



remembrance ni



Meaulte Military Cemetery

Méaulte Military Cemetery is located south of Albert on the Somme and contains 311 WW1 burials. The cemetery was begun in December 1915, and used until February 1917. It was increased after the armistice from surrounding smaller cemeteries.

Meaulte was held by Commonwealth forces (and inhabited by three quarters of its civilian population) from 1915 to 26/03/1918, when it was evacuated after a rearguard fight by the 9th (Scottish) Division. It was recaptured by the 12th (Eastern) Division and tanks on 22 August 1918.

The military cemetery was begun in December 1915, and used until February 1917. A few further burials were made after the recapture of the village and after the Armistice, graves (mainly of 1918) were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields and other burial grounds, including:- Sandpit Cemetery, Meaulte, on the Albert-Bray road, a little East of the village. The Sandpit was a camp in January 1917, and it was retaken by the 7th Royal Sussex on the 22nd August 1918. The cemetery was made by the 12th Division. It contained the graves of 93 soldiers from the



United Kingdom and one Canadian airman who fell on the 22nd - 29th August 1918.

Meaulte Triangle Cemetery between a road junction and a light railway crossing on the Morlancourt road. It was made by the III Corps Heavy Artillery and the 12th Division, and it contained the graves of 36 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell on the 23rd - 25th August 1918.

The cemetery also contains an unknown soldier from Meaulte Churchyard, brought in 1936.

Meaulte Military Cemetery contains 312 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 21 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials are erected to eleven casualties believed to be buried among them. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Amongst those whose graves are here -

Captain John Playford Hales

203rd Sqdn. Royal Air Force. Died 23/08/1918, aged 25. Son Of Alfred and Catherine Hales, of College Height, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Lieutenant Richard William Jennings

"C" Company, 10th Bn. Worcestershire Regiment. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 03/07/1916, aged 27. Son of the Rev. Arthur C. and Mrs. G. T. Jennings, of Kings' Stanley Rectory, Stonehouse, Glos. Cambridge Lightweight Boxing Champion 1909-1910; B.A. and L.L.B. (Cantab.) 1910; Roll of Solicitors, July.

On this Day – January 15

1915

THE WITNESS 15/01/1915

Royal Irish Constabulary volunteers departure from Belfast.

On Tuesday the thirty-five members of the Belfast city force of the R.I.C. who have been accepted for service with the Irish Guards left the Great Northern Railway Company's terminus, Great Victoria Street, for Dublin by the ten o'clock train, and were given a hearty send-off not only by their old comrades, but also by a large number of the general public. The men paraded at Glenravel Street Barracks at nine o'clock, and were there joined by some 250 of their colleagues on the force; and, headed by four members of the troop of horse police and the bands of the 5th Battalion R.I.R. and the R.I.C., set out for the railway station, where a large crowd of people had congregated. As the train, moved out there hearty cheers were given by those on the platform, and were lustily responded to by the men in the train. Last night the volunteers were entertained at a smoking concert held in the Musgrave Street Barracks.

1940

Britain announces nearly twice as many Britons have been killed on the roads since blackout started than by enemy action.

Belgium denies British & French troops the right to cross its territory.

1941

US labor leader Philip Randolph calls for march on Washington to protest discrimination and segregation in the armed forces and defense industry.

1942

Army Group Centre evacuates the Kaluga sector and takes up winter positions 20 miles to the West.

The Japanese begin their invasion of Burma from Thailand, attacking up the Kra Isthmus. They quickly capture the British airfields around Tenasserim, enabling Japanese fighters to now escort bomber attacks against Rangoon.

ABDA Command headquarters (American, British, Dutch, Australian) opens under Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell at Batavia, Java.

Jawaharlal Nehru succeeds Gandhi as head of India's Congress Party.

President Franklin Roosevelt asks the baseball commissioner to continue the sport during the war.

1943

US forces launch their final offensive on Guadalcanal.

The Red Army captures Velikiye Luki in the Valday Hills.

Field Marshall Montgomery and the 8th Army begins offensive at Buerat, Libya against Rommel.

1944



38 (Irish) Brigade - CQMS O'Sullivan 2 LIR at Montenero Val Cocchiara: "Conditions for E Coy were bad. Once a day, I would go with mules to the forward platoons with extra clothing. One supply party was taken prisoner by a German patrol & it became customary to take an escort of 4 men..."

...At one time, we found an enormous store of flour & took over the local bakery & cooked bread, savouries & fruit pies.

These were taken up into the mountains & distributed among the men. They were a great success.

...Also, during one of E Coy's rests, we acquired a whole sheep. It was roasted in roughly hewn joints over the open fire in the billet & washed down with hot rum toddy. I remember Eddie Mayo sitting on his blankets & gnawing at a leg of lamb with blood running down his chest."

The U.S. Fifth Army gains Monte Trocchio, overlooking Rapido River as the Germans withdraw across it. French troops under General Juin capture Monte Santa Croce.

Lt. Gen. Ira Eaker assumes command of Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (US 12th & 15th Air Forces, as well as RAF, Italian and French air units in the Mediterranean).

The Russians launch another new offensive around Leningrad.

The Peruvian Government announces its discovery of Axis backed conspirators plotting a coup.

1945

During its drive toward the Oder river, the Red Army captures Kielce in western Poland.

U.S. troops now hold 45 miles of the Lingayen Gulf coast.

Japanese launch drive toward isolated US Fourteenth Air Force bases in eastern China and toward the Hengyang-Canton railroad.

In the US, a nationwide dim-out is ordered to conserve fuel.

Roll of Honour – January 15

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+WHITESIDE, W

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 6120. Died 15/01/1916. Son of William and Jane Whiteside; husband of Sarah Ferrin (formerly Whiteside), of 3, Ardilaun St., Belfast. Born at Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

1917

+KILLEN, E O B

Royal Engineers, 71st Field Coy. Lieutenant. Died 15/01/1917. entered the Royal Engineers as a second-lieutenant on 09/01/1915, and was promoted lieutenant, on 12/04/1916. He served through the Gallipoli campaign. Son of Mr. Edward Killen, formerly of Malone Road, Belfast, a grandson of Rev. Dr. Workman, Newtownbreda Manse. His father, Mr. Edward Killen, was a nephew of the late Rev. T. Y. Killen, D.D., for many years minister of Duncairn Presbyterian Church. Amara War Cemetery, Iraq

1918

+PLUNKETT, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Corporal. 29105. Died 15/01/1918. Age 32. Son of Thomas and Susannah



The Royal Tank Regiment memorial at Beaurains

Plunkett, of Derryadd. Born at Derryadd, Co. Fermanagh.
Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France

+WALLACE, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 27325. Died 15/01/1918. Age 24. Son of James and Agnes Wallace, of Glassdrummond, Annalong, Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France

+WATSON, Victor Charles

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 22988. Died 15/01/1918. Age 22. Son of Mr TC Watson, 63 Avenue Rd., Lurgan. Etretat Churchyard Extension, France

1941

+COUSER, Robert James

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 965050. DFM. Died 15/01/1941, Aged 22. 58 Sqdn. Son of Adam and Alicia Couser, of Crowborough, Sussex. Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands. Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast, RH

1942

+COOKE, Albert

RN. Leading Seaman. D/JX 112214. BEM. HMS Broke. Died 15/01/1942. Age 32. Joined RN aged 15. He was awarded the BEM for rescuing survivors from a burning ship. Two brothers serving in HM forces. In WW1 his father was awarded the MM. Son of William and Elisabeth Cooke, Belfast. Husband to Mary Jane Cooke, Belfast. His parents and wife lived at Boundary St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 06/02/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 63

+GARSTIN, Edward William Maitland

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 106967. Died 15/01/1942. Age 32. 82 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6378 took off 1812 from Bodney to intrude over Soesterburg. Lost without trace. His brother Richard also died in service with the RAF (14/10/1940). Son of the Revd. William Fitzroy Hamilton Garstin, M.A., and Frances Dalzell Garstin (nee Maitland), of Maghera Rectory, Co. Londonderry; husband to Elsie Theodora Garstin, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 69

+McBRIDE, John Robert

RAF. Sergeant. 538895. Died 15/02/1942 Age 27. Son of John And Annie McBride, of Enniskillen. Singapore Memorial, Column 415, Singapore

1943

+HENDERSON, Ernest Joseph

Royal Artillery and Long Range Desert Group. Gunner. RH/1095786. Died 15/01/1943. Age 32. After Armagh Royal School he emigrated to South Africa to work as a mine surveyor. He was married and lived in Salisbury, Rhodesia. He joined the South Africa Artillery and then the Long Range Desert Group. In January 1943 his group was spotted by a much larger German 'Special Commando' patrol. Gunner Henderson was wounded. He could see the attacking force and inform his comrades on the German positions. Eventually he told them to make good their escape. They did. He remained behind and died. The Germans gave him a formal funeral and fired a salute over his grave. Son of Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Henderson formerly of

Fernbank, Newry Rd., Armagh; husband of Marion Hutton Henderson, of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. Tripoli War Cemetery, Libya

VETERAN

BRODISON, Samuel James

Samuel James Brodison MM, Mentioned in Despatches, was born on 15/01/1914. In 1939, Brodison joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's). He eventually went on to serve in 10 Commando attached to 12 Commando (A Troop) and obtained the rank of Company Sergeant Major. Later served as RSM.

Company Sergeant Major Samuel Brodison was awarded the Military Medal in recognition of gallant and distinguished service carrying out beach obstacle reconnaissance in France during May 1944.

Recommendation

"This SNCO was a member of a military force which landed to the east of Calais on the north coast of France, on the night 16/17 May 1944, to carry out a reconnaissance of enemy beach obstacles.

"This operation was of the highest importance and was of an extremely hazardous nature, involving as it did, a three mile approach to a heavily defended enemy coastline, by night, in an 18-foot dory. During the run in and return passage to the parent M.T.B., the dory was forced to take avoiding



action in order to escape detection by enemy vessels which crossed its course.

“CSM Brodison, by his cheerfulness and resolution, maintained the morale of the military force during critical moments in the operation, thus allowing his raid commander to concentrate on the conduct of the operation as a whole.

“This SNCO has taken part in no less than fourteen operations of a similar nature in the past, and has shown

throughout a high sense of duty and great loyalty to his force commander"

While serving as a Commando, Brodison aided partisans in Yugoslavia in the country's struggle against a Nazi supported puppet regime. His efforts in Yugoslavia were so well documented that he was known in the country as 'Stari Vojnik' or 'The Fearless One!'

Samuel Brodison was sent behind enemy lines no fewer than sixteen times and was Mentioned in Despatches for his daring efforts. Brodison also took part in a reconnaissance mission on the 17 May near Calais, France.

His unit's objective was to observe the enemy's beach obstacles in advance of the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944. This operation was of the highest importance and of an extremely hazardous nature, involving as it did, a three-mile approach to a heavily defended enemy coastline by night. For this action, Brodison was awarded the Military Medal. After the end of WWII, he returned to Ulster. In 1959 he was a Sergeant Instructor in the Ulster Special Constabulary. He was a member of Newmills LOL No. 183 and RBP No. 1147 Bloomhill Olive Branch of Peace.

The death of RSM Samuel Brodison MM of Stubbington, Hants., was announced in Commando Association newsletter 82 issued March 1986.

McCRUM, Robert Cowan

Royal Irish Rifles. Second Lieutenant. Born at Kilgreel, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim on 31/05/1892 to Samuel McCrum, Farmer and Elizabeth McCrum nee

Birkmyre. They had married on 21/06/1874 at Templepatrick Presbyterian Church. Robert worked for the Northern Bank. Whilst based in Londonderry, Robert aged 23, volunteered and enlisted on 15/12/1915 into the Cadet Company, 19th Btn. Royal Irish Rifles as a Private with Service Number 6843. His first theatre of war is recorded as France from October 1915. He was later commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served in the 19th, 10th and 1st battalions. The Northern Bank 1924 Centenary book records Robert's service as Messines 1917, Ypres 1917, St. Quentin 1918 and the Allied Advance 1918.

McCrum was injured once with a gunshot wound. As a result of his injury a Pension Record card was opened and the injury was recorded as a gunshot wound to his right arm. The pension started on 11/07/1917, 1 day after he was discharged. The bank Staff Record card states that McCrum re-joined the bank in February 1919 at Londonderry branch (cashier, Accountant & Sub-Manager). It is probable that he was recuperating from his injuries from mid 1917 to early 1919.

On 25/10/1921, a Temporary Lieutenant R C McCrum was gazetted and retained the rank of Lieutenant in the Royal Ulster Rifles.

On 20/07/1922 McCrum married a Miss Wightman at Londonderry. Robert McCrum retired on pension on 30/06/1955 and died on 15/01/1969. Agherton Cemetery, Portstewart. Northern Bank RH

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

**To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI
masthead.**

**Information about individuals who served - please
forward to remembrance ni at email below**

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
