



remembrance ni



One of today's veterans

Reginald McClelland, veteran of Artic convoys, Omaha beach and D-Day. He was one of many in the Royal Navy who took part in the perilous Arctic convoys, a crucial allied supply route for Russia. Reginald sailed for pleasure in his later years

On this Day – March 10



Neuve Chapelle after the battle

1915 The Battle of Neuve Chapelle

The 1st Royal Irish Rifles' first major action was the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, fought between 10 and 13 March 1915.

The battalion had gone forward to previously captured German front line positions and helped to secure the village of Neuve-Chapelle. It was then subjected to determined counter-attacks which failed to dislodge them but which

caused very heavy battalion casualties, amounting to 18 officers, including their Colonel, and 440 other ranks. The Indian Corps played a very prominent role in the battle, at the spearhead of this first British offensive WW1. Post-war it was apt that the Indian Corps Memorial was erected on the battlefield commemorating their missing in France. Rifleman Gobar Singh Negi of the 2/39th Garhwal Rifles was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, France. He was posthumously awarded the VictoriaCross and is remembered on the CWGC Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial.

10th March 1915 Northern Whig The Young Citizens

The reports which reach Belfast from Randalstown regarding the 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (The Young Citizens) are of a satisfactory character. The battalion has made a splendid progress in recent months, and is now recognised as one of the finest in the Ulster Division. The men are keen on their work, and their one desire is to meet the Germans. In Randalstown, as in Finner, their conduct has been most exemplary. Owing to the exigencies of the service it was necessary to stop weekend leave for a time, but so fine is the spirit of the discipline that prevails there has not been a single defaulter since the order came into operation. The Young Citizens merit the high praise which their commanding officer bestowed on them recently, and they seem determined to enhance the reputation they have already gained.

1918

With the Kaiserschlacht just over a week away **12th Royal Irish Rifles** suffered a blow when their CO Lt Col Goodwin

was hospitalised due to illness. He was replaced by 26 years old A/Major Augustus Henry Hall, who before the war was a Tea Planter in Ceylon.

1941

Vice Admiral Adolphus Andrews assumes command of US Navy's new North Atlantic Naval Coast Frontier (Eastern Sea Frontier)

The RAF attacks Le Havre and at the same time gives the new 4-engine Halifax bomber its debut, although one of the six Halifax's involved is shot down on its return flight by an RAF night fighter.

Vichy France threatens to use its navy unless Britain allows food to reach France.

1942

Japanese troops make landings at Finschhafen in New Guinea.

They also occupy Buka in the Solomon Islands. Japanese aircraft attack Port Moresby in Papua.

Aircraft from the American Aircraft Carriers Lexington and Yorktown make attacks against the Japanese at Lae and Salamaua.

Britain reports that spending for WWII has surpassed spending for WWI.

Based on FBI intercepts the Brazilian police arrest a German spy whose message to Hamburg contained sailing information for the Queen Mary, carrying 10,000 US troops.

1943

P-47 Thunderbolts fly first mission with US Eighth Air Force.

The United States retakes Sbeitla, Tunisia.

The United States Fourteenth Air Force activated under Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault, based in Kunming, China

1944

Royal Navy Hunt Class Destroyers, HMS BLENCATHRA, EXMOOR, BLANKNEY, and BRECON sank U-450 off Anzio in support of Allied efforts to push the Axis forces north and out of Italy. These ships and other small escorts were essential combatants in all areas of WW2 sea war

Uman is taken as the Russians drive towards the Bug and Dnieper rivers.

The Irish refuse to oust all Axis envoys and deny the accusation of spying on Allied troops.

1945

Tokyo is in ruins following an overnight incendiary raid by American B-29s. As many as 100,000 have perished in the inferno -- more than either the Hiroshima or Nagasaki bombings. It will be remembered as history's deadliest air attack.

The 2nd Belorussian Front captures Zoppot, during its attack towards Danzig. The Kriegsmarine evacuates 25,000 civilian refugees from the besieged Baltic fortress of Kolberg in Pomerania.

Field Marshal Kesselring replaces Field Marshal von Rundstedt as C-in-C of German forces in the West. German

troops evacuate Wesel on the lower Rhine. The US Third Army captures Bonn.

U.S. Eighth Army invades Zamboanga Peninsula on Mindanao in the Philippines.

1949

Nazi wartime broadcaster Mildred E. Gillars, also known as “Axis Sally,” was convicted in Washington D.C. of treason. She served 12 years in prison.

1974

The last Japanese soldier, 2nd Lt. Onoda, surrenders nearly 30 years after the end of World War II. After the war in 1945, he killed as many as 30 villagers and was engaged in shootouts with the police. Onoda received a pardon from President Marcos.

Roll of Honour – March 10

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+ANDREWS, Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7955. Died 10/03/1915 at Neuve Chapelle. He was born in Ballymena and enlisted in Belfast. He had left his bank book with Katharine

Saunders, Commandant, Hants 60 VAD. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

+BALLARD, Robert

The King's (Liverpool Regiment). 1st Btn. Private. 10632. Died 10/03/1915. Born in Co. Armagh. Undergraduate of TCD. Son of Rev R J Ballard, a C of I minister. In 1911 he was living with his family in Tullyvallen. His brother Claude also died with pneumonia as a result of wounds on 05/05/1918. Le Touret Memorial, France

+BRICKLEY, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9140. Died 10/03/1915. Age 24. Son of Mrs. M. Brickley, of 29, Bisley St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+CAMPBELL, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 6100. Died 10/03/1915 at Neuve Chapelle. Age 40. Enlisted Belfast. Born Bushmills. Husband to Harriet Campbell of Roxburgh Street, Newtownards Road, Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+CARNDUFF, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9294. Died 10/03/1915. Aged 33. James Carnduff was born around 1881/1882 in Newtownards. Son of Joseph and Mary Carnduff (nee McKee) who were married on 11/1/1876 in First Donaghadee Presbyterian Church. They had at least eleven children. The Carnduff family lived in Georges Street, Newtownards. Prior to the outbreak of WW1 James Carnduff worked as a stone mason and bricklayer. James

Carnduff and Isabella Hanna were married on 12/07/1899 in Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards. James and Isabella Carnduff had at least six children. After Isabella became unwell she was admitted to Downpatrick Hospital. The Carnduff family lived in East Street, Newtownards. James Carnduff enlisted on 808/09/1914 in Newtownards. Prior to the outbreak of the war James had been a member of the North Downs and when war broke out he re-joined the colours. He went to France on 06/11/1914 and on successive days in March 1915 two men from Newtownards were killed in action at Neuve Chapelle where the Allied objective was to take Aubers Ridge – Rifleman James Carnduff (9294) on 10 March and Rifleman Alexander Gibson (7079) on 11 March. First news of their deaths reached Newtownards in a letter written by Rifleman John Weir (No. 7496) to his uncle, James Weir, of Mill Street, Newtownards. Rifleman James Carnduff (known as Tibs) left a wife and six children the eldest of whom was 15. Before the war the Carnduffs lived in Georges Street, Newtownards and, after James enlisted, his wife and family moved to 82 Mill Street, Newtownards to live with the children's grandmother, Mary Carnduff. Later they lived at 34 Greenwell Street, Newtownards. Le Touret Memorial, France. Newtownards and District WM. Newtownards C of I Parish Church (St Mark's) RH

+CASEY, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 3157. Died 10/03/1915. Age 28. Son of Hugh and Margaret Casey, of Londonderry; husband of Margaret Casey, of 46, St. Columb's Wells, Londonderry. Bethune Town Cemetery, France

+CLARE, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 18349. Died 10/03/1915. Age 28. Born in Drogheda. Son of James and Catherine Clare, of 24, Peter St., Drogheda, Co. Louth. Lived in Bessbrook. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

+CLARKE, Patrick

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 7124. Died 10/03/1915. Age 31. From Londonderry. Son of Mrs. Ellen Gildea. Le Touret Memorial, France

+CLOSE, Edward

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9185. Died 10/03/1915. (Served as John Harris). Son of John and Mary Close, of Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+COATES, George Washington Tate

Royal Field Artillery, 33rd Bty. Second Lieutenant. MiD. Died 10/03/1915. Age 19. Son of George D. Coates, of Fruit Hill, Andersonstown, Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+CURTIS, Michael

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8954. Died 10/03/1915. Born in the Shankill, Belfast. Michael enlisted in Belfast, but he was living in Churchtown, Cookstown. Newspaper reports suggest Michael Curtis lived at 59 Grove Street, East Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Cookstown WM

+ELLIOTT, A

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 13566. Died 10/03/1915. Husband to S. Elliott, of 9, Ravensdale St., Belfast. Merville Communal Cemetery, France

+GALLAGHER, George

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8849. Died 10/03/1915. From Londonderry. Enlisted Manchester. Le Touret Memorial, France

+GALLAGHER, William Augustine

East Lancashire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Captain. Died 10/03/1915. Age 32. Born at Armagh. Son of William and Margaret Gallagher, The Mall, Armagh. He graduated from TCD and joined the East Lancashire Regiment in July 1907. He left for service in India the following October. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1908. On the outbreak of WW1 he was promoted to Captain. He was appointed Brigade Machine Gun Officer for 24 Brigade reporting to General Carter. The brigade was in the lines at Neuve Chapelle when he was killed. In a letter to his parents General Carter said he had been hit with a fragment of a shell. Vielle-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Lacouture, France. Mall Presbyterian Church Armagh RH

+GARDINER, Arthur Aitken

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9206. Died 10/03/1915. Age 24. Born Shankill. Enlisted Belfast. Son of the late Robert Thomas Gardiner. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HEMPHILL, Andrew

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9169. Died 10/03/1915. Age 25. Son of Joseph Hemphill, of 23, St. Albans Gardens, Stranmillis Rd., Belfast, and the late Helen Hemphill. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HENRY, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 16305. Died 10/03/1915. Age 17. Son of William and Annie Henry, of Camm, Macosquin, Coleraine. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HUNTER, W

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8982. Distinguished Conduct Medal. Died 10/03/1915. Age 26. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, of 12, Lecumpher St., Beersbridge Rd., Belfast. Neuve-Chapelle Farm Cemetery. Neuve-Chapelle Farm Cemetery, France

+JOHNSTON, A

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1147. Died 10/03/1917. Age 20. Son of James and Sarah Johnston, of Straid, Ballyclare. St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium

+JOHNSTON, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9476. Died 10/03/1915. Age 26. Son of Mrs. Margaret Johnston, of 213, Matilda St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+MARTIN, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9014. Died

10/03/1915. A local soldier called Alexander, according to the Ballymena Observer, relayed the sad news to the parents. He was born on 101/01/1889 at Craigavole, Ballymoney and he was the son of James Dorrens Martin and Elizabeth Gregg. The couple, James from Drumsaragh, Co Londonderry and Elizabeth from Landmore, Co Londonderry, married in 2nd Kilrea Presbyterian Church on 31/05/1878. The family lived at Hope Street, Ballymena in 1901 and 1911. They said at the latter date that they had been married for 33 years and that all six of their children were then alive. Joseph Martin was then with the 1 Royal Irish Rifles, a soldier in 'Burmah and the Andaman Islands'. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Wellington Street Presbyterian Church WM

+McBRIDE, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9246. Died 10/03/1915. Age 29. Son of Edward and Annie McBride, of 28, Millbrook Rd., Lisburn. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McCURRY, Robert

2nd Bn. Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Private. 7781. Died 10/03/1915. Aged 18. Enlisted Glasgow. Born Londonderry. Son of Robert McCurry, Ballykelly. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McEWAN, David

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8596. Died 10/03/1915. Age: 26. David McEwan was born on the 18t/12/1888 in Cushendun, Co Antrim. He was the son of St. George Glencairn McEwan (known as George), a coastguard, and his wife Ann nee McNeill and was the

eldest of their six children. The birth, which was registered by his grandfather David McNeill, recorded the surname as McKeown but this was not picked (probably because his grandfather was illiterate) but a corrected entry was made in December 1899.

The family moved several times as George was posted to various stations. After David's sister Margaret was born in 1890 the family moved to Slieveban in Co Donegal. It was here his brothers George, William and Isaac were born. The family then moved to Helen's Bay where brother Charles was born in 1899. When his father George retired from the Coastguard the family moved to Hardcastle Street in Belfast and it was here George died in 1914.

About 1907 David enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. The 2nd Battalion had been stationed in Ireland but in 1906 had moved to Aldershot before moving to Dover in 1909. It was in the Citadel Barracks there that David is recorded in the 1911 census as having attained the rank of corporal.

When war broke out the 2nd Battalion, now stationed at Tidworth, were mobilised leaving there on the 13th August and disembarking at Rouen the following day. They moved forward and were involved in the battle of Mons on 23rd August.

David may have missed this engagement, however, as his Medal Index Card records the date on entering the theatre of war as the 26th August, but would have been involved in the first Battle of Ypres and La Bassée after which the battalion had been reduced to 40 men.

In March 1915, the 1st Battalion took part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, an attempt to seize Aubers Ridge, attacking over the same ground where the 2nd Battalion had been virtually wiped out at the Battle of La Bassée the previous October. In their ranks were veterans of Mons, redrafted from the 2nd Battalion on recovery from wounds, etc. One of those men was David McEwan.

The Northern Whig of 2nd April 1915, reported: "Details of the losses sustained by the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles at Neuve Chapelle, on the 10th ult., and subsequent days, continue to be received in Belfast... Rifleman David M'Ewan, killed in action, was a son of Mrs. A. M'Ewan, 34, Hardcastle Street, Belfast. He was 26 years of age, and was serving at the front since November last." Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Family memorial in Bangor Cemetery. - *Based on Bangor Cemetery Project*

+McGRATH, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9509. Died 10/03/1915. Age 21. Son of James and Frances Charlotte McGrath, of 18, Barrack St., Newry. Le Touret Memorial, France

+MOTUM, William George

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. E Coy. Company Serjeant Major. 6730. Died 10/03/1915. Aged 31. Born in London about 1884. William Motum met his wife Hannah in Dublin. William served in India and returned to Aden possibly in the early part of 1914. When war broke out, the Battalion was shipped to France. Aden was not an accompanied tour so on return from India the family returned to their home in Caledon Rd., Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

+MULDOON, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. D Coy. Private. 10702. Died 10/03/1915. Age 19. Son of John and Annie Muldoon, of Main St., Dungiven, Londonderry. Le Touret Memorial France

+MURRAY, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8709. Died 10/03/1915. Aged 31. Alexander Murray was born on 26/10/1884 in Hibernia Place, Holywood and he was a son of Bernard and Eliza Jane Murray who were married on 02/12/1875 in St Malachy's Roman Catholic Church, Belfast. Bernard Murray (aged 31), a car owner from Spencer Street, Holywood was born in Downpatrick. Eliza (Lizzie) Jane McKinney (aged 21) from 67 Irvine Street, Belfast was born in Cookstown. Bernard and Eliza had five children. Bernard Murray died of cardiac disease in Marine Parade Cottage, Holywood on 9 July 1907 (aged 73). Alexander Murray worked as a hairdresser before he joined the Army. He was residing at 50 Surrey Street, Glasgow when he enlisted in the 3rd Scottish Rifles Militia on 02/05/1907. Aged 22 years 6 months, he stated his age to be 19 years 7 months. He also stated that he was a general labourer, born in Shankill, Belfast. He joined the Royal Irish Rifles on 27 July 1907. In 1911 he was serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in Burma. He went with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on 05/11/1914 and he was killed in action on 10/03/1915 at Neuve Chapelle. The village had been heavily shelled and it was reported that 'the bodies of soldiers killed in October 1914 were blown out of their graves and mixed with the bodies of those recently killed'. Le Touret Memorial France

1916

+BRIGGS, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 7385. Died 10/03/1916. Age 21. Husband to Sarah Briggs, of 1, Paris St., Shankhill Rd., Belfast. Saily-sur-La-Lys Canadian Cemetery, France

+BOYD, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 15341. Died 10/03/1916. Age 20. From Londonderry. Son of Thomas Boyd. Authuile Cemetery, Authuile, France

+BOYLE, Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 2269. Died 10/03/1916. From Londonderry. Authuile Communal Cemetery Extension, Authuile, France

+BRAID, William Arnold,

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Lance Corporal. 15350. Died 10/03/1916. From Londonderry. Son of Thomas Boyd. Authuile Military Cemetery, Authuile, France

+DONNELLY, Ernest William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Lance Corporal. 15483. Died 10/03/1916. Age 22. Son of Barbara Donnelly, of 6, Clarence Avenue, Londonderry, and the late William Donnelly. Authuile Military Cemetery, Authuile, France

+JENNINGS, James

7th Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 24176. Died 10/03/1916. Aged 25. Born Ballycastle 1891. Son of John and Margaret Jennings, Ballycastle. Lillers Communal Cemetery, Plot 4, Row E, Grave 38

+McCARRON, John James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23768. Died 10/03/1916. Age 40. Son of Mary McCarron, of Castlederg, Co. Tyrone, and the late James McCarron; husband to Matilda McCarron, of Moyle, Newtown Stewart, Co. Tyrone. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

+McFADDEN, Robert John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 15825. Died 10/03/1916. Age 18. Son of Archibald and Marget McFadden, of Enagh Lough, Waterside, Londonderry. Authuille Communal Cemetery Extension, Authuille, France

+MOORE, Henderson

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 24273. Died 10/03/1916. Age 19. He lived and worked in Moneymore for Mr. W. Hunter at Turnaface for about 5 years and was member of Moneymore Company of Ulster Volunteers before enlisting with the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Moneymore, in June 1915. Son of William Moore, Ballymacombs, Bellaghy, County Londonderry. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France. Castledawson WM, Bellaghy Presbyterian Church RH

+SIMMS, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 16000. Died 10/03/1916. Age 40. Son of the late William and Charlotte Simms. Londonderry. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

+STIRLING, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 16040. Died 10/03/1916. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Jane Stirling, of 5, George's St., Londonderry, and the late George Stirling. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

1917

+JOHNSTON, Albert Isaac

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1147. Died 10/03/1917. Age 20. Enlisted in Belfast. Lived in Ballynure. Member of Straid UVF and Straid Flute Band. His brother Samuel Jospeh was a Driver (64690) with the Royal Engineers. He survived the war. Albert was born at Killagan, Ballynure on 06/10/1896. Son of James and Sarah (nee Blackadder) Johnston, of Straid, Ballyclare. St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium. Ballyclare WM. Straid Congregational Church RH

1918

+JESS, Edmund

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Lance Corporal. 3/5943. Died 10/03/1918. Son of Joseph and Essie Jess, 63 Dromore St., Banbridge. He joined the RIF at the outbreak of hostilities and went with the regiment to France where he was both gassed and wounded. He also served in Salonika and

Egypt. He was one of four brothers who served in the army during the war. William John Jess of the Royal Munster Fusiliers died on 22/08/1915. Samuel, a bugler with the RIR and Joseph who also served in the RIF, survived the war. Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

+MAGEE, Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Private. 18158. Died 10/03/1918 in Palestine. Edward Magee was born in Portadown and lived at Milburn Street, Cookstown, with his wife Roseanne and their two boys, William and Joseph. He came to Cookstown to work at Wilson's Mill. He enlisted in the army in February 1915 and was subsequently wounded in action at Gallipoli. While recovering from his wounds he was allowed home on leave to see his family before going back to active service. Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza). Cookstown WM

+McQUOID, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 6th Btn. Rifleman. 5/5462. Died 10/03/1918. Age 26. Son of James and Sarah Jane McQuoid, of Ballyvange, Downpatrick; husband to Maggie Jane McQuoid, of Fountain St., Downpatrick. Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

+MOORE, Henderson

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 24273. Died 10/03/1916 having been struck by shell shrapnel. Aged 19. Henderson Moore was the son of William Moore, Ballymacombs, Bellaghy, County Londonderry. He lived and worked in Moneymore for Mr. W. Hunter at Turnaface for about 5 years and was member of Moneymore Company of

Ulster Volunteers before enlisting with the 10th Battalion
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Moneymore, in June 1915.
Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, Somme, France.
Moneymore WM

+MURPHY, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Serjeant. 5/12045. Died
10/03/1918. Age 23. Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy, of 23,
Jennymount Terrace, York Rd., Belfast. Jerusalem War
Cemetery, Israel

1919

+BINGHAM, John Warnock

RAMC. Captain. 10th Field Ambulance. Died 10/03/1919.
Age 39. Medicine QUB 1897 - 1901. In the census of Ireland
1901, it is recorded that John W Bingham was a medical
student at the University of Edinburgh, as does the
Campbell College Register. Appointed temporary Lieutenant
(London Gazette 17/02/1915, page 1677). Son of Henry
Bingham, M.D., and Letitia Bingham, The Lodge,
Mountpottinger, Belfast; husband to Alison Bingham, of 3,
Ulsterville Avenue, Belfast. The Newcastle Chronicle
17/07/1919 reported on his estate. His address was given
as Cambois, Blyth. His widow was resident at Water Lane,
Romford Rd., Stratford. Mons (Bergen) Communal
Cemetery.

1941



+HOOD, William

Royal Ulster Rifles. 8th Btn. Rifleman. 7015364. Died 10/03/1941. Aged 30. William died in Herefordshire. 8th Battalion was a hostilities only unit raised in 1940 to join 203rd Independent Infantry Brigade. Son of William Hood and Martha Hood; husband to Robina Hood of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

[Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. The turf is manilagrass and tropical carpetgrass with a bit of javagrass.](#)

1943

+CASSIDY, James Gerard

Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to Headquarter Battalion, 1st Parachute Brigade in Tunisia. Captain. MiD.114828. Died 10/03/1943. Age 28. Son of James

Cassidy and Ellen Cassidy of Rathfriland. Tabarka Ras Rajel Cemetery, Tunisia.

+DOUGLAS, Woodrow Craig

RN. Leading Steward. D/LX 24527. Mentioned in Despatches. HM Submarine Tigris. Died: 10/03/1943. Age 25. HMS Tigris (Lt.Cdr. George Robson Colvin, DSC, RN) left Malta on 18/02/1943 to patrol SW of Naples. She failed to return to Algiers on 10 /03/1943 and was declared overdue on that date. Tigris was most likely sunk on 27/02/1943 by the German submarine chaser UJ-2210, six nautical miles south-east of Isola di Capri, Italy. Son of Harold and Nina Douglas, Belfast; husband to Margaret Y. Douglas, 23 Tower Street, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 83

Leading Steward **Woodrow Craig Douglas** Born on 7th July 1920, he was the son of Harold Douglas and the late Mina Douglas (née Craig) of Belfast, Co. Antrim, and the husband of Margaret Young Douglas (née Carruthers) of 23 Tower Street, Belfast, Co. Down.

The couple married in October 1942 and Woodrow rejoined his shipmates 3 days later. He would never return to Belfast, Co. Antrim. In December 1942, Douglas was Mentioned in Despatches for his bravery and devotion to duty. HM Submarine Tigris destroyed an Italian submarine and Leading Steward Douglas was in charge of passing orders from the control room.

He carried out this duty with zeal and efficiency. At all times, his unfailing cheerfulness even in the most adverse conditions set a very fine example to his shipmates.



Woodrow died between 24/02/1943 and 10/03/1943 aged 25 years old. HM Submarine Tigris under the command of Lieutenant Commander George Robson Colvin DSC left Malta on 18th February 1943. The crew patrolled around the Bay of Naples but never arrived in Algiers as expected on 10th March 1943. The most likely cause of the loss of the submarine was an attack from German submarine chaser

[Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.](#)

UJ-2210 on 27th February 1943. The chaser claimed a victory on that date around 6 miles southeast of Capri, Italy. The German vessel made 3 depth charge attacks on a submarine and observed oil brought to the surface. A final attack with 13 depth charges brought a large air bubble to the surface. The last sighting of Tigris was 0730hrs on 24/02/1943.

1945

+BLAIR, John Coulter

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant. 125998. Died 10/03/1945. Aged 31. Son of John T. Blair and Agnes R. Blair of Belfast; Husband to Maria Rae Blair of Belfast. Mallusk Cemetery

+DIAMOND, Joseph Francis

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1795097. Died 10/03/1945. Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Broadway Presbyterian Church, Belfast, RH

1946

+KENNEDY, Donald Wallace

RAFV. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 1903358. Died 10/03/1946. Aged 23. Campbell College 2751. B.A. (Cantab.). He joined the RAF as an Aircraftman 2nd Class and while in Ceylon he contracted the illness which would eventually prove fatal. He died in the Services Hospital in Southampton with his mother at his bedside. Son of Samuel Wallace Kennedy O.B.E. and his wife Rosanna Paton Kennedy of Killaloe, County Londonderry. Londonderry City Cemetery

+McDONALD, Randall

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1527513. Died 10/03/1946. Aged 29. Husband to Mary McDonald of Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

VETERANS

Reginald McClelland, veteran of Arctic convoys, Omaha beach, and D-Day

Reginald McClelland was one of many in the Royal Navy who took part in the perilous Arctic convoys, a crucial allied supply route for Stalin, Allan Preston writes in the Belfast Telegraph (15/03/2016).

Reginald's fleet had to evade U-boats and navigate minefields to help sustain the war effort against Nazi Germany.

His bravery was recognised by Russia in 2014 when he was awarded the Ushakov naval medal. In addition, he was awarded the British Arctic Star medal.

He helped bombard Omaha beach in Normandy on D-Day, and later liberated prisoners from the notorious Belsen concentration camp.

Orphaned at 12, Reginald joined the Navy at 16. He served below decks on HMS Bellona as a gun loader and by 18 was sailing towards Normandy for the allied invasion.

His son Barry (60) told the Belfast Telegraph his father was "a very modest man" who never talked about the war unless he was asked.

"I know he was there on D-Day off Omaha beach serving on HMS Bellona. They fired so many shells onto the beach they burnt the guns out on the ship," he said.

"They later returned to Cheltenham dock for shore leave. When they got back to their bunks they saw they had Arctic convoy uniforms and knew they were going up to the Arctic.

"He was down in the magazines, looking after the ship's guns in the bottom of the ship.

"He told me that if they were hit and he was down in the bottom of the ship there would be no way of getting out.

"He told me once they had sailed down into the south Brittany area. The ships sailed into a minefield and a local French fishing boat guided them out. He said that was quite amazing."

Barry said that his dad was devoted to his late mother Maureen. He added: "He was a good father, he was always there for me. I had a great childhood in Bangor.

"The Russian medal in 2014 meant a lot to him.

"He was always quite a modest chap and he never went out looking for attention, so when he had the opportunity it was really good."

Over the past five years, Reginald struck up a friendship with former soldier Paul Quinn (48), with whom he shared many of his war stories. Paul revealed that one tragedy at the Russian port of Murmansk never left Reginald.

"He spent most of the day in the ship, he was part of the gun team. He was a loader," he explained.

"He would tell me about the noise and the bombardment and things.

"When the convoy reached Murmansk, because they were a warship, they would remain outside the harbour - their ship docked alongside a British warship, a minesweeper.

"He said they had a bit of a party that evening, a few bottles of Russian vodka, until first light when they were told they were breaking berth and off on the return leg.



"He said a very short while later they heard the explosion. The minesweeper that was sitting alongside them had been struck and sunk.

"Ninety-five perished. He said that was a very poignant part of his life."

After serving in the Arctic convoys Reginald would later be part of the effort to release prisoners from Belsen concentration camp in northern Germany.

"Family members had sent him a tin of biscuits for several journeys," remembered Paul.

"But whenever the prisoners came out of the camp he decided they would be donated to one of the families.

"I took him biscuits at Christmas one time and that was what triggered this story off. He said this picturesque tin of

biscuits is what meant so much to so many people at that stage.

"By no means was he a gallant hero, but he was just one of many who played their part and that's what in particular I liked about him."

After his wartime experiences, Reginald returned to Bangor where he worked in the Ministry of Defence and continued to serve in the Territorial Army for 35 years. A popular local figure with a love of people, he enjoyed walking and gardening, growing poppies in his garden.

At the age of 88, he even made a trip to Japan to visit one of his lifelong friends. Barry added: "I can only say he did have a good life, he lived it to the full."

Reginald McClelland died peacefully at the age of 90 at Beverly Lodge nursing home in Bangor, Co Down. His funeral was to Clondeboy Cemetery. At his funeral family and friends remembered a "humble" man who had been awarded the French Legion D'Honneur just two weeks earlier.

FITZSIMONS, Charles Kevin

He was born on 09/11/1890 at 80 Hill Street, Newry to James Fitzsimmons and Elizabeth (nee Keegan) Fitzsimmons. His birth was registered as Charles Edward Fitzsimons. He was known as Kevin.

He joined Northern Bank on 10/06/1909 at Head Office. On 11/07/1912 the Ballymoney Free Press and Northern Counties Advertiser reports C K Fitzsimons as a competitor in the Ballycastle Regatta and Sports Day.

On 6th October 1914 (aged 23), whilst based in Shercock branch of the Northern, Kevin enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) as a Private (42865). Later he transferred to the 2nd Btn. Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers)(52066). and served with the British Expeditionary Force in France. He saw action during the Suvla Bay landings at Gallipoli and in Salonika action in Suvla Bay, Serbian Retreat, Struma Valley, Gaza and Nablus (Palestine).

On 18th November 1915 the Ballymoney Free Press and Northern Counties Advertiser published a letter from the '*Front*'. Kevin wrote about his service with the 32nd Field Artillery, RAMC in the Mediterranean and the Dardanelles.

He was demobilised in 1919 and re-joined the Northern Bank on 23/04/1919 at Shercock.

Transfers followed to Ballycastle (1919) and then in charge of Shercock (1921). Further transfers followed with Dowra (1921), Shercock (1924), Skerries (1925), Head Office (1925), Oldcastle (1934) and Head Office (1935).

Kevin Fitzsimons died on 10/03/1953 aged 62.

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We will remember them

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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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