



remembrance ni



Far from home

Commonwealth - We remember 73 New Zealand service men whose remains rest in the CWGC's Cannock Chase War Cemetery in Staffordshire

On this Day – March 11

1915

Armed merchant cruiser HMS Bayano was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-27 as she left the Firth of Clyde for Liverpool. 194 died of her 220 crew. See today's Roll of Honour below.

1940

A coal strike in New South Wales begins.

1941

Japanese Foreign Minister to visit Rome and Berlin.

The US House of Representatives passes the 'Lend Lease' Bill by 317 votes to 71, where upon it is immediately signed by President Roosevelt. Initial priority for war supplies was to be given to Britain and Greece.

British diplomats from Bulgaria reach Istanbul, although 2 people are killed when a bomb in their luggage explodes.

The German 5th Light Division has now completely arrived in Libya and is ordered to prepare for an attack on El Agheila. Meanwhile, Rommel has flown back to Germany for further orders and has been told that when the 15th

Panzer Division has arrived in Libya at the end of May he is to recapture Benghazi.



1942

Light cruiser HMS Naiad was torpedoed by German submarine U-565 south of Crete and sank with the loss of 77 of her crew.

General MacArthur leaves Corregidor and the Philippines for Australia, after being ordered to assume command of the new South-West Pacific area, which in effect meant all Allied forces in the Pacific. MacArthur's last words before leaving were "I shall return!" General M. Wainwright takes over command in the Philippines.

1943

Destroyer HMS Harvester was torpedoed by German submarine U-432 in the North Atlantic while on convoy

escort duty. Already damaged following earlier action, she sank almost immediately. 183 on board died.

The north Atlantic convoy ONS-169 is attacked by wolfpack 'Raubgraf' between the 11th and 12th March losing 2 ships for 10,531 gross tons. Atlantic convoys SC121 and HX228 are also attacked by other wolfpacks and lose 17 ships for the loss of just U-444 and U-432.

1944

Zhukov is stopped on River Bug after a 60-mile advance. Some 12,000 Chindits are now behind Japanese lines in Burma. British forces capture Buthiduang on the Arakan front.

1945

Hitler paid his final visit to the front when he traveled to Bad Freienwalde on the Oder. In a meeting at with 9th Army commander Busse, Hitler implored his officers to hold back the Russians long enough until his new weapons were ready.

The US third Army captures Kochem on the lower Moselle river.

The Red Army advances towards Gotenhafen, a vital port of embarkation for tens of thousands of refugees from East Prussia.

An RAF Bomber Command record for the largest tonnage dropped on a single target in single day is achieved at Essen when 4,661 tons are dropped.

Roll of Honour – March 11

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

HMS BAYANO

HMS Bayano was torpedoed by U-27 on 11/03/1915 in the North Channel whilst travelling from Glasgow to Liverpool. HMS Bayano sank within minutes, with the loss of 220 lives. There were twenty-six survivors. There are nine fatalities (five of them unidentified) from HMS Bayano whose remains are buried in N Ireland - one in Larne New Cemetery and the others on the Ards Peninsula ... one in Dunsford Church of Ireland Graveyard, two in Ballyhalbert (St Andrew) Church of Ireland Graveyard, one in Whitechurch Graveyard and four in Ballyphilip (Portaferry) Church of Ireland Graveyard.

+BAIN, AG

RMLI. Private. 7542 (PO) HMS Bayano. Died 11/03/1915.
Buried Portaferry

+CHATER, Frederick William

RNVR. AB. Tyneside Z/501. HMS Bayano. Died 11/03/1915.
Aged 30. Husband of Sarah Dixon (formerly Chater),
Chester Rd., Sunderland. Whitechurch Graveyard,
Ballywalter.



+McQUIGG, John Alexander

Mercantile Marine Reserve. Fireman. HMS Bayano. Died 11/03/1915. Age 26. Son of John and Elizabeth Bessie McQuigg, Wellington St., Londonderry. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 9

+TODD, John

RNR. Seaman. 3767C. HMS Bayano. Died 11/03/1915. Aged 35. He was a merchant seaman and later a rigger at the Queen's Island shipyard. Born 06/11/1879. Son of George and Selina Todd, Belfast; husband to Sarah Todd, Earl Lane, Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10. Sinclair Seamen's - PCI RH

+WELLSTEAD, W A

RN. AB. 179706. HMS Bayano. Died 11/03/1915. Ballyphilip Church of Ireland Cemetery. Portaferry

1915

+BROWN, Harold George

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9543. Died 11/03/1915 in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. Harold enlisted at the outbreak of the war. Son of Robert and Minnie Brown, Reilly St., Banbridge. Le Touret memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Seapatrick Parish Church WM, Banbridge

+COLLINS, Edward

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9183. Died 11/03/1915. Age 27. Also served in India. Son of the late John and Sarah Ann Collins, of Belfast. Merville Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

+DORAN, Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 10332. Died 11/03/1915. Age 20. Son of John and Sarah Doran, of 7, Brown St, Lurgan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

+GIBSON, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7079. Died 11/03/1915. Alexander Gibson enlisted in Newtownards and he joined the North Downs. On successive days in March 1915 Rifleman James Carnduff (9294) and Rifleman Alexander Gibson from Newtownards were killed in action during the Allied attack at Neuve Chapelle which had as its objective to take Aubers Ridge. Neuve Chapelle had been the scene of heavy fighting the previous autumn and on 11/03/1915 the horrors of war were compounded during the intense bombardment when bodies that were buried in October 1914 were blown from their graves and scattered among the March 1915 casualties. Son of Mr. W. J. Gibson, of 32, Merville St., Newtownards. Le Touret Memorial, France.

Newtownards and District WM. Greenwell Street
Presbyterian Church RH, Newtownards.

+GILMORE, Andrew

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 11/03/1915. Age 35. Served 17 years 6 months in India. Son of Richard and Catherine Gilmore, of 16, Unity St., Belfast; husband to Mary Gilmore, of "Kamptee," 6, Rosapenna Drive, Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+GRAHAM, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 5057. Died 11/03/1915. Age 18. Son of Jane Graham (formerly McGowan), of 15, Market Lane, Lisburn, and the late Edward Graham. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HEGAN, Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8480. Died 11/03/1915. Age 30. Son of Hugh and Kathleen Hegan, of Bellvue Lodge, Doran's Hill, Newry. Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

+HUNTER, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 8179. Died 11/03/1915 at Neuve Chapelle. Age 28 . Born at Newtownhamilton, Armagh. In 1911 Frederick (12) was living with his grandmother and uncle at Castleblaney St., Newtownhamilton. Son of the late James and Marion Hunter. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HUTTON, R

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7943. Died 11/03/1915. Age 28. Son of William and Jane Hutton, of 3, Columbus St., Belfast. Merville Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

+JOHNSTON, Charles

Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment), 1st Btn. Serjeant. 6676. Died 11/03/1915. Age 31. Son of James and Mary Johnston, of 101, Killowen St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+KENNEDY, Henry

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 6143. Died 11/03/1915. Born and lived in Bessbrook. Le Touret Memorial, France

+MAWHINNEY, R

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). 2nd Btn. Private, 8437. Died 11/03/1915. Age 36. Born in Scotland. Son of Robert and Elizabeth Mawhinney. In 1901 his parents and his brother Alexander were living at Ballyards, Armagh. Brother of Alexander Mawhinney, of Milford, Co. Armagh. His effects were left to his mother, Alexander and sister Sarah. Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Guinchy, France

+MAWHINNEY, W J

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Bugler. 7544. Died 11/03/1915. Brother of Mr. S. Mawhinney, of 112, Mill St., Newtownards. Merville Communal Cemetery, France

+McAULEY, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8237. Died 11/03/1915. Age 28. Son of Mrs. Ann Jane McAuley, of 4, Mayfair St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+McWHINNEY, William John

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Bugler. 7544. Died 11/03/1915. (Served as Mawhinney). William John McWhinney worked as an apprentice butcher before he joined the army and he served in India for 12 years with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. At the outbreak of WW1 he came home with his Battalion and proceeded to the Front Line. Bugler McWhinney (spelt Mawhinney on the CWGC website) was wounded in action on 05/03/1915. Brother of Private Hamilton Mawhinney (12576) killed in action on 15/08/1915. and Mr. S. Mawhinney, of 112, Mill St., Newtownards. Merville Communal Cemetery, France. Newtownards WM.

+McILROY, W

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 5519. Died 11/03/1915. Age 18. Belfast City Cemetery

+ROSS, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9323. Died 11/03/1915 at the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle. Robert was the son of Robert and Julia Ross. He was born in Dundalk about 1886. By 1901 the family were living in Castleblayney, County Monaghan. His father was a Railway Station Master for the Great North Railway. Robert worked at Gunning's Factory at Millburn in Cookstown. He enlisted in Belfast. Son of Robert and Julia Ross, of 20, Linview St., Grosvenor

Rd., Belfast. Le Touret memorial, Pas de Calais, France.
Cookstown WM, Gunning's Factory Memorial

+SMALL, John Wesley

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7190. Died 11/03/1915.
Served in the South African Campaign. Brother of Hannah
Meighan, of 9, Walbeck St., Belfast. Le Touret Memorial,
France

+THOMPSON, Robert Edward

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Sergeant. 5295. Died 11/03/1915.

Robert Edward Thompson, a Belfast Protestant, married
Bridget Delaney, a Dublin Catholic, on 24/10/1904 in the
Church of the Holy Trinity, Rathmines, Dublin. At the time of
the marriage, Robert Thompson was a sergeant in the 2nd
Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and was based in Portobello
Barracks in Rathmines, Dublin, while Bridget did not have
an occupation listed on the marriage certificate. Bridget
signed herself as Bridie on the certificate. Interestingly, both
Robert and Bridget had Portobello Barracks as their place of
residence at the time of the marriage.

The marriage ceremony was witnessed by Catherine
Delaney, Bridget's sister, and Colour Sergeant Samuel S.
Cowden. Robert's father's name was listed as John Henry
Thompson while Bridget's father was Keiren Delaney. John
Henry's occupation was listed as grocer while Keiren was
listed as a car proprietor, but was noted as being deceased
at the time of the marriage.

Robert and Bridget would go on to have 4 children. On
11/12/1905 Annie Catherine was born in Portobello
Barracks. On 27/10/1907 Mary Patricia (Maisie) was born in

Aldershot, England. On 12/08/1910 Beatrice Charlotte was born in Maymyo, Burma. On 03/01/1915 Eileen was born in the Coombe Hospital in Dublin. These dates fit in with the following battalion posting details :

2nd Battalion

1903 – Dublin

1906 – Aldershot

1st Battalion

1909 – Burma

1911 – Kempee (India)

1913 – Aden (Yemen)

1914 – France (from November)

It would seem that Robert Thompson transferred from the 2nd Battalion to the 1st Battalion sometime between 1906 and 1909. At the outbreak of World War 1 in August 1914 both battalions were returned to England. They landed in Liverpool on 22 October 1914.

Families were also returned to England and a pregnant Bridget and her three daughters were returned to Dublin. In his will dated 05/11/1914 Robert stipulated that in the event of his death all of his property and effects should go to his wife, Bridget. At this stage Bridget and the family were living at 23 Ardee Street, Dublin. This is the address that appeared on Eileen's birth cert. His regimental number appears on the will and is 5295.

The battalions landed in Le Havre, France, on 06/11/1914. On 09/12/1914 Robert Thompson was involved in court

martial proceedings and was found guilty of drunkenness. He was sentenced to be reduced in the ranks from sergeant to lance corporal.

On 11/03/1915 Robert Thompson was killed in the battle of Neuve Chapelle. This battle started on 10 March and lasted until 13 March. Neuve Chapelle is a village in Northern France, not far from the Belgian border. Robert's name appears on the wall of a memorial called the Le Touret Memorial, located not far from Neuve Chapelle. This memorial is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. On 09/10/1915 Bridget received a war gratuity payment of £15-19-2 in respect of Robert's death. She would receive another war gratuity payment of £5-0-0 on 23/08/1919. Research by Colm Hughes

1916

+KERRIGAN, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private.13877. Died 11/03/1916. Age 45. Castlederg. Son of George Kerrigan, of Kilclean, Urney. Co. Tyrone. Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

+McDOWELL, William

Leading Seaman. 211344. HM Submarine E5. Died 11/03/1916. Age 33. E5 was lost on 07/03/1916 while rescuing the survivors of trawler Resono just north of Juist in the North Sea, apparently striking a mine, possibly after straying into a German minefield upon being sighted by the German light cruiser Regensburg. Others have attributed her loss to depth charge attack by torpedo boats escorting the battlecruiser Seydlitz. Born Templecorran, County

Antrim. Son of Eliza McDowell, of Milebush, Ballyhill, Carrickfergus, and the late William McDowell. Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Carrickfergus WM

1917

+DELANEY, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4618. Died 11/03/1917. Age 36. Son of Charles and Mary Ann Delaney, of 36, Little Georges St., Belfast; husband of Mary Delaney, of 29, Albert St., Govan, Glasgow. Craigton Cemetery, Glasgow

+ DUNCAN, Edward Francis

Chaplain to the Forces, 4th Class, attached to 103rd Infantry Brigade. MC. He was killed on the battlefield on 11/03/1917. Age 32. Ordained 1907. Instituted 1914 as rector of Kilflynn. Kilflynn Church was attended by the workers from the Castle Oliver estate. Son of John and Anna Duncan of Fintona, Co Tyrone, and husband to Jane Caroline Duncan of Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim. He is mentioned in "The Flag: Revd D Railton MC and The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior" by Andrew Richards (Page 34). Railton was chaplain to the Northumberland Fusiliers and they would become good friends over the period they ministered together. Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras. Memorial in churchyard of Kilflynn, Ballyorgan, Limerick.

+KAYES, William

Royal Horse Artillery. G Bty. Driver. 77101. Died 11/04/1917. Born Armagh. Son of James and Harriet Kayes. In 1901 William was living with his parents and seven siblings at Ballynaris, Dromore, Co. Down. The working members of

the family were employed in the local mill. Arras Memorial, France

+McGILL, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 20230. Died 11/04/1917. Enlisted Armagh. In 1911 James, his wife Georgina and their two young daughters were living at Mill St., Tandragee. He was working as a flax sorter in a local mill. Arras Memorial, France

+PORTER, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 19849. Died 11/04/1917. Son of James and Sarah Porter of Ballyreagh, Poyntzpass. He worked on the family farm before enlisting. Arras Memorial, France

+SEYMOUR, Robert

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 24648. Died 11/04/1917. Born Benburb. Lived at Charlemont. Thought to be a brother of Thomas who died in service 19/08/1915. Arras Memorial, France

+SMYTH, James

Royal Flying Corps. Second Lieutenant (Pilot). Died 11/03/1917. 2nd Sqdn. Son of William Ferguson Smyth and I. Smyth, of Belfast; husband to Ethel Smyth, of Herbert Rd., Plumstead, London. Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Douchez, Pas de Calais, France

1918

+DEANE, Gordon Alexander

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Captain. Died 11/04/1918. Age 20. Son of surgeon Charles C. and Adelaid E. Deane, of Loughgall, Co. Armagh. Avesnes sur Helpe Communal Cemetery, France

1919

+BEATTY, Joseph Scorfield

King's Royal Rifle Corps. Company Serjeant Major. A/3727. transf. to (49241) S.M. Royal Defence Corps. Died 11/03/1919. Age 45. Discharged in 1918 due to illness. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Served in the South African Campaign (Queen's Medal, 5 clasps; King's Medal, 2 clasps). 25 years' service. Born at Armagh. Son of William and Catherine Beatty; husband to Jane Hannah Beatty, of "Ennersdale," Naunton Lane, Cheltenham. Cheltenham Cemetery, Prestbury

1941

+McVEIGH, James Thomas

Royal Ulster Rifles, 6th Btn. Rifleman. 7017357. Died 11/03/1941, at 24th General Hospital, Campbell College, Belfast. Aged 40. His last known address was 5 Murray's Place, off Ravenhill Road, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

+SKILLEN, Victor Hall

RAFVR. Sergeant (Pilot). 745460. Died 11/03/1941. Aged 24. 23 Sqdn. Son of William Robert and Margaret Skillen, of Belfast. St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens, Somme, France. 502

(Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1942

+CHAPMAN, Leslie George

RAFVR. Sergeant. Air-Gunner. 967658. Died 11/03/1942. Aged 30. 231 Sqdn. He died when Westland Lysander T1577 came down around 2.5 miles northeast of Dungannon when on a low-level tactical reconnaissance exercise from RAF Maghaberry, Co. Antrim. The plane first struck a tree before the crew lost control and it collided with a house. Pilot Sergeant William Russell Rattray also died in the crash. Leslie was the son of Captain JE Chapman of Dublin, and husband to Kathleen V Chapman of 52 Old Cavehill Road, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina

+CROTHERS, Norman

RN. ERA 4th Class. C/MX 50923 . Died 11/03/1942. Age 23. HMS Naiad. Son of Josiah and Agnes Graham Crothers. Bangor. Bangor Grammar School. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 60.2

1943

+ARCHER, M T

RN. St. Mark's Portadown RH. The only CWGC reference is to a Matthew Thomas Archer, Petty Officer. D/JX 193627. Died 11/03/1943. Age 30. HMS President III. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 78

+BROOKE, Basil Julian David

Grenadier Guards, 6th Btn. Lieutenant. 200083. Died 11/03/1943. Aged 22. He died alongside Lieutenant Hugh John Tufnell (165020) while on a reconnaissance patrol.

Their Jeep struck a mine and exploded. Lieutenant Lord Brabourne recovered the bodies of both men. Basil's youngest brother Henry Alan Brooke MC also died during the Second World War. Born on 18/04/1920, he was the son of Captain, the Right Honourable Sir Basil Stanlake Brooke PC CBE MC DL MP, 5th Baronet - Prime Minister of Northern Ireland - and Lady Cynthia Mary Brooke (née Sergison) of Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh.

Before the outbreak of war, Brooke received his education at Eton College, Berkshire and Cambridge University. He worked for a time with the York Street Flax Spinning Company. The Brookeborough Estate would eventually pass on to the middle brother Lieutenant John Warden Brooke who served in 10th Hussars. Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia. Brookeborough WM

+MOORE, Robert

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1040804. Died 11/03/1943. 405 Sqd RCAF. Son of James and Ellen Moore, Ballymoney. Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany

+MURPHY, James

Army Air Corps, Parachute Regiment, 3rd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7012729. Military Medal. Died 11/03/1943. Aged 30. Son of Hugh Murphy and Ellen Murphy of Belfast, and husband to Annie Murphy of Belfast. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia.

+TUNNEY, Owen

Royal Navy. Able Seaman. C/JX 258797. Died 11/03/1943. HMS Harvester. Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 70. Details from the CWGC web site. Named on Enniskillen WM.

VETERAN

FORSYTHE, Ian Charles Stuart

RNVR. Sub. Lt.(A). BDs Med, QUB 1946. Served as a Fleet Air Arm Pilot during WW2. Educated at Ballymena Academy and Queen's University where post-war he qualified in dentistry. He was afterwards with the Health Department of Belfast Corporation and the Co. Down Health Authority before going in August 1957 to Ballymoney as dental surgeon for the Ballymoney area by Antrim Health Committee. He died in the Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ballymoney on 11/03/1958. He was the son of the late Mr. Charles J. Forsyth, assistant town surveyor in Ballymena, and of Mrs. Forsyth, Chichester Park East, Ballymena. Earlier in life he took a prominent part in the organisations connected with Wellington Street Presbyterian Church, Ballymena. He was also keenly interested in sport, and played hockey and cricket. He had been ill since December last and was for a time in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. He was survived by his wife (who was a daughter of Rev. James Craig, M.A., Fermoy) and a two-year-old daughter; his brother. Mr. James Forsyth, and three sisters, Mrs. Land, Miss R. Forsyth and Mrs. Dickie. His funeral was to Ballymena Cemetery. Floral tributes were received from the British Dental Association, the Dental Office Group, Ballymena Hockey Club, and Gallaher's Hockey Club

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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