



remembrance ni



Alex Miller from Portstewart survived the sinking of HMS Majestic (above) in the Dardanelles. Before the War he was a pilot of Coleraine Harbour Company. He was drowned off Portstewart on 6 January 1923 while working as a pilot. Named on Parish War Memorial.

William McNabney an engineer was so injured in WW1 that he was periodically in hospital. He died aged 57 at the UVF Hospital at Craigavon House, Belfast. His son Thomas McNabney died less than 6 months earlier on 04/07/1940 on

board HMS Foylebank in Portland Bill during the Battle of Britain.

On this day in 1915 at Crawfordsburn Sir Edward Carson spoke to 1,000 men of the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles on a route march from Newtownards.

Today's veterans include Surgeon Vice Admiral, Sir Eric Bradbury KBE, CB, MRCS, FRCS, MB ChB, DMRD, Hon LLD. Medical director general of the Royal Naval Medical Service from 1969 to 1972, a period when many changes were being made in the services. From the Maze, Lisburn, he was educated at Inst and Queens.

Woods Cemetery, Ypres

Woods Cemetery is located 4 Kms south-east of Ypres and contains 321 WW1 burials. The irregular shape of the cemetery is due to the conditions of burial at the time when the front line was just beyond the wood.

The commune of Zillebeke contains many Commonwealth cemeteries as the front line trenches ran through it during the greater part of the First World War.

Woods Cemetery was begun by the 1st Dorsets and the 1st East Surreys in April 1915; it was used until September 1917 by units holding this sector, and by the field ambulances of their divisions. The graves of the 2nd, 3rd and 10th Canadian Battalions and the London Regiment are particularly numerous. The irregular shape of the cemetery is due to the conditions of burial at the times when the front



line was just beyond the wood. The views over the battlefield are extensive.

Woods Cemetery contains 321 First World War burials, 27 of them unidentified.

Identified Casualties: United Kingdom 180, Canada 111, Australia 3. Total 294.

On this Day – January 6

1915

On the 6th January 1915 an interesting ceremony took place in connection with the visit of Sir Edward Carson at

“It’s a long long way to Tipperary”

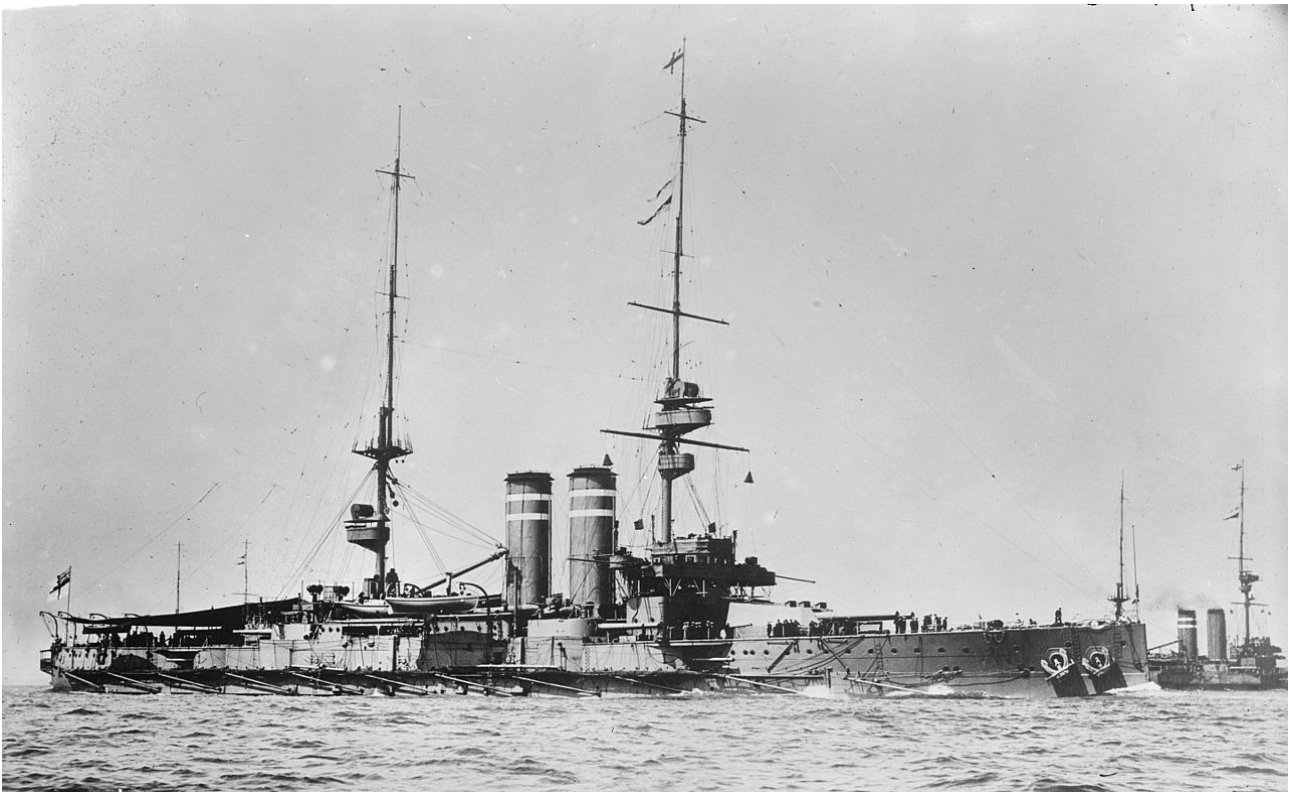
Crawfordsburn, County Down where he and Lady Carson are the guests of Colonel Sharman Crawford when 1,000 men of the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles stopped on a route march from Newtonards and were briefly addressed on the lawn. The men who were commanded by Colonel R CA McCalmont M.P. and Adjutant Captain the Hon. Hugh O’Neill, M.P entered the demesne by the Bangor Road gates and headed by their fifes and drum band marched past the house from the steps of which they were reviewed by Sir Edward Carson and Lady Carson, Colonel Sharman Crawford and Mrs Sharman Crawford and Miss Taylor.

The men presented a fine healthy appearance and formed up smartly on the lawn appointed to them. Sir Edward Carson delivered a short speech to the battalion.

Colonel McCalmont, M.P. then said he wished on behalf of the officers and men of the battalion to thank Sir Edward Carson for having so kindly addressed them. He would assure Sir Edward Carson that they would do their best whether in that or any other country and he knew he would do his duty at home while they were away. He asked the battalion to give three cheers for the man who had been their leader, and who was still their leader.

The men responded to the call in a hearty manner and gave three lusty cheers, and the battalion having been formed up again, left Crawfordsburn to continue their route march to Newtownards, the band on its departure playing the soldiers song, “It’s a long long way to Tipperary”.

1916



Battleship King Edward VII struck a German mine off Cape Wrath while sailing from Scapa Flow to Belfast for refitting. Attempts to tow her failed and she sank. All crew were safely taken off but one, who drowned during transfer to a rescue vessel



Lovely picture above labelled "British soldier and mule" there is no other information. Probably winter, looks

cold and he is wearing the sheep/goat skin jacket and the affection between man and beast is clear to see.

Submarine HMS E17 was lost off Texel in the North Sea, the crew were rescued by a Dutch cruiser. 70 years later the wreck was discovered by Dutch divers and the conning tower was recovered as a memorial, which is now in RN Sub Museum in Gosport.

6th January 1915 Belfast Newsletter - Five Thousand Recruits Required

Following the increased establishment of the Ulster Division recently called for in accordance with an Army Council Order the War Office has now requested Major-General Charles H. Powell, C.B., General Officer Commanding, and the Headquarters Staff to raise the divisional artillery as follows:—

142nd Field Artillery Brigade.

143rd Field Artillery Brigade.

144th Field Artillery Brigade.

145th Field Artillery Brigade.

36th Heavy Battery and Ammunition Column

36th Divisional Ammunition Column.

The latest request from the War Office, which is in itself a striking compliment to the patriotism of Ulstermen, 'involves the raising of an additional 2,600 men, and as the Division, with the increased establishment already referred

to, is still over 2,000 men short, it will be seen that, approximately 5,000 recruits are required. Hitherto it was understood that the divisional artillery would be provided by the War Office, but this anticipation has now been disproved, and when the establishment of the Division is completed Ulster will have the proud distinction of sending an entire division over 20,000 strong into the field. There are three batteries in each brigade, so that the Ulster Division is now called on to raise 12 batteries, plus the heavy battery and the two ammunition columns. It is understood that during his visit to the North Sir Edward Carson will make a special appeal for recruits for the artillery.

When the formation of the Ulster Division was first mooted the authorities in London asked for 12,000 men, all infantry. When the War Office saw that these would be obtained without any difficulty they increased their demands by adding three field ambulances, a divisional train, an additional infantry battalion, two field and one signal company Royal Engineers, divisional cavalry, and various departmental units, making the demand on the Volunteers up to approximately 17,000. The latest demands raise the strength now to about 20,500.

Lieutenant-colonel J.M. Harrison, officer commanding the Army Service Corps, Ulster Divisional Train, has transferred his headquarters office from Ravenhill Barracks to Carlton House, 364, Ormeau Road.

It is expected that portion of the 109th Infantry Brigade will move from County Fermanagh to the new huts at Randalstown during the present week, and that the 11th Royal Irish Rifles (South Antrim Volunteers) at Lisburn will move to the new huts at Clondeboy Camp on Thursday.



1919

On this day in 1919, a small political movement calling itself the German Workers' Party forms in Munich. It will soon draw the attention of a 30-year-old army veteran named Adolf Hitler who will help shape it into the Nazi party.

1940

On this day, January 6th, 1940, Finnish troops crushed Soviet forces on the Raate road near Suomussalmi, Finland. A Soviet division had been cut off by Finnish counterattacks at the beginning of the year, and reinforcements were sent up the Raate road to relieve them and force the Finns back. However, Soviet command did not understand that the Finns had cut off the road, which halted the reinforcing 44th division. Once the Finns had defeated the surrounded Soviets, they moved to deal with 44th division. They came in from multiple directions and caused chaos and confusion as the Soviets were split up and harassed. By January 6th, the Soviet forces were fleeing back to the border, with the Finns and the cold killing thousands. By the end of the engagement, over 13,000 Red Army troops had been killed, and the Finns captured a large amount of material such as

tanks, ammunition and weapons. It was a huge victory for the Finnish Army, but they would be forced to surrender within several weeks due to overwhelming pressure from the massive Red Army. This battle was typical in the Winter War, with the overconfident and poorly led Russians suffering heavy losses to the Finns.

1940

British declare Germans may not use Norwegian waters.

Norway & Sweden forbid Allied troops from crossing their territory to aid Finland.

1941

President Roosevelt makes his “Four Freedoms” speech in his State of the Union address to Congress and repeats his proposal for Lend-Lease program to send supplies to Britain.

The Luftwaffe launches its first attacks against British convoys bound for Malta in the Mediterranean.

Churchill demands that troops be released from Wavell’s offensive and sent to Greece..

1942

Roosevelt announces that US forces are to be based in UK.

Roosevelt’s State of the Union address calls for the production of 60,000 aircraft and 1.2 million tons of shipping in 1942.

Combined Chiefs of Staff (CCS) is formed, consisting of the British Chiefs of Staff & US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Rommel's battered forces reach the Tripolitanian frontier having evaded all British attempts to cut them off.

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Minister denounces German atrocities in occupied Russia, where in Kiev alone 52,000 people have been massacred. 'The Soviet Union will never forget or forgive'.

1943

British & Indian troops renew offensive on Arakan Peninsula in Burma.

Free French advancing north from Chad take Oum-el-Arameb in southern Libya.

1944



38 (Irish) Brigade. 6 Innisks at Capracotta: "12/18 inches of snow fell during the night - the Bn went onto rations owing to the reserve getting low. A house caught fire. Before

evacuating, the Germans had poured pitch into chimneys of a number of houses so that fires would occur."

The Red Army crosses the 1939 Polish frontier after a 170-mile advance in just two weeks.

The allies announce that jet-propelled aircraft will soon to be in production. The Air Ministry says that Bomber Command dropped 157,000 tons of bombs on Germany in 1943, while the Luftwaffe dropped only 2,400 tons on Britain.

Major General James Doolittle assumes command of US Eighth Air Force in England.

1945

The ban on dancing is lifted in Finland, where it had been illegal to dance during wartime.

Boeing B-29 bombers in the Pacific strike new blows on Tokyo and Nanking.

Edith Frank, mother of Anne, dies in Auschwitz.

Future president Lt. (j.g.) George HW Bush marries Barbara Pierce in Rye, NY, just a few weeks after his return from the Pacific.





Woods Cemetery, Zillebeke near Ypres

Roll of Honour – January 6

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+YOUNG, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 3773. Died 06/01/1915. Aged 30. Son of Elizabeth Young, of Rampart St., Dromore, Co. Down, and the late David Young. Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

1916

+McCOLGAN, Francis

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 18293. Died 06/01/1916. Ballymena connection. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli

1917

+LEDGERWOOD, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1284. Died 06/01/1917. Age 33. Son of Mrs. A. Ledgerwood, of 11, Upper Court St., Newtownards. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+McGRATTAN, John

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 10482. Died 06/01/1917. Age 24. Born Portrush 29/12/1893. Son of Captain Hugh and Mrs. Mary McGrattan of Portrush. Captain Hugh McGrattan and his ship were lost at sea in 1916. A brother Patrick served through both World Wars and survived. La Neuville Comm. Cemetery, France

+WALKER, Frederick Ramsay

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 2nd Btn. Second Lieutenant. Medaille Militaire (France). Died 06/01/1917. Husband of Josephine Margaret Walker, of 107, Donegall St., Belfast. Dalry Cemetery, Edinburgh

1941

+McCORD, Thomas Alexander



RAF. Sergeant. 612781. Died 06/01/1941. Aged 19. 211 Sqn. Son of Thomas J. And Edith McCord, of Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Column 243, Egypt

1943

+HEGAN, Robert Stanley

Leading Aircraftman. 816245. Died 06/01/1943. Aged 24. 502 Sqn. Son of Robert and Sarah Jane Hegan; Husband to Ethel Doris Hegan of Bangor. Dundonald Cemetery

+MCILROY, Owen

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 7013152. Died between 06/01/1943 and 07/01/1943. Age 23. Pte. McIlroy was reported missing on 07/01/1943. His unit was fighting the Japanese at Donbaik in the Arakan region of Burma.

Born Belfast 1919. Husband of Mary McIlroy, of Belfast.
Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

+STEVENSON, Wilson Alexander

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 7010616. Died between 06/01/1943 and 07/01/1943. Age 33. Born Belfast 18/04/1909. Son of James and Sarah Jane Stevenson; husband of Olive Stevenson, of Leeds, Yorkshire. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

1944

+FINLAY, David Boyd

RAF. Warrant Officer. 640578. Died 06/01/1944. Aged 25. 228 Sqdn. Son of David Boyd Finlay and Elizabeth Finlay, of Templepatrick. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 213. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1945

+BARR, Ernest Henry Mackenzie

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1796037. Died 06/01/1945. 158 Sqdn. Son of Ernest David and Eileen May Barr, of Londonderry. Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany

+FOSTER, James Henderson

RNR. Lieut-Commander (E) HMS Maplin built in the Workman-Clark and Co. Ltd. shipyard in Belfast. Died 06/01/1945. Age 40. Born 11/11/1904. Husband to Eva Gertrude Foster, of Belfast. Glenalina Extension, Belfast City Cemetery

VETERANS

BRADBURY, Eric Blackburn

RN. Surgeon Vice Admiral. KBE, CB, MRCS, FRCS, MB ChB, DMRD, Hon LLD. Medical director general of the Royal Naval Medical Service from 1969 to 1972, a period when many changes were being made in the services.

After qualifying in 1934, he decided on a career with the Royal Navy and was commissioned as a Surgeon Lieutenant. After basic training, he was soon at sea and from 1935 to 1936 served in HMS Barham, Endeavour and Cumberland. Essential hospital service was spent at the RN hospitals in Haslar, Chatham, Plymouth and Malta. His wartime sea service was spent in HMS Charybdis and HM Hospital Ship Oxfordshire.

Promoted to flag rank in 1966 when he became a Surgeon Rear Admiral, he was appointed medical officer in charge of Haslar Hospital, the senior teaching hospital of the Royal Navy. He also became the command medical officer of Portsmouth and an honorary physician to HM the Queen.

In 1968 he became a Companion of the Bath. He was soon selected as the medical director of the Royal Naval Medical Services and was appointed in 1969, serving until 1972. He was promoted Surgeon Vice Admiral in 1971 and appointed Knight Commander of the British Empire. Son of A B Bradbury of Maze, County Antrim. (2 March 1911 – 6 January 2003). RBAI. MB QUB 1906

GAMBLE, Robert William

215664. Boy service in Black Prince from 19/06/1901.
Enrolled 06/01/1903 for 12 years. Born Coleraine
06/01/1885. ADM 188/378/215664

JARDINE, Gordon

RN. Gunner. HMS Repulse. Survived sinking. Served 1939 - 1964. Son of Albert and Mary-Jane, Ballydown, Banbridge. Born 06/01/1924. After service he became caretaker of Abercorn Primay School. Member of Banbridge RBL. Died aged 91. Resided at Riley St., Banbridge. He was survived by daughters Janet Toman and Linda Finnigan, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, plus brothers Isaac and Jim, and sisters Nora and Vivian. His wife Margaret predeceased him. Ballydown Presbyterian Churchyard.

McNABNEY, William John

Served in the Royal Engineers, Ulster Division during World War One sustaining injuries during the Battle of the Somme. These injuries resulted in his death many years later in a UVF Hospital in Belfast. Born on 01/10/1883 he was the son of Robert McNabney and Margaret McNabney of Ballymena. The family lived at 52 Ohio Street, Belfast, according to the 1911 Irish Census. He married Margaret Walker on 11/09/1912 in Crumlin Road Methodist Church. The couple had three children, Ernest, Thomas and Myra. William was a carpenter or a joiner before the war. After WW1, he ran a timber yard at the Crumlin Road end of Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast. He also built houses on Serpentine Road off the Antrim Road, Belfast and in Larne. The McNabney family later lived at 158 Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast. Because of injuries sustained during the First World War, he spent long periods of his later life in the Ulster

Volunteer Force Hospital. William died on 06/01/1941 aged 57 years old at the UVF Hospital at Craigavon House, Belfast. The given cause of death was “war wounds sustained in The Great War”. His son Thomas McNabney died less than 6 months earlier on 04/07/1940 on board HMS Foylebank in Portland Bill during the Battle of Britain. William John McNabney’s funeral took place on 09/01/1941 to Belfast City Cemetery.

MILLAR, Alexander (Alex)

(Also recorded as Miller). He was a Gunner/Stoker, Royal Naval Reserve. He volunteered for active service in September 1914 (aged about 30 years); before enlisting he was a member of the Portstewart Company, Coleraine Battalion, North Derry Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force. Ships served on included H.M.S. Majestic in the Dardanelles, Turkey. This ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine, U21, on 26 May 1915 and Alex survived the action. Before the War he was a pilot of Coleraine Harbour Company. He lived with his wife, Annie, at Enfield Terrace, Portstewart. His parents, Mr. William and Mrs. Jane Millar, lived at Heathmount, Portstewart, and his uncle, Mr. Thomas Millar, lived at the Orange Hall, Portstewart. Alexander was drowned off Portstewart on 6 January 1923 while working as a pilot and was buried inside the old church at Agherton Cemetery. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Agherton Parish Church.

MOIR, David Watson

North Irish Horse, Private. David Moir was born on 27/05/1895 at 22 Castleton Park Avenue, Belfast, the fourth of six children of shipyard rivetter John Moir and his wife

Isabella (nee Harris). His parents had moved to Belfast from Scotland around 1892. By 1911 he was living with his parents and four siblings at 36 Alexandra Park Avenue, Belfast, and working as an apprentice draughtsman. Moir enlisted in the North Irish Horse on 27/08/1914 (No.1041 – later Corps of Hussars No.71210). On 20/01/1915 he embarked for France with a small draft of reinforcements, where he was posted to C Squadron. In September 1916 he he embarked for France with a small draft of reinforcements, where he was posted to C Squadron. In September 1916 he fell ill with suspected dysentery. He was hospitalised, and most likely was evacuated to England. Whether he saw any further service overseas is not known at present. On



06/01/1919 Moir was discharged as 'surplus to military requirements, not having suffered impairment since entry into the service' (Paragraph 392 xxv(a) King's Regulations). At some point after the war he emigrated to the United States, settling in New York. Moir's two brothers also served in the war: George Harris Moir in the South African Defence

Forces and as a captain in the Royal Air Force, and Stewart Harris Moir, in the North Irish Horse and Royal Air Force.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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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

