



remembrance ni



HM Princess Elizabeth visits Comber to be godparent of child of RN officer from NI

HRH Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) at St Mary's Church on March 19 1946. She was present as godmother at the baptism of Elizabeth Lavinia Sarah King, daughter of her lady-in-waiting.

On 19th March 1946, HRH Princess Elizabeth paid a visit to Comber. She attended a baptism in St Mary's Parish Church where she was godmother to Elizabeth Lavinia Sara - the infant daughter of James Osborne King and his wife, the former Elizabeth Patricia White, who had been lady-in-waiting to the Princess.

The ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Right Rev W S Kerr, assisted by the Rev J S Houston, Rector of Comber.

Comber was decked in flags and bunting, and the day was bathed in glorious sunshine. Hundreds of people crammed into the Square, eager to catch a glimpse of the heiress to the Throne.

Many workers were given time off, and the children of Comber P.E. School were given a place of honour in the enclosure just outside the church gates.

Cheering greeted the Princess who wore a canary-green coat, with tan shoes and stockings, and a green beret. The area round the font at the rear of the church was an arbour of flowers, and the guests crowded round for the 20-minute ceremony, during which the Princess held the baby in her arms for about a minute.

Afterwards the Princess appeared at the porch along with the baby and her parents. Here she clasped the baby in her arms and dozens of photos were taken. Then she was

driven to the home of Mr and Mrs King at Carnesure House where she remained for a while before returning to Belfast. Lt.-Commander James Osborne King, RNVR, DSC in February 1945, married the Hon Patricia White, daughter of Lord and Lady Anally, in the Chapel Royal, St James' Palace, London. The bride was a Lady in Waiting to HRH Princesss Elizabeth.

Lt.-Commander Osborne King was awarded the DSC in Nov.1944 for "outstanding courage, resolution and skill while serving in light coast crafting many successful engagements with the enemy",

Born on 08/10/1914, he was the son of J King, Castle Chester, Whitehead. Educated at Campbell College, he resided at Carnesure House, Comber.

On this Day – March 19

1936

The Soviet Union signs a pact of assistance with Mongolia against Japan.

1940

The RAF retaliates against the Luftwaffe's bombing of Scapa Flow, by attacking the German seaplane base at Hornum on the island of Sylt with 50 bombers. Later photo

reconnaissance reveals little damage to the target.
Helsinki releases figures showing that 26,662 Finns were killed in the 105 day war with the Soviet Union.

1941

Churchill forms the 'Battle of the Atlantic' committee in order to afford the highest level of co-ordination against the U-boat menace.

German Naval staff complain to the Italians about their lack of effort to intercept British convoys to Greece.

1942

An offensive by Army Group North cuts off the Soviet 2nd Shock Army, commanded by General Vlasov, in a salient between Novgorod and Gruzino. Operation 'Munich' is launched. Joined by a new air detachment, German troops attack partisan bases around Yelnya and Dorogobuzh. Operation 'Bamberg' kicks off near Bobruisk, with SS Police troops attacking Russian villages. The German security forces burn many villages and kill 3,500 people, which only infuriates the Russian civilians more, which encourages many of them join the partisans, making the whole exercise very counter-productive.

The 3rd Panzer Army diaries says "There are indications that the partisan movement in the region of Velikiye Luki, Vitebsk, Rudnya, Velizh, is now being organised on a large scale. The fighting strength of the partisans hitherto active, is being bolstered by individual units of regular red army

troops.”

General Bill Slim is appointed as commander of the 1st Burma Corps, which covers all British, Indian and Burmese troops in Burma. This left General Alexander to concentrate on co-ordination with the Chinese.

1943

The British Eighth Army begins its offensive against German and Italian defenders of the Mareth line.

A Pole Anna Smoleńska (b. 28 February 1920) - a girl guide, student of history of arts, creator of “Kotwica - Fighting Poland” (Anchor) emblem - perished in Auschwitz. She was imprisoned by Germans in the camp on 27 November 1942

1944

Following Japanese Army attacks aimed at isolating British troops at Imphal and Tiddim, Dakotas of No 194 Squadron and Curtis C-46 Commando transport aircraft of the USAAF airlifted a complete army division to Imphal, a feat accomplished in 748 sorties.

The RAF launch Operation Strangle, aimed at German communications in Italy.

The German 352nd Infantry Division deploys along the coast of France.

In order to ensure Hungary’s continued support as an axis partner, Hitler orders its occupation Operation Margaret. Eleven German divisions cross the border from Austria into Hungary, encountering minimal resistance.

Hungary's 750,000 Jews, which have so far remained unmolested by the Germans are about to endure a nightmare of mass deportation to the concentration camps as Eichmann arrives in Hungary with his "Special Section Commandos".

1945

The US 8th Air Force carries out another heavy attack (200 bombers and 700 fighters) against Berlin.

The U.S. Seventh Army take Worms, 60 miles to the Southeast of Koblenz. Hitler orders the demolition of all German industrial, utility and transport facilities in danger of falling into enemy hands; this order (Verbrannte Erde Scorched Earth) is sabotaged by armaments minister Speer and most local commanders.

The Japanese evacuate Mandalay.

The USN hit Kure naval base in the Inland Sea, Southwest of Tokyo.

About 800 people were killed as Kamikaze planes attacked the U.S. carrier Franklin off Japan; the ship, however, was saved.

After Japan's surrender in August 1945, the New Zealand government agreed to participate in the US-led occupation as part of a Commonwealth force.

More than 4200 New Zealand troops under the command of Brigadier Keith Stewart arrived in March 1946 as part of a 35,000 strong British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF).

Known as Jayforce, this infantry brigade was complemented by 280 personnel of No. 14 Squadron RNZAF who had volunteered to serve in Japan.



The Commonwealth troops had two key roles: overseeing Japanese demilitarisation and demobilisation. Jayforce was initially deployed in Yamaguchi prefecture on the southern tip of the main island of Honshu, and on nearby Eta Jima Island.

Jayforce also assisted with the repatriation of Japanese who were coming home and Koreans being returned to their country.



Roll of Honour – March 19

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+HARAN, R

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 18363. Died 19/03/1915. Son of Mrs. R. Haran, of 13, Meehan's Row, Waterside, Londonderry. Merville Communal Cemetery, France

1916

+COWAN, Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 10895. Died 19/03/1916. Hit by a sniper. Born in Strabane. He was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force. Henry Cowan was living in Ballynasaggart, Ballygawley when he enlisted in Enniskillen. In his will, Henry left all to a Miss Agnes Watt of Cavey, Ballygawley. A newspaper reports that he was a cousin of Mrs Mary McClean of Ballynasaggart, Tyrone. Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme, France

+KEELING, George B

Royal Indian Marine. Lieutenant. Died 19/03/1916. George B. Keeling and Dorothy Webb were married on 3 February 1916 in Cardiff and, just over six weeks later, Lieutenant Keeling was drowned when his ship sank during a voyage between Bombay and Karachi. His ship was in a convoy

and it is thought that it may have struck a floating mine. All hands were lost and his body was never recovered. It was reported that George B. Keeling was the third son of John Stamp Keeling who lived at 1 The Coastguards, Millisle and before that in South Parade, Belfast. John Stamp Keeling was a landscape artist (lithographic) and he and Ellen Keeling (nee Walker) had at least four children. George B. Keeling attended Methodist College Belfast (MCB) from 1884 until 1886 and, after leaving school, he went to sea. He served his apprenticeship with the Lord Line (Messrs Thomas Dixon & Sons Belfast), was with the company for 25 years and rose step by step until he was in command of the SS *Lord Dufferin*. He relinquished that position in January 1916 when Messrs Dixon & Sons sold the SS *Lord Dufferin*. George B. Keeling applied for Admiralty employment and was given a commission in the Royal Indian Marine. One of George Keeling's brothers had been killed some years earlier in a collision at sea. The death of Lieutenant George B. Keeling was reported in the 1 April edition of the *Newtownards Chronicle* under the headline *The Late Lieutenant Keeling of Millisle*. Bombay (St. Thomas) Cathedral Memorial, Mumbai, India RH. Methodist College Belfast WM

+McCRACKEN, James F

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 15/13211. Executed 19/03/1916. Aged 19. Son of John McCracken. Believed to be from Belfast. Mailly-Mallet Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

+RICHARDSON, Mervyn Stronge

Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Captain. MiD. Died 19/03/1916. Mervyn Stronge Richardson came from fighting stock that included General Sir Rollo Gillespie whose statue stands in Comber (a cousin of his great-grandfather) and Sir James Stronge of Tynan Abbey (his maternal great-grandfather). Mervyn Richardson was born on 21/06/1894 in Killynether Castle, Newtownards and he was the youngest son of Captain Arthur Percy Richardson and Ethel Mary Emily Richardson (nee Stronge) who lived in Purton House, Purton in Wiltshire. Arthur Percy Richardson and Ethel Mary Emily Stronge were married on 14/09/1887 in Aghadowey C of I Parish Church, Co Londonderry. Arthur Richardson, a gentleman from Lisburn was a son of Jonathan Richardson, a manufacturer. Ethel Stronge from Lizard Manor, Aghadowey was a daughter of Edmund Stronge, a land agent. Captain Arthur Percy Richardson and Ethel Mary Emily Richardson (nee Stronge) had at least three children. Mervyn Richardson was educated at Bilton Grange, Rugby, Radley College and the Royal Military College Sandhurst. At Radley he was Captain of the Boats and a member of the Leander Club (a prestigious rowing club established in 1818). He was commissioned on 15/08/1914 and in September 1914 he went to France with a draft, joined the 2nd Btn on the Aisne and was in action continuously till he sustained a gunshot wound in the back on 10/04/1915 and was admitted to No. 3 General Hospital at Treport. He was injured again in September 1915 by an enemy grenade and he was killed in action at Fricourt on 19/03/1916 when he died after being blown into a water-filled shell-hole by an exploding shell. In the records it is noted that, when he was in France, Mervyn Richardson acted as Captain of the

Regimental Rugby Team and that he was one of five officers selected to meet King George V on the King's first visit to the Army in the field. Mervyn recorded details of 'the extraordinary day' he spent on Christmas Day 1914 when German and British soldiers met in no man's land, shook hands, exchanged gifts and agreed to cease hostilities for the day. Point 110 New Military Cemetery, France.
Newtownards WM. Purton WM in Wiltshire

+TEMPLETON, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 15/890. Executed 19/03/1916. Son of Mr. Templeton, 12 Enfield St., Belfast. Mailly-Maillet Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

1917

+BLACKBURN, John Alexander

Royal Garrison Artillery. Gunner. 18807. Died 19/03/1917. Aged 32. He was the son of the late James and Catherine Blackburn. Annahilt Presbyterian churchyard

+FULLERTON, George Edmond

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 20/58. Died 19/03/1917 in Foster Green Hospital, Belfast, from an illness caught at the front. Age 22. Born 18/10/1894 at Lismurnaghan, Ahoghill, the son of druggist and photographer John Fullerton and Ellen Cameron. Herbert A Fullerton, Royal Army Medical Corps, was his brother. George had been employed in the Bridge Street Bakery before joining the forces in December 1915. He went to the war zone in Flanders and was there for about three months



Caterpillar Valley Cemetery; the name given by the army to the long valley which runs West to East, past "Caterpillar Wood", to the high ground at Guillemont. 1918

before being invalided home. The Presbyterian Church RH lists the following Fullertons of Ahoghill: Herbert, Fred, George and Jonathan, and the census returns suggest they were brothers. Herbert was possibly 50230, RAMC, Fred 7/376 RIR, and Jonathan was said to be RIR. Ballymena Observer, March 23, 1917 - "Rfn. George Edmund Fullerton, Royal Irish Rifles, who succumbed to an illness contracted at the front, has died in the Foster Green Hospital, Belfast. He was a son of Mrs. Fullerton, Clonavon, Ballymena.

Deceased enlisted in December 1915 and went to the front in August last where he remained for three months being

subsequently invalided home. He was the fourth son of the late John Fullerton and was formerly engaged in the Bridge Street Bakery, Ballymena. His brother, Private Herbert A. Fullerton is serving at the front with the Royal Army Medical Corps". 1st Ahoghill Presbyterian Churchyard. 1st Ahoghill PCI RH

+HILL, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. att'd. 107th Trench Mortar Bty. Rifleman. 151. Died 19/03/1917. Husband of Mrs. E. Hill, of 18, Norton St., Cromar St., Belfast. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+McGAUGHEY, W

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 26206. Died 19/03/1917. Born 12/01/1886. Baker St., Belfast. Boot finisher. He and his wife Ellen married in St Peter's Roman Catholic Church. Ellen lived at 7 Marchioness St., Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

1918

+BEGGS, Thomas Schofield

East Lancashire Regiment. Depot Btn. Private. 39712. Died 19/03/1918 in hospital in Hastings from meningitis. Age 17. Born 24/04/1900 in Walkmill Kilbride. Son of Robert and Louisa (nee Schofield) Beggs. In 1911 Thomas was living at Cheetham Hill, Manchester, with his grandmother Nancy Schofield. He enlisted in Rawtenstall, Lancashire. He had been a student at Hasligden Grammar (previously Secondary) School and was a cadet with the Royal Flying

Corps. A report states he had been brought up by his aunt and uncle, Richard Lord of 9 Holly Mount Street, Helmshore, and a member of Helmshore Wesleyan Subday School. St. Thomas Churchyard, Musbury, Lancashire. Helmshore and District WM. Hasligden Grammar WM

+FELL, David

15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 14594. Died 19/03/1918. Aged 23. Son of Thomas and Helen Fell, of 20 Hanna Street, Belfast. Pozières Memorial, France.

+QUINN, Charles Wesley

Royal Irish Rifles, 20th Btn. Serjeant. 11734. transf. to 60th Coy. Chinese Labour Corps, 109527. Died 19/03/1918. Age 47. Son of Charles Henry and Jane Isabella Quinn; husband to Sarah Quinn, of 82, Broom St., Woodvale Rd., Belfast. Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

1919

+DAVISON, Andrew

11/7288 Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 11/7288. Died 19/03/1919 in Scotland. Formerly of Galgorm, Ballymena. Bothwell Cemetery, Bellshill, Scotland.

+MULHERN, P J

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 3rd Btn. Private. S/ 29909. Died 19/03/1919. Age 27. Son of Daniel and Ellen McManus Mulhern, of 32, Queen St., Govan, Glasgow. Born at Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

1920

+McCORMY, W

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 32986. Died 19/03/1920. Son of Mr. J. McCorry, of 37, Abyssinia St., Grosvenor Park, Belfast. Tehran War Cemetery, Iran

1921

+GILLEN, John

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 571. Died 19/03/1921 of pneumonia in Antrim Asylum. Born Slatt, Ballymena 22/05/1898. Worked as a carter pre-war. Discharged 23/10/1919, no longer physically fit for war. Son of Mrs. Agnes McCormick, of 4, Helen St., Crumlin. Crumlin Presbyterian Churchyard. Crumlin WM. Crumlin Presbyterian Church RH

1940

+MOORBY, Harold Christopher

RAF. Sergeant. Died 19/03/1940. Notice in Belfast Newsletter 24/01/1940 Died on Active Service: Moorby -- January 19, 1940, killed on active service, Sergeant Harold Christopher Moorby R.A.F., dearly-loved only son of the late Joseph Christopher Moorby, of Sefton Park, Liverpool and Mrs. W. Cunningham, of 16, Kirkliston Drive, Belfast. Funeral will leave his late residence, "Craigsides," Diamond Gardens, Finaghy, for interment in Newtownbreda Churchyard, at 2 pm., to-morrow (Thursday), 25th inst.

1941

+PEARSON, Ronald Parr

RN. Midshipman. Died 19/03/1941. Aged 20. HMS Royal Sovereign. Son of Joseph Pearson and Lilla Pearson (Nee McConnell). Larne (McGarel) Cemetery

1942

+MASON, Harry

RN. AB. LT/JX 200823. Died 19/03/1942. Age 27. HM Trawler Stella Capella. Royal Naval Patrol Service. Two brothers serving in RN. Husband to Rebecca (Ruby) Mason, Merkland St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 17/04/1942). Lowestoft Naval Memorial

1943

+COLWELL, Thomas Bell

RAF. Sergeant (Flight Engineer). 577324. Died 19/03/1943
161 (Special Duties) Sqdn. On 15/02/1942, No.161 reformed at Newmarket from a nucleus supplied by No 138 Squadron and the King's Flight. It joined with No 138 in dropping supplies and agents over occupied Europe and took over the landing and pick-up operations for which it used Lysanders, Havocs and Hudsons. Only a few sorties were flown with the Havoc, and many of these were as convoy escorts under the control of Fighter or Coastal Command. Halifaxes were received in November 1942 and in September 1944, it began using Stirlings with which it continued its covert tasks until on 02/06/1945 the squadron disbanded. Son of On 15 February 1942, No.161 reformed at Newmarket from a nucleus supplied by No 138 Squadron and the King's Flight. It joined with No 138 in dropping supplies and agents over occupied Europe and took over the landing and pick-up operations for which it used

Lysanders, Havocs and Hudsons. Only a few sorties were flown with the Havoc, and many of these were as convoy escorts under the control of Fighter or Coastal Command. Halifaxes were received in November 1942 and in September 1944, it began using Stirlings with which it continued its covert tasks until on the 2 June 1945 the squadron disbanded. Son of Robert McDowell Colwell of Mount Street, Ballymena. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 145. Ballymena WM. Harryville Presbyterian Church, Ballymena RH.

1945

+ALLINGHAM, William George

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1798198. Died 19/03/1945. Age 25. 640 Sqdn. William was the Mid-Upper Air Gunner on Handley-Page Halifax MZ494 C8-B with RAF 640 Sqdn. The crew took off from RAF Leconfield, East Yorkshire on a night-time raid on Witten, Germany. During the raid, the bomber came down in heavy flak. In good conditions, the attack was a success with damage caused to the Ruhrstahl Steelworks and the Mannesmann Tube Factory. The bombing destroyed 129 acres or 62% of the built-up area of the city. The RAF lost 8 bombers of a force comprising 259 Halifaxes, 45 Lancasters, and 20 Mosquitos. Son of Robert Allingham and Margaret Hanna Allingham (née Morton) of Belfast. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany. Before 12/06/1947, his grave was in Witten-Annen Cemetery, Witten, Germany.

+FUGE, Brian Kenneth Levinge

RAF. Flight Lieutenant. 41394. Died 19/03/1945. Aged 28. 541 Sqdn. Son of T. L. Marshal Fuge and Francis Fuge,

husband to Olive M. Fuge, of Bangor, Co. Down.
Runnymede Memorial, Panel 265

+MURRAY, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lieutenant. MC.
309868. Died 19/03/1945. Age 27. Son of George Henry
and Susan Murray, of Belfast. Faenza War Cemetery, Italy

1946

+BRADSHAW, David

Royal Artillery. 102 HAA Regiment. Gunner. 1486315. Died
19/03/1946. Aged 42. Son of William John and Ruth
Bradshaw of Belfast; Husband to Elizabeth Bradshaw of
Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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masthead.**

**Information about individuals who served - please
forward to remembrance ni at**

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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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