



remembrance ni



Kaiserschlacht continues

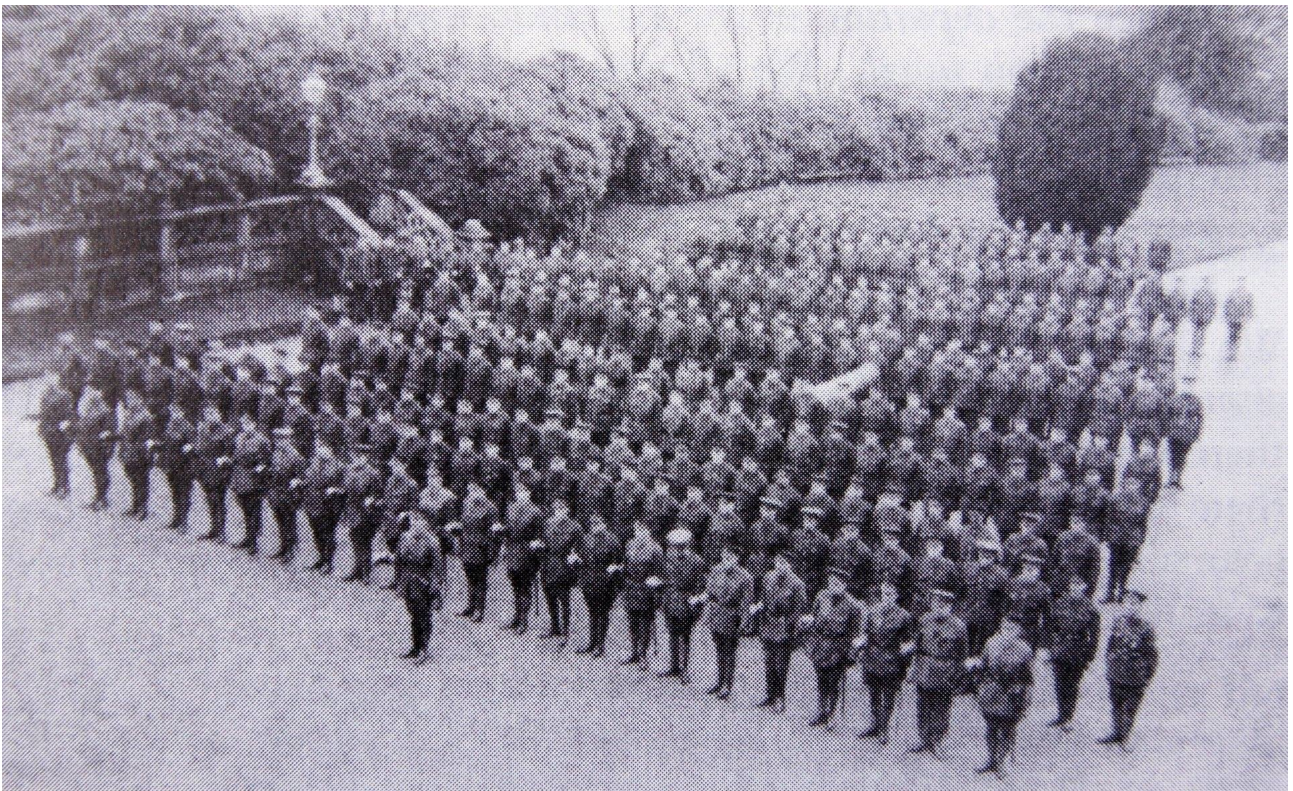
German soldiers advancing through Etricourt in March 1918. This village had been a British rest area prior to that.

On this Day – March 25

1807

British Parliament abolishes slave trade throughout the British Empire; penalty of £120 per slave introduced for ship captains

1915



**25th March 1915 Belfast Newsletter - 16th Battalion
Royal Irish Rifles Inspection by General Powell**

Yesterday afternoon General G. H. Powell, officer commanding the Ulster Division, accompanied by Mrs. Powell and Lieutenant Henry, A.D.C., visited Lurgan and made an inspection of some 900 men of the 16th Battalion (Pioneers) Royal Irish Rifles (2nd County Down Volunteers), who have recently received their rifles and full War kits.

The General arrived at four o'clock, and was received by the men, who were drawn up in the valley in the public park, with the general salute.

Major John Leader was in charge, and other officers on parade were—Major Robert Gardiner, Captains S. W. Knox, C. Chase, W. E. Jewell, W. J. Allen, J.P. (adjutant), H F. Shepperd, H. T. Hickman ; and Lieutenant and Quartermaster A. Forsythe.

The inspecting officer immediately proceeded to make a minute inspection of the ranks, examining each man and his kit individually—a task which occupied well over an hour—and which was followed with deep interest by a large crowd of townsfolk.

Subsequently General Powell inspected the transport of the battalion, which was drawn up in charge of Lieutenant T. J. White.

At the conclusion, General Powell, calling the officers together, said he was glad to see that as a whole the new equipment had been put on pretty well There were still some details requiring attention, but that would improve with experience.

He understood that the battalion now numbered 900 men. He had hoped it would have been 1,000 strong by that day,

but he was glad to see the level which the battalion had already attained. He wanted them to use every effort to bring it up to full strength, for that division must find its own reserves.

Two other battalions would be finding drafts for the division when it went to the Front, but it was essential that that battalion, which would be affiliated with the battalion that would be concentrated at Holywood, should be brought up to full strength. Therefore he asked the officers to do what they could, and to tell their men that they must use every possible endeavour to get men if they wanted to go to the Front and do their share.

They had still got a lot to learn, for they would find the more they went into the details of military work the more they would realise how much they had to do. Let them spare no effort in the work of hardening and training their men, so that when the time came for them to go to the front they would be prepared.

He was exceedingly pleased with the manner in which Major Leader had brought the battalion to its present pitch, and it would afford the officers serving under him great satisfaction to know that he was appointing Major Leader permanent commandant of the battalion from that date. He hoped much that he would get a regular pioneer officer as second in command, and, in fact, he expected to have one appointed in a few days.

Concluding, the General again thanked Major Leader and the other officers for what they had done in bringing the battalion to its present state efficiency.

Mrs. Powell then graciously presented to Pipe Major McLeod a set of handsome pipes, and in doing so expressed the pleasure she felt at the proficiency attained by the band since its formation and the hope that the new set of pipes would prove an inspiration to the battalion. On behalf of the battalion Major Leader, in Factious terms, thanked Mrs. Powell for her kindness and interest in the band. During the inspection the pipe band of the battalion and pipe and drum band of No. 4 Company alternately discoursed a series of rousing selections.

1918

After fighting with 36th (Ulster) Division for the first four days of the Kaiserschlacht, 61st Infantry Bde returned to 20th (Light) Division. From 21-25 March they had 103 men killed and on leaving, the strength of the Brigade equalled that of a battalion.

On the morning of day 5 of the Kaiserschlacht, the depleted 36th (Ulster) Division are placed under the command of the French 62nd Infantry Division and March 15 miles west to near the village of Guerbigny.

Second Lieutenant Walter Tull was the first black British Army Infantry Officer. His father, the son of a slave, had arrived from Barbados in 1876, only die in 1880. Walter and his brother Edward were sent to a Methodist -run orphanage in Bethnal Green.

When World War I broke out, he was promoted three times before being sent to the front, but he was sent homewith post-traumatic stress disorder.

Returning to France in September 1916, his officers recommend him as an Officer and he went back to England to train.

There were military laws forbidding 'any negro or person of colour' being commissioned as an Officer. Despite this, Walter was promoted to Lieutenant in 1917 and became the first ever black Officer in the British Army, and the first black Officer to lead white men into battle.

After their time in Italy, Walter's Battalion was transferred to the Somme and, on 25th March 1918, he was killed by machine gun fire while trying to help his men withdraw.

1920



Auxiliaries arrive in Ireland. Winston Churchill is credited for suggesting "a force of 8,000 old soldiers be raised at once to reinforce the R.I.C. [police]" against the IRA, though this has been disputed by some historians.

1940

US allows sale of military aircraft to the Allies.

Britain doubles butter ration to 1/2 pound per week.

1941

Under heavy pressure Yugoslavia signs Tripartite Pact, joining the Axis powers.

Anti-Axis protests break out in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

1942

US troops occupy the Society Islands.

Standard Oil president William Stamps Farish II pleads no contest for conspiring with Nazis and hiding patents for synthetic rubber from US government.



First Martin B-26 Marauder medium bombers arrive in a combat theatre, at Brisbane/Archerfield AF, Australia.

1943

Greek partisans temporarily take over Samos Island from the Italian garrison.

Neutral Spain closes its border with Nazi-occupied France.

Battle for convoy HX-231 begins; first time convoy beats off U-boats without loss.

1944

Manstein persuades Hitler to allow the First Panzer Army to break out to the west of Lvov, not south.

In New Guinea, heavy US Fifth Air Force bombing on Wewak causes Japanese to move air headquarters to Hollandia.

1945



American paratroopers look at an incoming British Airspeed Horsa glider, bringing in reinforcements at Wesel. This was

day two of the Allied forces Operation Varsity, known as the largest airborne operation in history to be conducted on a single day and in one location, involving more than 16,000 paratroopers.



Day two of the Allied forces Operation Varsity

The U.S. First Army breaks out of the Remagen bridgehead. The British Second Army captures Wesel which has been nearly 100% destroyed by Allied bombing.

The U.S. Navy begins the pre-invasion bombardment of Okinawa firing more than half a million shells and rockets in a week.

US Fifteenth Air Force based in Italy flies its last strategic mission of war: 650 bombers hit Prague and Cheb, Czechoslovakia.

German SS troops behind US lines assassinate Allied-backed mayor of Aachen, Germany.

Roll of Honour – March 25

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+BELL, W

Manchester Regiment, 2nd Btn. Private. 16490. Died 25/03/1915. Age 36. Son of William and Selina Bell, of Belfast; husband of Sarah Elizabeth Bell, of 3, Aughrim St., Belfast. La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Belgium

+CURRY, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8965. Died 25/03/1915. Age 22. Son of William and Emily Curry, of 41, Royal Avenue, Belfast. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

+DEMPSEY, Alexander

Canadian Infantry, 18th Btn. Private. 53217. Died 25/03/1915. He died in Canada before his unit left for overseas. He died of spinal meningitis in Victoria Hospital, in London, Ontario. Alexander had served eight years with the King's Own Scottish Borders. He emigrated to Canada. He was the son of William Dempsey. Alexander was born in Glasgow in 1881. The CWGC records Private Alexander Dempsey as the son of William Dempsey of Calerion Street,

Kilrea, Co. Derry, Ireland, although there is no evidence to suggest Alexander ever lived in Kilrea. St Peter's Roman Catholic Cemetery, London, Ontario, Canada

1916

+CURRY, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers/ 10th Bn. Lance Corporal. 21186. 25/03/1916. Londonderry. Authuile Military Cemetery, Authuile, Somme, France

+PARK, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn."D" Coy. Private. 15927. Died 25/03/1916. Age 28. Husband to Lizzie Park, of Long Commons, Coleraine. Beauval Communal Cemetery, France

1917

+PROCTOR, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Bn. Private. 14621. Died 25/03/1917. Age 23. Son of George Proctor of Armagh. United Kingdom Book of Remembrance

+TACKABERRY, John Bailey

Indian Medical Service. 83rd Combined Stationary Hospital. Captain. Died 25/03/1917 from cerebra-spinal meningitis. Youngest son of Thomas and Mary Tackaberry. John was born in early 1883 in Dungannon, County Tyrone. His father was master of the local workhouse. John attended the Royal

School Dungannon between 1894 and 1900 and went on to study at Trinity College, Dublin. He was further educated at Middlesex Hospital. He enlisted in the Indian Army as Lieutenant on 30/07/1910. John married Alice Jane Harrhy in London in 1911. They had one child. By the time war broke out, Captain Tackaberry had served in both India and China. In 1917 Captain Tackaberry was serving as the medical officer with the 31st Punjabi Regiment when he died from cerebra-spinal meningitis in 83 Stationary Hospital, Nasiryah. Basra War Cemetery, southern Iraq. Dungannon WM, St Ann's C of I Dungannon WM

1918

+ADRAIN, Andrew

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. C Coy. Central Antrim Volunteers. Rifleman. 17128. He was reported missing in action on 23/03/1918 and presumed dead on 25/03/1918, at the battle of St Quentin referred to by some as the Second Battle of the Somme to counteract the German Spring Offensive. Andrew's brother William also fought in the war. Ballynure. Poziere Memorial France. Ballynure Presbyterian Church RH

+BEATTY, David

RNVR. RND. Second Lieutenant. Drake Battalion. Died 25/03/1918. Aged 23. David Beatty was a Civil Servant working at the Board of Trade in Tilbury when he enlisted, receiving his commission as a Temporary Sub Lieutenant on 27/06/1917. He was transferred to the British Expeditionary Force as a Qualified Revolver Instructor on 13/02/1918 and joined Drake Battalion on 06/03/1918. Born 01/04/1895.

Eldest son of David and Mary Beatty, Ballyearl, Carnmoney.
Arras Memorial. Carnmoney Masonic Lodge RH.
Carnmoney - PCI RH. ADM339

+GILLILAND, JOHN

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st. Btn. Private. 28196. Died 25/03/1918. Aged 46. John enlisted in 11th Inniskillings (Donegal and Fermanagh Volunteers) late in 1915 and saw action at Messines, Langemarck and Cambrai in 1917. Transferred to 1st Inniskillings on disbandment of 11th Bn. in Feb. 1918 and was KIA during the German Spring Offensive. He was survived by a a wife and three children. Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France. Diamond War Memorial Londonderry. Londonderry Methodist City Mission RH.

+GRAHAM, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 188. Died 25/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

+HOUSTON, Arthur Oswald

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 26/03/1918. Age 27. Son of Thomas and Margaret Houston, of Summerhill, Maghera, Co. Derry. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

+JOHNSTON, James Frazer

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 41126. Died 25/03/1918. During the battalion's retreat from St Quentin in the German Spring offensive of March 1918, he received a head wound. Aged 20. Eldest son of Joseph

and Mary Jane Johnston. Born in Clogher on 19/05/1897. He was first of five children, all sons. His father was a constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary. By 1898, the family had moved to Carrickmore. His father retired in 1910 and the family moved to Blacklion in County Cavan, where they opened a drapery shop. James Johnston enlisted in Enniskillen in March 1915. Roze New British Cemetery, Amiens, Somme, France. Roze is a commune in the Department of the Somme 40 kilometres south-east of Amiens. Roze was in German hands from 30/08/1914 until the French retook it on 17/03/1917. The town was recaptured by the Germans on 26 March 1918 but was evacuated by them on 26 August.

+LUCAS, Joseph

Royal Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 63719. Died 25/03/1918. Age 25. Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Lucas, of 46, Edenderry, Shaws Bridge, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

+LINDSAY, H

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Private. 22971. Died 25/03/1918. Age 34. Son of Hugh Lindsay, of Glengowna, Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Honnechy British Cemetery, France

+McGEOWN, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Possibly a reservist in 5 Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 4908. Died 25/03/1918, near Hill 60 outside Ypres. Aged 36. Born in Blaris, he enlisted at Lisburn. Son of William and Ann Jane McGeown of 47 Church Street, Lisburn. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium

+McELHATTON, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 23073.
Died 25/03/1918. Age 28. Son of Robert and Ann Jane McElhatton, of Dublin St., Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

+McKENNA, John

Royal Garrison Artillery, 128th Heavy Bty. Bombardier. 5870.
Died 25/03/1918. Aged 40. Son of Bernard and Bridget McKenna. John was born about 1878 in Glasgow. Husband to Jane McKenna. John McKenna enlisted in Dungannon. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Dungannon WM

+NABNEY, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 23rd Entrenching Btn., late 11th Btn. Private. 14751. Died 25/03/1918. Age 30. Son of Thomas and Margaret Nabney, of 42, Central St., Ballymacarrett, Belfast; husband to the late Margaret Jane Nabney. Pozieres Memorial, France

+PALMER, David Adams

Tank Corps, attd. 3rd Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Captain. MC. Died 25/03/1918. Served with the South Irish Horse and then the Tank Corps. He won a Military Cross. In March 1918, Captain David Adams Palmer received a gunshot wound to the right shoulder fired from a German aircraft near Morchies. He died of his wounds three days later. Eldest child of son of David and Mary Palmer. He was born 27/09/1892 near Tamlaght-o-Crilly, Drumagarner, Kilrea. David was a member of Tandragee Presbyterian Church

and a former pupil of Tandragee National School. He attended Hughes Academy in Dublin. He joined the Metropolitan Police Office in Dublin and then the Irish Land Commission. Dernancourt Cemetery Extension, Albert, Somme, France

+WILSON, Frederick William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 25/03/1918. Age 24. Son of William and Arabella Caroline Wilson, of 14, Belmore St., Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

1919

+CRILLY, John

Australian Royal Engineers, 6th Tunnelling Company. Sapper. 5079. Died 25/09/1919. Born in Dungannon about 1861. John emigrated to Brisbane, Australia. He had served for three years in the Australian Light Horse before enlisting for overseas service on 15/07/1916 at the age of 45. His attestation papers show that he was 5 feet six and three quarter inches tall. He was transferred to France on 15/10/1916. Due to sickness he was transferred from the Australian Base Hospital in Rouen, France to Middlesex County Hospital, England It was recommended that he was no longer fit for Military Service. He was sent home to Australia and upon arrival was transferred to hospital from early June 1917 until August 1918. He was discharged from the army on 13/07/1918 and died in hospital in Brisbane on 25/09/1919. Brisbane General Cemetery, Toowong, Brisbane

+SMYTH, R

Royal Irish Rifles. 19th Btn. Rifleman. 15/12431. Died 25/09/1919. Age 38. Husband of Maggie Smyth, of 139, Leopold St., Belfast. Shankill Graveyard, Belfast

1940

+HILL, Thomas Edward

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 779475. Died 25/03/1940. Aged 31. 23 Bty., 8 A.A. Regt. Father of Emelda and Audrey. Honfleur (St. Leonard) Communal Cemetery, Calvados, France

1941

+MARKS, Hugh

RNVR. Surgeon Lieutenant. Died 25/03/1941. Age 34. HMS Liverpool. Portora RS. M.B., Ch.B. He was a passenger on the Steamship Britannia travelling from Freetown to Bombay when the ship was attacked and sunk by the German Auxiliary Cruiser Thor with the loss of 122 Crew and 127 Passengers. Son of Hugh and Eliza Ann Marks, Coleraine. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 50

1942

+DEWAR, Percy Charles Thomas

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 87115. Died 25/03/1942. Aged 58. Dromore, County Down. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Section

+JAYE, Alan Gordon

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1043669. Died 25/03/1942. Aged 19. 83 Sqdn. Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Avro

Manchester Mark 1. Flying from Scampton on operation to Essen, was attacked and crashed at Lichtaart (Antwerp), 12 km SSW of Turnhout, Belgium. Aircraft claimed by Lt Kurt Loos 2./NJG1 - Between Lichtaerts & Herentals at 23:44. The seven members of the crew died and are interred at Heverlee. Son of John Alan and Evelyn Lancaster Campbell Jaye, Downpatrick. Heverlee War Cemetery, Belgium

+McFARLAND, John

Royal Ulster Rifles, 30th Btn. Rifleman. 25089. Died 25/03/1942 at at No. 24 British General Hospital, Campbell College Military Hospital, Belfast. Husband to Anna Mina McFarland of 5 Ceylon Street, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

+WILSON, Richard

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 7013415. Died 25/02/1942 as a result of shock following injuries caused by a bomb explosion. Aged 27. Son of Elizabeth Hogg, of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

1943

+HUTCHINSON, SAMUEL J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn., Fusilier. 5729256. Died 25/03/1943. Age 26. Son of Samuel James Hutchinson and Margret Ann Hutchinson, of Lurgan; husband to Ivy Hutchinson, of Poole, Dorset. Rangoon Memorial, Lurgan WM

+McCULLOUGH, Joseph

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 14442876.

Died 25/03/1945 of wounds. Aged 19. Joined the Battalion in 1943. His brother Samuel served with 1st (Airborne) Division and was taken prisoner after Operation Market Garden. From Clandeboye Place, Bangor, County Down Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

+MILES, William Daniel

Royal Army Medical Corps. Captain. 125329. Died 25/03/1943. Age 30. MB. Son of Henry and Mary Miles, of Newtown Stewart, Co. Tyrone. Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia

+ROBINSON, Francis

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 22722. Died 25/03/1943. Age 24. HMML 466. Son of Elizabeth Robinson Newtownards; husband to Ivy Robinson. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 80. Newtownards WM

+SPENCE, David Topping

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 7018486. Died 25/03/1945. Age 26. From Coniston Street, Belfast. Son of Robert and Agnes Spence, of Whitehouse. His father served in the First World War. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

+STARRETT, Richard

Royal Ulster Rifles, 30th Btn. Rifleman. D/25132. He served in both World Wars and died 25/03/1943. He was born on 30/09/1885 in Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire. On 31/03/1901, the Irish census showed 15-year-old Richard living with 19-year-old sister Ellen and 13-year-old sister Margaret on Bright Street, Belfast, with their 48-year-old mother Mary Ann Starrett. By 1911, Starrett aged 25 lived with his younger sister Margaret (Maggie) boarding with the

Thompson family. The Thompsons were a Methodist family residing at 7 Mount Street, Belfast.

On 28/09/1914, Richard enlisted for three year's service with 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. Aged 29 years old, he was Rifleman 491 T/4160320. Twice during training, he suffered epileptic fits. These incidents occurred on 13/04/1915 and 04/05/1915. The Royal Irish Rifles dismissed him from Ballykinlar Camp on 21/05/1915 being unfit for service. Friends had noticed epileptic fits before Starrett enlisted. Seeing no action at the front during World War One, he left the army after 236 days.

He was the husband of Annie Starrett of 18 Bright Street, Belfast. The couple had three children. A second son called Richard survived for only 6 months, dying from pertussis and broncho-pneumonia on 21/01/1918.

Only days after the declaration of World War Two, Richard Starrett joined 200th Territorial Army Reserve Group "Home Service Only" National Defence Companies. The date was 04/09/1939, and the 53-year-old Starrett was by then a widower. These men were older, had military experience but were unfit for frontline service. They became 6th Btn. Royal Ulster Rifles. On 24/12/1940, they became 30th Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles, becoming an infantry battalion rather than a Home Defence battalion.

His enlistment papers contain several contradictory elements. He states a World War One military service from 16/08/1914 to 01/07/1919. Military records also contain a false date of birth for his son James. As a widower, he claimed for his daughter as a housekeeper. Cause of death was a cerebral haemorrhage. At the time of death, Rifleman

Starrett had served 3 years and 203 days in service. A funeral service took place on 29/03/1943. Dundonald Cemetery

1944

+SMYTH, Robert

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 419433. HMS Black Prince. Died 25/03/1944. Age 31. Son of Samuel and Mary Smyth. St. Colmanell's Church of Ireland Churchyard, Ahoghill. Ballymena WM

1945

+HALCROW, James Leonard

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 165457. Died 25/03/1945. Aged 42. 27 Sqdn. Son of Robert John And Leonora Hornsby Halcrow; Husband to Florence Halcrow, Belfast. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar

+HAMILTON-TEMPLE-BLACKWOOD, Basil Sheridan

Royal Horse Guards, Captain. 141136. Died 25/03/1945. Age 35. 4th Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. Son of Capt Frederick Temple-Blackwood, D.S.O., 3rd Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, and of Brenda, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, of Clandeboye, Co. Down; husband to Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1937-1940. Director of Empire Division, Ministry of Information, 1941-1942. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

+McCULLOUGH, Joseph

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st Btn. (Airborne). Rifleman. 4442976. From Clandeboye Place, Bangor, he joined the Battalion in 1943. Served as a Rifleman and took part in Operation Varsity, died of wounds received on Sunday, 25/03/1945. Aged 19. His brother Samuel served with the 1st Airborne Division and was taken prisoner after Operation Market Garden. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

+RITCHIE, Samuel R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers att'd to Seaforth Highlanders, 7th Btn. Lieutenant. 326108. Died 25/03/1945. Age 24. Samuel joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in October 1940. He was commissioned as an Officer and then transferred to the 7th Bn Seaforth Highlanders, which was part of the 46th Infantry Brigade, 15th (Scottish) Division. A short time after D-Day, the 15th Division was also involved in the fighting in Normandy, in Operation Charnwood, to take Caen from the Germans. There was a huge military bombardment followed by an assault but eventually Caen was taken, the Division moving on into north west Europe. The Division crossed the River Rhine on 24/03/1945 and captured Mehr but there was a strong counter attack by German paratroops. Son of James and Kathleen Ethel Ritchie, of Belfast. He was a member of Willowfield Parish Church Lads Brigade. Belfast. His remains rest in Mehr village cemetery on the east bank of the Rhine.

VETERANS

MILLIGAN, Joseph

Private Joseph Milligan. 19798 9th (Service) Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Tyrone Volunteers). Joseph, from Castlederg, Co. Tyrone, was a 36 years old father of seven when he enlisted in January 1915. Served with 9th Battalion throughout the war being wounded three times. Discharged with the Silver War Badge in March 1918 and returned to live in Castlederg.

SHAW, Herbert

North Irish Horse, 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers

Herbert Shaw was born on 06/03/1894 at Magherasaul, Dundrum, County Down, the fourth or fifth of six children of farmer Hugh Shaw and his wife Emily (née Watts). By the time of the 1911 Census he was living at Magherasaul with his widowed father and a sister and working on the family farm.

Shaw enlisted in the North Irish Horse between 12 and 20/02/1914 (No.903). He embarked for France with a reinforcement draft for A and C Squadrons on 20/01/1915, where he was posted to the latter.

In June 1916 C Squadron combined with F Squadron and the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons Service Squadron to form the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment, serving as corps cavalry to X Corps until September 1917, when the regiment was disbanded and its men transferred to the infantry. Like most, Shaw was posted to the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers – renamed the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion – on 20 September, joining it in the field at Ruyaulcourt five days later. He was issued regimental number 41262 and

posted to C Company. He probably saw action with the battalion at the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917.

Shaw was one of the many posted as missing following the 9th (NIH) Battalion's fighting withdrawal from St Quentin from 21 to 28/03/1918 during the German spring offensive. It was later learned that he had been captured on 22 March near Ham. He remained a prisoner until the end of the war, held at camps in Stendal and Diedenhofen.

Shaw arrived back in England on 26/11/1918. He was demobilised and transferred to Class Z, Army Reserve, on 25/03/1919.

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

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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