



remembrance ni



Royal Horse Artillery recognising the Accession to the Throne of HRH Princess Elizabeth on this day in 1952



206 (Ulster) Battery, Royal Artillery Volunteers from Coleraine and Newtownards fire the Royal Salutes at Hillsborough Castle.

Full military honours paid to Portrush WW1 Rifleman who died in Newtownards

Rifleman William Bacon of Royal Irish Rifles, 12 th. Btn. took ill at Newtownards Camp. He died of influenza and pneumonia at Newtownards Workhouse Infirmary. He was the first death amongst those at the camp.

From Belfast News Letter on the 9th February 1915 -
“The deceased. who was a native of Portrush, and leaves a widow and family, fell a victim to pneumonia. Full military honours were paid to his memory at Newtownards on Sunday, the coffin being carried by relays of his comrades along the Belfast road to meet the

hearse. A large body of troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel McCalmont, acted as escort from the hospital. The coffin was covered with a Union Jack. This was the first death of a soldier from the Newtownards Camp, and deep sympathy was expressed by the inhabitants of the town, who, despite the inclement weather, assembled in considerable numbers to witness the sad and impressive ceremony. The kindness of the officer commanding and the other officers in providing a special motor hearse to convey the remains to Portrush was much appreciated by the friends of the deceased.

The remains were met on the outskirts of Portrush by the members of the local company of the Ulster Volunteer Force, of which deceased was formerly a member.

“The funeral yesterday was attended by a party of soldiers from the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, under Captain C. S. Murray and Lieutenant R. A. Cramsie. There was also a large attendance of the townspeople, including Miss Hamilton (president.) and members of the urban council.

The coffin was covered with a Union Jack. on which was laid the deceased's uniform., and there was a large number of beautiful wreaths. As the procession passed through the town on its way to Ballywillan Burying Ground blinds were drawn on business houses and private residences. At the graveside Rev. J. C. Reilly, curate of Portrush, conducted the service, and a firing party, under Sergeant Wm. Harvey, fired a last salute.

the buglers then sounding "the Last Post." The chief mourners included Samuel and Jack Bacon (sons of the deceased), of whom the former is a member of the King's Royal Rifles.

"Wreaths were sent by (amongst others) Lieutenant-Colonel McCalmont. M.P. ; the North Antrim officers in the Ulster Division (Royal Irish Rifles), Lieutenant and Mrs. King, and the men of the 15th platoon."

On this Day – February 6



1915

Destroyer HMS Erne was wrecked during bad weather at Rattray Head lighthouse, Aberdeenshire, with no loss of life. 1916

The 108th Brigade reaches the trenches. The 11th (South Antrim) and 13th (County Down) Battalions, Royal Irish Rifles, enter the trenches near Hamel, Mesnil.

1917

SS California a twin-screw steamer operated by the Anchor Line is attacked without warning by German submarine SM U-85 (Kapitanleutenant Willy Petzsunk). Of the 215 on board its reported 41 killed and missing

1940

+The Finnish 9th Division finally manages to encircle the Russian 54th Division in Kuhmo.
+Finnish pilot Lt. Sarvanto, flying a Fokker, shoots down six out of seven Russian SB-2 bombers in just 5 minutes. The Russian 44th Division's commander General Vinogradov, authorizes the remainder of his troops to try escape back to Russian lines.

1941

+House of Commons vote for war credits of £1,600,000,000.
+Hitler makes one last appeal to the Spanish leader, General Franco, to enter the war.
+The Bishops of Norway start the Church's struggle against the occupying German forces.
+Australian forces capture Benghazi along with six senior Italian Generals. Italian forces make repeated attempts to break through the weak British blocking forces at Beda Fomm, but cannot.
+Adolf Hitler sends Field Marshal Erwin Rommel to North Africa to help the Italian forces.

- +President Franklin D. Roosevelt asks Congress to support the Lend-lease Bill to help supply the Allies.
- +In his annual message to Congress, President Roosevelt announces the “Five Freedoms”.
- +Churchill demands that troops be released from Wavell’s offensive and sent to Greece.
- +The Luftwaffe launches its first attacks against British convoys bound for Malta in the Mediterranean.

1942

- +Roosevelt announces that US forces are to be based in UK.
- +In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Minister denounces German atrocities in occupied Russia, where in Kiev alone 52,000 people have been massacred. ‘The Soviet Union will never forget or forgive’.
- +Rommel’s battered forces reach the Tripolitanian frontier having evaded all British attempts to cut them off.
- +The British are pushed back to Gazala. The British Commonwealth forces lose 40 tanks, 40 field guns and 1,400 troops. This was a disaster for the Allies in more ways than one. Now the Allied convoys to Malta must pass between Axis occupied Crete and Axis airfields in Benghazi.

1943

- +Russians cut off Army Group A by reaching Yeysk on the Sea of Rostov.
- +The Americans outflank the retreating Japanese on Guadalcanal.

1944

- +The allies announce that jet-propelled aircraft will soon to be in production.
- +The Air Ministry says that Bomber Command dropped 157,000 tons of bombs on Germany in 1943, while the Luftwaffe dropped only 2,400 tons on Britain.
- +The Red Army crosses the 1939 Polish frontier after a 170- mile advance in just two weeks.
- +The Japanese pressure in Arakan forces the British to retreat.
- +Kwajalein Island in the Central Pacific falls to U.S. Army troops.

1945

- +A close shave with a stay behind Japanese suicide bomber. George MacDonald Fraser had a lucky escape when his Sergeant rescued him at the last second. He would later go on to write several "Flashman" novels.
- +The 1st Belorussian Front makes further advances to reach the Oder between KÃ¼strin and Frankfurt.
- +General MacArthur announced the imminent recapture of Manila while his staff planned a victory parade. But the battle for Manila had barely begun.
- +The ban on dancing is lifted in Finland, where it had been illegal to dance during wartime.
- +Boeing B-29 bombers in the Pacific strike new blows on Tokyo and Nanking.

1952

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became The Monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland upon the death of her father, King George VI. Proclamation of

accession of Elizabeth II.
Proclaimed Queen throughout the Commonwealth after her father, King George VI, died in the early hours of 6 February 1952, while HRH Princess Elizabeth was in Kenya.



1959

An aircraft carrying Manchester United's famous "Busby Babes" crashed on take off from Munich airport, killing 21. The pilot that day was Ken Rayment, an ex fighter pilot and ace who had shot down five German Aircraft and a V1 during WW2.

Roll of Honour – February 6

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+BACON, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 12 th. Btn. Rifleman. 24. Died 06/02/1915. Aged 41. Took ill at Newtownards Camp. Died of influenza and pneumonia at Newtownards Workhouse Infirmary. Husband to Catherine (nee McConachie).Bacon, of 9,

Bazaar St., Portrush. They were recorded as having 5 children and living in 107 Causeway Street, Portrush. Their sons Samuel and John (Jack) would both serve King and Country. Samuel served with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps and Jack enlisted in the 9th Battalion (West Belfast Volunteers) Royal Irish Rifles. He died of wounds on the 25/06/1917. He is buried with honour in Bailleul Military Cemetery, France. William James and John are commemorated on the Portrush War Memorial. Old Ballywillan Church Cemetery. See also account above.

+McMULLAN, R

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 6587. Died 06/02/1915. Brother of Mrs. C. Walsh, of 26, Outram St., Belfast. Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie, Pas de Calais, France

+NEILL, James

Irish Guards 1st Btn. Private. 4771. Died 06/02/1915. Age 21. Born in Derriaghy, he may have been a member of Sommerhill LOL 137 Son of Mrs. Sarah Neill, of 42, Sloan St., Lisburn. Quinchy Communal Cemetery, Pas De Calais, France.

1916

+COULSON, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 3rd Btn. Private. 27398. Died 06/02/1916. Enlisted Londonderry November 1915. Fountain View Terrace, Coleraine. Londonderry City Cemetery

+HILLEN, Patrick

Highland Light Infantry, 10th Btn. Private. 19446. Died 06/02/1916. Age 38 . Son of John and Mary Hillen, of Barrenmeen, Co. Down. Gunner's Farm Military Cemetery, Belgium

1917

+CORKIN, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 17481. Died 06/02/1917. Age 22. Son of Henry and Elizabeth Corkin, of 83, Gregg St., Lisburn. Lisburn Cemetery

+DINNEN, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 19560. Died 06/02/1917. Age 35. Son of John and Mary Dinnen, of Moneycarrie, Aghadowey, Co. Londonderry. Berks Cemetery Extension, Belgium

+LOGAN, William Edwin

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 16th Btn. Lance Corporal. 3943. Died 06/02/1917. Born on 06/07/1878 in the Police Barracks, Gilford, Co Down. Son of Samuel and Mary Logan (nee McKee) who were married on 01/06/1876 in Gilford Presbyterian Church. After William's death it was reported in the Press that he was a son of the late Sergeant Samuel Logan, RIC, Comber. Around 1880/1881 Samuel Logan was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary and it was reported that, for a time, he was stationed in Comber. By 1883 Samuel Logan was running a grocery business in Ballyhackamore. Samuel and Mary Logan had at least seven children. Samuel died on 09/05/1889 (aged 53). William Edwin Logan moved to

Australia and, prior to the outbreak of the Great War, he worked as a butcher. He enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 24/08/1915. He left for Europe from Freemantle on board the *Ajana* and in October 1916 he was promoted in the field to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was killed in action by an exploding shell at Gueudecourt. It was reported that his death was instantaneous and that he was buried by his comrades in the trench where he fell. When Lance Corporal Logan died he was unmarried, both of his parents had died and he had no brothers still living. Mrs Florence Porter, his eldest sister, then living in Canada, was his next-of-kin and she received his medals. William Edwin Logan has no known grave and he is commemorated on the Australian War Memorial and on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

+REILLY, Thomas

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 13th Btn. Private. 6307. Died 06/02/1917. Age 38. Born on 22/12/1877 in Back Street, Donaghadee. Son of Charles and Elizabeth (nee McMeekin) Reilly, of 7, Bow St., Donaghadee, who were married on 06/06/1869 in Ballycopeland Presbyterian Church. Charles Reilly was an RIC policeman and he and Elizabeth had five children: The Reilly family moved to Belfast where they lived at 38 Ardilawn Street. Charles Reilly died on 17/01/1893 and Elizabeth worked as an embroiderer. The family moved to 16 Seaforde Street, Belfast and then back to Donaghadee where they lived at 7 Bow Street. Thomas Reilly worked as a railway fireman and then as an engine driver. Thomas Reilly and Mary Lennon were married on 01/05/1906 in St Anne's Church of Ireland Church Belfast. Thomas Reilly (aged 28) was living at 3 Sheriff Street, Belfast. Mary Lennon (aged 24) was a daughter of Thomas

Lennon, a farmer, and she was living at St Clair, Marlborough Park, Belfast. They had one child, Annie Maria. Twenty-six days after Annie Maria was born her mother Mary died of puerperal septicaemia on 21/03/1907 (aged 24). Annie Maria went to live with her maternal grandmother, Anne Lennon, in Point Road, Dundalk. Thomas Reilly moved to Australia where he worked as an engine driver and he enlisted on 01/05/1916 in Sydney. He left Sydney on 09/09/1916 aboard the *Euripides* and after a seven-week voyage he arrived in Plymouth on 26/10/1916. Private Thomas Reilly went to France in mid-January 1917, he served with the 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry and he was wounded in action a few days later on 04/02/1917. He was taken to 1/1 South Midland Casualty Clearing Station in France and two days later he died of a fractured skull. Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Donaghadee and District WM

+TEANEY, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 16559. Died 06/02/1917. Born 25/04/1880 in Magherafelt, son of Joseph and Sarah Teaney. William was a shoemaker, who lived in Queen Street, Magherafelt. He enlisted in Cookstown. Husband to Rosanne Nelson. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

1918

+DARCY, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 21051. Died 06/02/1918. (Served as Dawson). Son of Eliza Darcy, of 3, Park St., Belfast. Brookwood Military Cemetery, UK

+GALBRAITH, Joseph

Army Service Corps, 12th Mobile Coy. (Lanark). Private. M/349543. Died 06/02/1918. Age 21. Son of William and Elizabeth Galbraith, of 1, Annalee St., Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

1919

+ESPIE, Thomas Fletcher

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn., Lieutenant. Died 06/02/1919. Son of James G. and Blanche Espie, of Cavanagh Terrace, Portadown. Seagoe Cemetery, Portadown

+McCUE, J P

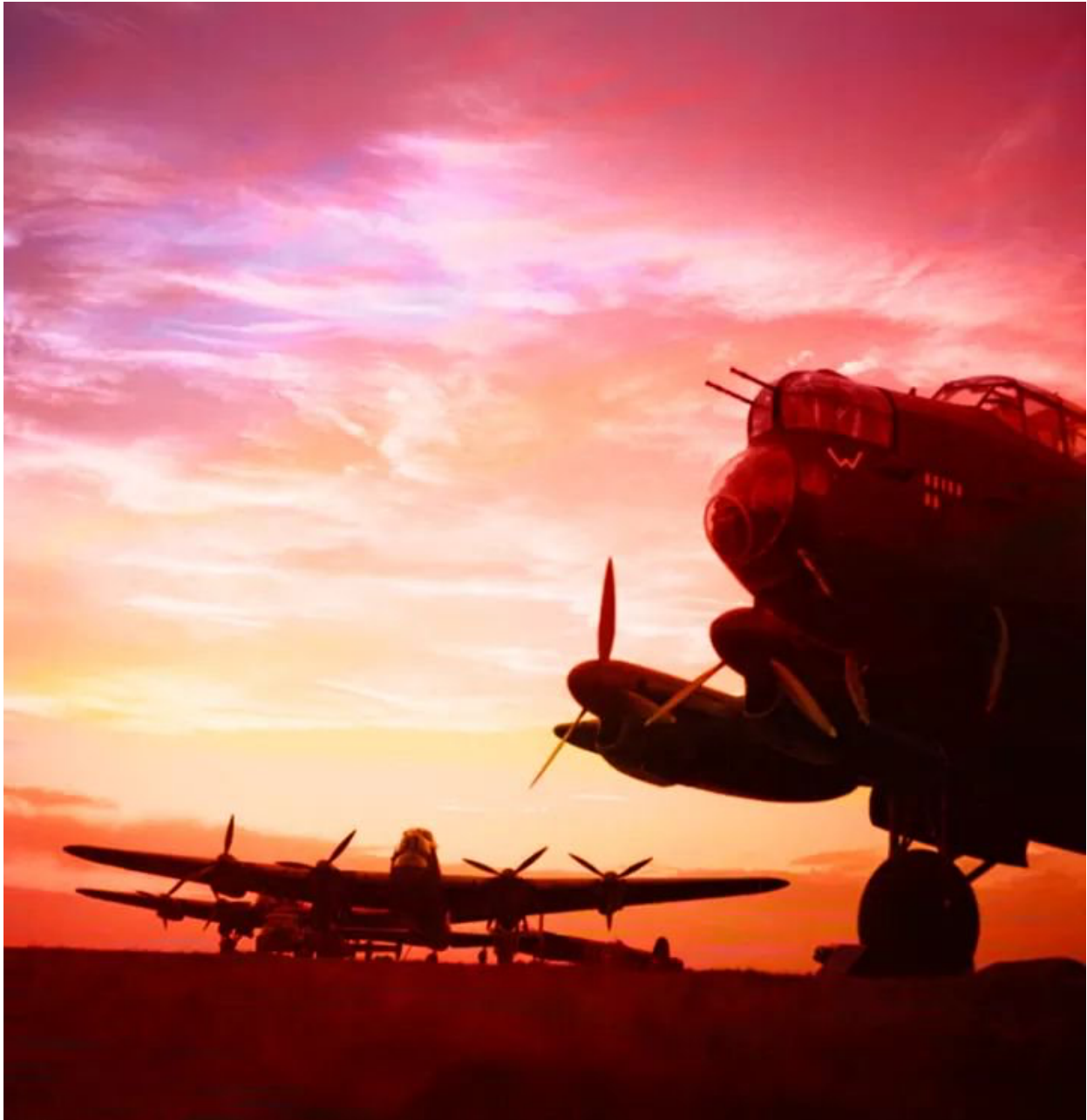
Royal Irish Rifles. Depot. Rifleman. 18251. Died 06/02/1919. Age 26. Son of Elizabeth McCue, of 5, Willowfield Drive, Belfast, and the late Robert McCue. Belfast City Cemetery

1920

+BEST, William

Canadian Engineers. Sapper. 2008397. Died 06/02/1920 of tuberculosis in Hamilton. Age 35. Emigrated to Canada and later enlisted there. Son of William and Elizabeth Jane Best, of Maytown, Bessbrook. Hamilton Cemetery, Canada.
Bessbrook WM

1942



Avro Lancaster B.1s of No. 57 Squadron parked up in a dispersal area at dusk before an operation, RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, UK. February 1943.

+BROWN, Edward

RAF. Sergeant. 652473. Died 06/02/1942. Aged 24. serving as a Wireless Operator / Air Gunner with 224 Squadron, RAF Coastal Command. He was onboard the Hudson aircraft AM692 during a night patrol on 06/02/1942 along

with four other crew. The Hudson failed to return from patrol and was posted missing. Son of Edward Brown, and Sarah J. Brown, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 79, Cookstown WM, Stewartstown WM, First Stewartstown Presbyterian Church RH, Molesworth St., Presbyterian Church RH

+FLETCHER, Ronald Desmond

RAFVR. Sergeant (Observer). 1053905. Died 06/02/1942. Aged 19. 21 Sqdn. Son of Samuel Herbert and Kathleen Elizabeth Fletcher, of Campsie, Co. Londonderry. Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery

+HAYES, Alfred Hayes

Royal Ulster Rifles, 6th Btn. Private. D/24602. Died 06/02/1942 at a Military Hospital in Holywood, Co. Down. Aged 51. Born on 08/05/1888 in Cookstown. His funeral took place from Palace Barracks, Holywood, on 09/02/1942. Redburn Cemetery, Holywood

+McNEILLY, William St. Clair

RAF. Flight Lieutenant. 43462. DFC. Died 06/02/1942. Aged 26. 142 Sqdn. Son of William and Cissy McNeilly, of Belfast; husband to Margaret Esther McNeilly, of Belfast. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 66, Surrey

+THOMAS, Richard Alexander

RNVR. FAA. 830 Squadron. Sub. Lieutenant (A). Died 06/02/1942. Age 23. HMS St. Angelo. Failed to return in a Swordfish aircraft to shore base on Malta from a sortie against shipping during the night of 6/7 February. After MCB he joined the Northern Bank and served in Gortin and Armagh. He joined up in January 1941 and was

commissioned in November 1941. Son of Richard Blethyn Thomas and Helena Thomas, Cleaver Pk., Belfast. Richard Thomas was manager of Thompson's Restaurants, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 20/02/1942). Lee on Solent Memorial, Bay 4

1943

+YOUNG, Hugh

Australian Army. 2/5 Infantry Btn. Private. WX1450. Died 06/02/1943. Age 42. Hugh (Pat) Young was born on 09/11/1900 at Ballyskeagh, Newtownards, County Down, the seventh of eight children of farmer Hugh Young and his wife Sarah Boyd Young (née Gibson). At the time of the 1911 Census he was living at Ballyskeagh with his parents and his five surviving siblings.

Young enlisted in the North Irish Horse on 13/05/1918 (Corps of Hussars No.72095). He trained at the Antrim reserve camp until 5 January 1919, when he re-enlisted in the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays). He was discharged on 12/02/1923, having reached the rank of farrier. His military character was recorded as 'very good'. Two months later, on 23 April, Young emigrated to Australia. By 1937 he was living in Maylands, Perth, with his wife Jessie. Young enlisted in the Australian Army on 11/06/1941. He gave his occupation as fitter's assistant and his age as 38 (understating his true age by two years). Posted to the 2/5 Infantry Battalion in Egypt, he returned to Australia with the battalion in 1942, before being sent to join the fighting in New Guinea. He was killed in action during mopping-up

operations at Wau. Son of Hugh and Sarah Young. .Husband to Jessie Young, of Maylands, Western Australia. Father of John and Norman. Lae War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea

1944

+WILLIS, Walter

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st Btn. The London Irish Rifles. Lance Corporal. 7014289. Died 06/02/1944. Age 20. Son of John Francis and Rachel Willis, from Belfast from Belfast. Anzio War Cemetery, Italy

+WOODS, Andrew

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 27193389. Died 06/02/1944. Age 34. Husband to Annie Woods, of Tempo, Co. Fermanagh. Anzio War Cemetery, Italy

1945

+CLYNES, Charles Maurice

Special Boat Squadron. Captain. MC. 132520. Died 06/02/1945. Captain Clynes was wounded in action on 29/01/1945 near Heraklion and died of his wounds in Athens. Aged 26. Having joined the Army his parent unit was the Royal Irish Fusiliers before being attached to Special Boat Squadron, M Squadron.

He was awarded the Military Cross, the citation for which states:-

“The above officer was commanding the West Force in Operation "TENEMENT" on SYMI on 13 - 14th July 44. The fact that this force was in position by zero hour despite

difficulties of terrain was due in no small measure to the drive and initiative displayed by Capt. Clynes.

“The dispositions of his force for the capture of the strong enemy position at SAN FANCURIA were excellent. On the order to attack being received he exposed himself fearlessly to accurate enemy MG fire the better to direct his forces. He himself led the final assault under heavy fire. His use of ground left our casualties ridiculously low. After the fall of the position he moved part of his force to bring fire on the Castello and ordered the destruction of all enemy installations.

“He displayed gallantry and leadership of the highest order in the rapidly taking of a heavily wired and mined position, the capture of which was essential to the general plan of the operation.”

He was born in County Down, Northern Ireland to Charles Maurice and Margaret Davina Clynes, 3 Havelock Street, Glasgow. Suda Bay War Cemetery, Greece 16.A.20

+SMYTH, Robert John

RNVR. FAA. Lieutenant (A). 842 Squadron on Escort Aircraft Carrier H.M.S. Campania. Killed in action 06/02/1945. Age 23. Son of R Crawford Smyth and Anna Smyth, Rasharkin. Lee on Solent Memorial, Bay 6, Panel 3.

1946

+SPRATT, Robert

Royal Artillery. 28 Field Regiment. Gunner. 1472242. Died 06/02/1946. Aged 31. His place of death was his brother in law W Hill's house at 28 Bloomfield Parade, Belfast. Son of William John and Agnes Spratt of 15 Bloomfield Street;

Husband to Elizabeth (née Hill) Spratt of Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

1947

+SPRIDGEON, William Edward

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 4795773. Died on 06/02/1947. Aged 41. Husband to Martha Spridgeon of 75 Thorndyke Street, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

VETERANS

CAITHNESS, William John

RN. 1943 - 46. Born 06/02/1924. HMS Queen of Kent 1943 - 45. Normandy landings. Son of Dr. W. Caithness who served RN World War 1. Coleraine Road, Portrush. Campbell College 2840.

HUNTER, James Byrt

RN. James was from Carrickfergus. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 after changing his age from 17 years old to 18 years. Having attended Plymouth he was selected to become an R.D.F. (Radar) Operator and received his specialised training on the Isle of Man. On completion of training Jim arrived in Belfast to join HMS Black Prince however, as this ship had not been completed, he volunteered to join a Royal Navy Supply Ship and found himself sailing to all parts of the world. He passed through both the Panama and Suez Canals and went to New Zealand, Australia and Argentina. On the way to Malta the ship was able to rescue 56 Survivors from another ship which had been torpedoed. Sailing between Malta and Gibraltar as well as crossing the Atlantic Jim found his ship

under attack on a number of occasions however after some months he was granted leave and was home in Carrickfergus for two or three weeks. On his return Jim stayed at HMS Victory until joining the troopship HMS Cheshire. They were then involved in transporting Troops to Normandy following Operation Overlord and this was done for ten months during which time they brought about 3000 Soldiers to Normandy and returned to England carrying wounded. Following V.E. Day Jim was sent to Bombay to join another ship however he found himself doing Sentry Duty at a large Mansion which was being used as a Headquarters building. Having been in India for nine months he was transferred to the Fleet Air Arm for two months before finally being demobbed. Jim Hunter died peacefully at hospital on 06/02/ 2017. Husband of the late Agnes Hunter and father of Wendy and Jim. Victoria Cemetery, Carrickfergus

LEPPER, Reginald Mervyn

RN. Son of F R Lepper, Elsinore, Crawfordsburn. Born 05/03/1880. Died 06/02/1954. Campbell College 285

TEMPLETON, nee Casement, Joan Mary

WRNS. Stationed in London where she met Richard Aubrey Templeton, Blythe, Georgia, USA. Married 10/09/1942. She had to resign her commission as she outranked her new husband. Director of Religious Education in Good Shepherd Parish, Augusta. Served at VA Hospital, Augusta. (Augusta Chronicle 24/12/2008). Born 06/02/1917 Saharanpur, India. Daughter of Roger Hugh Casement and Mary Katherine Cowie Casement of Ballycastle.

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

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