



remembrance ni



**Flower Class Corvettes played a key role in WW2. Only one remains of the 294 launched. HMCN Sackville (above) is preserved at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Halifax and Londonderry are linked as wartime convoy ports. See On This Day 1940 below.**

# On this Day – January 24

## 1891

German Field Marshal Walter Model was born in the German Empire. During the First World War, Model served as an officer and remained in the army during the interwar years.

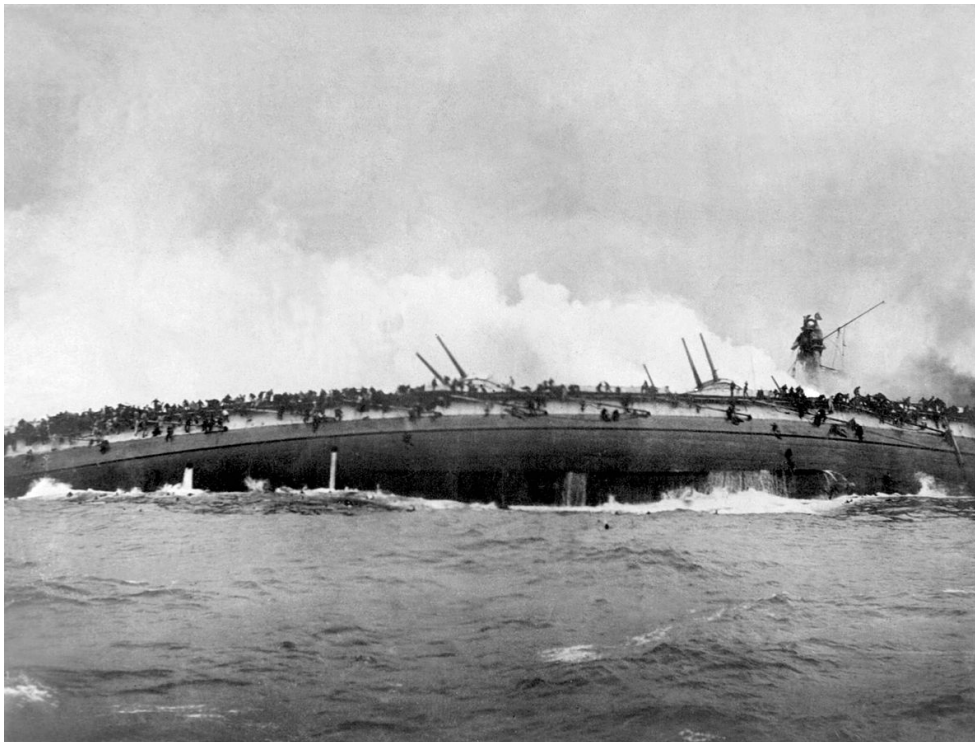
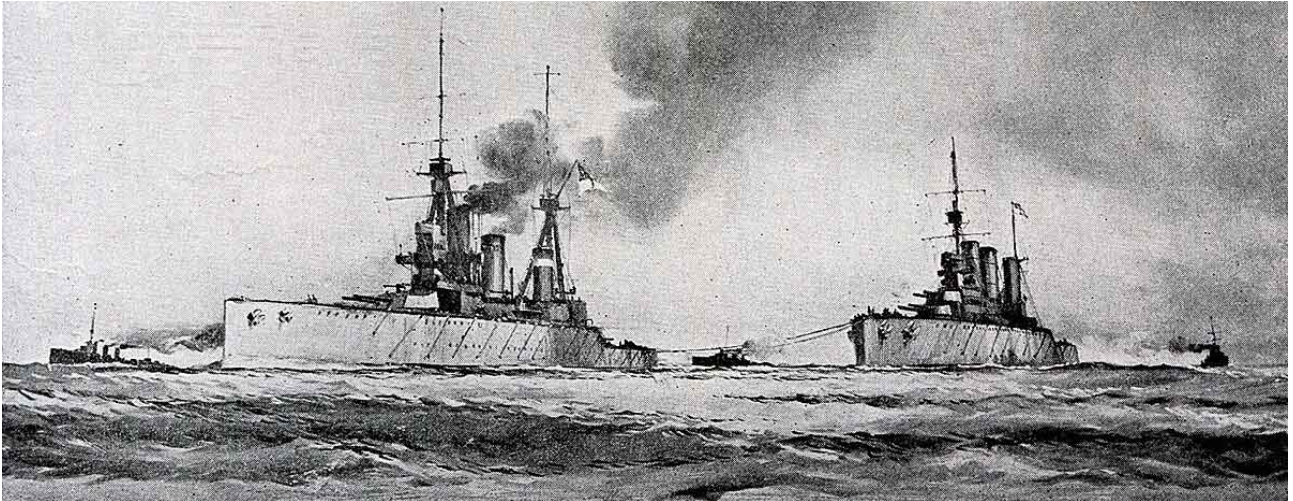
He spent the beginning of WWII as a staff officer, before commanding troops during the invasion of Russia. He proved to be an aggressive and intelligent commander, and rose in rank. However, he could not prevent the disasters that occurred on the Eastern Front. In March of 1944, he was made a Field Marshal for his ability to fight defensively, which was a desperately needed skill against the advancing Russians. He was able to form effective defensive lines against the Red Army and slow their seemingly unstoppable advance.

He became known as Hitler's fireman, for his ability to address catastrophes as they broke out along the front lines. He was moved to the Western Front in late 1944 to serve during the defense of Germany and the Battle of the Bulge.

His last command was the defense of the Ruhr region. When his position was surrounded and it was clear Germany would fall in April of 1945, he told his men they

could surrender if they liked. He then walked out into the woods, and shot himself. Germany would surrender two weeks later, and the war in Europe would end.

## 1915



Germany heavy cruiser SMS Blucher capsizes during the Battle of Dogger Bank. The Royal Navy engaged German Fleet in N. Sea at Battle of Dogger Bank. Sunk armoured



cruiser Blücher. 792 deaths. Disabled battleship Seydlitz, 159 deaths. Germans put flagship HMS Lion out of action. Royal Marines of the RMA and RMLI served on ships HMS Lion, Tiger, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable fighting a German Squadron commanded by Rear Admiral Franz von Hipper.

## **1940**

HMS Gladiolus was launched in Middlesbrough. She was the first of 294 Flower Class Corvettes built for ASW and Convoy duties with the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy, the US Navy and the Royal New Zealand Navy and several others. All but one of the ships are gone but thankfully HMCS Sackville is preserved in Halifax, Canada.

Chinese take Dongyangyuan Pass, Shanxi Province, China in war with Japan.

## **1941**

General Cunningham's 'Southern Force' invades Italian Somaliland from Garissa and Bura in Kenya.

**1942** More reinforcements arrive at Singapore to boost its defenses as the British 18th Division is landed.

Japanese troops land at Balikpapan in Dutch Borneo.

Four US destroyers and some submarines attack a Japanese convoy in the Makassar Strait between Borneo and Celebes, sinking 1 destroyer and four transports, while only suffering damage to one of their destroyers. This action delays the impending Japanese invasion of Java.

US Flying Tigers P-40s shoot down 12 planes over Rangoon, Burma.

German troops of Army Group Centre, recapture Sukhinichi near Kaluga.

## 1943

Russians take Starobelskiy, near the Donets River in the eastern Ukraine, more than 250 miles to the West of Stalingrad. Hitler orders no surrender in Stalingrad. The offensive by the Soviet Trans-Caucasian Front toward the Kuban bridgehead is stopped at Novorossiysk and Krasnodar.

Fighting in Papua is officially reported as over.

## 1944



The Battle of the Korsun–Cherkassy Pocket - Two Red Army Fronts encircled German forces of Army Group South near the Dnieper River. Though most of the trapped men

escaped, they had to leave nearly all of their heavy equipment behind.

In response to political pressure to help Jews under Nazi control, Roosevelt creates the War Refugee Board.

Chinese forces make further advances in the Hukawng Valley.

German bombers sink British hospital ship St. David off Anzio with Hs-293 guided missile; 96 killed, including 2 British nurses.

The US 93rd Evacuation Hospital opens in Anzio and is hit by German shells, injuring a sergeant, the first of many casualties in the Anzio hospitals.

## **1945**

U.S. troops capture Clark Field, the main Japanese airbase on Luzon.

The Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm carrier planes destroy the Japanese oil refinery near Palembang, on Sumatra.

German forces begin evacuating Slovakia.

The 1st Ukrainian Front captures Oppeln and Gleiwitz in Upper Silesia.

## **1965**

Sir Winston Churchill died. He was the First Lord of the Admiralty in two world wars and arguably the greatest British Prime Minister ever. He said. 'A pessimist sees the

difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.'

# Roll of Honour – January 24

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

## **+HEANEY, Thomas Hugh**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8588. Died 24/01/1915. Age 23. Son of Richard Heaney, of 10, Theodore St., Belfast. Wimeraux Communal Cemetery, France

## **+WILSON, John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, "D" Coy. 2nd Btn. Private. 10291. Died 24/01/1915. Aged 24. Son of John and Elizabeth Wilson, of 17, Church Walk, Lurgan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**1917**

## **+McCORMICK, Ian Campbell**

RNVR. RND. Sub-Lieutenant. Hood Battalion, 189th Brigade, 2nd Royal Naval Division. Died 24/01/1917. Aged 21. Commissioned Temporary Sub Lieutenant RNVR 21/09/15 ; Draft for BEF 30/11/16, joined Hood Battalion



14/12/16 - 24/01/17. Prior to his departure for the front in October 1916 he was entertained by a large number of his friends, who made him the recipient of a sword, the presentation being made by the High Sheriff (Mr. Robert Dunlop). Born 26/04/1895. Campbell College. TCD. Son of John and Margaret McCormick (nee Campbell), Craigroyston, Knock, Belfast. John McCormick was the Belfast Town Solicitor. Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel, Somme, France. Strandtown WM. St Columba's Parish Church, Knock WM. ADM339.



***A frosty morning again on the Somme Battlefields.  
Caterpillar Valley and Cemetery***



**1918**

**+DONNELLY, John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers Service, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 3444. Died 24/01/1918. Aged 26. Son of Patrick Donnelly, of Whitehead, Belfast; husband of Mary J. Donnelly, of Ballytrudden, Blackwatertown, Co. Armagh. Ste Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, Somme, France

**1941**

**+LEEN, Thomas John**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 70th Btn. Rifleman. 7020081. Died 24/01/1941. Belfast (Milltown) Roman Catholic Cemetery

**1943**

**+WARD, Patrick Joseph**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. The London Irish Rifles. Lance Serjeant. 7016161. Died 24/01/1943. Aged 24. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

**1944**

**+BELL, Maurice Watt**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lieutenant. 277993. Died 24/01/1944. Age 28. Son of William and Mary Bell, of Belfast, Naples War Cemetery, Italy

**+McNAMARA, Robert William**

Royal Army Medical Corps. Captain. 167784. Died 24/01/1944. Medicine QUB. Brookwood 1939 - 1945 Memorial

**1945**

**+PICKAVANCE, James**

Royal Ulster Rifles and No. 6 Commando. Rifleman. 14735641. Died 24/01/1945. Aged 18. Born St Helen's. Nederweert War Cemetery, Limburg , Netherlands. St Helen's RH

**VETERANS**

**FEGAN, Patrick Joseph**

From Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh. Patrick enlisted firstly in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in March 1916 aged 18, and served with 5th battalion at Salonika, Palestine and then on the Western Front, where he was wounded on 10/10/1918. On recovery, he was posted to No 300 Company Royal Defence Corps at Gosport, Hampshire. After a month there, he was posted to 6th (Provost) Company Dorsetshire Regiment remaining with them until demobilised in December 1919. Five days after being demobilised, he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving with them in Germany for a year. On 24/01/1921, he enlisted in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, serving with them until their disbandment in June 1922. In September 1923, he enlisted in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and served with them in India until transferred to the Army Reserve in

1930, being finally discharged from the military in September 1935.

**HERRON, David**

RN. Leading Seaman. JX 183513. Enlisted 28/02/1940. Left RN 19/11/1945 and joined the Merchant Navy. Born 22nd April, 1910, son of Joseph Herron, Foxglove Street, Belfast. Died 24/01/1985 aged 74 - Buried Distington Crematorium, Workington, Cumbria

**MOLE, Henry Howels Richardson**

Royal Corps of Signals. Major. 86484. MBE. London Gazette 24/01/1946. North West Europe 1944-45

**Every day is a Remembrance  
Day**

***We will remember them***

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masthead.**



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

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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)

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