



remembrance ni



Protecting Parliament 1940 style

The wreckage of a German Messerschmitt Bf 109 is towed past the Palace of Westminster in London, 1940.



WW2 Naval Surgeon from Larne survived dive-bombing and became post-war medical pioneer

George Fowler Adams was a naval surgeon from Larne who served in World War II. He survived dive

bombing. Post war he was appointed consultant physician at Belfast City Hospital in geriatric medicine in 1949, as well as honorary lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at QUB

George Adams' service and war record -

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Surgeon Lieutenant - Commander. CBE, VRD.

In September, 1939, he was appointed to HM Hospital Ship Maine, at Alexandria.

November 1939 February, 1941, 64th General Hospital,

Alexandria.

March-June, 1941 HMS Cricket (destroyed by dive-bombing, June, 1941)

June-October, 1941 at Naval Base, Tobruk, then under siege.

November, 1941-February 1942 HMS Avondale (Eastern Mediterranean Inshore Squadron).

Thereafter returned to U.K. via Massawa, and in June 1942-December 1942 he was appointed to RN Naval Base, Poole.

January 1943-June 1945 appointed to H.M.S. Empire McKendrick (Escort carrier with North Atlantic convoys). Besides his surgical and general medical duties, he organised fitness activities of various kinds for the crew, including boxing jousts, which resulted in some minor injuries which he had to treat as medical officer.

July 1945-December 1945 served as Senior Medical Officer at naval base Londonderry (HMS Ferret) as SMO. He served in the Ulster Division post war.

George Fowler Adams was born at Aberford, near Leeds (his mother was English) but grew up in his father's native Ulster, being educated at Larne Grammar School and then QUB where he graduated in medicine in 1938. He was for a year a resident house officer at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, then joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Ulster Division.

Adams and four of his brothers who boarded at Larne Grammar before the war served in the forces. Maurice

gained his MB in 1930 and joined the Royal Navy Medical Service in 1933. Philip, who gained his BDS degree in 1941, also joined the Navy. Robin, whose MSc in 1930 was followed by post-graduate study in the USA, did his war work as Admiralty Regional Electrical Engineer for the Midland and Wales.

The fifth brother, Harold, came to Queen's in 1939. In his second year at university, he joined the RAF, and became a Pilot Officer, then Flying Officer, then Flight Lieutenant. In 1944 he was mentioned in despatches for his work in the invasion operations. In July of that year he was killed on active service.

Professor George Adams spent the entirety of his distinguished medical career in Ulster, based at Belfast City Hospital where he was appointed consultant physician in geriatric medicine in 1949 (as well as honorary lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at QUB) where his pioneering work in geriatric medicine made him unquestionably the leading figure in this field; he was also one of the leading geriatricians in the United Kingdom as a whole.
Born 21/01/1916. Died 13/03/2012



On this Day – March 13

1916

Belfast News Letter - 13th March 1916.

SHAMROCK FOR THE ULSTER DIVISION

There has just been despatched from Belfast to the men of the Ulster Division 15,000 sprigs of shamrock for St. Patrick's Day. Each sprig is accompanied by a card with the inscription : "With the compliments and best wishes of General Sir George Richardson K.C.B., G.O.C. U.V.F."

1940

Finland capitulates conditionally to Soviet terms, but maintains its independence. The Finns have lost 25,000 killed and 45,000 wounded, while the Russians have lost an estimated 200,000 killed and an unknown number of wounded.

1941

President Franklin Roosevelt establishes President's Committee on War Relief Agencies.

The Luftwaffe carries out a heavy raid against Clydebank, near Glasgow. 35,000 of the town's population of 47,000 are made homeless.

Hitler issues an edict calling for an invasion of the Soviet Union.

1942

The Red Army launches a major attack against Army Group B from the Kerch peninsula in the eastern Crimea.

Three German spies in New York get a total of 117 years imprisonment.

Julia Flikke of the Nurse Corps becomes the first woman colonel in the U.S. Army.

Fifty aircraft equipped with Gee receivers attack Cologne.

This is the most successful attack to date with the device; estimates put it is being five times more effective than non-Gee equipped aircraft.

1943

An assassination attempt is made on Hitler.

A Chinese counter-attack throws the Japanese back across the Yangtze River.

Japanese forces end their attack on the American troops on Hill 700 in Bougainville.

1944

Derry WRNS marriage

Derry Standard 13/03/1944

MIDKIFF, nee STEWART, Jessie

WRNS Leading Wren Jessie Stewart married Corporal

Henry K Midkiff, USMC, in St Columba's Cathedral, Londonderry. The groom was a native of Alexandria, Virginia and had joined USMC in 1935. WRNS formed a guard of honour.

British troops take the 'Golden Fortress' (Razabil) in Arakan, Burma.

A U.S. submarine, Sandlance sinks a Japanese troopship convoy en route to the Marianas.

The Russians announce the capture of Kherson in the southern Ukraine.

1945

The Irish Brigade

1 RIrF, Senio river:

1200 D Coy engaged in grenade duel past 1 ½ hours.

1630 Tank (Queen's Bays) firing from hull down position on floodbank at shot up enemy positions on north bank.

1845 Wasp flamed bank area and caused screams.

1920 D Coy report all quiet.

During that grenade duel along the Senio, D Coy 1 RIrF also used PIATs, firing the projectiles at high angles as improvised mortars. One Faugh commented that at last they had found a real use for the PIAT.

The 2nd Belorussian Front launches an offensive against the Braunsberg pocket to the South of Koenigsberg.

Following a 600-bomber raid by the US 8th Air Force, the RAF with 800 bombers attack Swinemünde North of Stettin, a major port of embarkation for German refugees from



eastern Germany, causing heavy damage to the docks and killing hundreds of civilians.

A surprise armored thrust by the British in central Burma, cuts off 3,000 Japanese in Mandalay.

US B-29s launch fire raid on Osaka, killing 4000 and destroying 119 factories.

Photo Above - An US M16 half-track equipped with a M45 Quadmount anti- aircraft gun at the Ludendorff Bridge, March 1945.

To protect the bridge against enemy aircraft, the Americans positioned the largest concentration of anti-aircraft weapons during WWII.

Roll of Honour – March 13

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+ARTHURS, R J

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8759. Died 13/03/1915.
Husband to T. Arthurs, of 54, North Thomas St., Belfast.
Merville Communal Cemetery, France

+BROWN, Charles

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9472. 13/03/15. Born in
Ballymacarrett, Belfast, he lived in Lisburn, enlisted at
Belfast. Le Touret Memorial, France

+HEWITT, J M

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 400. Died 13/03/1915.
Age 18. Son of Hugh Hewitt, of 61, Bryson St., Belfast.
Drumree Presbyterian Cemetery, Co. Down

+WILSON, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9959. Died 13/03/1915.
Age 37. (Served as McCleary), Son of John and Elizabeth
Wilson, of 30, Georges St., Lurgan. Boulogne Eastern
Cemetery, France

1916

+FORSYTHE, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 1716. Died 13/03/1916. Born Ballyclare 17/06/1893. A flax mill employee. Son of Annie Fosythe who later married Thomas Robinson. Auchonvillers Military Cemetery, France. Ballyclare WM. St John's C of I Church, Ballyclare RH

+JOHNSTON, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 23035. Died 13/03/1916. Age 19. Son of John and Mary A. Johnston, of Roscole, Pettigo, Co. Fermanagh. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+McDOWELL, John Beck

Royal Fusiliers, 20th Btn. Lance Corporal PS5261, 20th Royal Fusiliers. Died 13/03/1916. Age 21. Son of John and Ada McDowell, of 10, Malone Park, Belfast. Cambrin Churchyard Extension, France. Duncairn Presbyterian Church, Belfast WM

+NEWEL, David Lumsden

Royal Fusiliers. 20th Btn. Private. PS/5390. Died 13/03/1916. Age 21. Son of Henry A. and Helen H. Newel, of 362, Antrim Rd., Belfast. Cambrin Churchyard Extension, France

+RITCHIE, Alexander

Canadian Infantry, 18th Btn. Private. 406384. Died 13/03/1916. Age 32. Son of Alexander and Margaret Ritchie. Ridge Wood Military Cemetery, Belgium. Derriaghy C of I Parish churchyard, Family memorial

Christ Church Derriaghy, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, (Doire Achaidh, meaning "oak-wood of the field"), is a listed building and stands on the site of a much earlier church and reference to a church here was mentioned in 1205. Between then and now it has been in various states of disrepair, but is now a well maintained place of worship. Within it's burial ground are several graves of business men, solicitors, airmen, policemen and soldiers.

However two soldier brothers which are mentioned on a family headstone do not rest here, they lie in foreign fields across the sea having met their fate on the battlefields of Europe during the 1st WW.

First mentioned on the Ritchie headstone is Private Alexander Ritchie son of Alexander and Margaret Ritchie. He was serving with the 18th Bn. Canadian Infantry when he was killed on 13/03/1916 and was buried in the Ridge Wood Military Cemetery 5km south-west of Ypres, Belgium, and is named for the wood which stands between Dickebusch lake and the Kemmel road. This was a 'front line' cemetery since 1915 and among the first buried here were men from the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles and then later by Canadian battalions and the Durham Light Infantry.

Alexander's brother was Benjamin Ritchie and he was serving with the 15th Royal Irish Rifles during the Battle of the Somme the vicious hard fought battle which claimed the lives of thousands of Irishmen, including Benjamin. Regrettably his body was lost on the muddy bombed fields of France and there is no grave. He is however remembered on his family headstone and on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier



Winter sunset at Maissemy German Cemetery

and Face 15 A and 15 B. May they both be remembered for the supreme sacrifice they made.

+TROUSDALE, Frederick Hamilton

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18/608.
Died 13/03/1916. Aged 25. A son of James and Matilda Jane Trousdale (nee Hamilton) who were married on 17/05/1892 in First Dromore Presbyterian Church. Frederick Hamilton Trousdale was born on 14/04/1894 in Aughnaskeagh, Dromara. Frederick lived in Dromara,

enlisted in Clandeboye. Le Treport Military Cemetery, France.

1917

+FITZSIMMONS, Thomas John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 24854. Died 13/03/1917. Age 31. Son of James and Margaret Fitzsimmons, of 36, Pound St., Belfast. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

1918

+DUFFIN, Charles Francis

Royal Irish Rifles. Captain. General List and 9th Btn. attd. 127th Prisoner of War Coy. Labour Corps. Died 13/03/1918. Age 23. Born Dunmurry. Son of Mrs. Frances Duffin, of "St. Catherine's," Craigavad, Co. Down, and the late Mr. C. H. Duffin. Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France

1919

+ADAIR, John

Wiltshire Regiment, Depot. Private. 27699. Died 13/03/1919. Age 23. Son of Robert Hunten Adair, of 84, Brussels St., Belfast, and the late Elizabeth Adair. His brother Robert James Adair died in the war. Belfast City Cemetery.

+BRENNAN, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles 12th Btn. Rifleman. 720. Died from wounds 13/03/1919. Age 29. Born Carrickfergus. Husband

to Janet Brennan of Factory Row, Woodburn Carrickfergus.
Carrickfergus Victoria Cemetery. Joymount Presbyterian RH

1920

+O'FEE, Stewart

RN. Naval schoolmaster. 346268. HMS Vivid. Died
13/03/1920. Age 31. Victim of 'flu pandemic. Born Kilrea,
Co. Londonderry 02/05/1878 . Son of Samuel and Jane
O'Fee. St. Patrick's C of I churchyard, Kilrea. ADM
188/525/346268

+ROBINSON, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 13/18686. Died
13/03/1920 of influenza at home in Newtownards. Age 31.
He enlisted on 17/09/1914. Prior to the war Samuel
Robinson worked as a dealer. He was a member of 'B'
Company in the local contingent of the Ulster Volunteer
Force (UVF). On 14/02/1916 when he was in a front line
trench north of the River Ancre he was seriously wounded in
the head, chest and shoulder by a shell fired from the
German trenches. Private Hugh Shanks from Newtownards
was killed instantly by the same shell. In a letter to Samuel's
mother the Rev Charles Campbell Manning, MC, Chaplain
to the Forces (then Rector of Muckamore and later Rector of
Holywood, Drumbeg and Archdeacon of Down), assured her
that Samuel was doing well and was quite cheerful.
However, one week later Samuel was reported to be
'dangerously ill'. He was transferred to Queen Mary's
Military Hospital in Whalley, Lancashire and from there on
20/06/1916 to the hospital in Victoria Barracks, Belfast. On
09/07/1916 he was posted to the 20th Battalion Royal Irish
Rifles but was no longer fit for war service so he was

discharged from the Army on 13/10/1916. Born on 13/02/1889 in South Street, Newtownards He was the second son of David Robinson and Jane Robinson (nee South) who were married on 14/07/1884 in Newtownards C of I Parish Church (St Mark). Husband to Kate Robinson, of 42 South Street, Newtownards. It was there that Rifleman Samuel Robinson died of influenza on 14 March 1920. He was buried the following day in Killysuggan Graveyard Newtownards. Killysuggan Graveyard, Newtownards. Newtownards and District WM

1941

+ENNIS, Andrew

Reconnaissance Corps (Royal Armoured Corps). Corporal. 7013181. Died 13/03/1941. Aged 23. Son of John and Margaret Ennis of Kircubbin. Ballycranbeg (Mount St. Joseph) Roman Catholic Churchyard

+JESS, Samuel Hugh Albert

RAF. Sergeant. 635446. Died 13/03/1941, on a bombing raid over Hamburg, Germany. Age 19. 102 Sqdn. He was a wireless operator/air gunner on board Armstrong Whitworth Whitley bomber T4273 DY-O. This plane had crash-landed at RAF Topcliffe on 21/12/1940 while returning from a raid on Turin. On this occasion, the pilot was Sergeant Robert Aubrey Doherty from Dundonald, a former pupil at Regent House Grammar School, Newtownards. Whitley T4273 took off from RAF Topcliffe on the night of 12th-13th March 1941. It failed to return from the mission over Germany. Anti-aircraft flak guns downed the bomber over Kampstrasse, Hamburg, killing the crew of five. Son of James Jess and Ellen Henderson Jess of Plantation Street, Killyleagh, He

came home on Christmas leave in December 1940.
Ohlsdorf Cemetery, Hamburg, Germany. Killyleagh WM

+SNODDON, Samuel Wesley

RAFVR. Sergeant. 745108. Died 13/03/1941. 77 Sqdn.
Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM,
St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1942

+McGARRY, George A

Name on Lurgan WM. Possibly - Royal Engineers, 567
Army Troops Coy. Sapper. 2009633. Died 13/03/1942.
Damascus Commonwealth War Cemetery, Syria

1944

+BENSON, John George

Pioneer Corps. Private. 13014845. Died 13/03/1944 after
suffering a stroke at a military hospital in Glasgow. Aged 60.
John's base was at Bellahouston Camp, Glasgow,
Lanarkshire. Born 22/03/1885. Son of the late John Benson
and Jane Benson (formerly Trueman, née Willis) of
Cannagola More, Portadown. His home address was 12
Gaffikin Street, Belfast, where he lived as a single man and
worked as a clerk before the outbreak of WW2. Drumcree
Parish Church, Portadown. Portadown WM

+CUNNINGHAM, John James

North Staffordshire Regiment, 2nd Btn. Private. 7020392.
Died 13/03/1944. Age 30. Son of John James Cunningham
and Sarah Cunningham, of Londonderry; husband to Mary

Cunningham, of Londonderry. Beach Head War Cemetery,
Anzio, Italy

1947

+BARR, Benjamin

RAFVR. Aircraftman 1st Class. 1083801. Died 13/03/1947.
Aged 37. Son of Benjamin and Margaret Ann Barr; Husband
to Eileen Barr of Coleraine. Coleraine Cemetery

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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