

Men from three different battalions of the Royal Irish Rifles died this day in 1916, a chaplain from Glenavy died in 1917, and a veteran's story tells how the FAA pilot from Fermanagh eventually trained as a doctor and served in the Veterans' hospital in Boston USA.



HMS Dreadnought

On this Day – February 10

1906

Great Britain launches the battleship HMS Dreadnought, thereby upping the ante in its naval arms race with Imperial Germany. The bulk of the two countries' expanding fleets will meet 10 years later at Jutland. Dreadnought's entry into service in 1906 represented such an advance in naval technology that her name came to be associated with an entire generation of battleships, the dreadnoughts, as well as the class of ships named after her.

1916

Sloop HMS Arabis was torpedoed and sunk by a German destroyer during the Battle of Dogger Bank with the loss of

56 of her 79 crew. The survivors, including her CO, became German PoWs.

1939

Japanese occupy island of Hainan in French Indochina.

1940

Over 4000 members of American Youth Congress march in Washington to protest US being drawn into imperialistic war; President Roosevelt angrily confronts them.

1941

Submarine HMS Snapper was lost in the Bay of Biscay on the night of 10/11 February, possibly sunk by German depth charges. All 42 members of her crew were lost.

London severs diplomatic relations with Romania.

The RAF attacks the oil storage tanks at Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The raid sees the operational debut of the RAF's first 4-engine heavy bomber, the Short Stirling.

Iceland is attacked by German planes.

The RAF makes its first operational drop of airborne forces (Operation Colossus). Six Whitleys of No. 58 Sqn drop 38 men to attack two aqueducts at Treviso in southern Italy.

1942

The war halts civilian car production at Ford.

The former French liner Normandie capsized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy.

Wavell makes his last visit to Singapore, but by now there

was nothing he could do to alter the outcome.

First meeting of Pacific War Council in London with Dutch, New Zealand, Australian and UK representatives.

1944

The Russians begin to lay down a tremendous artillery barrage against the Korsun pocket, in an attempt to force its surrender

10th/11th February 1 London Irish at Anzio: "168 Brigade were relieved from the front line. General Alexander, an old friend from pre-war days, visited the battalion & said how glad he was to be able to congratulate them on their fine fight during a critical period of the battle."

The allies announce that southern Italy is to be handed over to Italian government jurisdiction.

The Japanese combined fleet leaves Truk for Palau.

Australian and Americans troops link at Saidor in New Guinea.

1945

The U.S. First Army captures the seventh and most important Ruhr dam.

Soviet sub S-13 sinks German transport General Steuben, killing 4500 military personnel fleeing East Prussia.

The 2nd Belorussian Fronts attack towards Neustett is halted by desperate German counter-attacks. The 1st Ukrainian front reaches the Neisse encircling Glogau.

Liegnitz is captured by the 1st Ukrainian Front. The remaining defenders of Budapest, some 16,000 men, try to break out from Budapest, although most are killed or

captured.

B-29s hit the Tokyo area.

Japanese infiltrate US lines during the Battle for Manila.

The diary of a Japanese officer found dead reveals how they sneaked into a US camp.

The small group caused havoc blowing up guns and killing several GIs



Roll of Honour – February 10

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+McKERNAN, Francis

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private.1724. Died 10/02/1915. Age 29. Son of Patrick and M. Ann McKernan, of 8, Strand St., Enniskillen. Brown's Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, France

+McKINSTRY, WILLIAM

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman.15304. Died 10/02/1915. Son of the late William and Elizabeth McKinstry; husband to Agnes McKinstry, of 53, Snugville St., Belfast. Belfast (Dundonald) Cemetery.

1916

+CONNOR, Thomas

Royal Engineers, 150th Coy. Sapper. 57421. Died 10/02/1916. Age 22. Son of David and Ellen Connor, of 27, James St., Belfast. Mailly-Maillet Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+MAGEE, Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 19302. Died 10/02/1916. Age 26. Son of James Magee, of Strabane; husband to Maggie Murdock (formerly Magee), of Backfence, Strabane. Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France

+McKNIGHT, J

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman.13163. Died 10/02/1916. Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France

+McWILLIAMS Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman.17/1344. Died 10/02/1916. Aged 19. Born 16/06/1896 at Gloonan, Ahoghill. Son of tailor Thomas McWilliams and Ellen nee Irvine. The family had moved to Belfast by 1901 and were living at 9 Abington Street. Herbert was one of five children. Herbert



A frosty morning at Rancourt German Military Cemetery

McWilliams enlisted in Belfast. Auchonvillers Military Cemetery, Somme.

+SEMPEY James

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th. Btn. Corporal. 19751. Died 10/02/1916. Aged 29. Rev A Gibson, Presbyterian Chaplain serving with the 36th Ulster Division wrote to his widow and in the course of his letter wrote "Your husband was killed yesterday by a shell. He and several others were in a field close to a village when a shell burst near to them, and, unfortunately your husband received a wound at the base of the skull which killed him instantly and three others were injured. Your husband was a fine man and was held in high

esteem by the officers and men of his regiment. His loss will be keenly felt by all of us and we shall miss him very much. He gave his life in a great cause and he has not died in vain.” Born on 19/06/1887 in Ballyclug, Ballymena, the son of Hugh and Isabella (nee Houston) Sempey. Prior to the war he lived in Carrickfergus with his wife Sarah and working in the Sullatober bleach works. They had four children. He was a member of the Sullatober Flute Band, a member of the Orange Order and the Ulster Volunteer Force. Husband to Sarah McNeill (f. Sempey), Main Street, Ballyclare. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Somme, France. Ballyclare WM. Ballylinney Presbyterian Church RH

1917

+BUCKLEY, Thomas Henry

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 5516. Died 10/02/1917 from wounds in No.9 General Hospital, France. Age 29. Born in Annaghmore. Son of Thomas and Mary Buckley, of Derryloughan, Loughgall. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

+JOHNSON-SMYTH, Edward

Army Chaplains' Department. Chaplain 4th Class. Died 10/02/1917. Aged 44. Born in Glenavy, Co. Antrim, he was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and was ordained in 1895. Officiating curate of St. Crispin's, Bermondsey from then until 1897 when he moved to St. Thomas's in Birmingham. The following year he went to India as the Church Missionary Society's missionary at Multan and in 1908 was transferred to Srinigar, Kashmir in the Diocese of Lahore. Appointed as an acting army chaplain on the 08/08/1916, he was posted to France. Husband to Mrs. M.



Hospital nurse, possibly of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), in conversation with a wounded British soldier at Dernancourt, September 1916.

S. Johnson-Smyth of “Pawa Domus”, Cherry Garden Road, Canterbury, and only son of Maud and the late Thomas Johnson-Smyth, J.P. of Goremount, Glenavy, Co. Antrim. St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen,

+McALISTER, Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 26480. Died 10/02/1917. Age 42. Son of Daniel McAlister, of Cushendall. Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+KENNEDY, Robert James

Cameron Highlanders, 7th Btn. Private. S/31352 Died 10/02/1918. Age 25. Enlisted Glasgow spring 1917. Second son of William and Sarah Kennedy, of Coleraine St., Kilrea. Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery, Wancourt, France. Kilrea WM

+MILLIGAN, W

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Garrison Btn. Private. G/14481. Died 10/02/1918. Age 38. Son of Isaac Milligan; husband of Mary Milligan, of 8, Century St., Portadown. Taukkyan Memorial, Myanmar

1919

+HENRY, W R

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 24645. transf. to Labour Corps, 364647. Died 10/02/1919. Age 39. Son of the late William and Margaret Henry, of Belfast; husband of the late Rebecca Henry. Carnmoney Cemetery

+RINGLAND, W

Royal Engineers. 1st Reserve Btn. Pioneer. 28717. Died 10/02/1919. Age 19. Son of William and Martha Ringland, of 135, Euston St., Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

1920

+TATE, J

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Private.13943.Died 10/02/1920. Age 39. Husband of Annie Tate, of 60, Claremont Lane, Albertbridge Rd., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1940

+LARMOUR, James

RN. Able Seaman. P/SSX 14491. Died 10/02/1940. Aged 25. In HMS Suffolk when she collided with SS Misram. At this time, HMS Suffolk operated in British waters. Born 15/09/1914. Son of John Larmour and Mary Larmour (née McAlpine) of Lodge View Terrace, Warrenpoint. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39.

1942

+DUNLOP, James

Royal Artillery, 9 HAA Regt., 6 Lt. A.A. Bty. Sergeant.1488759. Died 10/02/1942 of wounds in a Middle East hospital. Aged 28. Eldest son of Mr. J. R. Dunlop, Portstewart; his wife resided at Long Commons, Coleraine. Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya.

1944

+CUNNINGHAM, John A

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver. T/6982041. Died 10/02/1944 in a military hospital in England. Aged 42. Husband to Ida Caroline Cunningham, of Rail View, Fivemiletown. Fivemiletown C of I Churchyard. Fivemiletown WM

+GRINSELL, Joseph

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1683055. Died 10/02/1944. Aged 30. 21 Bty., 8 (Belfast) H.A.A. Son of John and Eliza Grinsell; husband to Gladys May Grinsell, of Coventry. Father of Jean, Mary, John and David. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Regimental WM and RH, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1945

+ANDERSON, John Percy

US Army. 172th Infantry Regiment. Private. 32923639. Died 10/02/1945. Born in 1919, he was the son of David Anderson, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone. After his mother's death, John emigrated to the United States alone when he was 11 years old and settled with his aunt. He enlisted in the US Army on 22/05/1943 in Newark, New Jersey. John was part of the US invasion force whose objective was the taking of Lingayen Gulf on the island of Luzon, Philippines. During the taking of the island John Percy Anderson was killed in action. Manila American Cemetery, Manila. Stewartstown WM, Stewartstown C of I RH.

VETERANS

BLANCHFLOWER, Danny

Danny Blanchflower was born 10/02/1926 in Bloomfield area of Belfast. He was educated at Ravenscroft Public Elementary School and was awarded a scholarship to Belfast College of Technology.

He joined the RAF and after a course at St Andrews University he was posted to Canada for further training. By 1946 aged 20, he was back in Belfast building a reputation

as an outstanding footballer, and signed for Glentoran, later moving to Barnsley, Aston Villa, then Tottenham Hotspur and during his ten years with Spurs... made 382 total appearances (scoring 21 goals)

With Blanchflower as Captain in 1960/61 season Spurs won the league by 8 points. Danny was voted FWA Footballer of the year in 1958 and 1961. He finally announced his retirement as a player on 05/04/1964 at the age of 38.

Blanchflower was honoured in his home city of Belfast with an Ulster History Circle plaque recognising his outstanding achievements in the world of sport. The blue plaque is located at 49 Grace Avenue, his childhood home.

COOGAN, William

Royal Irish Regiment, 6th Btn, Private. 3030. Enlisted Londonderry, 10/02/1915. Born Carrickfergus abt. 1879. General labourer, aged 36 years 308 days when enlisting. David Street, Carrickfergus

FERGUSON, Robert

RN. FAA. Bob left the family farm in Fermanagh to join the Royal Navy in 1943. As soon as he was old enough he applied to join the Fleet Air Arm as a pilot. He trained in Canada and spent the last few months of the war flying fighter aircraft from carriers in the Pacific.

After the war he took a degree in geology at Trinity College, Dublin and worked for several years on the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia. He became interested in a career in medicine and saved enough money to put himself through medical school. After graduating from Queen's University, Belfast, he worked at Belfast City Hospital and at the South Tyrone Hospital in Dungannon. He then moved to Boston,

USA, where he served on the staff of the Veterans Administration Hospital and later the Northeastern University Student Health Service. He died 10/02/2010 at Wellesley, Massachusetts. USA, survived by his wife Betty.

HERDMAN, Emerson Crawford



North Irish Horse. Major. Senior partner in Herdmans Ltd, which operated the flax spinning mill at Sion Mills, near Strabane.

Herdman (left) was born on 02/01/1869, son of John Herdman and Mary Elizabeth Marion Herdman (nee Gosselin).

Commissioned in the 5th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, he

became a lieutenant in September 1889, resigning his commission five years later.

On 17/07/1903 he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the North of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry, transferring to the

newly-formed North Irish Horse five years later. He was promoted to captain on 21/04/1913.

Herdman also commanded the 1st Tyrone Battalion of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

He embarked for France with A Squadron of the North Irish Horse on 17/08/1914. During the retreat from Mons the squadron was split, with two troops under Herdman acting as escort to the commander-in-chief General French. A letter written home by North Irish Horseman William Morton refers to Herdman's experiences at this time: "... the other two troops ... [had] some exciting experiences in the retreat. I believe they were nearly captured at St. Quentin by holding a position too long, but Captain Herdman, with two other officers and Sergeant-Major Burns, outwitted the enemy and got clear in the nick of time. They retreated about 20 miles, but the enemy was again on their track. I heard they nearly lost their transport by a horse giving up, but succeeded in gaining a bridge in time just before it was blown up by the Engineers."

Herdman was promoted to the rank of major in February 1915. He returned home on leave three months later, later joining the reserve regiment at Antrim where he took command of B Squadron.

In May 1917 a medical board found him unfit for general service but fit for garrison duty abroad or home service, due to defective vision. He saw no further overseas service. On 25/01/1919 he was demobilized and on 16 November the following year relinquished his commission.

From 1920 to 1922 Herdman served as Lord Lieutenant of Donegal. He was elected as a member of the Senate of

Northern Ireland in 1923 and served until his death on 10/02/1949.

TAYLOR, Thomas

RN, WW2. After service he was employed by the Electricity Board. A part-time leading fireman in Cookstown Fire Station, he was an active member of the town's Baptist Church. Windsor Crescent, Monrushe, Cookstown. Died 10/02/2010. Cookstown cemetery.

THOMPSON, Horace Seymour

North Irish Horse. Sergeant. WW1. Horace Seymour Thompson was born on 3 November 1880 at 28 Market Street, Newry, County Down, third of nine children of farmer, merchant and land agent James Thompson and his wife Elizabeth (nee Sloan). The family later farmed at nearby Crieve, Horace's two older brothers having moved to South Africa.

On 2 August 1913 Thompson and Sarah Jane Preston of Canal Street, Newry, married.

Thompson enlisted in the North Irish Horse between 16 January and 23 February 1909 (No.282 – later Corps of Hussars No.71011). He was also active in the Ulster Volunteer Force, a report from April 1914 showing him as a sub-commander of E Company (Crieve), 2nd South Down Regiment.

Thompson embarked for France with A Squadron of the North Irish Horse on 17/08/1914, seeing action in the retreat from Mons and advance to the Aisne.

On 02/03/1915 he faced a field general court-martial at St Omer charged with being drunk while on active service.

Found guilty, he was awarded 9 months imprisonment with hard labour and was reduced to the ranks.

After serving his time, Thompson returned to the regiment, serving throughout the war. On 10/02/1919 he was transferred to Class Z, Army Reserve.

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

Remembrance Ni, February 10

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