



remembrance ni



El Alamein war memorial cemetery

The Alamein Memorial is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission war memorial in the El Alamein War Cemetery, El Alamein, Egypt. The memorial commemorates 11,866 Commonwealth forces members who died during World War II. The memorial was designed by Hubert Worthington and

unveiled by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein on 24 October 1954. It is distinguished by the beauty of Bougainvillea

On this Day – February 1

1913

The Ulster Covenant campaign was greeted enthusiastically in the greater Dungannon area, in Dungannon alone 2,590 men and women signed the Covenant and Declaration, Before WW1 the Northland family were involved with the UVF. The Commander of the local Battalion was the former Governor of New Zealand, the Honourable Viscount Northland, with his second in command local linen manufacturer and former Irish Rugby international Mr Robert Stevenson. Stevenson was also President of the Irish Rugby Football Union in 1912-1913. The Adjutant was a cousin of Viscount Northland, Major Dudley Henry Alexander. The Battalion was made up of eleven Companies in total, with designations from A through to K.

A company covered Dungannon Town itself and was under the charge of R.W. Bingham B.A. headmaster of the Royal School. Bingham would later take charge of the entire Battalion after the outbreak of the great War.

On the 9 November 1913 the first Church parade and service in connection with the Battalion of Volunteers was held in the Parish Church. Over 500 men mustered at Northland House before marching to the Service, where the

hymn selection included Onward Christian Soldiers and what the papers called the 'now famous battle hymn' O God Our Help in Ages Past. This was to be the start of a string of large Sunday services and parades across the district, with the venues rotated between the different churches or sometimes using the grounds of the officers. In December the Battalion met at the Royal School Grounds, before heading to the Methodist Church, while in February 1914 venues included Killyman Parish Church, Donaghmore Parish Church and Thornhill Church Pomeroy.

1916

Northern Whig February 1916

CENTRAL ANTRIMS FINE SPIRIT

Captain T.S. Adamson, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim Volunteers) who has arrived at his home in Whitehead on leave expresses himself as delighted with the splendid spirit of the Ulster Division. "As far as my own company is concerned" he proceeded "they are simply magnificent". Recently we had a long march of 23 miles to a village near the firing line and though many of the men had on new boots, not a single man dropped out of the ranks.

That is the spirit that animates all ranks at present. The honour of the regiment is at stake all the time. The men are simply grand. Every unit in the army today was confident, and there was neither wavering or doubt as to the result of the issue. The men of the Division are known among the Huns as "Carson's Boys." (Prior to enlistment Captain Adamson was formerly the Officer Commanding the Whitehead Company of the Ulster Volunteer Force)

1918

The Witness - 01/02/1918

Military Awards.

Captain R. M. Boyle, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, has been awarded the Military Cross. He is the only son of Rev. Robert Boyle, Killala, and grandson of the late Rev. R. Boyle, Killymurris and Garryduff, and of the late Captain Hay, Culmore, Londonderry. He was educated at Coleraine Academical Institution, and prior to joining the army was a student at M'Crea Magee College, Derry. He received his commission in April, 1915, and for the past two years has been serving in France, where he took part in the battles of Somme, Messines, Ypres, and Cambrai. He was wounded at the Somme in July, 1916.

Lieutenant James Cordner, Royal Irish Rifles, who has received the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field, is well known in Belfast, having been assistant minister in St. Enoch's before the war, and also for some time minister of the United Free Church in Lisburn. He went to Canada from Belfast, but returned to Ireland to complete his study for the ministry. His congregation released him for service in 1915, and he was appointed to Colonel Wallace's old battalion. He was wounded in 1917. It will be remembered that during the recruiting campaign in Ulster he made many effective speeches. He is a brother of Rev. Joseph Cordner, Presbyterian minister, Drumbo, Co. Down, and son of Mr. James Cordner, Drumbo House.

LISBURN MINISTER WINS MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. James Cordner, Royal Irish Rifles, has been

awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field. Lieut. Cordner was minister in charge for a time of the United Free Church, Lisburn, prior to the war, and in August, 1915, on his obtaining his commission as a combatant officer in the Rifles, the members of his congregation United in presenting him with a sword. Lieut. Cordner took part in the early recruiting campaigns in Ulster, and made many stirring speeches. He went to the front last year, and was wounded in the violent fighting in which the Ulster Division took so prominent a part in the summer. Lieut. Cordner is a brother of the Rev. Joseph Cordner, Presbyterian minister, Drumbo, Lisburn.

FIRST LISBURN MAN TO WIN M.C.

Approval has been gazetted for the continued appointment of **Lieut. (temporary Captain) Nelson Russell**, Royal Irish Fusiliers, S.R., son of Mr. Nelson Russell, Lisburn, as instructor Irish Command N.C.O.'s School, and to retain his rank of captain whilst so employed. Captain Russell was the first Lisburn man to win the Military Cross.

The Witness was a weekly Presbyterian Church newspaper.

1940

General Timoshenko launches his big offensive across the iced up straits of Viipuri Bay, although Finnish aircraft raids disrupt these attacks.

The battleship Alabama (BB-60) is laid down at the Norfolk, Virginia.

In Japan, expenditure on the military accounts for half of the national budget for 1940.



Alamein war memorial cemetery. It is distinguished by the beauty of Bougainvillea

1941

The Admiral Hipper slips out of Brest for another sortie into the Atlantic.

Agordat in Eritrea falls to the 5th Indian Division after 2 days of fighting.

The US Navy is reorganized into the Atlantic, Pacific and Asiatic fleets and ordered to gradually bring ship crews up to war establishment.

1942

The Red Army begins an offensive toward Vyazma. Zhukov is promoted to command the West Theatre, which includes the Kalinin, West and Bryansk Fronts.

Quisling forms a puppet government in Norway.

All U-boats adopt a new Enigma cipher known as 'Triton'.

The new cipher replaces the previous cipher, 'Hydra' and has an additional rotor in the Enigma machine. This meant that the British were unable to read U-boat coded communications traffic until much later in the year, seriously affecting their ability re-route their convoys around U-boat wolf packs.

First U.S. aircraft carrier offensive of the war as Yorktown and Enterprise conduct air raids on Japanese bases in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands.

USS Enterprise is damaged in attacks on Japanese-held airfields in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands.

1943

German troops evacuate Demyansk.

Twenty Japanese destroyers begin the evacuation of 13,000 troops from Guadalcanal.

1944

The Polish underground executes Major Fritz Kurschera, the chief of the Gestapo in Poland.

1945

The U.S. First Army takes Remscheid, 20 miles to the East of Dusseldorf. The U.S. Seventh Army reaches Moder and Siegfried Line.

Troops of the 1st Belorussian Front surround the fortress town of Kastrin. Since the 20th January, the Kriegsmarine has evacuated 140,000 civilian refugees and 18,000 wounded soldiers by sea from East Prussia.

U.S. troops land unopposed to the Southwest of Manila.

Roll of Honour – February 1

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+DONALDSON, Patrick

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 4737. Died 01/02/1915. Disembarked in France on 22/01/1915 and was killed in action only ten days later. Son of Mr. J. Donaldson (Widower), of Cloghoge, Crossmaglen. The family were members of the Roman Catholic Church. Quinchy Communal Cemetery, France

+GLENN, William David

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. No. 4 Coy. Private. 2599. Died 01/02/1915. Aged 26. Son of James and Rebecca Anne Glenn, of Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. William was born in Ballygawley about 1889. James Glenn was a farmer. The family lived in Drumcullion, FAVOR Royal, County Tyrone. William is listed on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial so it may be assumed that William Glenn emigrated to Canada before the war. William Glenn enlisted in Omagh. Quinchy Communal Cemetery, Quinchy, Pas de Calais, France. Ballygawley War Dead Book

+HAMEL, J

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Private. 5033. Died 01/02/1915. Son of Mrs. S. Hamel, of 13, Abercorn St., Belfast. Quinchy Communal Cemetery, France

+KNOX, Thomas Ucher Caulfield, Viscount Northland

Coldstream Guards, 2nd Btn. Captain. Died 01/02/1915. Aged 32. Viscount Northland. Born Dungannon 13/06/1882. Son of Uchter John Mark Knox, 5th Earl of Ranfurly and Hon. Constance Elizabeth Caulfeild. The family lived at Northland House, Dungannon. Viscount Northland was educated at Eton and then at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1900. Thomas served as aide-de-camp to his father, Lord Ranfurly in NZ between 1903-1907. He and Hilda Cooper were married on 12/06/1912. On the outbreak of the war, Captain Viscount Northland immediately rejoined the Coldstream Guards. Lady Northland remarried later (Mrs. Wardell, of 24, Gilbert St., Grosvenor Square, London). Quinchy Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

See also note in "On this day" above. A correspondent to REMNI writes "Sgt John B Johnston was part of the burial party that laid Viscount Northland Thomas Knox to rest in Quinchy Communal Cemetery, France. My grandfather was chosen because he was in the 36th Ulster Div. and was from Dungannon, his family had requested that Dungannon soldiers buried the Viscount. Our family was given Viscount Northlands regiment's sword at the end of WW1. My grandfather was injured at the Somme on 1st July but recovered and was enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and survived WW1. Lord Northland then helped my

grandfather establishment a plumber/heating business in 1920, the business closed in 1994 and was called J. Johnston & Sons, Plumbers and Heating Engineer

1917

+ANDERSON, Albert Stewart

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Second Lieutenant. Died 01/02/1917. Age 34. Severely wounded 25/01/1917. Sullivan Upper School. Holywood. Graduate of QUB Faculty of Arts 1903 - 04 and Bachelor of Engineering 1910. A keen cricketer, he played for the senior eleven in Holywood. After graduation he worked as an assistant engineer on several contracts in Ireland before moving to Canada where he was involved in construction work on the Canadian Pacific and Pacific Great Eastern Railways. He returned home towards the end of 1915 and joined the Training Corps on 01/11/1915. He obtained a commission, went to France in June 1916 and served with the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 109th Brigade of the (36th(Ulster) Division. Born 02/11/1886 in Canada. Son of Thomas and Annie Anderson, High St., Holywood,. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord, France. Holywood WM. First Holywood PCI.

+COLEMAN, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn and 11th (Service) Btn. Private. 3587. Died 01/02/1917 of wounds at a Casualty Clearing Station at Bailleul. Thomas, from Spring Street, Belfast, enlisted at the outbreak of war in 1914 and landed with 1st Battalion at Gallipoli on 25/04/1915. He was seriously wounded in the attack at Achi Baba on 28 April and was evacuated firstly to Malta and then the UK. Following convalescence he was posted to the 11th



Alamein war memorial cemetery. It is distinguished by the beauty of Bougainvillea

Inniskillings and was again seriously wounded near Hazebrouck on 22/01/1917. Son of Thomas and Sarah Coleman, of Belfast; husband to Elizabeth Coleman, of 19, Spring St., Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+GREER, Francis St Leger

Irish Guards. Lieutenant. MC. Died 01/02/1917. Aged 23. Son of Capt. Joseph Henry and Mary Greer of Grange, Moy. He was born about 1894 at the Curragh, Co. Kildare. Francis was raised by his grandmother Agnes Isabella Greer in Moy, County Tyrone. He was educated at Eton. He gained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the service of the 16th

Lancers. By February 1917, Frank Greer had been attached to the bombing section of the Irish Guards. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led three platoons in the advance under very heavy fire. At one point in the advance he shot an enemy machine gunner at about 80 yards, silencing the gun and saving many casualties. Later, he did fine work consolidating the position won. Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme

+QUINN, James

Leinster Regiment. 7th Btn. Corporal. 2494. Died 01/02/1917. Age 20. Son of Joseph Quinn, of 3, Granville St., Belfast. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+CAMERON, R

Royal Field Artillery. No. 7 Depo. Gunner. 78638. Died 01/02/1918. Age 22. Son of John Cameron, of 33, Cosgrave St., Belfast. Born at Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1919

+BLACK, T

RM Labour Corps. Private. Deal/13809(S). Died 01/02/1919. Age 48. Born Belfast. Son of Samuel and Jane Black; husband to Sarah Taylor (formerly Black), Urney St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+McQUILLAN, James

RNR. Seaman. 7602A. HM Drifter John Robert. Died

01/02/1919. Age 33. Son of Charles and Bridget McQuillan, High St., Newry. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 32

1940

+McCLURG, James

Royal Artillery. 102nd. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. 315th Battery. Gunner. 475272. Died 01/02/1940. Age 35. Husband to Marian McClurg of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

1941

+HAWTHORNE, James Thomas

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Operator). 973032. Died 01/02/1941. Aged 27. 144 Sqdn. James worked for the Ulster Bank in Donegal, Ireland before the outbreak of the War. He died when Handley-Page Hampden P1328 came down near Fillingham Lane, Willingham, Lincolnshire. The Mark I bomber crashed at 2015hrs in a snow storm.

Sergeant John Ford Thurlbeck (754791), the Pilot, also died as a result of the incident. Youngest son of the late James Thomas Hawthorne and Mary Hawthorne of "The Limes", 27 Westway Drive, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

+HUNTER, William James Graham

RNPS. Stoker. LT/KX 108031. Died 01/02/1941. HM Trawler Bervie Braes - was completed on 28 December 1917 and taken over by the Admiralty in March 1940. Husband to Emma Hunter. Falmouth Cemetery, Cornwall. Portadown WM

1943

+McGEOWN, George Ernest

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 1378907. Died 01/02/1943. Age 26. Crew Member aboard Vickers Wellington X9755 of Number 26 Operational Training Unit which took off from Little Horwood for an evening training exercise. During the flight the starboard engine caught fire and all efforts to extinguish the flames were unsuccessful. While attempting to force-land at 1850 Hrs the aircraft hit some trees and crashed near Beachampton Rectory, Beachampton, 4 miles from Buckingham. Three of the crew were killed with two sustaining injuries. Son of John and Sophia McGeown, of Belfast. Holy Trinity C of I churchyard, Aghalee.

+MILLAR, John

RN.. AB. C/SSX 26454. Died 01/02/1943. Age 22. HMS Welshman. Brother of William serving with FAA. Son of William and Annie Millar, of Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial

1944

+GILCHRIST, Thomas Norman

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1122992. Died 01/02/1944. Age 20. 14 Sqdn. Son of Robert and Sarah Gilchrist, of Lurgan. Malta Memorial, Panel 14, Column 1. Lurgan WM

+REID, Maurice Cheyne

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 178071. Died 01/02/1944. Aged 25. 14 Sqdn. Son of William Irwin Reid and Sadie Reid, of Londonderry. Malta Memorial, Panel 13, Malta

1945

+McAFFEE, John

RAFVR. Sergeant Flight Engineer. 1037806, 419 (Royal Canadian Air Force) Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. On the night of 2nd / 3rd February 1945 John was aboard Avro Lancaster KB750 VR-N which took off from R.A.F. Middleton-St.George in County Durham on a mission to Wiesbaden, Germany.

Having dropped its bombs the Lancaster was hit by FLAK and the Pilot gave the order to bail out however only the Tail Gunner was able to escape before the aircraft crashed near the village of Wolf. Although alive Flight Sergeant W.J. McTaggart was injured and spent the rest of the War in Hospital as a P.O.W. John was the son of Verner and May McAfee from Lisburn. He was 21 years old. Rheinberg Cemetery, Germany.

SMYTH, James Brian Watt

Special Operations Executive. Force 136. Major. Died between 1st 01/02/1945 and 28/02/1945 aged 27 years old. Served in the Burma Rifles, Indian Army, and with Force 136, Special Operations Executive in Burma. Major Watt Smyth joined Force 136, Special Operations Executive as a Staff Captain in April 1944. He deployed as part of a Chin Special Group of 20 soldiers with Captain Meredith as 2nd in Command. The group was Team RAT on Operation Label on 22/01/1945. Smyth sustained wounds in an ambush that scattered the team and killed Captain Meredith. An investigation by Major Patrick Reginald Maddox suggests that Smyth was ambushed a further two times, sustaining two fatal gunshots to the chest on the second occasion. This ambush on 08/02/1945 killed other members of the team as they attempted to escape back to British lines. Born on

06/08/1917 in Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland, he was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Watt Smyth D.S.O. (Royal Engineers) and Florence Watt Smyth of Larne, Co. Antrim. Photos of the grave were sent to Smyth's mother by Captain Maddox in 1946. She had hoped her son was still alive. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar.

+TEGGART, Hugh Henry

RAF. Flight Sergeant. 553937. 166 Sqd. Died 01/02/1945. He was an air bomber on Avro Lancaster I ME648 AS-J2 when it took off at 1525hrs from R.A.F. Kirmington, Lincolnshire, England. The plane came down at Niederlustadt, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. Son of James and Elizabeth Teggart, Killough, Co. Down. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany

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

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.

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