



**remembrance ni**



**Cathedral memorial to Edmund De Wind  
VC. Hero of Kaiserschlacht 1918**

**One of the pillars at the porch of the main West doors of Belfast Cathedral was carved as a memorial to Second Lieutenant Edmund de Wind, who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his actions on this day in 1918. The memorial pillar was donated by his mother.**

Kaiserschlacht was the last major push by the German army in WW1. The price for halting it was high and especially for the Thirty-Sixth Division.

Edmund de Wind died maintaining a vital position almost single-handedly at Race Course Redoubt near Groagie, in the area of St Quentin, in France on March 21, 1918. Even though badly wounded, he held on until help could be sent.

Edmund was born in Comber in 1883, attending Campbell College before working in the Bank of Ireland in Cavan and later emigrating to Canada. De Wind was living in Canada in 1914 and working for the Edmonton branch of the CIBC when World War I broke out.

He served with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada for a period of six months prior to his enlistment as a private on 16/11/1914 in the 31st Battalion-Alberta Regiment, Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. He arrived in France with 2nd Division of C.E.F. in September 1915. He saw action in the Battle of the Somme (1916) and at Vimy Ridge (1917). He received a commission in September 1917 with the Royal Irish Rifles in the 15th (Service) Battalion of 107 Brigade. He took part in the battles at Thiepval (July 1 1916), Messines Ridge (1917), the third Battle of Ypres (1917), Cambrai (1917) and the great German attack in 1918.

As a 34-year-old Second Lieutenant in the 15th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rifles, he was awarded the VC for deeds committed during the 1918 Spring Offensive on 21/03/1918. He died on that day.

The London Gazette on May 13, 1919 recorded the following citation:

“For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 21st March, 1918, at the Racecourse Redoubt, near Groagie, France.

“For seven hours he held this most important post, and though twice wounded and practically single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help.

“On two occasions, with two NCOs only, he got out on top under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many.

“He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour, self-sacrifice and example were of the highest order.” The VC was presented to his mother by King George V. Edmund de Wind has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the missing.

De Wind is commemorated by a pillar, bearing his name and date of death, commissioned by his mother and installed at the main entrance on the west front of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. The entire west front, dedicated in 1927, forms a memorial to the Ulster men and women who served and died in the Great War.

He is also named on the Pozières Memorial, in the Somme department of France, to the missing of the Fifth Army.

There is a plaque memorial in his old school, Campbell College, Belfast.

In his home town of Comber, he is commemorated by an Ulster History Circle blue plaque, unveiled in 2007. There is a VC commemorative stone in his memory mounted on a plinth in Comber, that was unveiled in March 2018 to mark the centenary of his death, and a street in the town is named after him.

A tablet to his memory can be found in Comber Parish Church and an Ulster Historical Society Blue Plaque was erected at his former home.

Second Lieutenant Edmund De Wind, 15th Battalion The Royal Irish Rifles. Died 34 years old, March 21st 1918, Second Battle of the Somme. Son of Arthur Hughes De Wind, C.E., and Margaret Jane De Wind.

## **The record of the Thirty-Sixth Division - Winston Churchill**

**“The record of the Thirty-Sixth Division will ever be the pride of Ulster.**

“At Thiepval in the battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916; at Wytschaete on 17 June 1917, in the storming of the Messines Ridge; on the Canal du Nord, in the attack on the Hindenburg Line of 20 November the same year; on 21 March 1918, near Fontaine-les-Clercs, defending their positions long after they were isolated and surrounded by the enemy; and later in the month at Andechy in the days of



'backs to the wall', they acquired a reputation for conduct and devotion deathless in military history of the United Kingdom, and repeatedly signalled in the despatches of the Commander-in-Chief."

## Kaiserschlacht 1918 impacted harshly on Ulster Division



Inniskilling Fusiliers, 36th (Ulster) Division in a captured German communications trench near Havrincourt during the Battle of Cambrai.

**Some figures for 36th(Ulster) Div in the Kaiserschlacht - From 21-31 March, 1918, 966 men attached to the Div were killed in action or died of wounds, and around**

## **5000 were taken prisoner.**

108th Bde strength on 1 March - 3526. Strength on 28 March- 335. Throughout 30/03/1918 after 7 days of a fighting withdrawal in the Kaiserschlacht the remnants of 36th(Ulster) Div were directed to Saleux on the outskirts of Amiens for transport to the rear. However no trains appeared and the men spent the night in the open in the rain.

The last official action of the 36th(Ulster) Division in the Kaiserschlacht occurred in the early hours of 29 March when a patrol of 1 RIR led by Capt. Harry Tayler checked the villages of Villers-Tourmelle and Cantigny for Germans but found both in French hands.

## **Kaiserschlacht March 21 - First account**

Awakened by the German bombardment of 10,000 Artillery pieces and Trench Mortars, General Gough 5th Army commander checked the situation.... and went back to bed. This was despite the fact that the date of the Kaiserschlacht had been confirmed.

The 36th(Ulster) Div Artillery was withdrawn from Forward Zone positions on 20 March 1918 to behind the Battle Zone reinforcing the sense of isolation of the infantry battalions holding the Forward Zone.

Of the 12th Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Royal Irish Rifles and 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers holding the 36th (Ulster) Div Forward Zone at the opening of the Kaiserschlacht - some 2,000 men, only a handful made it to the rear after being encircled and overrun.

On the afternoon of the opening day of the Kaiserschlacht, 61st Infantry Bde from 20th (Light) Div comprising 7th Somerset LI, 7th Duke of Cornwall's LI and 12th King's (Liverpool) Regt were attached to the hard pressed 36th (Ulster) Division. They were to remain until 25th March.

### **Kaiserschlacht March 21 - A second account**

On 21 March 1918, the Germans had launched a huge offensive on the front between Arras and La Fère against the British Third and Fifth Armies, the latter embracing the 36th (Ulster) Division. The Germans had moved some fifty divisions from the eastern front, their aim to outflank the BEF in Flanders, attack its lines of communication, cut off its supply lines from the Channel ports, defeat the British and force a French armistice; if successful, the Kaiser would defeat the Allies and win the war. It was a desperate gamble but the USA had entered the war in April 1917 and the Germans knew they had to win before the well-trained American Expeditionary Force was committed in strength.

The Germans' opening attack, Operation Michael, began at 0440 hours when the heaviest artillery bombardment yet seen on the Western Front pounded the British around St Quentin. The forward trenches were blanketed with gas and smoke, and at 0940 hours the Germans attacked using their recently developed 'Offensive in Trench Warfare' tactics.

Elite storm troopers led the fast moving assault and the infantry followed, that troops pouring forward out of a morning mist made denser by smoke from the continuing artillery barrages.

The Irish infantry facing the Spring Offensive or Kaiserschlacht (Kaiser's Battle), also known as the Ludendorff Offensive, were the 1st, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; the 1st, 2nd, 12th and 15th Battalions, Royal Irish Rifles, and the 1st and 9th Battalions of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The 1st Battalion, London Irish Rifles bore the brunt of a German attack supporting 'Operation Michael' around St Quentin.

The attack eventually failed and the subsequent Battle of Amiens led to the 'Hundred Days' and German defeat in the Great War but the Spring Offensive had cost the 36th (Ulster) Division 7,310 casualties. They and the 16th Irish Division were destroyed as effective units and had to be removed from the British order of battle for reconstruction.

## On this Day – March 21

**1918** The Kaiserschlacht

**1920**



A Hungarian Jewish woman Vera Kaufman was born on that day in Békéscsaba. She was killed in Auschwitz on 12 July 1944. She was 24 years old.

## **1940**

Paul Reynaud becomes Prime Minister of France, with Edouard Daladier being made Minister of Defense and War. First German merchant ship sunk by British sub: British submarine Ursula sinks German freighter Heddernheim.

## **1941**

The last Italian post in East Libya, North Africa, falls to the British.

## **1942**

In a repeat of Force H's mission on the 7th March 1942. Sixteen more Spitfires are delivered to Malta. The Axis, now aware of the large British supply convoy sailing towards Malta, dispatches Admiral Iachino from Taranto with the Battleship Littorio and 4 destroyers. Admiral Parona also sets sail from Messina with 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers. President Roosevelt signs bill making violation of Executive Order 9066 (removal of Japanese-Americans from the west coast) a federal offense.

## **1943**

Hitler breaks his four-month silence with a Hero's Day speech.

Another failed assassination attempt on Hitler's life, at Heroes Day celebration.

In Tunisia, US Rangers ambush Italians near Gafsa and take 1000 POWs.

Cornelia Fort becomes first WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, precursor of WASPs) member killed in action, ferrying BT-13 in Texas.

## 1944

Eruption of Mount Vesuvius buries villages of San Sebastiano and Massa; 6-km-high lava fountains are seen.

## 1945

Units of the U.S. First Army advances from the Remagen bridgehead toward Siegburg.

The Russians capture Stuhlweissenburg in Hungary.

The US 8th Air Force launches a major attack (650 bombers) against Hamburg.

Allied bombs for Copenhagen Gestapo HQ hit school; kill 86 students and 17 teachers.

Japanese use rocket-powered Ohka kamikaze plane for first time, but cause little damage to US fleet.



# Roll of Honour – March 21

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+DEVANEY, Joseph**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 6324. Died 21/03/1915. Born about 1877 in Glasgow where he later enlisted. His effects went to his brother Thomas who lived in Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. Reninghelst Churchyard Extension, Belgium

**+GORMAN, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8013. Died 21/03/1915. Age 31. Nephew of Marjorie Johnston, of 8, St. Paul's St., Belfast. Manchester Southern Cemetery

**1916**

**+BUCHANAN, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 5568. Died 21/03/1916 in action at Grugies, France. Born at Wellington Street, Ballymena on the 22/03/1893. He had enlisted in Motherwell, Scotland. Son of watchmaker Andrew Buchanan and his wife Ellen, nee Stewart, 'Ralphena', Broughshane Road, Ballymena. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+DUGGAN, Frederick John**

Royal Field Artillery. Captain. MiD. Died 21/03/1916. Killed in action in France by a sniper while carrying out reconnaissance. Son of Elizabeth and Creighton Duggan. Frederick was born in 1883 in the Clones district, County Monaghan. His mother died when Fred was just six years old. Fred was educated at the Royal School Dungannon from 1896 to 1899. From school, Fred enlisted as an army cadet with the Royal Field Artillery at Woolwich in London. On 31/07/1902 he obtained a commission with the 103rd Battalion of the Royal Field Artillery. In 1905 he married Edith Emily Cogan. They had two sons, Terence and Michael. He was appointed Staff Captain in 1915. He was mentioned in dispatches. Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, Armentieres, Nord, France. Royal School Dungannon Book

**+KELLY, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, Rifleman. 3/2347. Died 21/03/1916. Age 34. Enlisted in Belfast. Rifleman James Kelly was serving with the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers when he was killed in action in France. Son of Mary Kelly, Dead Lane, Maghera. James was born in Maghera about 1882. Rue du Bois Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

**+KIRKWOOD Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. C Coy. (Central Antrim Volunteers). Lance Corporal. 19049. Died 21/03/1916 of wounds at Southwark Military Hospital. Aged 24. Born in Kells, the son of Nat and Maggie Jane Kirkwood. All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead. Connor Presbyterian Church RH.

**+LEITCH, W**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 18074. Died 21/03/1916. Age 20. Son of John and Jane T. Leitch, of Donegal Road, Belfast. Forceville Communal Cemetery, France

**1917**

**+BUTLER, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. Rifleman. 40203, formerly (6792) King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Died 21/03/1917. Husband of Elizabeth Butler of 54 Skipton Street, Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France

**+KANE, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. (Central Antrim Volunteers). Lance Corporal. 12/17998. 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim Volunteers). Died 21/03/1917. Aged 20. He served in France and Belgium. The Ballymoney Free Press and Northern Counties Advertiser on the 5th April 1917: - "His company were encamped near a village some miles behind the front lines but the Germans suddenly sent a number of shells in and about the officers quarters. Young Kane who would next year have completed his 20th year was then engaged in cutting the hair of an officer in the sleeping hut of Captain Beale, the officer commanding the company. The first shell wrecked the hut and a large piece struck Kane on the head instantly killing him. Two officers were slightly wounded and Captain Beale who was in a separate building about twenty feet away escaped with a severe shaking.



"The latter writes that both the officers and men feel the loss of young Kane very much as he was a keen soldier, very cool at anxious times and whenever an officer went out on patrol he was chosen to go with him. The sympathy of many local friends goes out to the parents at Carnalridge. Son of Mr. James and Mrs. Mary Ann Kane, Carnalridge Cottages, Portrush. Loker Churchyard, Belgium. Portrush WM, Holy Trinity Parish Church RH, Portrush Portstewart WM, Agherton Parish Church RH. IMR.

### **+TIMONEY, John Francis**

Canadian Infantry, 102nd Btn. Private. 252308. Died 21/03/1917. Son of James and Teresa Timoney. He was born in Belfast on 15/12/1882. By 1886 the family had moved to the Limavady area. By the time of the 1901 census, the family were living in Magherafelt. His father was a land agent. John Timoney emigrated to Canada. Prior to enlisting, John was working as a farmer. He enlisted at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada on 02/03/1916. Private John Francis Timoney was serving with 102nd Battalion of the Saskatchewan Regiment when he was killed in action on 21/03/1917 during the preparations for Vimy Ridge. Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-au-Bois, Pas de Calais, France

## **1918**

### **The opening day of the German Spring Offensive.**

### **+ADAMS, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. att'd. Machine Gun Corps, 36th Btn. Serjeant. 1146. Died 21/03/1918. Father of Ruby

Adams, of 20, Glendermott Rd., Waterside, Londonderry.  
Poizieres Memorial, Somme, France

### **+ANDERSON, Robert**

Canadian Infantry. 85th Btn. (Nova Scotia Regiment).  
Private. 736364. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 40. Born on  
07/02/1878 in New Street, Donaghadee. Son of George and  
Mary Jane Anderson (nee Herron) who were married on  
09/02/1877 in First Newtownards Presbyterian Church. The  
Anderson family moved from Donaghadee to Bangor where  
they lived in Victoria Road and at 42 Albert Street. George  
and Mary Jane had eight children. Robert Anderson moved  
to Canada where he worked as a lumberman. He enlisted at  
Lethbridge, Alberta on 21/03/1916. Robert Anderson  
enlisted nine months after his younger brother David was  
killed in action at Ypres. Aged 37 when he enlisted, Private  
Robert Anderson was 40 when he died of wounds at Vimy  
Ridge. Houchin British Cemetery. Ypres (Menin Gate)  
Memorial, Belgium. Canadian Virtual War Memorial;  
Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance. Bangor  
WM. Royal British Legion (Bangor Branch) Memorial  
Plaque. First Bangor Presbyterian Church RH. Family  
headstone in Donaghadee Parish Church of Ireland  
Graveyard.

### **+BAILLIE, Hugh Montgomery**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. A Coy. Captain. Died  
21/03/1918. Age 25. Son of Robert and Sara Baillie, of  
"Ellerslie", Ravenhill Park, Belfast. Poizieres Memorial,  
France

**+BARTON, Patrick**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 11701. Died 21/03/1918. Patrick was born in Broxburn, Linlithgow, and enlisted in Coatbridge, Scotland. The family lived in Lisburn and Cookstown. Patrick Barton was reported missing, killed in action. He was most likely a wounded prisoner of the Germans, dying later of his wounds. His remains were interred in Essigny-le-Grand German Cemetery Grand Seracourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France. Cookstown WM

**+BELL, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 17255. Died 21/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, France. Larne WM

**+BELL, Joseph**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 6958. Died 21/03/1918. Age 37. Son of Mrs. Sarah Bell, of 3, Cowan St., Newry. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+BOYLE, Robert Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 18/1370. Died 21/03/1918. Age 17. Son of Robert and Margaret Boyle, of Belfast. Grand-Seracourt British Cemetery, France

**+BOYLE, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 28912. Died 21/03/1918. Age 23. Brother of Mrs. Bridget Hendron, of 109, Main St., Strabane. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+BROWN, Alexander**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 12/79 Died 21/03/1918. Born 10/02/1896 at Ballygallagher, Ballylinney, Ballyclare. Son of James and Margaret Brown, nee

McAuley, from Kells, Ballymena, later of Avondale Terrace, Ballyclare. Alexander lived at Bridgeton, Glasgow and enlisted in Ballyclare. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Ballyclare Presbyterian Church RH

### **+BROWN, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. attd. 1st Btn. Captain. Military Cross and Bar. Died 21/03/1918. Age 23. Second-Lieutenant John Brown won his Military Cross while serving with the 8th (Service) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (East Belfast Volunteers), for his gallantry on the 01/07/1916 when he was wounded. The award was presented by the King. He gained a Bar to that decoration in the following year. He would later be promoted to Captain. Captain John Brown, would later be attached to the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, he was killed in action on the opening day of "Operation Michael," 21/03/1918. Second-Lieutenant Brown also was awarded the Royal Humane Society's medal for life-saving at Albert Bridge, Belfast. Son of Samuel Stewart Brown (Assistant Postmaster of Belfast), of 3, Ailsa Terrace, Strandtown, Belfast, and the late Agnes Brown nee Bill. Pozieres Memorial, France. Strandtown War Memorial. Ballymacarrett Presbyterian Church WM, now at the Somme Association Conlig

### **+BURGESS, George**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Sergeant. 17342. Died 21/03/1918. Born and lived in Carrickfergus. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France. St Nicholas, Church of Ireland, Carrickfergus WM

### **+BURNSIDE, Edward Edmond**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died

21/03/1918. Aged 20. After RBAI, Edward Burnside attended Queen's University, Belfast where he was a member of the Officers' Training Corps. He enlisted in Belfast on 24/10/1916 and received his commission with the Royal Irish Rifles on 16/01/1917, being posted to the frontline in December 1917. He was killed in action, two months before he turned 20, during the Battle of St Quentin. The battalion war diary reports: "The entire No 1 Company consisting of nine officers and 150 other ranks failed to appear at rendezvous west of Somme Dugouts, having apparently been cut off at Jeanne-D'Arc, and were subsequently posted as missing."

Edward was born on 10/05/1898, the eldest of four children born to Ingram Burnside, a Tea Merchant, and Minnie Elizabeth Burnside at 1 Lawrence Street and, in 1915, the family moved to "Norham" on Bladon Drive in the Malone area. They later lived at "Budore" in Greenisland.

Grand - Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France. RBAI WM, QUB WM, QUB OTC RH.

### **+CAMPBELL, Wesley**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 103. Died 21/03/1918. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France. Larne WM

### **+CARLISLE, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 1209. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Son of John and Jane Carlisle, of 67, Utility St., Belfast. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France.

### **+CARR, Wilfred**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 7211. Died 21/03/1918. Son of William James and Annie Carr, of 10



Woodcote Avenue, Belfast. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France

### **+CARSON, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 11899. Died 21/03/1918. Age 19. Son of John and Isabella Carson, of 17, North Queen St., Belfast. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France.

### **+CARTMILL, Thomas Rowland**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 41523. Died 21/03/1918. Born on 25/11/1892 at Killeavy, Newry, son of furniture dealer Richard Cartmill and his wife Margaret Ann (nee Rowland). A plumber by trade, he lived at Lisdrumgullion, Newry, Co. Down. He was survived by his wife Ella (nee Dodds) and their three children, Ruth, John and Thomas. On 30/12/1914 Thomas enlisted in the North Irish Horse (No.1387) at Antrim, arriving in France with F Squadron on 17/11/1915. In June 1916 F Squadron joined C Squadron and the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons (Service Squadron) to form the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment. On 20/09/1917 Thomas was transferred to the 9th (NIH) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, when the 2nd Regiment was dismounted and absorbed into that battalion. He was posted to A Company. On 25 October he was charged with "inducing others to misbehave" while on parade, for which he received 14 days Field Punishment No.1. Private Cartmill was killed in action between 21 and 28/03/1918 during the retreat from St Quentin in the German 'Kaiserschlacht' offensive. He is commemorated at Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, panel 77. It is possible that

his body is one of two unidentified North Irish Horse who lie in the Grand Seraucourt British Cemetery.

**+CHAMBERS, W**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th/9th Btn. Rifleman. 1351. M M. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 21. Grandson of James and Sarah Robinson, of 29, Lee St., Belfast. Ham British Cemetery, Muille-Vilette, Somme, France

**+CHARTERS, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. C Coy. Corporal. 12663. Died 21/03/1918. Age 28. Son of Margaret Charters, of 8, Marine St., Belfast, and the late Henry Percy Charters. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France

**+COCHRANE, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 21st Entrenching Btn., late 10th Btn. Rifleman. 2306. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Disembarked France in October 1915. Entrenching battalions were corps-level pools of infantry that could be sent to any Brigade where manpower was necessary but were also deployable to improve defences Son of Mrs. Sarah M. Cochrane, of Derryrairie, Collone, Co. Armagh. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+COLD, Andrew**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 10413. Died 21/03/1918. Son of Mrs. Jane McCloy, of 17, Shipboy St. Belfast. Grand - Seraucourt British Cemetery, France

**+CONWAY, Alexander**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. A Coy. Serjeant. 3230. Croix de Guerre (Belgium). Died 21/03/1918. Age 21 years old. Son of Matthew and Agnes Conway, of 57, Thistle St. Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+COURTNEY, Alexander**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9167. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 30. James Alexander Courtney (known subsequently as Alexander Courtney) was born on 14/06/1887 in Killinchy Street, Comber and he was a son of Mary Courtney, a mill worker. In 1901 Alexander Courtney was a boarder in the Balmoral Industrial School for Protestant Boys, Ballygomartin, Belfast. [Industrial Schools were established in Ireland under the Industrial Schools Act of 1868 to care for 'neglected, orphaned or abandoned children'.] Pozieres Memorial, France. Balmoral Industrial School RH (Held by PRONI)

### **+CROCKETT, William Vance**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9759. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 21. Son of Mrs. Annie Crockett, of 29, Glasgow Terrace, Londonderry. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France

### **+CURTIS, Michael**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7/8th Btn. Private. 27959. Died 21/03/1918. Age 42. Son of Michael and Margaret Curtis. Michael was born about 1876 in Londonderry. He enlisted in Draperstown. Son of Michael and Margaret Curtis of Ballinahone, Maghera; Husband to Mary Curtis of Ballinahone, Maghera. Tincourt New British Cemetery, Tincourt, Somme, France.

### **+CUSHLEY, David John**

Highland Light Infantry, 15th Btn. Corporal. 14049. Died 21/03/1918. Age 25. Cushley was the son John and Mary Cushley. He was born about 1892 in Upperlands, County Londonderry. The family lived in Upperlands, Swatragh. His father's occupation was given as 'Dying in Bleach Green'. By 1911, David was employed as an office clerk. Like so many others in Upperlands, he was employed by William Clark & Sons Ltd. Canada Farm Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

### **+DAVIDSON, James Johnston**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 355. Died 21/03/1918 at the battle of St Quentin. Age 19. Born Ballyduff 22/07/1898. Enlisted in Belfast. Son of Benjamin Adair Davidson and Elizabeth (nee Johnston) Davidson, of Carnmoney, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Family headstone in Carnmoney C of I graveyard. Carnmoney Presbyterian Church RH

### **+DAVIDSON, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 992. Died 21/03/1918. Age 21. Brother of Andrew Davidson, of 45, Island St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+DeWIND, Edmund**

Second Lieutenant Edmund De Wind, 15th Battalion The Royal Irish Rifles. VC. Died 34 years old, 21/03/1918, Second Battle of the Somme. Memorial column, Belfast Cathedral west door. Memorial Comber. See article above.

### **+DITTY, Albert**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 36th Btn. Private. 19487.  
Died 21/03/1918. Age 22. Son of Thomas J. and Mary Ann  
Ditty, of 5, Everton St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+DOBBIN, William Leonard Price**

2 RIR. Captain. MC. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. KIA at  
Contescourt on the Somme. Born in Victoria, Australia. Son  
of Major William Wood Dobbin, MBE of Osborne, Dunmurry  
and the late Emily Josophine Cuzens Dobbin. Pozieres  
Memorial, Somme, France,

**+DONNELLY, Gilbert**

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lieutenant. Died  
21/03/1918. Age 20. Son of John and Jemima Donnelly, of  
Glastonbury Avenue, Belfast. Ste Emilie Valley Cemetery,  
Villers-Faucon, France

**+DOOLEY, Charles**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Lance Corporal.  
25623. Died 21/03/1918. Son of Robert and Anne Dooley of  
2 Well Street, Tenace, Londonderry. His older brother  
Robert Dooley had died on 23/09/1914. A regular soldier of  
the Inniskillings, 22-year-old Corporal Robert Dooley was  
wounded in action with the British Expeditionary Force  
during the early battles of August 1914. He was evacuated  
to Britain for treatment but died of his wounds in Glasgow on  
21 March and was buried at home in the City Cemetery.  
Charles is remembered at Pozieres Memorial, France and  
Londonderry Diamond WM

**+DOUGAN, Hugh March**



Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. Lance Corporal. 6512. Died 21/03/1918. Age 22. Son of John and Sarah Dougan, of 4, Benburb St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+DUNLOP, Robert**

Royal Garrison Artillery, 299th Siege Bty. Gunner. 168146. Died 21/03/1918. Born Antrim. Enlisted Rutherglen, Scotland. Legatee was Annie McIntyre. Arras Memorial, France

**+DYER, William**

21st Entrenching Battalion formerly 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 12291. Killed in action on the opening day of "Operation Michael" 21/03/1918. Aged 36. Husband to Elizabeth Dyer nee Watson, (formerly Mitchell). (13th May 1918, Northern Whig). Pozières Memorial, Somme, France.

**+ERSKINE, William Alexander**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 12758. Died 21/03/1918. Age 27. Son of William B. Erskine, of 14, Sealands Parade, Seaview, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+FINLAY, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Serjeant. 16488. Died 21/03/1918. Age 24. Son of Mrs. Sarah Finlay, of 18, Snugville St., Belfast, and the late William J. Finlay. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+FLEMING, Peter**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 3594. Military Medal. Died 21/03/1918. Age 33. Enlisted when he was 19 years

old. Born at Ballybot, Co. Armagh. Son of Peter and Annie Fleming, Kings St., Newry. Husband to Mary Fleming, Belfast. They had four children. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+GARLAND, John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 20529. Military Medal. Died 21/03/1918. He served from 22 September until 24 October 1914 (Number 6228) before being medically discharged. He re-enlisted with the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Born in Tandragee. In 1911 John (14) was living with his parents William, a flax dresser and Alice, and three sisters and three brothers in 31 Mill Row, Tandragee. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+GILL, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th (Pioneer) Btn (2nd County Down Volunteers). Rifleman. 16/428. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. This was the first day of the Battle of St. Quentin. His brother, George, was killed later the same year. Son of John and Sarah J. Gill, of 106 Belmont Road, Strandtown, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Strandtown WM

### **+GLENDINING, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 47164. Died 21/03/1918. Age 30. Son of Henry and Sarah Glendining of Tyrella, Co. Down, Northern Ireland; husband of Elizabeth Glendining, of Palatine Rd., Killough, Co. Down. Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, France

### **+GORE, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 13448. Died

21/03/1918. Age 32. Son of Robert and Lizzie Gore, of 26, Cornalea St., Belfast. Noyon New British Cemetery, France

**+GRAHAM, Joseph**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn, D Coy. Lance Corporal. M M. 2831. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 26. Son of the late John and Mary Ellen Graham, of Mountdarby, Corranny, Co. Fermanagh. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+HAGAN, Hugh**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 20321. Died 21/03/1918. Born at Tamlachtmore, County Tyrone. Hugh Hagan worked at Adair's Mill at Greenvale, Cookstown. Hugh enlisted in Omagh with the 7th Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Pozeieres Memorial, Somme, France. Cookstown WM

**+HAMILTON, Hugh**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 12920. Died 21/03/1918. Prisoner of War. Born Belfast. Enlisted Belfast. Initially reported as missing. Found to be in a POW camp. His mother lived at Throne Terrace, Whitewell Rd., Belfast. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France

**+HARRIS, Alfred John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 104. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 22. Son of William and Ellen Harris, of 24, Prospect St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+HAUGHEY, Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 12200. Died 21/03/1918. Age 28. Son of Mrs. Margaret Haughey, of 24, Gaffikin St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+HUGHES, James**

Connaught Rangers, 6th. Btn. Private. 2727. MM. Died 21/03/1918. Son of the late Michael Hughes and Mary Rock (sometimes recorded as Rocks). Michael, a clerk, of 1, Crumlin Street, Belfast had married Mary Rock, 5, Craig Street, Belfast in St Peter's RC Church on the 26/08/ 1891. The couple had at least five children together and in 1911 they were Ellen (Nellie - born 5 June 1892 at Cypress Street, Belfast), James (born 13 November 1893 at 35, Conliffe Street, Dublin), Bridget (born 16 October 1895 at Ballymoney Street, Belfast), Mary (born 21 May 1899 at Dungloe, Donegal) and Mary Theresa (born 4 May 1901 at Dungloe, Donegal). Mary Hughes died and widower Michael Hughes married Bridget O'Donnell in St Peter's RC Church, Dungloe on the 20 September 1905. The couple were living at 7, Suffolk Street, Ballymena, Co. Antrim by 1911, and all Michael's children lived with them. Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers Faucon, France.

### **+HUTCHINSON, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn.attd. 36th Bn. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Rifleman. 5325. Died 21/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, France. Larne WM

### **+JOHNSTON, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn, D Coy. Private. 21083. Died 21/03/1918. Enlisted in Londonderry, where he was living. Private William Johnston was a signaller. On the back of his will, in his pay book, was the alphabet in Morse code. Son of John and Margaret Johnston. The 1901 census lists William as age 3 living with his mother and the Stewart

family (his grandparents) at house 23 in Aughagaskin, Magherafelt. The CWGC also record that is father also died in the war, although no other details are available. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+KEARNS, John James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers," E" Coy. 7th Btn. Private. 22789. Died 21/03/1918. Age 21. Son of Charles and Catherine Kearns, of High Sion, Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France.

**+KELLY, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Lance Corporal. 12978. Died 21/03/1918. Born Ballynure. Enlisted Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France. Ballyclare WM.

**+KENNEDY, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. attd. 1st Btn. Died 21/03/1918. Son of The Rev. S G. Kennedy, of Cromwell House, Cromwell Road, Belfast. His brother W Kennedy also fell. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France

**+KERNAGHAN, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Serjeant. 11/19584. Died 21/03/1918. His brother John Kernaghan also lost his life in the war on 01/10/1918. Born Oldstone, Muckamore 20/03/1885. Before enlisting he was a clerk in the linen factory (York Street, Muckamore). Member of the UVF and of Diamond LOL 1422, Muckamore. Son of William and Fanny (nee Johnson) Kernaghan. James was husband to Agnes. They married in Castleton Presbyterian Church on 09/06/1915. His wife later lived at 14 Limestone Rd., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France. Antrim town WM. Antrim District



LOL 13 WM, Diamond LOL 1422 Muckamore Orange Hall  
WM, St Jude's Church, C of I, WM.Antrim Town WM

**+KERR, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 3rd Btn attd 1st Btn. Lieutenant. Died  
21/03/1918. Member of QUB Training Corps 1915. Pozieres  
Memorial, Somme, France

**+KING, Gerald**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Serjeant. 20654.  
Died 21/03/1918. Age 22 . Son of Martin King, of Kentucky,  
U.S.A., and Kathleen King, of Belfast. Poziers Memorial,  
France

**+KNOX, Thompson**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Corporal. 28890.  
Died 21/03/1918. Age 21. Son of Thompson and Maggie  
Jane Knox, of Largy Garvary Post Office, Enniskillen.  
Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+LAMB, James**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4626. Died  
21/03/1918. Age 27. Son of the late James and Sarah  
Lamb, of 27, Foundry St., Portadown. Pozieres Memorial,  
Somme, France.

**+LATIMER, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. 13011 Company Sergeant  
Major. Died 21/03/1918. Born on 01/02/1886 at Clonavon  
Street, Ballymena, and he was the son of William Latimer  
and Eliza Gracey. The family later moved to Isabella Street,  
Belfast. James enlisted in Belfast. Serjeant James Latimer,  
15th Royal Irish Rifles, Ballykinlar Camp, Co Down, married

Agnes Hayes of 11 New North Queen Street, Belfast in Lynn Memorial Methodist Church, Oldpark Road, Belfast on the 19/05/1915. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+LORIMER, Andrew**

Royal Irish Rifles, 21st Entrenching Btn. late 8th/9th Btn. Rifleman. 11699. Died 21/03/1918. Age 36. A van driver. A member of City Temperance LOL 1197. Enlisted Belfast. Son of the late Thomas John and Isabella (nee Simms) Lorimer; husband to Emily (nee Maginnes) Lorimer, of 268, Leopold St., Belfast. Father of Robert and Emily. His brother John served with the Royal Irish Rifles in WW1, and died on 08/09/1945 serving as a Pilot Officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Ballyclare WM. Townsend Street Presbyterian Church RH

**+LOWDEN, Norman**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn attached 109th T.M. Battery. Lieutenant. MiD. Died 21/03/1918. Age 22. Member of the QUB Training Corps 1915 - 16. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lowden, Easton Avenue, Belfast. Savy British Cemetery, Aisle, France

**+LYONS, Matthew**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Serjeant. 15167. Died 21/03/1918. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Charlotte Edith Lyons, of 8, Wesley St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France.

**+MAGEE, Edward G**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. C Coy. Private. 28771. Died 21/03/1918. Age 25. Son of Ephraim and Jane

Magee, of 16, Beechfield St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+MAGOOKIN, William Douglas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 21/03/1918. Age 38. Husband to Dorothea Magookin, of 28, Newport St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+MARSHALL, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 21st Entrenching Btn., late 10th Btn. Rifleman. 132. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Son of Mrs. Mary Jane Marshall, of 60, Braemar St., Broadway, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+MAYNE, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Corporal. 27687. Died 21/03/1918. Youngest son of Samuel and Annie Mayne. He was born and lived at Annaghananam, Sandholes, Cookstown. They were a farming family. Soon after William enlisted he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Savy British Cemetery, St Quentin, Aisne, France. Cookstown WM, Sandholes Presbyterian Church RH

**+McAULEY (CAULEY), Robert**

Royal Engineers, 36th Div. Signalling Coy. Sapper. 64528. MM. Died 21/03/1918. Robert enlisted into the 12th Btn of the Royal Irish Rifles, and served as Rifleman 377, until he was transferred into the Signal Corps of the Royal Engineers. He was awarded the Military Medal for his actions on 01/07/1916 in the attack at the Somme where he served with C company of the 12th Btn, Royal Irish Rifles. He served at the Somme, Messines Ridge, Cambrai, and

Paschendale only to lose his life during the German attack in the spring of 1918. Son of Robert McCauley, of 22, Mill Lane, Ballyclare. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France. Ballyclare Presbyterian Church RH, Ballyeaston LOL 420 RH, Ballyclare WM

### **+McCANN, Patrick**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 29851. Died 21/03/1918. Born at Ardtrea, Stewartstown and at the outbreak of the war his family were living in Moneymore. He enlisted at Omagh, with the 8th Btn.. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France.

### **+McCANN, Thomas**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Corporal. 18307. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Born on 31/01/1897 in Church Street, Newtownards. Son of Thomas and Margaret (Maggie) Jane McCann (nee Galloway, sometimes Galway) who were married on 03/10/1891 in Fourth Newtownards Presbyterian Church. They had two children. After their mother Margaret died of tuberculosis on 24/06/1898 (aged 25), Robert James (aged 2 years 9 months) and Thomas (aged 1 year 5 months) lived at 59 Church Street, Newtownards with their maternal grandparents John and Maggie Galloway. Their father Thomas lived with his widowed mother, Mary McCann, at 2 Darragh's Street, Newtownards. Thomas McCann Senior worked as a bleach works labourer and he and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Allen (sometimes Allan, a widow) were married on 27/01/1903 in Second Newtownards Presbyterian Church. Thomas and Lizzie McCann lived at 37 Church Street, Newtownards. They had at least eight children. Thomas McCann worked as a grocer's labourer. He enlisted in Newtownards and went to France in

October 1915. He served with the 9th Btn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was wounded during the Battle of the Somme and again at the Battle of Messines. He died during the opening battle of the German Spring Offensive on the Western Front. Captain T.D. Morrison, adjutant of the Battalion and son of the principal of the Londonderry Schools in Newtownards wrote to Thomas McCann's father. In the letter he described the circumstances of Thomas's death, 'During the attack he went forward with some of his men to drive out a party of the enemy who had entered our line. He succeeded in his task but unfortunately was killed just as he completed it. He was buried where he fell. Your son was one of our most promising non-commissioned officers.' Major J.C. Muir also wrote to Thomas's father and, in his letter, he said, 'He died facing the enemy, as every brave man would.' Pozieres Memorial in France.  
Newtownards WM. Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church  
Newtownards RH.

### **+McCALLAN, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 23524. Died between 21/03/1918 and 29/03/1918. Age 39. Son of the late Hugh and Eliza McCallan, of Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone; husband to Mary McCallan, of 17, Fifth St., Shankill Rd., Belfast.

### **+McCLATCHIE, Samuel**

South African Infantry, 4th Regt. Private. 14547. Died 21/03/1918. Age 40. POW. He was a carpenter. Had been

living in Maskell's Hotel, Brakpan, Benoni, Sout Africa. Son of the late James and Mary E. McClatchie, of Carnlea, Ballyclare. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+McCLAY, Robert Joseph Allen**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 2495. Died 21/03/1918. Born in Craigarogan, Templepatrick. Robert and Sarah McKeen married in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 01/02/1915. They had a son on 31/07/1916. Robert's brother Samuel died serving with South African forces on 22/11/1917. Sarah was living at Millbank, Templepatrick when Robert died. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Ballyclare WM. Templepatrick Presbyterian Church RH. Old Presbyterian Church Templepatrick RH

### **+McCLEAN, William**

Royal Irish Regiment, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 6547. Died 21/03/1918. Age 38. Son of the late William and Margaret McClean, of Belfast. Pozierres Memorial, Somme, France

### **+McCLELLAND, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Corporal. 13193. Died 21/03/1918. Born Belfast. Lived Whiteabbey. Son of Isabella McClelland. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

### **+McCLENAGHAN, John Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 66. Died 21/03/1918. Age 21. Son of Jane Robinson McClenaghan, of 2A, Greenmount St., Belfast, and the late Thomas McClenaghan. Pozieres Memorial, France



## **+McELNEY, Robert Gerald**

RAMC. Captain. 77th. Field Ambulance. MC. Died 21/03/1918. Age 25. Campbell College. Entered QUB, with an entrance scholarship, and obtained fifth place in a year of keen competition at the Science Scholarship Examination. He became a prominent member of the OTC. In February 1912, he obtained the Royal Humane Society, for a deed of gallantry near Downpatrick. He was a competent swimmer, and held the bronze medal of the Royal Life Saving Society. He was also a keen horseman. In April 1913, he obtained a commission in the RAMC (SR), taking his training at Aldershot that year. Lieutenant RAMC April 1913, Captain Feb 1916. He graduated in medicine in July 1915, and was sent to France, joining the BEF on 28th September, he was attached to the 77th Field Ambulance.

He was awarded the Military Cross during the Battle of the Somme, "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led stretcher parties and worked in the open under heavy fire continuously for thirty-four hours. He set a splendid example of courage and determination." (London Gazette 11/12/1916). One of his superior officers wrote: "The feat that won him the Military Cross was a remarkably fine achievement. He had no fear. His courage and devotion to duty made him very popular, both with officers and men". He was killed on the opening day of the great German offensive, near Bapaume. Letters from his superior officers spoke of his courage and the high order of his professional skill. One closely associated with him for 11 months in the unit wrote: "He had a record of steady and devoted service second to none, and his personal qualities were of such sterling value as to win the love and admiring regard of all." Robert was the eldest son of the Rev. Robert McElney,

M.A., and Mary Elizabeth McElney, The Manse,  
Downpatrick, Co. Down. He was born in the Manse,  
Saintfield on 20/09/1892. Grevillers British Cemetery,  
France. QUB WM

### **+McGIBBEN, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 432. Died 21/03/1918.  
Age 22. Son of Edmund and Bessie McGibben, of 25,  
Palestine St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

### **+McILRATH, Robert**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 21073.  
Died 21/03/1918. Aged 21. Son of Sam and Martha (nee  
McLaughlin) McIlrath of Monomeith, Gippsland, Victoria,  
Australia. He was born on 31/08/1896 near Kilrea. They  
were a farming family, living on the Magherafelt side of  
Kilrea. Robert McIlrath enlisted in Kilrea. Pozieres Memorial,  
Albert, Somme, France. Kilrea WM, Boveedy Orange Hall  
RH

### **+McILROY, Thomas George**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn previously 10th Btn  
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (The Derrys). Lance-Corporal.  
19878. MM. Died as a result of gas poisoning on  
21/03/1918. Aged 23. Son of Elizabeth McIlroy nee  
McFarland and the late Thomas McIlroy, of Maghera,  
County Londonderry. He was born George McIlroy  
31/01/1895, he added his father's forename Thomas  
sometime after his father's death of heart failure in August  
1899 of heart failure.

“Lance Corporal Thomas McIlroy, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers,  
of Upperlands, has been awarded the Military Medal for

good work in the recent fighting. It appears that, with a number of others, he was on patrol when they walked into a German stronghold. A fierce struggle, lasting over two hours ensued, and through the good work and devotion to duty of Lance Corporal McIlroy and two other members of the party, the Germans were held up and the patrol saved from capture. Corporal McIlroy was amongst the first batch of volunteers from Upperlands to join the Ulster Division at its formation. He has been at the front ever since the 36th Division went out. Before joining the colours he was a member of Upperlands Company of the U.V.F., and was connected with Upperlands Loyal Orange Lodge. He is a respected member of Maghera Presbyterian Church, and was employed on the clerical staff of Messrs. W Clark and Sons Ltd." 23/10/1918 Belfast Newsletter. St. Souplet British Cemetery, France.

#### **+McKENNA, Laurence**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th/8th Bn. Lance Corporal. 24715. Died 21/03/1918. Son of Laurence and Bridget McKenna. He was born on 7th November 1888 in Kildress, Cookstown. He was the third of four sons. The family farmed and lived in Killucan, Killeenan. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Cookstown War Dead Book

#### **+McMASTER, James**

Royal Irish Regiment, 7th (South Irish Horse) Btn. Private. Distinguished Conduct Medal. 4155. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 33. Born on 25/09/1888. Son of Alexander and Catherine McMaster, of Corlecky, Maghera. His father died when he was just three years old. Husband to Mary McMaster, of Hall St., Maghera, Co. Londonderry. They had at least one child. Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery, Somme, France. Cookstown War Dead book

**+McMEEKIN, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 36. Died 21/03/1918. Age 22. Son of Thomas McMeekin, of 44, Mountcollyer St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+McMULLAN, Hugh**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 19118. Italian Bronze Medal for gallantry. Died 21/03/1918. Born 02/06/1890 at Brocklamont, Ballymena. Son of Hugh McMullan and Margaret nee Gore. Brother of 19119 Lance Corporal George McMullan. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.

**+McNALLY, Arthur**

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 18123. Died 21/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, France. Larne WM

**+McNELLIS, Edward**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 40444. Died between 21/03/1918 and 31/03/1918. Age 27. Foster son of Kate Smyth, of Drumsnad, Ballynahinch, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+McTAGGART, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 122. Died 21/03/1918. Age 44. Husband of Agnes McTaggart, of 25, Richmond St., Belfast. Bouchoir New British Cemetery, France

**+MILLIKEN, Hugh**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1<sup>st</sup> Btn. Rifleman. 18/605. Age 22. Died near St Quentin on 21/03/1918. Hugh Milliken was born on

14/08/1895 at 340 Saracen Street, Possilpark, Glasgow. Son of Hugh Milliken (born at Ballyskeagh, Co Down) and Agnes Brock Kennedy Milliken (nee Lawrie, born Kilsyth, Stirlingshire). The Milliken family lived at 59 Mansion Street, Possilpark. Hugh and Agnes Milliken had nine children. When the Milliken family moved from Scotland to Ireland they lived at *Lillycroft* in the townland of Ballydavey, Craigavad. Hugh enlisted at Clondeboye. Pozieres Memorial, France. Holywood and District WM. Ballygilbert Presbyterian Church RH.

### **+MONTGOMERY, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18/977. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Born on 30/01/1898 at 38 Swift Street, Belfast. Son of David and Eleanor (Ellen) Montgomery (nee Kennedy) who were married on 31/10/1889 in St Mark's C of I Parish Church, Newtownards. The Montgomery family lived in the townland of Ballyalton, Comber. They had at least three children. After David Montgomery Senior died of enteric fever on 22/09/1898, they lived with Ellen's father, Henry Kennedy, who worked as an agricultural labourer. Ellen Montgomery (nee Kennedy) married George Smith (sometimes Smyth) on 06/11/1901 in Comber C of I Parish Church. Samuel Montgomery enlisted on 15/11/1915 in Newtownards and he joined the 18th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He went to the Front with the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He was killed in action on 21/03/1918 at the beginning of the German Spring Offensive. Initially he was posted as missing in action and in August 1919 it was officially confirmed that he must be presumed to have been killed in action. Pozieres Memorial, France. Comber WM

### **+MOORE, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 22nd Entrenching Btn., late 11th/13th Bn. Corporal. 16888. Died 21/03/1918. Age 24. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Moore, of Railway St., Ballynahinch. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+MOORE, Michael**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 27774. Died 21/03/1918 in action near Albert in France. Age 32. He was born about 1887 in County Tyrone. The 1901 census records Michael Moore as 14 years old. He had left school and was working as a Flax-Machiner. Michael lived with the family in Drumey, Tullyniskane, Tyrone. The 1911 census shows Michael as 24 years old. Michael was now an agricultural labourer. Michael still lived with the family in Drumey, Tullyniskane, Tyrone. Youngest son of William G. and Catherine Moore, of Drumey, Newmills, Dungannon. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Dungannon WM

### **+MOORHEAD, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 4th Btn. Rifleman. 6855. Died 21/03/1915. Age 20. Son of Annie Moorhead, of 18, Bright St., Belfast, and the late William Moorhead. Belfast City Cemetery

### **+MORRIS, Thomas**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 7687. Died 21/03/1918. Born Whiteabbey 24/08/1882. He worked as a flax-dresser in a mill. Thomas and Isabella Kinney married on 21/04/1909 in St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Whitehouse. Son of Patrick and Bridget (nee Butler) Morris. Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, France

### **+MUNN, Wiliam**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, "B" Coy. 1st Btn. Private. 21991.



Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Son of William and Mary Munn, of 61, Bishops St., Londonderry. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France

**+MUSSEN, Richard**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 11378. Died 21/03/1918. Age 23. Son of Richard Mussen, of 89, Canmore St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+OLIVER - THOMPSON, John Herbert**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 40th Company. Acting Major. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 21/03/1918. Age 22. Dublin University (Trinity College) Officers Training Corps. John Oliver-Thompson served for a time with the South Staffordshire Regiment. Son of Henry and Alice Marian Thompson. Arras Memorial, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Castledawson WM, Curran Masonic Lodge No 532, WW1 RH

**+O'KANE, Paul**

Royal Irish Rifles. 4th Bn. Attd. 1st Bn. Royal Irish Rifles. Lieutenant. Died 21/03/1918. Age 23. Son of Joseph P. and Kate O'Kane, Ballycastle. Pozieres Memorial, Panels 74-76. Family Headstone in Ballycastle R.C. Graveyard

**+O'NEILL, Charles**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 20325. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 26. Born 04/08/1892, Eldest son of William and Mary O'Neill, of Ballyrogley, Loup Money more. By 1911 Charles and his brother Thomas were working for William John Scott, a farmer. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France. Cookstown War Dead Book

**+PATTERSON, William Alexander Duncan**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Sergeant. 6669. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 27. He was the son of Robert and Phoebe Patterson, 19 South Parade, Belfast and husband to Mary Josephine Patterson, Sion Hill Avenue, Harold's Cross, Dublin. Poziers Memorial, Somme, France. St Jude's C of I Parish, Belfast WM

**+PAUL, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 21/03/1918 Paul was the eldest son of James and Isabella Paul. He was born on 12th May 1893. The family lived in Crew, Maghera. His father was a farmer. His mother, died in 1903, when David was 10 years old. He attended Rainey Endowed School, then Lafayette College and the Seminary at Princeton University. He became a student in the Assembly's College, Belfast, for the third year of his theological course. On his return to Ireland from Princeton he joined Queens University OTC. He was sent to France in March 1917. He was fatally wounded at St Quentin and died the same day. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France. QUB WM, Rainey Endowed RH

**+POLLOCK, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. C Coy. Private. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Son of Mrs. Margaret Pollock, of 130, Boundary St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+POOTS, William John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. "C" Coy. Rifleman. 798. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 23. At Racecourse Redoubt at the village of Grugies, near St. Quinten when it came under a heavy attack by the Germans bringing heavy casualties to the

defenders with only about 30 men left unwounded when the Germans took over. Brother of Corporal Robert Poots, 2nd Btn. Royal Irish Rifles, who died 17/05/1916. Aged 19. Son of the late William John and Eliza Ann Poots. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Seapatricks C of I Parish WM, Banbridge WM

### **+PRENTER, Dalton**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 21/03/1918. Age 27. Son of James B. and Clara E. A. Prenter, of 123, Fitzroy Avenue, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+PURCELL, Archibald**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 3374. Son of Archie and M A Purcell, Fermoy, Macosquin, Coleraine. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+REID, Robert**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 11172. Died 21/03/1918. Age 27. Born in Londonderry. Son of James and Sarah Jane Reid, of 17, Powerscourt St., Ormeau Rd., Belfast. Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery, Epehy, France

### **+ROBSON, Robert**

Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers). 1st Btn. Private. 41865. Formerly Army Service Corps (T/4/128737). Died 21/03/1918. Age 36. Born on 02/07/1882 in the townland of Ballygrainey. He lived in the townland of Ballyfotherly, Donaghadee. He enlisted on 16/08/1915 at Clondeboy Camp. He stated that his occupation was a horse trainer.

Husband to Ellen Jane Robson. They married on 13/11/1906 in Ballyfrenis Presbyterian Church, Carrowdore. They had two sons. After enlistment at Clandeboye Robert went to Seaford in Sussex for training and then to France in 1916. He served with the Army Service Corps before being transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers in January 1918. At the time of his death his wife and their two children were living at 52 Frederick Street, Newtownards. Pozieres Memorial, France. Newtownards and District WM. Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church Newtownards RH.

**+RUSSELL, Thomas**

Royal Garrison Artillery, 332nd Siege Bty. Gunner. 125799. Died 21/03/1918. Son of William Russell, of Drumgor, Lurgan. Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

**+SHANKS, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 15997. MM. Died 21/03/1918. Age 23. The 1911 census lists William as age 16, living with his grandmother at house 12 in Castledawson. He had left school and was working as a power loom weaver. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France. Castledawson WM, Castledawson LOL 96 RH

**+SITTLINGTON, Thomas**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 41627. Died 21/03/1918. Age 24. Son of Samuel Sittlington, of Droagh Cottage, Larne. Pozieres Memorial, France. Cairncastle PC WM

**+SKELLY, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 21st Entrenching Btn., late 10th Btn. Corporal. 6717. Died 21/03/1918. Age 24. Son of John and Mary Skelly, of Belsize Rd., Lisburn. Pozieres Memorial, France

### **+SKILLEN, Alexander**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 12425. Died 21/03/1918. Age 35. Born 1882, Ballykiegle, Comber. Born on 28/07/1882 in Ballykeel, Comber. Son of William James and Margaret Skillen (nee Reid). The Skillen family lived in the townland of Ballykeel; in Ballyhackamore, Belfast and in High Street, Comber. They had at least thirteen children. Alexander Skillen worked as a labourer and he and Rachel Moore of 3 Hemp Street, Belfast, were married on 31/03/1902 in Belmont Presbyterian Church Belfast. They had at least six children. The Skillen family lived in Belfast in Hemp Street, Hunt Street, Carew Street, and at 15 Chater Street. Alexander Skillen worked as a labourer in an engineering works before he got a job as a shipyard labourer on the Queen's Island in Belfast. Alexander enlisted in Belfast and he served with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He was killed on 21/03/1918 during an intense enemy bombardment at the start of the German Spring Offensive and at that time two of his brothers were also on active service. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France. Comber and District WM. Harland & Wolff (Queen's Island) WM. Megain Memorial Presbyterian Church.

### **+SMEETH, James Burrows**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 1105. Died 21/03/1918. Age 41. Husband of Mary Ann Smeeth, of 7, Malvern St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+SMYTH, William John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st. Btn. Rifleman. 9441. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 26. Son of David and Margaret Smyth, of 3, Eastland St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+STARRETT, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Service. formerly Army Service Corps (T4/039455). Rifleman. 45548. Died 21/03/1918. Fortingale St, Shankill Road, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+STEWART, Joseph**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Private. 9958. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 24. Son of Mrs. Annie Mabin; husband of Lillie Stewart, of Church St., Cookstown. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Cookstown WM, St Luran's C of I WM, Cookstown

**+STEWART, Wesley**

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 491. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 21. Son of Elizabeth Stewart, of 165, Park Avenue, Sydenham, Belfast, and the late Thomas Stewart. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+TAYLOR, Francis**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23730. Died 21/03/1918. From Lurgan. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+THOMPSON, John Crawford**



Royal Irish Rifles, 5th Btn. attd. 1st Btn. Second Lieutenant.  
Died 21/03/1918. Age 19. Only son of Mrs. O. G.  
Thompson, of 7, Chlorine Gardens, Belfast, and the late  
James B. Thompson. Pozieres Memorial, France

**+TURNER, George**

Royal Irish Rifles. 21st Entrenching Btn., late 10th Btn.  
Rifleman. 1652. Died 21/03/1918. Son of Robert Turner, of  
2, Moss View, Lisnatrunk, Lisburn. Pozieres Memorial,  
France

**+VEIGHEY, Andrew**

Royal Irish Rifles, 21st Entrenching Btn., late 10th Btn.  
Lance Corporal. 532. Died 21/03/1918. Aged 21. Son of  
William and Martha Veighey, of 28, Hutchinson St., Belfast.  
Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+WALKER, John Porter**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Corporal. transf. to 182nd Coy.  
Labour Corps, Serjeant., 109056. Died 21/03/1918. Age 25.  
Husband to Sarah Jane Walker, of 29, Foxglove St., Belfast.  
Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France

**+WATSON, Frederick**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th. Btn. Rifleman. 664. Died 21/03/1918.  
Age 37. Son of Hugh and Eliza Watson, of Scaddy,  
Downpatrick. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

**+WATSON, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th. Btn. Rifleman. 1425. Died  
21/03/1918. Aged 19. Brother of Mrs. Agnes Black, of 11,  
Hemp St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

## **+WELSH, Hugh**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1613. Died 21/03/1918. Age 19. Born on 20 /11/1898 in Conlig. Son of William James and Catherine Welsh (nee Sloan) who were married on 11/07/1888 in Ballyblack Presbyterian Church. After they were married, William James and Catherine Welsh lived for a time in the USA and, when they returned, they lived in Bangor Bog and then in Conlig. They had five children. Hugh Welsh enlisted in Newtownards, served with the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was killed in action at the start of the German Spring Offensive. Rifleman Hugh Welsh (18/1613) was a first cousin of Rifleman William Andrew Sloan (6791). Pozieres Memorial, France. Bangor WM. Royal British Legion (Bangor Branch) Memorial Plaque. Conlig Presbyterian Church RH. Family grave headstone in Bangor Cemetery

## **+WILLIAMSON, Archie**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 19/550. Died 21/03/1918. Age 20. Son of David and Jane Eliza Williamson, of 108, Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

## **+WOODS, Joseph**

Connaught Rangers, 6<sup>th</sup>. Btn. Private. 5923. Died 21/03/1918. Enlisted Glasgow. Born in Armagh. Son of James and Elizabeth Woods, thought to be from Richhill. He moved to Scotland and married Helen Deeley and they had two children. Pozieres Memorial, France

## **+WORKMAN, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 956. MM. Died 21/02/1918. It is thought that one of his comrades accidentally shot him during a battle. In May 1917, Kilraughts man William Workman was on early morning sentry duty when he spotted a German raiding party, clearly making for a nearby British Lewis gun position. Rifleman Workman shot and killed the German officer leading the attack, managing under fire to kill five and wound another eight of the raiding party. Faced with such an overwhelming counter-attack the Germans retreated, forced back by the lone sentry. Afterwards, it was found that the burly German who led the attack had been highly decorated with the Iron Cross, and Rifleman Workman was presented with his trench dagger. These heroic actions earned Rifleman William Workman the Military Medal. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Commemorated in Kilraughts Presbyterian Church.

**1919**

## **+HERRON, William Arthur**

Royal Canadian Regiment. Lieutenant. Died 21/03/1919. Age 25. William died in a Red Cross hospital in London from wounds. He had been wounded four times previously and received what was to be his fatal wounding storming the Hindenberg Line on 29/09/1918. He was a member of the UVF and was the drill instructor to the Magherally and Drumavaddy companies. Just before the outbreak of war he emigrated to Canada and was one of the first to volunteer for service in France with the first Canadian contingent. He quickly attained the rank of sergeant and

shortly after obtained a commission and returned to England for training. The records of the Royal Canadian Regiment state that he had previously served with the 5th Royal Irish Rifles; served in Bermuda with The RCR, Taken on strength at Halifax, N.S., 27/09/1914; served in the ranks from 24/08/1915 to 15/12/1917; Commissioned from the ranks of The RCR: regimental numbers 9877 and 477400; arrived France, 23/06/1918. His body was returned to Banbridge for burial. His funeral was the largest seen in Banbridge during the war. Forty soldiers from the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry preceded the hearse followed closely by many local soldiers who were home on leave, and members of the Royal Black Preceptory of which he was a member. Son of William and Sarah Herron, Reilly Street, Banbridge and husband to Sarah J (nee Carson) Herron, Hill Street, Banbridge. Banbridge Town Cemetery. Seapatricks C of I Parish WM, Banbridge

### **+MAYE, Alexander**

Reserve Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup>. Private. L/17002. Died 21/03/1919. Alexander Maye was the son of John and Alice May. He was born on 16/05/1897. He was one of at least twelve children, all born in the in the Brockagh – Stewartstown area. His father John was an agricultural labourer. Alexander Maye was serving with the Reserve Cavalry Regiment when he died of influenza / pneumonia at the Curragh Camp Military Hospital at Naas, County Kildare. Please note the casualty is not individually named on this grave. The grave is marked simply with the family name. Mountjoy Roman Catholic Churchyard, Stewartstown.

**1920**

## **+EVANS, Thomas**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Private. 17716. Died 21/03/1920. Age 23. Son of Thomas Evans, of Suffolk, Dunmurry, Belfast. Christ Church C of I Churchyard, Derriaghy

**1921**

## **+ADAMS, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Bth, D Coy. att'd to 36th Btn Machine Gun Corps. Sergeant. 1146. Died 21/03/1918. Enlisted Belfast. Eldest son of Rebecca and Robert Adams, 3, Fountain Place, Londonderry. Brother of Robert Adams, 286, Bishop Street, Londonderry. Father of Ruby Adams, 20, Glendermott Road, Waterside, and William Adams, 2, Victoria Street, Londonderry. Sergeant Adams was possibly a member of Royal Black Preceptory 113. Robert, Andrew, and Robert Adams, 3, Fountain Place, signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant (September 1912) pledging resistance to Home Rule for Ireland. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Diamond WM, Londonderry. St Columb's Cathedral (Church of Ireland) WM, to the men connected to that cathedral who died during WW1.

**1941**

## **+MILLAR, William Alexander**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Pilot). 748196. Died 21/03/1941. Aged 21. 83 Squadron R.A.F. Was aboard Handley Page Hampden Mk I X3132, Code OL-L on Friday 21/03/1941 when it left Scampton in Lincolnshire on a Gardening Mission in which Sea Mines were dropped. This particular

mission was to drop a large mines at the entrance to Brest Harbour and only two aircraft were to take park.

The Sergeant Pilot was Barton James Oliver with Sergeant Pilot William Alexander Millar. The Radio-Operator and Observer was Sergeant Norman Stewart Weir, aged 21, and Sergeant Duncan MacCallum was Gunner. Tragically the aircraft was hit by lightning and came down between Rosquiel and Le Poulou at approximately 0200 killing Sergeant Weir as well as Sergeant Millar however the other two Crew fortunately escaped and the mine was located approx 150 meters from the wreck site. Son of David and Mary J. Millar, of Belfast. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

### **+SLACK, Gordon Henry**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 754693. Died 21/03/1941. Aged 21. 240 Sqdn. Son of Philip Arthur and Mabel Browne Slack. Irvinestown C of I Churchyard, Co. Fermanagh. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

## **1943**

### **+BROWN, Alexander Scott**

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse. Squadron Quartermaster Serjeant. 7897764. Died 21/03/1943. Age 27. On 02/02/1943, the North Irish Horse landed in Algiers and marched 17 miles to their camp. Thereafter they were involved in various actions and on 21/03/1943 SQMS Alexander Brown was one of two men who were killed when the lorry they were travelling in was mortar bombed near Beja in Tunisia. Before joining the North Irish Horse at the outbreak of war Alexander Brown was employed by Messrs



Norman McNaughton and Sons in Corporation Street, Belfast. A press report stated that Alexander had a brother serving in the RAF and two sisters in the ATS. Born in Stirlingshire, he lived in Belfast. His cousin, Pilot Officer Thomas Norman Stockdale RAF also fell, and his remains rest in the family plot at Dundonald Cemetery. Son of Alexander Brown, and of Mary Brown, of Princetown Road, Bangor, Co. Down. Medjez-El-Bab Memorial, Tunisia. Bangor WM. Wesley Centenary Methodist Church Bangor RH. Commemorated on his grandparents' John and Mary Scott memorial at Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

**+McCARTNEY, James**

Royal Artillery. 9 H.A.A. Regt. Gunner. 1466764. Died 21/03/1943. Aged 29. Tripoli War Cemetery, Libya. Derry Cathedral WM

**1944**

**+McCREANOR, Gerard Francis**

Royal Corps of Signals. 50th Bde. Sig. Sec. Signalman. 14221819. Died 21/03/1944. Age 31. Son of Hugh and Jane E. McCreanor, of Banbridge, Co. Down, Northern Ireland; husband of Anne Josephine McCreanor, of Banbridge. Imphal War Cemetery, India

**+WATTERSON, Thomas William**

Royal Engineers. 102 Army Field Coy. Sapper. 2114030. Died 21/03/1944. Aged 23. Son of Thomas William and Mary Watterson, Coagh; husband of May Watterson, of Old Easwick, Yorkshire. Naples War Cemetery, Miano, Naples, Italy. Coagh WM

## 1945

### **+DARRAGH, Joseph John**

Royal Ulster Rifles. Lance Corporal. 7009604. Died 21/03/1945. Age 41. Husband to Susan Darragh of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

### **+TORNEY, Thomas**

RAFVR. 61 Sqdn. Sergeant. 1799465. Died 21/03/1945. Aged 19. Son of George and Isabella Torney, Donaghadee. Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany

## VETERANS

### **BELLIS, Samuel Arnott**

RNAS. Russian Armoured Car Division. Petty Officer. Entered Royal School Dungannon 1892. Son of Samuel Arrott and Jane Swiney Bellis. Born 21/3/1880, Tullyaighnish Manse, Ramelton, Co. Donegal. 1918 living at Waveney Cottages, Ballymena. Died September 1942 Leicester. West Church, Ballymena - PCI



### **BRYAN, Gerald Jackson**

Royal Engineer, Commando, Military Cross

Belfast-born, Bryan studied at Wrekin College in Shropshire, where he won numerous boxing competitions and

served as captain of the gymnastics and fencing teams before he gained third place in the Army Entrance Exam. He then completed officer training at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich and was commissioned into the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Captain Gerald Jackson Bryan was decorated with the Military Cross for the bravery he displayed as a commando at the Battle of the Litani River in June 1941 - he later proved himself an outstanding administrator in the Colonial Service.

On the bright moonlit night of June 9, Bryan led a squadron of Scottish commandos in an attack on a large unit of the Vichy French forces who were guarding the Litani River in Lebanon - it was a major obstacle in the path of the Australian troops advancing from Palestine to Syria.

The operation had been postponed by two days after Glengyle - a vessel carrying 11 Commando - was unable to get ashore due to large waves at the mouth of the river.

By the time Bryan led his men to battle in the early hours of June 9, the French had been alerted and demolished one of the two bridges across the river.

Armed with only a rifle, a pistol, a fighting knife and grenades, Bryan and his men quickly came under rapid fire from a 75-mm gun which reduced the unit by two thirds down to just seven.

The captain silenced the gun and drove its crew into a slit trench by throwing a grenade, before capturing the gun and

turning it around to knock out the remaining guns in the battery and blow up the ammunition dump. But he and the handful of survivors, who were severely wounded, were taken as prisoners to a casualty clearing station at Sidon. He later had his right leg amputated.

## Encounters

As a volunteer with the No 9 Commando unit he took part in a night exercise at a training centre near Fort William where he was taught how to shoot in close-quarter fighting.

On one particular night, he mistook a dark figure approaching after he felled a tree with gelignite to block a road for the "enemy" and wrestled him to the ground.

"Do you know who I am?" the stranger asked.

"No," said Bryan.

"I'm Lord Lovat," came the reply.

Bryan, feeling that he only had one card to play retorted:

"Do you know who I am?"

When Lord Lovat answered "No". Bryan exclaimed, "Thank God!" and fled into the darkness.

The experienced rock climber also trained in the Isle of Arran alongside Blair Mayne, who later became a founding member of the SAS and one of the most highly decorated British officers of the Second World War.

On New Year's Eve 1940, Bryan was knocked to the floor after interrupting Mayne, who was celebrating on his own and had consumed three dozen small bottles of cherry brandy. Mayne chased him out of the house and fired his

Colt automatic weapon before shooting out all the windows in the living room.

No longer fit for active service after losing his lower leg, Bryan was assigned to the Special Operations Executive (SOE), which developed special personal weapons and sabotage explosives at Station IX in Welwyn.

As he recovered from the injuries to his remaining leg, he applied for a more active appointment and was eventually accepted to the Colonial Service. Before that, he was promoted to acting major and director of scientific research at SOE's headquarters in central London, until his transfer in 1944.

His first appointment was to Swaziland, where he met Wendy Hull, his future wife. They were married in 1947 and had three children: Caesar, Mary and Diana.

His tour in Swaziland ended in 1950 and he was posted to Barbados as financial secretary, tasked with securing the island's financial stability. This was a challenge for a 29 year old, but he achieved what was required and became assistant colonial secretary until he was transferred to Mauritius in 1954.

Appointed OBE for his service there, he became the Queen's representative with powers of governor in the British Virgin Islands.

In 1962, he became administrator of St Lucia and, in 1967, oversaw the island's independence. He was later appointed government secretary on the Isle of Man, but this was not a happy interlude. The absence of a suitable house made for awkward living. His wife also suffered problems with her

sight, which meant they had to make frequent flights to London for treatment.

After two years he was reassigned as general manager of the new Londonderry Development Commission. This was perhaps his most exacting assignment. He was serving as general manager of the Londonderry Development Commission between 1969 to 1973. His responsibilities being carried under the unrelenting pressure of the escalating conflict there, were wide-ranging.

For the three days after January 30, 1972, Gerald Bryan kept the door of Londonderry's Guildhall half open. Despite the call for all offices to close in mourning after Bloody Sunday, the general manager of the development committee wished to demonstrate that business would be carrying on as usual.

When the Guildhall was destroyed a few months later by explosives packed into two plastic bins placed inside the door, Bryan escaped unhurt, requisitioned the Northern Counties Hotel and continued to work from there. A warning had given him just enough time to get out and avoid a premature end to a professional life of adventure, danger and imaginative service to the Crown.

Captain Bryan died on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, Age 96. He published an autobiography in 2008. He was predeceased by his wife Wendy. He was survived by his son and two daughters.

1 January 1960 appointed O.B.E. (Civil Division) Establishment Secretary, Mauritius  
13 June 1964 appointed C.M.G.



16 Feb. 1966 appointed C.V.O.

### **EVANS, Thomas.**

Machine Gun Corps.138 Company. Private. 17716. Died 21/03/1920. Aged 23. Buried in Derriaghy Parish Church graveyard in the same grave as his brother Private R. Evans. Son of Thomas Evans of Suffolk, Dunmurry.

### **INGHAM, Francis Bernard**

Royal Garrison Artillery. Gunner. 144500. Died 21/03/1922. Only son of Albert and Emily Ingham. Francis was born about 1900 in County Louth. His father Albert was an organist and teacher of music. The family lived in Jocelyn Street, Dundalk. The family were later recorded as living at Park Road, Dungannon. Francis Ingham joined the Royal Garrison Artillery on 12/02/1917 in Omagh. Gunner Francis Ingham was discharged from the army on 02/07/ 1918, due to 'melancholia - not attributed to service'. Dungannon WM

### **LIGGETT, Joshua**

Joshua Liggett DCM of Portadown, Co. Armagh died on 21st March 1968 in Canada having served Britain in The Great War and Canada the Second World War.

Private Joshua Liggett served in The Great War of 1914-1918 and was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal. As Private no. 6114, he fought with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's). He would also go on to serve in the Veterans Guard of Canada when war broke out again in 1940.

Joshua Liggett was born on 16/04/1882. He grew up in Breagh, a townland of Portadown in Co. Armagh. The Liggett family would later move towards the centre of the

upcoming town. At the age of 18, he features on the 1901 census living with his parents Alexander and Mary-Jane Liggett. Also in the house at 58 Obins Street, Corcrair were siblings Susanna (17), William (13), Alexander (8) and Francis Ellen (5). The family attended the nearby Church of Ireland church at Drumcree. Joshua is a linen weaver and can both read and write in 1901.

In June 1903, he married local woman Mary McCullough in a ceremony in Portadown. By the 1911 census, Joshua and Mary Liggett are head of their own household in 59 Obins Street. Living with them in this house are daughter Mabel (6) and son Alexander (2). At this point in life, Joshua is a labourer, while his wife Mary works as a winder in the linen industry.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, Liggett traveled to the nearby city of Armagh. There, the Royal Irish Fusiliers had their main recruiting area and garrison. Life was about to change for the young Portadown man. Throughout the First World War, Liggett would serve alongside the 10th Irish Division and 36th Ulster Division. The Fusiliers would have seen action at Le Cateau, the Marne, the Somme, Arras, Cambrai, and Ypres. Throughout the campaign, they lost some 1,058 men.

On 4th August 1914, the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers were stationed at Shorncliffe, UK. There they formed part of the 10th Brigade of the 4th Division. From Shorncliffe, they moved on to York and Harrow. On 23rd August 1914, the unit mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne, France. They engaged in various actions on the Western Front including:

- The Battle of Le Cateau (1914)
- The Battle of the Marne (1914)
- The Battle of the Aisne (1914)

- The Battle of Messines (1914)
- The Second Battle of Ypres (1915)
- The Battle of Albert (1916)
- The Battle of Le Transloy (1916)
- The First Battle of the Scarpe (1917)
- The Third Battle of the Scarpe (1917)

On 03/08/1917, the Fusiliers transferred to the 107th Brigade of the 36th Division. After 08/02/1918, they became part of the 108th Brigade of the 36th Division.

- The Battle of St Quentin (1918)
- The Actions at the Somme Crossings (1918)
- The Battle of Rosieres (1918)
- The Battle of Messines (1918)
- The Battle of Bailleul (1918)
- The First Battle of Kemmel Ridge (1918)
- The Battle of Ypres (1918)
- The Battle of Courtrai (1918)
- The action of Ooteghem (1918)

As the war ended on 11/11/1918, the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers were at Mouscron to the north-east of Tourcoing, Belgium.

### Wartime Honours

In 1918, Joshua Liggett received the Victory Medal. This medal, also known as, the Inter-Allied Victory Medal accompanied either the 1914 Star, the 1915 Star or the British War Medal. The trio was sometimes referred to by squaddies as the “Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred”. To receive these medals, a soldier would have to see action between 05/08/1914 and 12/11/1918. Both men and women alike were entitled to the Victory Medal. Liggett also received the British War Medal. This was for service to the British Empire Campaign between 05/08/1914 and 12/11/1918.

In 1916, Liggett received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. This second level military decoration was for bravery in the field. The award dated back to the Crimean War in 1854. It was a high-level award for military ranks and non-commissioned army. The DCM could be awarded to anyone in the ranks of a Commonwealth Army. It was seen as second only to the Victoria Cross for prestige. Those awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal could use the letters DCM after their names.

The London Gazette carried the news of Joshua Liggett's DCM in issue 29508 printed on 15/03/1916. It included the following citation:

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. For conspicuous gallantry when acting as orderly to two Officers who were visiting posts. Both officers were hit by snipers, but Private Liggett dragged them both into a disused trench, bandaged them, went across the open to fetch stretchers, and returned with the stretcher party. All this time he was under heavy fire.

#### Life after the War

Joshua Liggett was one of the lucky ones who returned from the battlefields of World War One in 1918. He returned to Northern Ireland and remained there until 1926. In March that year, he crossed the Atlantic in search of a better life, arriving in Nova Scotia on 27th March 1926. He would spend the rest of his life in Canada. For reasons unknown, Mary and his young children never made the journey.

By 1940, war had once again broken out in Europe. Joshua Liggett had lived in Canada for fourteen years by this stage. On 3rd August 1940, he would return to military service with the Veterans' Guard of Canada. This organisation was much

like Britain's home guard and had formed in May that year. In fact, the Veterans' Guard of Canada pre-dated Churchill's now famous Home Guard. Among their tasks were guarding prisoners of war, protecting power plants, and factories crucial to the war effort.

The men of the Veterans' Guard had seen active service in The Great War of 1914–1918. At its height, the guard grew to 10,000 men in 1944 with a further 8,000 men listed on part-time service. These men had applied pressure to the Canadian government to create a guard to protect Canada from invasion. While the men were unfit for frontline duty, their military experience was valuable. These veterans would free up younger men to be sent to the front.

The Veterans' Guard of Canada was for men under the age of fifty. As boys lied about their age at one end of the scale so too did the veterans who were still keen to play a part.

Joshua Liggett was one such veteran.

On 03/08/1940, Private Liggett signed up to the Canadian Active Service Force. He joined the 2nd 'E' Company of the Veterans' Guard of Canada. His attestation papers refer to them as the "Veterans' Home Guard". His regimental number in Canada is B14879 and his job at the time was a landscape gardener.

Mary, still living in Portadown with the children, is Joshua's next of kin. The Co. Armagh town is listed as his place of birth although he was currently residing at 288 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario. While he did not serve in the Canadian military, his record with the Royal Irish Fusiliers between 7th August 1914 and August 1922 would have impressed the Canadian officers.

On the documents, Liggett has amended his signature to the spelling of "Liggatt". He has also falsified his date of birth, taking eleven years off his actual age. Rather than 58, this

would give him an age of 49 and thereby allow him to serve in the guard. Regardless of military background, at 58 years old, Joshua Liggett would have been too old to serve. His time in the Veterans' Guard of Canada lasts only three months before he is found out and discharged "unfit for military service under existing standards".

He served in Sudbury, a small city in Ontario. It is likely he was posted to the Espanola Internment Camp no. 21.

Formerly known as Camp E, it was reopened on 07/07/1940. The site had been a mill owned by Abitibi Power and Paper, 40 miles to the west of Sudbury. Over 1,400 German army, navy, and air force prisoners arrived from Britain in July 1940. By May 1943, many of the prisoners were transferred to Lethbridge Camp 133. Espanola closed on 30/11/1943 but Joshua Liggett's time as an Acting Corporal in the VCG had long since passed.

Having lied about his age, Acting Corporal Joshua Liggett was eventually discharged from the Veterans' Guard of Canada as unfit for military service in 1940.

Acting Corporal Liggett's papers provide some very descriptive information. Standing 5'9 1/2, he had black hair, blue eyes, and had picked up many scars through the years. He was marked above the eyebrows, his left knee, his right ankle and the big toe of his right foot. Through his time with the Veterans' Guard, his conduct was noted as good.

At 12.20am on 21/03/1968, Joshua Liggett DCM passed away in Sunnybrook Veterans' Hospital in Toronto. He was aged 86 and a letter dated 05/04/1956 confirmed his death to his sister Mrs Adelaide Woodhouse in Springfield, MA, USA.

The letter extended sympathies from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. His regimental numbers B14879 (Veterans' Guard of Canada) and 6114 (Royal Irish Fusiliers) are listed



along with the number 33153.

Joshua Liggett's funeral was held at RS Kane's Funeral Home on 4812 Yonge Street, Willowdale. The service was conducted by Padre EA Clifford, a chaplain from the Sunnybrook hospital. On his final journey, pallbearers came from the Royal Canadian Legion.

### **SHEPPARD, John E**

Rifleman. 17/2395, D Coy, 12th R Irish Rifles, from Geoffrey Street, Belfast. He was captured and became a POW on this day 21/03/1918.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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

[houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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