



remembrance ni



A beautiful sight on a winter's night - HMS Tyne berthed in the Pool of London alongside HMS Belfast. William Freeman from Cookstown survived the Battle of the River Plate in 1939 when his gun turret was hit. He served with 14 other men from NI in HMS Exeter. A motor cycle racer on the Cookstown 100 he died serving in HMS Leonian in 1944 and is remembered in Malta. That same day John Nelson from Belfast was on board Handley Page Halifax DK192 OO-N that came down in North Yorkshire. RAF men took part in his funeral in Belfast. William Gorman, a chemist's son from Bangor, died serving with Canadian Infantry in 1917.

On this Day – February 7

1916

The 36th (Ulster) Division are now back together. The Ulster division took over the front from the river Ancre (Hamel) on the South, to the Serre Road, North of Auchonvillers on the North. The 107th Brigade rejoins the Ulster Division from the 4th Division



1919

Paddle minesweeper HMS Erin's Isle (ex Belfast & County Down Railway ferry PS Erin's Isle) struck a German mine in the Thames Estuary and sank with the loss of 23 lives.

1940

British railroads are nationalized.

1941

The Italian troops stay between Agedabia and El-Agheila. In Libya, the British are victorious at Beda Fomm; 20,000 troops of the Italian Tenth Army surrender.

General Graziani ask Mussolini for substitution as a commander of the Italian forces at North Africa, and as Libyan Governor.

1942

After just over 2 weeks of frenetic action, Rommel's counter-offensive comes to a halt in front of the Gazala line, a series of self supporting fortified boxes running south from Gazala for 100 miles to Bir Hacheim. Although not complete, it presents too much of an obstacle for the Afrika Korps who by this time are running low on fuel and reserves.

Lt. General Percival, the commander at Singapore, says city will be held to the last man. The Japanese launch a feint landing on Pulau Ubin Island to the east of Singapore.

"Double V" campaign proposed by Pittsburgh Courier, the leading black newspaper, to fight for victory at home and abroad.

US Navy Atlantic Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Unit established at Boston, MA, under Capt. Wilder Baker.

1943

Shoe rationing begins in the USA, limiting civilians to three pairs of leather shoes per year.

802nd Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron embarks from New York for Algeria on USS Lyon.

1944

The first operational 'Schnorkel' U-boat arrives in the Atlantic.

The Germans begin a full-scale counter-attack against the Anzio Beachhead.

1945

Russian attacks north of Königsberg are blocked with the help of naval gunfire by the cruisers Scheer and Lützow.

The Germans blow up the floodgates in the Ruhr, flooding the area West of Cologne and preventing the use of assault floating bridges by Allies.

Paraguay declared war on Germany and Japan.

The 2nd Ukrainian Front captured the southern rail station at Buda, Hungary.

Beaurevoir British Cemetery

Beaurevoir British Cemetery was made by the 66th Division in October, 1918 and now contains 290 WW1 burials.

Beaurevoir is a commune 25 kilometres south of Cambrai, midway between Cambrai and St Quentin. Beaurevoir was



Beaurevoir British Cemetery

attacked by the 2nd Australian Division on the 3rd October, 1918, and taken by the 25th Division on the 5th.

Beaurevoir British Cemetery was made by the 66th Division in October, 1918, when officers and men who fell in the early part of that month were buried; and after the Armistice the graves of 70 who died in 1917-18, and were buried in the Communal Cemetery German Extension, were brought in.

There are now 290, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, 46 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to four soldiers from the United Kingdom known or believed to be buried among them. The British Cemetery covers an area of 935 square metres and is enclosed by a rubble stone wall.

Roll of Honour – February 7

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+McLOUGHLIN, Terence

Royal Irish Regiment, 1st Btn. Private. 9744. Died 07/02/1915. Aged 27. Son of the late Michael and Aime McLoughlin, of Coolback, Irvinestown. Two other members of the Battalion fell on this date - John Harty and Michael Murphy. The three are named on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+MORRIS, George Herbert

Gloucestershire Regiment, 2nd Btn. Private. 11889. Died 07/02/1915. Age 22. Son of Joseph and Anna Maria Morris, of 32, Vicinage Park, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

1916

+ABRAHAM, Sydney Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st BTN. Corporal. 16803. Died 07/02/1916. Son of Charlotte Browne (formerly Abraham), of 4, Zetland St., Belfast. Native of Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Younger brother of Mrs. James Morrison, Irish-street, Downpatrick. Rue de Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Pas de Calais, France

+ANDERSON, Andrew

RNVR. AB. Fireman. 645893. HMS Columbella. Died illness 07/02/1916. Aged 53. Husband to Mary A, Long Tower St., Londonderry. Londonderry Cemetery. Londonderry, The Diamond WM, St Columb's Cathedral WM

+CALVERT, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. Rifleman. 17394. Died 07/02/1916. Age 19. Prior to the outbreak of WW1 James Calvert worked for Joseph Gilmore of Toye, Killinchy and also for Mr J. Prentice of Beechbank, Killinchy. He was a member of the Killinchy Branch of the Ulster Volunteer Force and he enlisted in September 1914 in Downpatrick. He was one of four Ardsmen who were killed in action together on 07/02/1916. They were all members of the 13th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles (1st Co Down Volunteers) serving with 108th Brigade in the 36th (Ulster) Division. The officer in charge of the platoon was Lieutenant Elliott Johnston who was a son of Samuel Johnston JP Glen Printing and Finishing Works in Newtownards. Lieutenant Johnston described the circumstances of their deaths. During a heavy bombardment a shell from the German lines exploded in the midst of a party of men killing four and wounding three. James Calvert and Charlie Newell were killed outright; David McConnell and Jack Tate died later from their injuries. The four men were laid to rest together and the burial service was conducted by one of the brigade chaplains, the Rev Charles Campbell Manning, Rector of Comber. On that occasion Lieutenant Elliott Johnston escaped injury but he was killed in action five months later on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Son of James and Sarah Calvert (nee Morrison) who were married on 25/11/1892 in Raffrey Presbyterian Church. The Calvert

family lived in the townland of Ballybredagh, Killinchy. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, France, Killyleagh and District WM. Killinchy Presbyterian Church. Killinchy Parish Church of Ireland Church

+CALVERT, William Henry

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Serjeant. 14264. Died 07/02/1916. Age 24. Son of W. H. and Margaret Calvert, of Cliftonville, Belfast. Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, France

+McCORMACK, Patrick

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 3620. Died 07/02/1916. Son of James and Margaret McCormack, of 45, Carlisle St., Belfast. Loos Memorial, France

Riflemen from Ards fall together

Four Ardsmen were killed in action together on 07/02/916. They were members of the Royal Irish Rifles, 13(Service) Battalion. A fifth Rifleman Hugh McClure would die later on 22/10/1916 as a result of injuries.

The officer in charge of the platoon was Lieutenant Elliott Johnston, a son of Samuel Johnston JP, Glen Printing and Finishing Works in Newtownards. Lieutenant Johnston described the circumstances of their deaths. He said that during a heavy bombardment a shell from the German lines exploded in the midst of a party of men killing four and wounding three. James Calvert and Charlie Newell were killed outright; David McConnell and Jack Tate died later from their injuries. The four men were laid to rest together and the burial service was conducted by one of the brigade

chaplains, the Rev Charles Campbell Manning, Rector of Comber. On that occasion Lieutenant Johnston escaped injury but he was killed in action five months later on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

+McCONNELL, David

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18238. Died 07/02/1916. Age 21. Born 06/02/1894 in Movilla Street, Newtownards. David McConnell worked as a cloth lifter and he was a member of the Newtownards Branch of the Ulster Volunteer Force. He enlisted in Newtownards, David's father Robert, who had served in the South African War, also enlisted and he served as a Corporal with the Royal Irish Rifles (No. 18143). David was a son of Robert and Mary Elizabeth McConnell, of 22, Wallaces St. No. 2, Newtownards. They were married on 12/07/1892 in Newtownards Parish Church of Ireland Church (St Mark's). Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France.
Newtownards WM

+NEWELL, Charles

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18559. Died 07/02/1916. Age 19. Charles Newell was born on 11/04/1896 in Millisle and he was a son of Thomas and Eliza (Lizzie) Newell (nee Kerr) who were married on 707/01/1887 in Ballycopeland Presbyterian Church. Prior to the outbreak of the Great War Charlie Newell worked as a rougher in the Castle Gardens Mill in Newtownards. He was a member of True Blues Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) No. 1055 in Newtownards and also a member of the North Down Regiment of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). He was also



Beaurevoir British Cemetery

a member of Lord Londonderry's Own Church Lads' Brigade (CLB) Flute Band. Son of Mrs. Eliza Newell, of 54, South St., Newtownards. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France, Newtownards WM. Second Newtownards Presbyterian Church RH. Lord Londonderry's Own CLB Flute Band RH, True Blues LOL No. 1055 Roll of Sacrifice, Newtownards Orange Hall

+TATE, John P Kirkpatrick

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 19952. Died 07/02/1916. Age 20. Known as Jack, he was born on 30/11/1895 in Francis Street, Newtownards. Son of John and Sarah Jane Tate (nee Kirkpatrick) who were married on 01/08/1884 in St Stephen's Church of Ireland Church,

Belfast. The Tate family lived at 12 Francis Street, Newtownards and had a business in North Street. Jack Tate was educated at Newtownards Model School and Belfast Mercantile College and prior to the outbreak of the Great War he worked as an apprentice in the wholesale department of Messrs Riddel's Ltd in Donegall Place Belfast. He was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force and he enlisted in Newtownards. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France. Newtownards WM. Newtownards Parish Church of Ireland Church (St Mark's) RH

1917

+ALGEO, William Frederick

Mercantile marine. Surgeon. SS California. Died 07/02/1917. Age 32. S.S California was en route from New York to Glasgow when it was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat close to Fastnet Rock, off the south coast of Ireland on 02/02/1917. QUB, MB BCh, BAO, 1916. Born Londonderry. Son of Elizabeth Frances Algoe, Clarence Avenue, Londonderry, and the late Robert Henry Algoe, City Accountant, Londonderry. Towel Hill Memorial

+GORMAN, William John Robinson

Canadian Infantry, 8th Btn. Private.150090. Died 07/02/1917. Aged 25. Born 23/12/1892 in Bangor, County Down. Son of Thomas Balmer Gorman, a Druggist (chemist) and his wife Margaret (nee McDowell). The family were living in Ballyholme but later moved to Bridge Street in Bangor. His mother died in 1899 when William was only seven and was interred in Bangor Churchyard. His father later remarried in 1907. William was educated in Bangor

Grammar School and on leaving in 1907 took up a position as a Chemists Assistant in his father's shop. He moved to Canada and was working as a salesman and enlisted in Winnipeg on the 26/07/1915. In September 1915, he left Montreal on the SS Corsican arriving in England in early November where he joined the 11th Batt. He was raised to Lance Corporal on 30/11/1915. On 24/03/1916 he left for France, reverting to the rank of Private at his own request, arriving on 26/03/1916 where he joined the 8th Btn, 4th Canadians. On 07/02/1917 he was accidentally killed but no details as to the circumstances have been found. On 22/02/1917, a memorial service was held in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church where the minister, Rev. W. A. Hill, stated that he was the fourth member of that congregation who had made the supreme sacrifice. Fosse No: 10 Communal Cemetery Extension, Sains-en-Gohelle, Pas-de-Calais, France. This cemetery was used continuously by Field Ambulance Hospitals between April 1916 and October 1918. Cookstown WM, Sandholes Presbyterian Church RH. Family memorial in Bangor Cemetery

1944

+FREEMAN, William Hugh

RN. Blacksmith. HMS Leonian. Died 07/02/1944. Age 23. Joined the Royal Navy in the summer of 1938, serving on HMS Exeter. which played a heroic part in the battle with the 'Pocket' Battleship Graf Spee off the River Plate on 13th December 1939. On the morning of 13th December, shortly after 6am AB Freeman was lying on deck when the order came for "action stations". Distant guns flashed and soon HMS Exeter had received her first baptism of fire. Freeman was a member of the crew of one of the 4.7 inch guns that returned fire until the gun itself was disabled by a hit that



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killed and wounded many men, a piece of shrapnel cutting a hole in Billy's cap and a slight cut to one hand. While serving on board HMS Exeter, Billy served with 14 men from Northern Ireland as well as men from the Republic of Ireland.

Prior to the war young William worked with his father as a Blacksmith and was a keen motor cyclist, having taken part in the Cookstown 100 motorcycle race in 1938. He arrived home on leave on 2nd March 1940 for 28 days to visit his parents in Cookstown. It is recorded that there were very enthusiastic scenes in Cookstown when he stepped of the bus from Belfast at the Transport Board's parcel depot in William Street where he was surrounded by a large crowd of well-wishers. That evening he was met by the members of

Killymoon & Derryloran bands and paraded to his home carried on the shoulders of some of his neighbours. There was much loud cheering and Billy Freeman was heard to say "I hope I live to see Hitler scuttle himself too". Son of William Hugh & Mary Freeman, Church Street, Cookstown. Husband to Iris Elvina Freeman, Devonport. Billy Freeman joined the Royal Navy in the summer of 1938. Cupuccini Naval Cemetery, Malta. Cookstown WM

+NELSON, John Frederick

RAFVR. Sergeant (Flight Engineer) 1796160. Died 07/02/1944. Aged 21. RAF 1663 Heavy Conversion Unit. He was on board Handley Page Halifax DK192 OO-N that came down on Garrowby Hill, Bishop Wilton Wold, North Yorkshire. The crew took off from RAF Rufforth, North Yorkshire on a daytime training flight. The Mark V plane came down in low cloud around 1015hrs killing 7 of the crew and one civilian after hitting the summit of Garrowby Hill. After the impact, the plane crossed a road near Painsthorpe Farm before catching fire. A milk lorry traveling on the road became involved in the accident. The driver, Arthur Wood Kirkby, from Hill, Yorkshire died as a result. He was 39 years old and served in the Home Guard as well as working for the London and North Eastern Railway. Officers and men of the Royal Air Force acted as pallbearers at John's funeral service on 14/02/1944. The Reverend Robert Anderson of Richview Presbyterian Church, Belfast, led the services at the family home and by the graveside before a trumpeter sounded 'The Last Post'. He was the younger son of John and Dorothy Louise Nelson of 206 Roden Street, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1945

+ DORAN Patrick Bryan

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 144626. Died 07/02/1945. 692 Sqdn. The squadron was formed on 1 January 1944 and formed part of the Light Night Striking Force in No.8 Group. This force carried out small scale Mosquito raids over German cities, with increasing impact as the war went on. On the night of 23/24 February 1944 the squadron became the first Mosquito squadron to drop 4,000lb bombs in anger, during a raid on Dusseldorf. Mosquitoes eventually carried the 4,000lb bomb as far as Berlin. The squadron was named after the Fellowship of the Bellows, an Anglo-Argentine group that raised funds to buy aircraft. During the war the squadron took part in 310 missions, flying 3,237 sorties for the loss of 17 aircraft, an impressively low rate of 0.5%. The squadron which was located at Graveley in February 1945 was disbanded on 20/09/1945. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany.

1946

+CROSS, John Willliam

RN. Steward. D/LX 568928. HMS Glory. Died 07/02/1946. Age 20. Son of James and Minnie Cross, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 96

**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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