



remembrance ni



Bois Carré Military Cemetery at Loos. Burials here were made during the September 1915 fighting and then later by 16th (Irish) Division.

Today

Veterans remembered today are James McAllister a naval doctor from Islandmagee and QUB who was awarded a DSO for his service during the Battle of Jutland.

Belfast men John Campbell and James Gilmore were on board a Vickers Wellington when it crashed in Co. Donegal in 1943. The crew was from RAF No. 7 Operational Training Unit based at RAF Limavady.

On the same day Patrick Walters from Portrush serving in the North Irish Horse died in Tunisia. In 1944 Stuart Lovell, of Portrush, was the first of two brothers to die serving in the RAF. His brother, Wing. Cdr. Anthony Desmond Lovell, D.S.O. and Bar, D.F.C. and Bar, D.F.C. (America), died on service 17/08/1945.

RAF Limavady

This Coastal Command station was the first of four airfields to be constructed on the North Coast of Northern Ireland.

1940 - First recorded use was by 502 Sqn Whitleys on anti-submarine patrols. They had the distinction of being the first operational unit to be equipped with the new long range ASV (air-to-surface vessel) radar. Later 224 Sqn Hudsons and 221 Sqn Wellingtons.

1942 - Operational flying ceased for a two year period. Then used as a pilot training centre with Wellington and Ansons.

1944 - The airfield returned to operational status and 172, 407 and 612 Sqds flew anti-submarine patrols. The airfield will probably be remembered for the high accident rate that saw many airmen lose their lives. In one incident alone in 1943, three aircraft were lost. Bad weather and its proximity to Benevenagh Mountain, accounted for many of these accidents. RAF left in 1945.

On this Day – February 28/29

1915

After the French try to drive the German forces back into the Champagne region, they gain a few hundred yards - at the cost of 50,000 casualties

1936

The Japanese Army restores order in Tokyo and arrests officers involved in a coup.

1940

Russian forces overrun the second line of Finnish defenses on the Karelian Isthmus.

First group of British volunteers arrive in Finland, under command of Lt. Kermit Roosevelt, son of Teddy.

1941

Vichy France reduces bread ration from 350g to 280g.
British February '41 civilian casualty figures tally at 789 killed and 1068 injured.

British Commando's, having been left to hold Castelorizzo without out Naval support or reinforcement, are forced to evacuate when the Italians land troops on the Island.

1942

Japanese are only 50 miles north of Rangoon.

The Japanese land on Java in East Indies.

Off Delaware coast, German U-boat U-578 sinks US destroyer Jacob Jones— 138/149 killed.

1943

Nine Norwegian commandos successfully climb down the steep gorge on one side of the German 'heavy water' plant at Telemark and work their way up a 500 foot, almost sheer rock face to reach the plant on the other side of the gorge. Undetected, they gain entrance and successfully set and detonate their explosives, ruining the plant. All the commandos escaped safely, without taking or inflicting any casualties.

A group of German wives of Jewish men begin to gather and protest in Berlin in order to try and stop the deportation of their husbands to concentrations camps.

1944

The Arabs protest to the U.S. over Senate statements about

the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine.

1945

38 (Irish) Brigade. Forli: 1 RIrF - Visit to Adolf Hitler barracks by General Mark Clark & Corps Commander. 2 Innisks - 1500 The Bttn Pipe Band played in the town square & General McCreery arrived to watch the performance. 2 LIR - 0900 H Coy practising with Kangaroos. Among those training in Kangaroos at Forli on 28/02/1945 was CQMS Edmund O'Sullivan, who was celebrating his 26th birthday. The Irish Brigade had been away from home for 2 years & 3 months. They had done their bit but had more to do - Argenta and the Po still lay ahead. FAB

The US Ninth Army achieves a breakthrough near Erkelenz 30 miles to the West of Cologne, but loses 100 tanks in the process.

The 2nd Belorussian Front captures Neustettin. The Red Army suspends all further offensive operations against the lines of Army Group Courland.

The British Indian 4th Corps take Meiktila airfield in central Burma after an eight-day push from the Irrawaddy.

U.S. Marines take Motoyama on Iwo Jima after a bloody battle.

Corregidor is reported as clear of Japanese troops.

US Eighth Army lands unopposed on Palawan in Philippines, takes Puerto Princesa and its airfields.

In the US a midnight curfew is placed on nightclubs, sports arenas, theaters, and bars to conserve coal—restaurants

and USO clubs are exempt if alcohol is not served.

1946 The U.S. Army declares that it will use V-2 rocket to test radar as an atomic rocket defense system.

Roll of Honour – February

28/29

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+MUNSTER, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 13922. Died 28/02/1915. Age 34 . Son of John Munster, of Drogheda; husband to R A. Munster, of 44, Seaforde St., Belfast. Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

1916

+CAIN, Charles

RNR. Seaman. 3573B. HMS Alcantara. Died 29/02/1916. Aged 39. Husband of Margaret Cain, Hanna St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 23

+GRIBBEN Samuel

Highland Light Infantry, 11th Btn. Corporal. 19419. Died 29/02/1916 in Lincoln Hospital of wounds received at Loos. Aged 31, Son of James Gribben of The Race Course,

Broughshane; husband to Agnes Gribben, Ronald Road, Coatbridge. He enlisted in Coatbridge, Scotland. Lincoln Newport Cemetery. 2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church WM

+STANFIELD, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Garrison Btn. Rifleman. 303. Died 29/02/1916. Age 38. Husband of Margaret Stanfield, of 25, Hanover St., Belfast. Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton

+WATT Robert John

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 19818. Died 29/02/1916. Worked in Antrim where he was a member of the UVF. Enlisted Antrim giving his address as Ballyclare. He was struck by shrapnel while in a billet behind the lines. He was the first member of the 11th Btn to die overseas. Age 30, born in Portglenone, he was the son of Mrs Agnes Watt, and husband to Elizabeth Ann Watt, Portglenone. They married in Trinity Presbyterian Church, Ahoghill on 18/06/1915. They had a daughter Jeanie born on 19/06/1916 less than four months after his death. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Somme, France. St Catherine's C of I, Killead WM, Antrim WM

1917

+GREEN, Harold H

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 28/02/1917. Age 24. Son of William John and Susan E. Green, of Kinnego, Lurgan, Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

+McALINDEN, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. 11168. Cross of St. George 4th Cl. (Russia). Died 28/02/1917. Age 28. Son of Henry and Rose McAlinden, of Derrytagh North, Lurgan. La Neuville Communal Cemetery, Corbie, France

1918

+CAIRNS, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Serjeant. 14031. MM. Died 29/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, France. Enniskillen WM

+GORDON, W J

Army Service Corps. Private. M/335697. Died 28/02/1918. Age 19. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon, of 81, Derwent St., Newtownwards Rd., Belfast. Durban (Stellawood) Cemetery, South Africa

+MARSHALL, Robert Douglas

Cheshire Regiment, 15th Btn. Private. 57882. MM. Died 28/02/1918. Age 23. Born 16/07/1895 in Tobermore, County Londonderry. He was one of six sons. Robert, along with four other brothers, volunteered for service at the outbreak of the war. Robert enlisted in Bedford. Robert Marshall was for a time with the Royal Engineers (No 1674). He won the Military Medal (MM). Son of the Rev. George and Priscilla P. Marshall, of The Manse (Baptist), Cotton End, Bedford. Cement House Cemetery, Belgium

+REGAN Samuel Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 19177. Died 28/02/1918. Aged 32. Born on 14/07/1885 in Tullykevin (Tullycavey). Eldest son of John and Catherine Regan (nee Reid) who were married on 03/10/1884 in Second Ballywalter Presbyterian Church. They had three children. Samuel Hugh Regan was baptised in Ballywalter Presbyterian Church and he was 14 when his mother Catherine died of tuberculosis on 02/01/1900, aged 35. His father John married Elizabeth (Eliza) Thompson from Ballyhalbert on 26/02/1909 in Glastry Presbyterian Church. They had at least two children. Samuel Hugh was the second of the two Regan brothers to die during the Great War.

Prior to the outbreak of the Great War, Samuel Hugh Regan worked as a general labourer and was employed by Lord Dunleath in Ballywalter Park. He and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Johnston married on 29/04/1910 in Ballywalter C of I Parish Church. Lizzie (aged 17) worked as an embroiderer and they lived in the townland of Springvale, Ballywalter. Samuel Hugh and Lizzie Regan had three children all of whom were baptised in Ballywalter Parish Church.

A daughter Mary Ann Regan was killed on 01/10/1916 when an army vehicle knocked her down on the Springvale Road. She was less than three years old. The vehicle was being driven by Lieutenant Leo McCormick 12th Btn Royal Irish Rifles and, at an inquest, a verdict of accidental death was returned with no blame attached to anyone.

Samuel Hugh Regan enlisted in Ballywalter on 17/09/1914 and he was posted to the 13th Btn Royal Irish Rifles. Samuel Hugh Regan went to Clandeboye Camp for training and it was from there that he was discharged from the Army on 16

March 1915. He was considered unfit for further military service due to 'pulmonary tuberculosis attributable to service'. It was noted that his condition originated on 15/02/1915 in Clandeboye Camp and was as a result of 'ordinary military service attributable to cold, damp and exposure'. He died of tuberculosis on 28/02/1918. His remains were interred in Whitechurch Cemetery Ballywalter on Sunday 03/03/1918 when his son Samuel was less than a year old. Elizabeth Regan was a widow for almost 62 years. His brother Robert Regan also served as a Rifleman (19183). Rifleman Samuel Hugh Regan is commemorated on Ballywalter and District WM and in Holy Trinity C of I Parish Church Ballywalter.

1943

+CAMPBELL, John Steen

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1081848. Died 28/02/1943. Aged 34. He was the Navigator on board Vickers Wellington HX737 when it crashed in Falcarragh, Co. Donegal. The crew was from RAF No. 7 Operational Training Unit based at RAF Limavady, Co. Londonderry. John undertook training in South Africa. Son of Samuel and Eleanor Campbell of Belfast; Husband to Emma Campbell of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

+GILMORE, James

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1036700. Died 28/02/1943. Aged 23. He was a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner on board Vickers Wellington HX737 when it crashed in Falcarragh, Co. Donegal. The crew was from RAF No. 7 Operational Training Unit based at RAF Limavady, Co. Londonderry. James had served in the Royal Air Force since January 1941. Only son of John Gilmore and Jane Gilmore of 21

Newington Street, Belfast. His funeral took place on 3rd March 1943. Carnmoney Cemetery

+WALTERS, Patrick Joseph

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse. Sergeant. 7897655. Son of James Alexander Walters and Ellen Walters of Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ireland, husband to Lyndsay Walters of 27 Mark Street, Portrush. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia.

1944

+LOUGHRIN, Robert Thomas Garth

RAFVR. Sergeant (Flight Engineer) 1796421. Died 29/02/1944. Aged 20. Son of Joseph G. Loughrin and Maude E. Loughrin, of Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery. Cookstown WM

+LOVELL, Stuart James

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot). 107258. Died 29/01/1944. Aged 27. 183 Sqdn. Son of Stuart C. Anthony and Clare Mary Lovell, of Portrush; husband to Alicia Lovell, of Epsom, Surrey. His brother, Wing. Cdr. Anthony Desmond Lovell, D.S.O. and Bar, D.F.C. and Bar, D.F.C. (American), also died on service 17/08/1945. Brest (Kerfautras) Cemetery

1945

+COPE, Arthur James

Royal Ulster Rifles. Rifleman. 14665226. Died 28/02/1945. Age 20. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

VETERANS

HOLMES, James McAlister

RN. Staff Surgeon. DSO. MiD. Methodist College, Belfast 1895 - 1897. QCB MB BCh BAO 1903. F.R.C.S.Ed. 1920. Held an appointment at Belfast Royal Infirmary for a year before entering the navy. Served for three and a half years on HMS Sandpiper on the China station and in HMS Achilles and HMS Castor in the war. Awarded DSO (16/09/1916) for his services during the Battle of Jutland, "For the very efficient way the wounded were attended to whilst under fire and subsequently." DSO was invested at sea by the King in June 1917. He was also Mentioned in Despatches. Promoted Surgeon Commander 1919. Three articles in Naval Medical Magazine. Retired in rank of Surgeon Captain in 1930. Marlborough Park, Belfast. Born 28/02/1880, Islandmagee. Son of John and Isobel Holmes, Annavale, Islandmagee and a great grandson of Rev William Holmes who fought for the King in the 1798 Rebellion. Husband to Alice Poole of Dunedin, New Zealand. General practice Llandovery, South Wales. Retired to South Yelverton, Devon. Elmwood - PCI RH. Second Islandmagee - PCI RH. Methodist College Belfast RH

WILLIAMSON, James Dunlop

War Surgeon, Belfast. Born 1860. Coleraine AI. QUB MD 1886. High Sheriff of Belfast 1935. Deputy Lord Mayor 1941. 42 years a member of Belfast Corporation. 19 years chairman Public Health Committee. In Will (1944) Dr JD Williamson Prize at Queens (Faculty of Medicine and Science). Son of Hugh Williamson, Cleggan Cottage, Aghadowey. Husband to Mary. Died 29/02/1944. Belfast City Cemetery

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**

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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