

January 10



remembrance ni



Beaumont-Hamel British Cemetery, Somme

Navy doctor helped development of NI hospitals

Fred Allen was born at Belfast, the son of William James Allen, merchant, and Annie nee Holden, and educated at Queen's University.

In 1917, while still a student, he interrupted his studies to serve as a surgeon-probationer in the Royal Navy. As a Surgeon Probationer he served with the Grand Fleet at

Scapa Floe 1917 in HMS Miranda. Following the founding of the Ulster Division of the RNVF, he rejoined and for some years was an active member of the Division as a surgeon lieutenant-commander.

At the end of the first world war he returned to Queen's University and graduated MB BCh BAO in 1920, proceeding MD in 1923, and specializing in paediatrics. He was elected a Fellow of the College in 1939, and was appointed to the Nuffield Chair of Child Health at Queen's University in 1948. He was paediatrician to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children from 1924, and physician in charge of infants to the Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast, from 1927 until his retirement in 1963, when he also retired from the Chair of child health at the University.

Between 1939 and the end of the second world war he undertook important administrative duties in connection with the organization of medical manpower in the Province, was hospitals officer to the Ministry of Public Security with responsibility for hospital arrangements in connection with Civil Defence, and involved in planning work for the coming National Health Service.

One of the first members of the Northern Ireland Hospital Authority

He was one of the first members of the Northern Ireland Hospital Authority, a member of the Ministry of Health Advisory Committee on Child Guidance and Speech Therapy and of the Nuffield Regional Council and Medical Planning Committee. He served on the NI Tuberculosis Authority and for years was an active member of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, and

of the British Paediatric Association. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former President of the Ulster Medical Association.

One of Fred Allen's most notable qualities was his burning zeal to see a durable image of paediatrics established in Ulster, and in this he succeeded. He had a gift for friendship, and great fortitude and resilience in adversity. Like many strong personalities he had his prejudices or preconceived ideas, for which he was ever willing to strive, and at times some of his colleagues may have chafed under his obduracy. But with his patients — the children — he was never so and was, indeed, greatly loved by them. His crowded out-patient clinics testified to the value the doctors in Ulster put on his opinions. In 1963, the year of his retirement, he won the Dawson Williams prize. Among many publications was his book *Aids to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases in Children*.

In 1929 he married Anne Evelyn Maud Calvert, daughter of James Calvert whose son, E.G.B. Calvert, was also elected a Fellow of the College. His wife, Eve, supported him as loyally throughout his active life as she did in his declining years; they were fortunate to have 43 years of great happiness together.

He retired to live at Cultra, in a lovely house overlooking Belfast Lough. At home, surrounded by his pictures and treasures, he pursued his main interests outside medicine; his garden, his reading, and entertaining friends. Fred and his wife were perfect hosts. There was a gay spontaneity about their entertaining and all who had the pleasure of joining them on these occasions will remember their

generous and elegant hospitality. They had no children.
Born 1898 - Died 10 January 1972.

Acknowledgments - Royal College of Physicians; T. W. Moody and J. C. Beckett, *Queen's Belfast 1845–1949: the history of a university* (1959)

John McNabney, Ballymena's most decorated WW1 soldier

Robert McNabney, a farmer of Ballygelly, Rocavan, Broughshane, married Elizabeth Wray (sometimes Rea) also of Ballygelly, in 1st Broughshane Presbyterian Church on the 12 February 1880.

By the time of the 1911 Irish census the couple had been married for thirty-one years and had had nine children, all of whom were still alive at that time.

Robert, Hugh, Jane, Margaret (Maggie), John, Agnes, Samuel, Elizabeth (Lizzie) and James had lived at Rocavan, Rathkenny and Killygore, their father working as a grocer at the time of the latter.

The family had, however, abandoned the depths of rural Co Antrim and moved into 'the town', Ballymena, about the turn of the century, their address on the 1901 and 1911 census returns being 57, Moat Road, Harryville, Ballymena.

They had moved a short distance by 1914 and were found at 9, Larne Street, Harryville. Robert (Snr.) was working as a general labourer and most of the children were employed in a linen weaving factory; Hugh and John had chosen different paths: Hugh was a hairdresser and John was a

shoemaker in the employ of Mr Thomas Kerr, Boot & Shoe Maker, Church Street, Ballymena.

Shoemaker John had adapted well to urban life. He was a talented and noted footballer, a stalwart of South End Rangers FC.

He played, for example, in the semi-finals of the Irish Junior Cup at Ballymena on the 17th February 1911 and helped his team defeat Queen's Park Swifts FC, and then he played in the final against Séipéal Iosóid, Chapelizod, a team from outside Dublin, at Grosvenor Park, Belfast on the 11th March that year.

The importance of the match as seen at that time was reflected in the fact that the Great Northern Railway offered Dublin fans a special ticket price of 6s-6d (32 ½ pence) for those attending the game.

The final brought together a large number of opposing fans and two very closely matched teams. However, in the tense, thrilling and toughly contested game, Chapelizod had the edge.

They were 1-0 up at the interval, and despite an unrelenting effort by South End Rangers in the second half, the Chapelizod defence was a 'regular stonewall' and the Ballymena men were beaten.

John McNabney went on to play the occasional game for Cliftonville FC, but the real change in his life came with the outbreak of the war in August 1914: John and his brother Samuel, about 25 and 20 years old respectively, joined the Royal Engineers in Belfast on the same day, 22nd September 1914.

They were given consecutive service numbers, 57836 and 57837. Both were to serve throughout the war and both were to survive the experience.

John had signed the Ulster Covenant and was already serving in the ranks of Carson's Ulster Volunteer Force, his name appearing on a membership roll of 1st February 1913 listing for 'North End', Ballymena, part of Mid-Antrim UVF.

He appears to have been a key figure in the local section of the Signalling and Dispatch Riders Corps, his specialism signalling.

He and his UVF colleagues were indeed using a new-style signalling lamp of an advanced type not yet adopted by the British Army, and the UVF had many men who were literate in semaphore.

The Royal Engineers were keen to have them, and under Royal Engineer tutelage 57836 John McNabney flourished.

He went to France and Flanders in October 1915 (1914 volunteers were filtering into the battle zones by autumn 1915 to early spring 1916), was to rise through the ranks by learning and prowess to become Acting Sergeant, and his record shows had never committed offences whilst in the army; neither, indeed, did his brother Samuel.

This is not really surprising. He was a superb soldier - intelligent, conscientious and brave.

His gallantry was first recognised when he was given a 36th Ulster Division Parchment Certificate, his award being posted on the 30 June 1917.

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These certificates were given after April 1917 for actions after the 1st July 1916, the opening day of the Somme battle.

His record of bravery continued with a Mentioned in Despatches (MID), with it recorded in an entry in the Second Supplement to London Gazette, Issue 3077, Friday, 18 May 1917, page 1.

It reads: 'The following is a continuation of Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch of 9th April, submitting names deserving of special mention'.

This first part was published in the London Gazette of Tuesday, 15th May, 1917 and on the identified page, page 4880 of the later document, it lists 'McNabney No. 57836 Corporal (acting Serjt.) J'.

Elsewhere it was stated thus: The following despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig G.C.B., C. in C. of the British Armies in France, GHQ, 9th April 1917:

'Sir -ml have the honour to submit a list of names of those officers, ladies, non commissioned officers & men serving, or who have served, under my command whose distinguished and gallant service and devotion to duty I consider deserving of special mention....' McNabney's name is amongst those that follow.

He won a Military Medal, the award published and gazetted on March 12, 1918, but there is no record of the deed for which it was given.

However, a second award, a 'Bar', was soon to follow. In the London Gazette, Issue 30873, 26th August 1918 and on

page 10110 it says, 'His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of a bar to the Military Medal to the undermentioned Non-commissioned Officers and Men', and on page 100112 it lists the following: '57836 Cpl. (A/Sjt.) J. McNabney M.M. R.E. (Ballymena).' The Ballymena Observer greeted the honour and stated, 'Sergeant J. McNabney, Royal Engineers, Ulster Division, whose relatives reside at 9, Larne Street, Ballymena, has been awarded a 'bar' to the Military medal. Sgt. McNabney is well known in football circles and will be remembered as a popular player for South End Rangers Prior to enlisting in August 1914 he was in the employment of Mr. Thomas Kerr, boot and shoe manufacturer, Church Street, Ballymena. His brother Pte. S. McNabney is also serving with the Engineers.'

Ballymena Observer, 1918

McNabney's remorseless endeavour and devotion to duty saw him approach the actions in the final days of the war, the so-called 'Hundred Days', with the same raw bravery and determination that he had exhibited earlier.

This was to win him the prestigious Distinguished Conduct Medal, a medal won by only about 25,000 men amongst the hundreds of thousands who served in the Great War.

The citation, published in the London Gazette, 10 Jan 1920, Page 448, states that 57836 Sgt J. McNabney, M.M. 36th Division Signal Company, Royal Engineers (Ballymena) got the medal because 'in the Dadizeele sector, during the fighting from 28th September to 5th October 1918, this NCO was constantly out repairing lines under heavy shell fire and

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it was chiefly due to his courage and fearlessness that communication was maintained.

On the 2nd October he went out accompanied by another NCO and remained out during a very heavy barrage, maintaining communication during the enemy counter attack.'

57836 John McNabney is Ballymena's most decorated soldier of the Great War. His sheer efficiency as a soldier, his raw unflinching bravery, made him very special. It is appropriate that we still remember him and honour his courage, as the British Army did at the time.

Samuel McNabney, who we noted earlier also served in the Royal Engineers during the Great War, and his wife Agnes, still of Ballymena, lost their son in the Second World War. Twenty-year-old 164928 Pilot Officer (Air Bomber) Samuel McNabney of 7th Squadron Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (Pathfinders) was killed on the 8 August 1944. He is buried in Bolbec Communal Cemetery, France.

Acknowledgment. Des Blackadder. Ballymena Guardian 5 June 2020



On this Day – January 10

1915



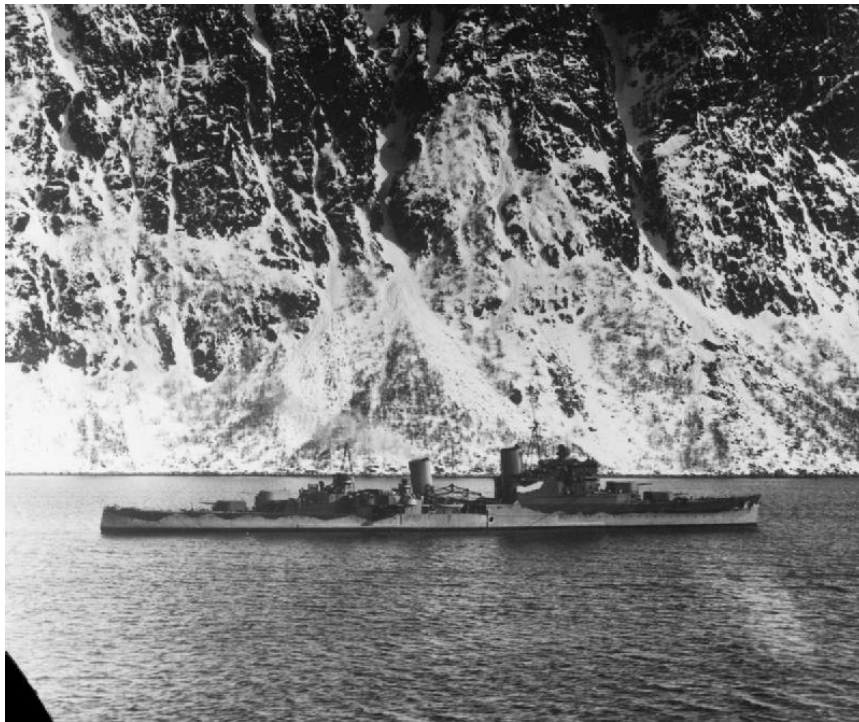
Gallipoli campaign has ended as 35,268 troops and 3,689 horses and mules are able to escape Imperial Ottoman forces. 508 mules that could not be loaded were shot. This IWM photo shows Commodore Roger Keyes on the beach during Gallipoli evacuation

1940

German planes attack 12 ships off the British coast; sinking 3 ships and killing 35 people.

Hitler informs his commanders that the attack in the west will begin on the 17th January. On this same day a German light aircraft makes a forced landing at Malines in Belgium, near the German border. The planes occupants were carrying details of the German plans, which alerted the Belgium and Dutch governments to German intentions.

1941



Heavy air attacks begin on Malta

Light cruiser HMS Southampton was bombed by German aircraft SE of Malta and was severely damaged and set ablaze. 81 of her crew were killed. After rescuing survivors, RN ships scuttled the wreck with torpedoes.

German aircraft surprise the Mediterranean fleet, which is escorting 3 merchant ships to Greece. 40 Ju-87 Stukas attack them, scoring 6 hits on HMS Illustrious and severely damaging her. HMS Warspite also receives damage. Both ships make for Malta and arrive the next day.

Roosevelt introduces his 'Lend Lease' bill to the House of Representatives as House Resolution 1776 (H.R. 1776), after recognizing that neither Britain or China could continue paying indefinitely for material supplied. This allowed the fighting allies to pay the USA back in kind, but after the war. He likened this to 'lending a neighbor a garden hose to put out a fire'.

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The RAF begins Circus operations – co-ordinated bomber and fighter attacks on targets in France. Six Blenheims, escorted by six/nine squadrons of Spitfires and Hurricanes attack supply dumps south of Calais.

Germany and the Soviet Union sign a fresh treaty, which recognizes their existing spheres of influence and affirms current trade agreements.

1942

Colonel-General Ernst Udet, head of Luftwaffe aircraft production and development, commits suicide because of his failure to provide adequate replacements and new improved aircraft models to the Luftwaffe.

1943

After a 55-minute bombardment by thousands of guns and rocket-launchers and employing seven armies, the Red Army begins Operation Ring, the final annihilation of the tattered remnants of 6th Army defending themselves desperately against all odds in the ruins of Stalingrad.

1944

All but one of the Fascist ex-ministers on trial are sentenced to death at Castel Vecchio.

The Russians capture Lyudvipol, 2-3 miles across the Polish border. The Russians propose new Polish border further west on the so-called 'Curzon Line'. German forces in Dnieper bend are attacked by the Russians for the next five days, but an early thaw aids the German defense.

1945

The German 7th Gebirgsdivision retreats from it's positions in Lat Åseno. Only a very small portion of Finland is still in German hands.

Roll of Honour – January 10

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+KENNEDY, John Frederic

Canadian Field Artillery. 2nd Bde. Acting Bombardier. C/ 41001. Died 10/01/1915. Age 27. Son of Samuel William and Martha Moore Kennedy, of 243, Bleury St., Montreal. Family emigrated from NI. Urney Graveyard is between Strabane and Clady. There are two Commonwealth WW1 burials in Urney Graveyard, Co.Tyrone

1917

+MARTIN, William

Canadian Infantry. 24th Btn. (Quebec Regiment). Private. 841683. Died 10/01/1917. Born on 07/03/ 1887 in Conlig. Son of Robert and Sarah (nee Baillie, sometimes Bailey) Martin who were married on 03/06/1870 in Glasgow. In 1911 William Martin and his brothers John and James were boarding at 113 Main Street, Kilwinning with David McNeilly (a railway labourer), David's wife Lizzie, their stepdaughter Jane and their son William.

William Martin moved from Scotland to Canada where he worked as an 'ammunition worker and driver'. When he enlisted in Montreal on 04/03/1916, he was living at 221 Colborne Street. He was married when he enlisted in Canada. He declared that he was unmarried, and he cited as his next-of-kin his sister, Elizabeth R. McNeely (sometimes McNeilly) who lived at 12 Main Street, Stevenston, Ayr in Scotland.

He joined the 148th Btn and, after six months training in Canada, Private William Martin (841683) sailed from Halifax on 26/09/1916 aboard the SS *Laconia*. He arrived in England on 06/10/1916 and, when he went to France on 12/12/1916, he was transferred to the 24th Btn. He was in the 148th Btn when he made his will on 25/11/1916 and, in his will, he left all of his property and effects to his sister, Mrs David McNeilly, 12 Main Street, Stevenston, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Tranchee de Mecknes Cemetery, France. Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM). Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance. Newtownards and District WM.
Newtownards C of I Parish Church (St Mark's) RH

+STEWART, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 12440. Died 10/01/1917. Age 34. Son of Matthew and Catherine Stewart, of Ballymena; husband to Annie Stewart, of 3, Lower Urney St., Belfast. St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+MAYNE, Joseph

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 4583. MiD. Died 10/01/1918. Aged 21. Private Joseph Mayne, who was in charge of the Lewis-gun, was wounded and collapsed across his gun. He was taken to No. 55 Casualty Clearing Station at Tincourt. He died of his wounds a short time later that day. Youngest son of a farming family who then lived in Tullywiggan, Tullaghoge. Joseph was working as a barman in Belfast at the outbreak of the First World War. Son of James and Mary Mayne, of Ardcumber, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Cookstown WM

1941

+HARRISON, Thomas

RN. CPO. D/J 102836. Died 10/01/1941. Age 36. HMS Illustrious. 18 years service. Elder son of John and Margaret Harrison, Deacon St., Belfast. Widow in England. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 25/01/1941). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 45

+SMYTH, William James Wilson

RN. AB. D/SSX 21645. Died 10/01/1941. Age 21. HMS Valiant. Son of Mr Francis and Mrs Mary J Smyth, Main St., Whiteabbey. Brothers in Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, RUR and Merchant Navy. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 25/01/1941). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 48

1942

+DELANEY, Thomas Alfred

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant (Wireless operator/air gunner.)
Died 10/01/1942. 12 Squadron. Only son of James Patrick Delaney and Mary Delaney of 35 Summerfield Street, Ballymena. Ballymena Cemetery.

12 Squadron, was part of Bomber Command. During the winter of 1942 12 Squadron was re-equipped with Wellington Bombers. Winter months were spent in training from their base at RAF Binbrook, Lincolnshire.

On 10/01/1942, Vickers Wellington Mark II W5611 took off bound for Wilhelmshaven, Germany. It left the airfield at RAF Binbrook, Lincolnshire but crashed soon after at 2330hrs.

Reports suggest the port engine failed and caught fire causing a rapid loss of height. The plane crashed one mile east of the village of Brumby and two injured survivors were taken to Scunthorpe Hospital.

Flight Sergeant Delaney died in the incident along with Flight Sergeant CF O'Connell from New Zealand, Sergeant DA Laing, and Flight Sergeant EA Parsons from Canada. The injured men were Pilot Officer HA Stickings and Sergeant CC McAllister.

Thomas was the only son of James Patrick Delaney and Mary Delaney of 35 Summerfield Street, Ballymena. Ballymena New Cemetery.

1943

+LYTTLE, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6978152. Died 10/01/1943. Age 28. Son of James Thomas Lyttle and Sarah Lyttle, of Enniskillen. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

+MALCOLM, Robert

RN. Leading Seaman. D/JX 186043. Died 10/01/1943. Age 28. HMS President III. Three years' service. Wounded at Dunkirk. Mother resident of Lorne St., Lisburn Rd., Belfast. Husband to Florence Malcolm, Runnymede Parade, Belfast. Son of William George and Esther Malcolm, Belfast, (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 26/02/1943). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 78

+PHILLIPS, Ivan

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6979364. Died 10/01/1943 as a prisoner of war of the Japanese. Aged 20. Son of John and Martha Phillips, of Lisburn. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Magheragall Parish WM

1944

+FOSTER, John McIlroy

Royal Artillery. 94 H.A.A. Regt. 261 Bty. Gunner. 1486961. Died 10/01/1944. Age: 36. Foster-son of Mary Kernohan, of Ballymena. 261 Battery saw action at El Alamein and would have been in North Africa when John died. That he is buried at home indicates that he died somewhere in the UK and may have been sent home suffering from illness or wounds. Memorial, Craigs C of I Churchyard, Cullybackey, Co. Antrim

VETERANS

ALLEN, Frederick Martin Brice

RN & RNVR. Surgeon - Lieutenant. As a Surgeon Probationer he served with the Grand Fleet at Scapa Floe 1917 in HMS Miranda. Following the founding of the Ulster Division of the RNVR, he rejoined and for some years was an active member of the Division. Born.10 June 1898. Died.10 January 1972. MB BCh BAO Belf(1920) MD(1923) MRCP(1925) FRCP(1939). See article above.

JAMINSON,

Petty Officer. HMS Southampton. He survived the sinking of Southampton in the Mediterranean on 11/01/1941. News of his survival was reported in the Lisburn Standard (January 1941). Son of Mrs Jaminson, Causeway End Road, Lisburn

**Every day is a Remembrance
Day**

We will remember them

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**Have you information about individuals who served?
Please forward to remembrance ni at email below**

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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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Please forward - information about those who served - names, regiment, ship or unit, date of death to houstonmckelvey@mac.com

