



remembrance ni



**Thomas Espey a Cookstown man who returned with S African forces and survived Delville Wood died in action in WW1. Within four months, on this day, the McAuley family of Ballygally lost a second son, David, serving with RAF in Canada in WW2. Today's veterans include George Hempenstall from Portstewart who joined the Royal Navy as a boy in 1908 and served to 1921. He was born this day in 1890 and served in six ships in WW1. Robert Playfair served in the RMLI in both World Wars**

**Photo - Menin Gate at night**



## **Wulverghem-Lindendoek Road Military Cemetery**

**Wulverghem-Lindendoek Road Military Cemetery is located 13 Kms south of Ypres.**

The cemetery was begun in December 1914 by four battalions of the 5th Division and was called at first Wulverghem Dressing Station Cemetery. It was used until June 1917, and again in September and October 1918, and at the Armistice it contained 162 graves, the present Plot I. Graves were then brought in from the surrounding battlefields and smaller burial grounds.





There are now 1,010 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 352 of the burials are unidentified, but there are special memorials to two casualties believed to be buried among them and to seven others buried elsewhere whose graves were destroyed in the fighting of 1917-18. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

## On this Day – January 7

**1918**

The Germans make raids on the British post near Flesquieres (Cambrai). Other raids near Ypres reported repulsed.

## **1940**

General Semyon Timoshenko takes command of all Soviet forces in Finland and begins to build up his forces for a decisive offensive.

Battle of Raate Road ends in Finnish victory; over 10,000 Soviets killed.

## **1941**

Tobruk is surrounded, but the British are unable to assault it immediately as supplies and reinforcements need to be brought up.

## **1942**

The siege of Bataan began as Japanese forces began attacking American and Filipino forces fortifying the peninsula. The Japanese had invaded the Philippines in December of 1941, one day after the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. The assault quickly overwhelmed the American and Filipino defenders in the northern section of the country called Luzon. However, after this spectacular victory, the Japanese believed the campaign to be won, and reassigned their best forces to other campaigns after accelerating their timetables. The remaining Allied forces had retreated to the Bataan Peninsula and fortified the area. The initial Japanese attacks into the peninsula were then repulsed by the strong defenses, and the Japanese were forced to bring in additional forces. They laid siege in early



On this day in 1942, Japanese forces trap an American and Filipino army guarding the Bataan Peninsula. The defenders hold out for 92 days before surrendering. 76,000 of them will become prisoners.

January, and began driving the American and Filipino forces southward. However, the Allies continued a fighting retreat, inflicting heavy casualties and delaying the Japanese further. The battle for Bataan continued for several months. However, by early April, the Allied forces were running out of space and supplies, and the pressure from the Japanese was mounting. The decision to surrender was a difficult one, but eventually the Americans were left with no choice. On April 9th, the American commander capitulated and the surviving Allied forces went into captivity. The total battle for the Philippines would last for another month until the fall of

the last stronghold on the island of Corregidor. The fall of this territory was a devastating loss for the United States, in both terms of strategic position and morale. However, the length of time that the American and Filipino forces held out delayed the Japanese advance against other western territories and likely aided in their defenses by drawing other Japanese forces away. Despite this, the fall of Bataan remains one of the most infamous events in American history, through both the loss of the Philippines and the brutal death march of the Allied prisoners that would follow. Remembering the horrors inflicted on the American and Filipino prisoners and terrible occupation that followed the surrender would be one of the rallying cries for Allied forces in the war against the Japanese, and the liberation of the Philippines in 1944 would be one of the most important victories of the Pacific War.

British forces continue to retreat south through central Malaya as the Japanese force a crossing of the river Slim. The British commander, General Arthur E. Percival, hopes to be able to hold at Johore until at least mid February.

Japanese troops complete their capture of Sarawak and also take Jesselton in northern Borneo.

In Malaya, Japanese break through Indian defenses at the Slim River.

In the Philippines, Japanese begin siege of the Bataan Peninsula.

Off Honshu, sub USS Pollack sinks Japanese collier Unkai Maru No.1, the first confirmed sinking by a US sub in the Pacific.



US Navy issues warning that 16 U-boats are suspected to be near the East Coast.

Roosevelt's first War Budget includes \$13,250 million of defense expenditure.

The Soviet North West Front begins an offensive south of Lake Ilmen in an attempt to encircle Demyansk. At the same time the newly created Volkhov Front launches an attack to force the Germans back from around Leningrad.

## 1944



Frigate HMS Tweed was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-305 in the eastern Atlantic approximately 700 miles west of Land's End. 83 of her 127 complement were lost.

## 2 LIR at Montenero:

0600 Dawn Patrol from E Coy.

0800 F Coy goes out to Marsucci to observe & ambush enemy.

1800 CO's verbal orders for operations tomorrow. Standing orders for sentry posts issued.

2000 Mule convoy arrives.

2200 Mule convoy returns to Rionero.

The U.S. Air Force announces the production of the first jet-fighter, Bell P-59 Airacomet. Although the Bell P-59 was the first US jet aircraft to enter production, it was not a success and never entered front-line service with the USAAF. That distinction went to the Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star, some of which were sent to Italy to intercept Arado 234 jet reconnaissance aircraft.

French resistance sabotages electricity supply in Tulle.

In Second Arakan Campaign in Burma, RAF & US Tenth Air Force begin air supply to West African troops.

## **1945**

U.S. air ace Major Thomas B. McGuire, Jr. is killed in the Pacific.

German Navy begins evacuating troops trapped by the Soviet advance along the Baltic in Lithuania.

Off Manila Bay, US destroyers Charles Ausburne, Braine, Russell, and Shaw sink Japanese destroyer Hinoki; the last surface naval engagement of the Pacific war.



# Roll of Honour – January 7

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1916**

**+CAIRNS, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 24044. Died 07/01/1916. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Larne WM, as Kearns

**+DILLON, Samuel George**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 14130. Died 07/01/1916. Age 18. Son of James and Mary Dillon, of Bridge Street, Portadown. Seagoe Cemetery, Portadown

**1917**

**+MURPHY, Francis**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 12th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 25247. Died 07/01/1917. Age 52. Son of James Murphy, of Tartaraghan, Portadown; husband to Minnie Murphy, of Lislasley, Moy, Co. Armagh. Belfast City Cemetery

**1918**

**+ESPEY, Thomas**

South African Infantry, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Corporal. 2739. Died 07/01/1918. Aged 39. Born 18/05/1878 in Gortreagh, Cookstown. Thomas was a railway clerk in Cookstown before emigrating to South Africa. Thomas married Florence

Espey, possibly around 1908, and they had two sons. Prior to enlisting, he was a Carrier's Contractor and lived in Three Anchor Bay, Cape Town. He enlisted in August 1915. Corporal Espey was one of the 143 survivors who left Delville Wood on 20/07/1916. Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand, Somme, France. Cookstown WM. St Lurach's C of I WM, Cookstown.

## **1942**

### **+SHAW, James**

Royal Armoured Corps. 11th Hussars. A Sqn. Trooper. 322079. Died 07/01/1942. Age 21. James enlisted in the Army in January 1939 and had served in the Middle East for 2 years at his time of death. Son of James and Rachel Shaw, of 22 Woodford Street, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

### **+THOMPSON, James**

Royal Ulster Rifles. 6th Btn. Rifleman. D/24542. Died 07/01/1942. Age 60. He was a veteran of WW1. Son of Robert Thompson and Jane Thompson, and husband to Margaret Thompson of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

## **1943**



## Wolverghem Military Cemetery

### +**COLE, Hugh Douglas**

RN. Convoy Signalman. C/JX 234034. SS Benalbanach. Died as a result of enemy action on 07/01/1943. Age 20. SS Benalbanach was built in 1940 by Charles Connell and Company Ltd., Scotstoun, Glasgow for use as a passenger/cargo ship. SS Benalbanach was owned by Ben Line Steamers Ltd. – William Thomson and Company. In 1941 she was taken over by the Royal Navy as an Auxiliary Transport Ship and in November 1942 she took part in the landing at Oran in the North Africa campaign. It was on her second trip to the Allied landing area that she sank. The SS *Benalbanach* left the Clyde on 24/12/1942 bound for Bona in North Africa with more than 350 Motor Transport officers and men together with a cargo of tanks, motor vehicles, ammunition, petrol and general military stores. Shortly after 6.00 pm on 07/01/1943 the SS Benalbanach sank north-



west of Algiers after being hit by two torpedoes fired from an enemy aircraft. Son of Samuel Douglas and Madeline Margaret Cole, 27 Spencer Street, Hollywood. They had three children. During the Second World War Hugh Douglas Cole's father, Samuel, and his brother, Fred, were also on active service. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 70. Hollywood and District WM. Hollywood Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

**+McAULEY, David Alexander**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1482473. Died 07/01/1943. Age 19. Training to be a Pilot when he died. His older brother Pilot Officer George McAuley, DFC, had been killed having been shot down on 20/08/1942. Son of David and Sara Jane McAuley, of Ballygally, Co. Antrim. Sault Ste. Marie (Greenwood) Cemetery, Canada

**+STODDART, William Robert Bryans**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1031734. Died 07/01/1943. Aged 21. Son of William J. E. and Catherine Stoddart, of Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

**1945**

**+McLEAN, William**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1048611. Died 07/01/1945. Age 21. 626 Sqd. Son of John and Jessie McLean, of Newtownards. France Clichy Northern Cemetery, France

**VETERANS**

**HEMPENSTALL, George Moorhouse**

RN. AB. J199. Boy service from 06/01/1908. Enrolled 07/12/1908 for 12 years. Served to 07/01/1921. War service in Dido, Pembroke, Antwerp, Baralong, Alexandria and

Indomitable. Born Agherton, Portstewart 07/12/1890. ADM 188/647/199



**HERRON, Robert Alexander Crosthwaite**

RN. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander. MBE. Surgeon Lieutenant. 07/01/1937. MB QUB 1932.

**IRELAND, Israel alias Isaac**

RN. Stoker First Class. K32149. Enrolled 08/04/1916 for hostilities. War service in HMS Dreadnought. Demobbed

07/01/1920. Born Belfast 10/07/1883. Carnmoney Parish Church RH. ADM 188/931/32149

**McWILLIAMS, Matthew**

RN. Stoker I. SS6727 and SS117792. Enrolled 10/12/1915 for 5 and 7 years. War service in Vivid I and Egmont - Lobelia. Served to 07/01/1921. Joined RFR 08/01/1921. Born 06/03/1892. Dungiven, Co. Londonderry. ADM 188/1100/6727. ADM 188/1123/117792

**PLAYFAIR, Robert**

RMLI. Private. 13960. Plymouth Division. HMS Tiger. Jutland. Enlisted 04/04/1907. War service in Tiger 03/10/1914 - 26/07/1919. Demobbed 07/01/1920. WW2 -

Served from 01/01/1941 - 10/05/1945. Born Belfast  
13/11/1889. NOK, aunt, Margaret Brown, Roseberry St.,  
Belfast. Silvio Street, Belfast. Woodvale - PCI RH. ADM  
159/154/13960

# 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**

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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



Remembrance Ni, January 7

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