerry," as he was familiarly known, was a young man of lovable disposition, and his death will be sincerely mourned not only by his immediate relatives but by his numerous friends in Ulster Centre of the Motor Cycle Union, of which he was a member, and by others. The blow is all the more severe inasmuch as the deceased was home on leave only three weeks ago.

“Deceased, it may be added was an old Portora Royal School boy, the third to be killed within the past few days. He has two brothers in the Army, one in the Motor Transport and the other an officer in the Canadian Engineers.”

Son of Mr. W. W. and Mrs. E. V. Huston, of Astville, Killinchy, Co. Down. Beauval Communal Cemetery, France

+KENNEDY, Archibald

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 11729. Died 07/12/1915. Age 29. Son of John and Sarah Kennedy, of Belfast. Doiran Memorial, Greece.

+MAGINNES, A

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Corporal. 387. Died 07/12/1915. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France

+McMULLIN, Hugh

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Lance Corporal. 5311. Died 07/12/1915. Aged 37. Son of Mrs. Mary McGahey, of Tulnavet, Clogher. Doiran Memorial, Greece. Clogher WM

+STEWART, John

Connaught Rangers. 5th Btn. Corporal. 9299. Died 07/12/1915. Age 26. Son of Sophia Stewart, of 388, Bursbridge Rd., Bloomfield, Belfast, and the late John Stewart. Dorian Memorial, Greece

+STRAIN, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Private. 12821. Died 07/12/1915. Age 19. Son of David and Mary Strain, of 3, Urney St., Shankill Rd., Belfast. Dorian Memorial, Greece

+WRIGHT, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 17065. Died 07/12/1915. Husband to Jane, North Rd., Carrickfergus and later of 141 Matilda St., Belfast. Eldest son, Bob served with the Royal Air Force WW2. Theipval Memorial, France

1916

+MAGEE, James Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 11th Btn. Private. 26910. Died 07/12/1916. Aged 27. Son of Henry Magee, of Gortgonis, Coalisland. Hyde Park Corner (Royal Berks) Cemetery. Hainaut, Belgium. Dungannon WM

1917

+BOYD, Andrew

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 27166. Died 07/12/1917. Age 31. Andrew Boyd was the son of Mrs Margaret Boyd. He was born about 1886 in Seapatrick, County Down. The 1901 census records Andrew as 15 years old. He and the family were living in Ballysaggart, Dungannon. His mother Margaret was a widow. Andrew had left school and was working as a weaver. The 1911 census shows Andrew had married about 1906. Margaret and he had three children. Andrew worked as a painter. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Dungannon WM. St Anne's C of I Parish Church RH

+MASON, William Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 1104. Died 07/12/1917. He worked as an apprentice clerk at the Belfast Board of Guardians. A day before his death from wounds, he told his parents who had travelled to be at his bedside that "he did not regret his action in joining the army, and that he would do the same thing over again". Son of James and Rachel Mason, of 60, Delhi St., Ormeau Rd., Belfast, also

Irish-street, Downpatrick. St. Sever Cemetery Extension,
Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

+SIMPSON, Percy

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. L/Sgt. 14120. Died 07/12/1917.
Son of Robert and Rachel Simpson. Percy was born about
1895 in Philadelphia, U.S.A. The 1901 census shows Percy
Simpson living with his grandparents, Robert and Anna
Maria Credden, in Camgart, Clabby, County Fermanagh. He
enlisted in Enniskillen. Percy had been wounded at Thiepval
and again at Messines Ridge. Cambrai Memorial,
Louverval, Nord, France. Fivemiletown WM

+WATTON, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. D Coy. Private. 19889.
Died 07/12/1917. Age 45. Uncle of William Watton (19890)
who enlisted on the same day. They had consecutive
numbers. Son of the late John and Mary Ann Watton, of
Coleraine; husband to the late Eliza Watton, of Tullans,
Coleraine. Cambrai Memorial Louverval, France

+WHITE, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 751. Died 07/12/1917.
Born in the Shankhill district of Belfast and went to live in
Lower Coagh just before the start of WW1. He went back to
Belfast to enlist with 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.
Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Coagh WM

1918

+POLLOCK, James

Royal Irish Rifles 6th & 2nd Btns, Private 2333 transferred to Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers). 9th Btn. Private. 42467. Died 07/12/1918. Aged 29. Born on 01/07/1889 in the townland of Ballygrainey, Donaghadee. James worked as an agricultural labourer before he enlisted on 02/12/1914. He was posted to the British Expeditionary Force on 14/12/1915. He joined the 2nd Battalion on 03/01/1916 and was hospitalised in February 1916 because of 'a sebaceous cyst'. He re-joined his unit and his family was informed later that he had been killed in action on 17/05/1916. It was in fact his brother, Rifleman Charles Pollock (4/7581), who had been killed that day and when the mistake was realised James Pollock's family received a written apology. James Pollock suffered a gunshot wound to his left hand on 07/07/1916 and had to have his forefinger amputated. James was hospitalised in Lancashire before re-joining the 4th Btn. He was transferred to the 2nd Btn and on 14/07/ 1917 he suffered a gunshot wound to his right foot.

Private Pollock was hospitalised for a month after the injury to his right foot and a month after re-joining his unit he was gassed on 06/08/1917. He was posted to the Command Depot at Ballykinlar and then to the 4th Btn. He spent a short period with the Machine Gun Corps. On 14/09/1918, he was transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers 9th Btn (No. 42467) and he returned to the Western Front. On 25/11/1918 he was admitted to the 10th Stationary Hospital at Arneke. His family was advised that he was dangerously ill and at 8.35 am on 07/12/1918 Private James Pollock died of influenza 'probably aggravated by exposure on military

duty'. Son of James and Ellen (nee Beatty) Pollock. The Pollock family lived in the townlands of Cottown, Ballycroghan, Ballygrainey, Balloo, Cronstown, and Drumhirk. Tourcoing (Pont-Neuville) Communal Cemetery, France. Donaghadee and District WM.

+THOMPSON, Brownlow

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Depot. Private. 41372. Died 07/12/1918 of influenza. Age 24. Brownlow worked in a draper's shop before enlisting in the North Irish Horse and then the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Son of Robert and Mary Thompson of Lisadian, Armagh. Eglisk (Drumsallen) C of I Churchard

1940

+MILLAR, George

RAF. Corporal. 546007. Died 07/12/1940. Age 33. Son of William John and Mary Millar, Belfast; Husband to Florence Hester Millar, Belfast. Kirk Malew (St. Malew) Churchyard Extension

MILLER, Patrick Joseph

RAF. 502 Sqdn. Sergeant. 625296. Died on 07/12/1940. Aged 21. Son of Joseph and M. A. Griffiths of Londonderry. Londonderry City Cemetery

1942

+GARDNER, Annie Mary

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Sister. 218360. Died 07/12/1942. Aged 26. Daughter of W. J. and

Elizabeth Gardner, of Stranocum, Co. Antrim. Brookwood
1939 - 1945 Memorial, Surrey

1944

+McKEEVER, Samuel

Royal Engineers, 1013 Port Operating Coy.
Sapper.14443744. Died 07/12/1944. Aged 20. Son of
Thomas and Annie McKeever, of Ballyclare. Dieppe
Canadian War Cemetery, Hautot-Sur- Mer, Seine-Maritime,
France

1945

+GIBSON, James

Royal Artillery. 3rd Searchlight Regiment. 12th Battery.
Gunner. 1456570. Died 07/12/1945. Age 36. Son of Joseph
Gibson and Elizabeth Gibson (née Matchett), and husband
to Rosetta Gibson of Portadown. Drumcree Roman Catholic
Churchyard, Portadown. In 2018, his name was a new
addition to the Portadown War Memorial

VETERANS

CORRY, Noel Henry

Born on 07/12/1918 and educated at RBAI, Noel joined the
RAFVR in 1938 in Belfast and commenced flying training in
February 1939 with No 24 E&RFTS, Belfast. He was called
up to full-time service on the outbreak of war and, with his
training completed, in May 1940 he converted to Blenheim
fighters with an Operational Training Unit. On 8 June he was
commissioned as a Pilot Officer and 18 days later was
posted to No 25 Squadron at RAF Martlesham Heath to

begin operations. His tour of 30 operations completed, he was posted to the Special Duties Flight at No 72 Group, RAF Northolt on 29/01/1941 and this was followed by a succession of postings of an instructional nature. He then requested a return to operational flying, was trained to fly bombers and in mid-1944 joined No 12 Squadron at RAF Wickenby as a Squadron Leader, flying Lancasters. On 08/12/1944 he was awarded the DFC and went on to complete 24 operations with the Squadron. He also qualified for an AE.

McGOWAN, Angus

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Signaller/Private. 19157 He volunteered for active service in 1914 (aged about 33 years). The Derrys trained at Finner Camp, County Donegal, and Seaford, Sussex, and arrived at the Western Front in October 1915. Angus served in France, Belgium and Germany. He was wounded in 1917 and again in 1918. He was awarded the Military Medal. Before the War he was a fisherman. He, his wife, Jane (Jeannie) Elizabeth, and family lived at Church Lane, Portstewart; and his parents, Mr. Daniel (fisherman) and Mrs. Hannah McGowan, lived at Mullaghacall, Portstewart. Angus was living at Enterprise Avenue when he died on 07/12/1958; he was buried in Agherton Cemetery. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Agherton Parish Church.

WHITE, Samuel McBrinn

London Irish Rifles. Private. KX113115. Brother of John, London Irish Rifles, KIA Italy 30/10/1943, and Hugh, PoW. Born 20/09/1920. Son of Hugh and Hannah White, Spencer St., Belfast. Died 07/12/2005, aged 85. Burial from Glenburn Methodist Church 14/12/2005 to Roselawn Cemetery.

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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

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