



remembrance ni



Alan Campbell, Coleraine Olympic medalist

Coleraine rowing brothers died in WW2

On June 4, 1957, the Coleraine Academical Institution held an unveiling ceremony in the War Memorial Pavilion on the school grounds. It was a Roll of Honour to all those Old Boy's who lost their lives during WW2.



Two of those named on the plaque were the sons of James and Emily Dunlop McGrath of Mountsandel, Coleraine. Emily conducted the unveiling of the memorial.

That pair were Captain William McGrath D.S.O., of 1 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers and his younger brother, Lt. Daniel McGrath of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Like their father James, the pair were members of Bann Rowing Club until shortly before the War started.

William McGrath was the eldest son in the family. He died on 19/02/1942 at the age of 24. His remains were buried in Tobruk War Cemetery, Lybia.

Lt Daniel McGrath joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was attached to the Royal Ulster Rifles (Airborne Division). He was killed in action on 26/03/1945. His remains were buried in Holland, at the Venray War Cemetery.

Shortly before WW2 started he won the Blue Ribbon (Irish Championship) at Dublin Metropolitan regatta. He volunteered early in the war and gained his Commision whilst serving in the ranks.



Daniel took part in the 'D Day Landings' in June 1944 and was later wounded. After recovering he returned to his unit and was killed instantly by anti-aircraft fire whilst his glider was making a landing in Germany.

Early impact of WW1 on Queen's University

The following report was carried by "The Witness", a weekly paper of the Presbyterian Church on 19/02/1915

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY HONOUR ROLL.

"The roll of Honour of the Queen's University of Belfast," the title of an interesting booklet which has been compiled by authority of the Senate, contains the following --

IN MEMORIAM.

C. R. Crymble, D.Sc., lieutenant, 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (S.R.), senior assistant in chemistry in the university.

K. T. Frost, M.A., B.Litt., lieutenant, 3rd Battalion the Cheshire Regiment, lecturer on Archaeology and Ancient History in the university.

Patrick M'Donagh, second-lieutenant, 3rd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment.

T. M. Phillips, M.B., captain, Royal Army Medical Corps.

V. T. T. Rea, lieutenant, 4th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.

Killed in action 1914.

THEY DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

ROLL OF THOSE SERVING AT PRESENT.

The Chancellor -- The Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.P., K.C.V.O., Brigadier-General Commanding 1st South Western Mounted Brigade.

Members of the University Staff -- A. O. Belfour, M.A., despatch rider; P. T. Crymble, F.R.C.S., lieutenant, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), assistant surgeon, Base Hospital; A. R. Dwerryhouse, D.Sc., captain, Royal Garrison Artillery (S.R.); E. C. T. Emerson, M.B., lieutenant, Royal Army Medical Corps; W. G. Glendinning, B.A., B.Sc., despatch rider; H. Gooch, B.Sc., second-lieutenant, Royal Engineers; R. M. Harper, B.Sc., second-lieutenant, 7th Battalion Munster Fusiliers; Thomas Houston, M.D., senior medical officer and bacteriologist in Base Hospital; G. Livens, B.Sc., second-lieutenant, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment; H. M'Cloy, M.D., medical officer and pathologist, in Base Hospital; R. J. M'Connell, M.B., lieutenant, Royal Army Medical Corps; Wicliff M'Cready, M.B., captain, 10th Battalion Royal Irish



Rifles; Allan Macdougall, M.A.; J. E. M'Ilwaine, M.D., senior medical officer in Base Hospital; H. P. Malcolm, M.B., lieutenant, Royal Army Medical Corps; Rupert Stanley, B.A., captain, Royal Engineers; W. J. Wilson, M.D., lieutenant, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), specialist sanitary officer for Belfast district.

Then follows a list of graduates, undergraduates, and members of the Officers' Training Corps, which shows that fourteen are in the Regular Army and the Navy,

eighty-five in the Special Reserve, 119 have obtained commissions in the New Armies, fourteen have enlisted in the ranks, and twenty-nine are serving in the Territorial Force. Four University attendants have also joined the colours.

The following is a list of the staff of the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps who have been training Cadets for commissions and have been engaged in the work of the schools of instruction established by the War Office in the grounds of the University -- Major Gregg Wilson, commandant; Captain J. D. M. M'Callum, adjutant of first school; Captain A. S. Fraser, adjutant of second school;

Captain C. J. Brennan, Lieutenant H. O. Meredith,
Lieutenant J. H. Orr, Lieutenant W. Rankin.

The University Veterans' Corps -- Executive Committee --
Chairman, Dr. John Campbell; Sir Peter O'Connell, M.D.,
D.L.; Henry Beaver, B.E.; Dr. H. L. M'Kisack, Rev. W. A.
Watson, M.A.; G. H. Wheeler, M.A., LL.B.; Professor
Sinclair, M.D.; honorary treasurer, Dr. A. Gardner Robb;
honorary secretary and commanding officer, Dr. J. W.
Taylor; honorary consulting physician, Sir William Whitla,
M.D.; honorary consulting surgeon, J. Walton Browne, M.D.

On this Day – February 19

1917

Germans using "flammenwerfer" capture a British advanced post south of Le Transloy, Somme, and surprise and take 30 prisoners.

1940

Destroyer HMS Daring torpedoed, 157 are killed.

1941

Luftwaffe switches focus from attacking London to attacking shipping centers, such as Portsmouth, Plymouth, Bristol, and Cardiff.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary (non-military) and Reserve (military) is established.

1942

Under increasing threat of being outflanked by the advancing Japanese, the 17th Indian Division is finally given permission to withdraw across the river Sittang.

In the largest Japanese air raid since Pearl Harbor bombers attacked the Australian city of Darwin, killing 243. Along with the shelling in Sydney harbour by a midget submarine, they comprise the only attacks by a foreign power on Australian soil.

The Battle of Badung Strait results in a Japanese victory, as an American-British-Dutch-Australian Command (ABDA) naval squadron attempts to prevent the Japanese landing on Bali. The Allies lose 1 Dutch destroyer sunk and 2 Dutch cruisers and a US destroyer damaged.

Executive Order 9066 is signed by President Roosevelt, authorising the transfer of more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans living in coastal Pacific areas to concentration camps in various inland states (and including inland areas of California). The interned Japanese-Americans lose an estimated 400 million dollars in property, as their homes and possessions are taken from them.

Japanese invade Bali.

General Gamelin, Leon Blum and Paul Reynaud are put on trial at Riom by the Vichy government, charged with being

responsible for the French defeat of 1940. The trial is never concluded. Blum defends himself so brilliantly that the trial is suspended. He remains a prisoner until 1945.

1943

The first Chindit action against Japanese occurs.

Battle of Kasserine Pass. The battle in west Tunisia was the first major engagement between American and Axis forces in Africa. Inexperienced and poorly led American troops suffered many casualties and were quickly pushed back over 50 miles from their positions.

A two-day U-boat attack on Convoy ONI16 in the North Atlantic ends with 15 allied ships sunk.

1944

Danish saboteurs attack the rail lines round Aarhus.

The U.S. Eighth Air Force and Royal Air Force begin "Big Week," a series of heavy bomber attacks against German aircraft production facilities.

The RAF saturates Leipzig, dropping 2,300 tons of bombs, but loses 78 of 823 bombers.

A Japanese convoy is smashed by allied aircraft in the Bismarck Archipelago.

1945

German forces re-establish communications between Königsberg and the port of Pillau, thus again enabling tens of thousands of German refugees to be evacuated to the west by ships of the Kriegsmarine. 'Operation

Sonnenwende' is finally ended in the face of ever strengthening Red Army resistance. The operation was a complete military failure, although did show that the German Army could still organize and mount limited counter-attacks. After a heavy bombardment, 30,000 US Marines land on Iwo Jima, but suffer 2,420 casualties on the first day. Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Roll of Honour – February 19

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1917

+CLYDESDALE, Samuel Thomas

RMLI. Ply.17576. 2nd. RM. Battalion. RND. Died 19/02/1917. Aged 19. Enlisted 07/11/1914. Served with RM Brigade 05/12/1915 -19/02/1917. Born Castlereagh 11/09/1897. Son of Samuel and Georgina Clydesdale, Douglas St., Belfast. The eldest of three children. His father was a paper cutter. McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church. Theipval Memorial, Pier and Face 1A. ADM 159/161/17576

+HACKETT, Augustine John

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Serjeant. 2486. Died 19/02/1917. Age 21 years old, Son of Patrick Joseph and

the late Elizabeth Hackett, of 173, Albertbridge Rd., Mount Pottinger, Belfast. Born at Dublin. Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SHANKS, James Edward

Royal Field Artillery, 108th Bde. C Coy. Gunner. 99770. Died 19/02/1917. Age 42. Husband to Catherine Shanks, of 14, Shankill St., Lurgan. Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

1918

+CROAN, Joseph

Seaforth Highlanders. 1st/5th Btn. Lance Corporal. 241192. Died 19/02/1918. Aged 20. Born on 14/10/1897 in Frederick Street, Newtownards. Eldest son of William and Elizabeth Croan (nee Tibbs) who were married on 29/12/1896 in St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Donaghadee. The Croan family lived in Newtownards, in Frederick Street and at 34 Mark Street. They had six children. Joseph Croan enlisted in Belfast and served with the Seaforth Highlanders. In September 1916 Lance Corporal Joseph Croan was wounded and had treatment for shell shock. He was wounded in action again on 18/02/1918 and admitted to a Casualty Clearing Station. The following day he died in Grevillers Hospital near Bapaume in France. Matron T.M. Rice wrote to Joseph's mother and assured her that Joseph had slept peacefully away without any pain. The Chaplain, Rev. W.P. Young, described how Joseph had been hit by a 'chance shell' while he oversaw a working party. His arm had been very badly smashed. A few days before going into the trenches Lance Corporal Croan had distinguished himself by achieving second place in the Brigade Cross-

Country Race. Grevillers British Cemetery, France.
Newtownards and District WM

+McCOLLUM, William

Canadian Infantry, 50th Btn. (Alberta Regiment). Private. 808209. Died 19/02/1918. Aged 36. Son of James and Martha McCollum, of Clogher, Co. Tyrone, Ireland. Born on 09/01/1884 in Clogher. The 1901 census shows Willie as 19 years old. He was a grocery assistant. The family was living at Clogher Tenements, Clogher. It is believed William emigrated to Canada in 1909. By 1916, William was living in Victoria B.C. He was working as a timekeeper. William McCollum enlisted on 18/01/1916 at Calgary. He was not married. Sucrerie Cemetery, Albain-St. Nazaire, Pas de Calais, France. Clogher WM. St Macartan's Cathedral RH

1919

+BEGGS, John

Labour Corps. Private. 108633. Formerly Royal Irish Rifles. Died while home on leave 19/02/1919 from pneumonia contracted on active service in France. Age 47. John was a tailor by profession. Husband to Prudence Beggs, of 398 Oldpark Road, Belfast. Carnmoney cemetery. Argyle Church (West Kirk) RH

+MANSON, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 2625. transf. to 299th Coy. Labour Corps, Lce. Cpl. 592032. Died 19/02/1919. Age 26. Son of John and Jannet Manson, of 42, McTier St., Belfast. Church of the Holy Evangelists, C of I Churchyard, Carnmoney

+MEHAFFEY, William

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). 6th Coy. Private. 186050. Died 19/02/1919 at Rugeley Camp, Staffordshire. Age 33. Son of William Mehaffey and Mary McCullough Mehaffey, of 189, Maryhill Rd., Glasgow. Born in Armagh. Cannock Chase War Cemetery, Staffordshire

+McCURRIE, W

Royal Irish Rifles. Depot. Lance Corporal. 8797. Died 19/02/1919. Age 28. Son of William and Ellen McCurrie, of 171, Snugville St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1942

+CRAIG, Joseph

RNPS. Seaman. LT/JX 177647. HM Trawler Delila. Died 19/02/1942. Age 40. Son of John and Elizabeth Craig, Larne. Husband to Maggie Craig, Larne. Tynemouth (Preston) Cemetery

+McGRATH, William

Royal Engineers, 1 Field Sqn. Captain. DSO. 74563. Died 19/02/1942. Aged 24. A younger brother Lieutenant Daniel McGrath, Royal Ulster Rifles, 288791, died 26/03/1945. Coleraine Academical Institution. Son of James and Emily Dunlop McGrath, Mountsandal, Coleraine. Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya. Bann Rowing Club. Coleraine Academical Institution War Memorial Pavilion RH

1943

+BRIGHT, John Alexander

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant. 67597. Twice Mentioned in Despatches. Died 19/02/1943. Aged 24. 83 Sqdn. Son of Victor Price Bright and Ella Bright, of Templepatrick. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 119. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1945

+MONTAGUE, James

RAFVR. 630 Squadron. Flt. Sgt. 1051821. Died 09/02/1945. He was one of the crew of an Avro Lancaster (Serial Number ND554) bomber which was lost without trace. It took off from RAF East Kirkby on a night raid. Their mission was to bomb a synthetic oil plant at Politz, Poland, not far from the German border. The bomber was part of the first phase attack on the oil plant. He was one of a seven man crew lost. He was born about 1918. Son of Denis and Alice Montague; husband to Brigid T Montague of Swatragh, County Londonderry. Runnymede

+TAYLOR, Samuel Irwin

RAFVR. 114 Sqd. Pilot Officer.(Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 195102. Died 19/02/1945. Age 26.Lost in aircraft Boston BZ 607 on armed recce Padua-Mestre-Pordenone, hit by flak over Nervesa della Battaglia, crashed near Susegana. Son of W. J. And Elizabeth Taylor, of Belfast. Udine War Cemetery, Italy

1946

+MOORE, Violet Florence

WAAF. Leading Aircraftwoman. 2099386. Died 19/02/1946. Aged 24. Daughter of Thomas J. and Euphemia J. Moore of Portballintrae, Co. Antrim. Drumholm Parish Graveyard, Co. Donegal.

VETERANS

CLARKE, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Born Carrickfergus c1886, lived at Irish Quarter West. Enlisted Carrickfergus 19/02/1915 in the presence of Justice Charles Legg

COLE, John Henry Michael

North Irish Horse. [Lieutenant-Colonel](#). [CMG](#). Born on 10/09/1876 at 24 Arlington Street, Mayfair, London, the fifth of nine children of Lowry Egerton Cole, 4th Earl of Enniskillen, and his wife Charlotte Marion Cole (née Baird). His early years were divided between the family estate of Florence Court in Enniskillen and England, where he was educated at Eton College.

Cole was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the 3rd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Fermanagh Militia) on 23/01/1895. On 13/04/1898 he joined the 7th Queen's Own Hussars, and was promoted to lieutenant on 09/10/1899. He served with the 7th Hussars in the Boer War. On 03/09/1902 he resigned from the Hussars, joining the Reserve of Officers.



Miniature, dated 1901, in the uniform of a Hussars officer

On 17/07/1903 Cole joined the newly-established North of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry with the rank of major, remaining with the regiment when it was re-established as the North

Irish Horse in July 1908. He commanded C Squadron (Enniskillen) from 1903 to 1914.

On 11/04/1907 he married Irene Frances Mundy in St Margaret's, Westminster, London. The couple had four children over the next fourteen years.

On 17/08/1914 Cole embarked for France in command of A Squadron of the North Irish Horse, seeing action on the retreat from Mons and advance to the Aisne. From October 1914 the squadron served as escort and bodyguard to the BEF's commander-in-chief at St Omer.



Cole's family home, Florence Court, Co. Fermanagh, now maintained by the National Trust

Cole was known for running a lavish and expensive mess. In a letter to his father dated 27/08/1915 one of his officers, Lieutenant James Armstrong, explained his reasons for seeking to leave the squadron:

“I have been talking it over with Montgomery & he says he is convinced it couldn't cost more than this show. Messing is the only expense & any mess I have been to out here has been a good deal cheaper than ours. ... The only reason really why the N.I.H. mess here is more expensive than others is because Cole & Herdman are bent on doing themselves better than any body else also the idea of being permanently at G.H.Q. has led them to laying out capital in the way of table linen, napkins, sheets, putting in a new



Group of eight medals of Major Viscount Cole, North Irish Horse

1. Queens South Africa, clasps South Africa 1902, South Africa 1901, Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony; ribbon red, blue and orange. 2. 1914 Star, Major Viscount Cole N.I.R.H. clasp 5th Aug - 22 Nov 1914. 3. British War Medal 1914-1918, ribbon blue, black and white thin lines on orange ground; .4 Allied Victory Medal, oak leaf on ribbon; 5. King George V and Queen Mary Coronation Medal 1911, ribbon blue with two red lines; 6. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Coronation Medal 1937, ribbon blue with white and red lines on edges; 7. Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal 1953, ribbon red with white edges and two blue stripes. 8. REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE. V; MERITE AGRICOLE 1885. Ribbon green and red with rosette. Associated with FLO.CM.120, Cross of Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) and FLO.CM.113, miniature medal group.

range in the house. He also proposes buying curtains for the winter months, but the other things are already paid for”.

On 04/01/1916 A Squadron left GHQ, having been assigned as divisional cavalry to the 55th Division.

That month, Cole was awarded The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) and Mentioned in Despatches.

On 10/05/1916 Cole's squadron was brought together with D and E Squadrons of the North Irish Horse to form the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment, serving as corps cavalry to VII Corps. Cole was appointed commanding officer of the regiment, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

He remained with the regiment until 01/01/1918, when he relinquished command (and his rank of lieutenant-colonel) and returned to Ireland.

In October 1919 he was made an Officer of the Ordre du Merite Agricole (France).

As the oldest surviving son, he succeeded to the family land and titles on the death of his father on 28/04/1924, viz: 5th Earl of Enniskillen, 5th Viscount Enniskillen, 6th Baron Mountfloreance of Florence Court, and 4th Baron Grinstead, of Grinstead.

Cole and his wife Irene divorced in June 1931. On 04/05/1932 he married Mary Cicely Syers (née Nevill), widow of Major Thomas Scott Syers MC of the Royal Field Artillery.

He died at 10 Eaton Gardens, Hove, Sussex, on 19/02/1963, at the age of 86.

Two of Cole's brothers also served in the military. Galbraith Lowry Egerton Cole served as an officer in the 10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars in the Boer War. He later became a well-known settler in Kenya before committing suicide there in 1929. Reginald Berkley Cole served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, before also settling in Kenya. During the First World War he served as a captain in the East Africa Campaign, commanding an irregular unit, Cole's Scouts. He died in 1925. Acknowledgment - from the North Irish Horse in the Great War.

GALBRAITH, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th (Service) Btn. Rifleman. 12/3353. From Ballyrobin, Co. Antrim, William embarked for France on 05/10/1915 and saw action at the Somme and Ypres. Wounded in late 1916 he was discharged with the Silver War Badge on 19/02/1917.

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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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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