



remembrance ni



The Medium Mark A "Whippet" tank went into action for the first time against the German Spring Offensive on this day in 1918

Belfast man who helped to develop early tanks - land ships

John Harrison from Skegoneill Avenue in Belfast was a member of a remarkable group of men from Northern Ireland who served in the Royal Naval Air Service's Armoured Car Division.

He was recognised with the award of the DSM for his bravery in an action which involved fellow-Ulsterman Lieut.-Commr. Smiles (Later Sir Edward Smiles, Westminster MP who perished on the Princess Victoria). He was also awarded the Order of St. George by Russia.

He saw action at Brzezany, Russia (in what is now Western Ukraine). John Harrison is mentioned by name in the despatch of Commander Locker-Lampson for this action. He wrote: 'I would also venture to bring to the notice of their Lordships the work of the following Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers: C.P.O. John MacFarlane (killed) F.2863; P.O.M. John Harrison F.2893; George Gardner, F.9891; John Marshall McEwan (wounded) F.10029. These were volunteers who assisted Lieut.-Commr. Smiles to repair the roads under very heavy fire during the attack on Brzezany'.

In 'The Czar's British Squadron' by Perrett and Lord, the action at Brzezany on the 1st of July 1917 is described as follows: 'The cars were due to cross their start line at 09.55 and the infantry to go over the top five minutes later. Watched by Kerensky from a forward observation post, Wells Hood led out his squadron in the Rolls armoured. The cars gathered speed in a cutting and then burst out onto the wastes of No Man's Land, Shells burst alongside the road ... bullets clanged off the armour, but within minutes they were level with the first line of enemy trenches and were enfilading them with their fire. ... While the Russian infantry came up Wells Hood protected the Corps' left flank from

interference, and then pressed on down the road to Brzezany until he found it blocked by a barbed wire and sandbag barricade. Smiles called for volunteers to go forward with him and remove the obstruction.

He was joined by Chief Petty Officer MacFarlane, Leading Petty Officer Harrison and Petty Officers Gardner and McEwan, and together they crawled up the roadside ditch to the barricade, which was now under such shellfire that Locker Lampson wondered how any of them survived. Dodging shell-bursts, they were able at length to dismantle the structure piece by piece, but in the process MacFarlane was killed and McEwan badly wounded. The cars passed through ...' Harrison was awarded the DSM. (London Gazette, 30/11/1917 for 'miscellaneous services').

He transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (Motors) on the 26/03/1918 when the Armoured Car Division was incorporated into that formation. Born Belfast 11/12/1895. Died aged 36. Ashville, Skegoniel Ave, Belfast. ADM 188/565/2893

On this Day – March 26

1917

The British take Lagnicourt 6 miles NE of Bapaume. The French repulse several German attacks south of St. Quentin and throw the Germans back beyond the Barisis-Sevais line and take the village of Coucy-le-Chateau.

1918

Kaiserschlacht 1918 Day 5

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.

The British make a stand north of the Somme on the line Roeux-Ayette-Beaumont Hamel-Albert-Bray, but lose Albert and Bray to the Germans. Very heavy fighting south of Somme with the Germans capturing Lihons, Chaulnes, Roye and Noyon.

The Medium Mark A "Whippet" tank went into action for the first time against the German Spring Offensive.

Designed to assist the slower British heavy tanks, the Whippet proved itself successful on the battlefields of France, covering Infantry withdrawals and operating behind German lines against artillery and rear echelon troops.

In an incident at Cachy, a company of Whippets destroyed two German battalions after they were caught in the open.

The Whippet did its job as a light tank admirably and was involved in some of the very first tank battles in History. Five Whippets have survived today, one of which can be seen at the excellent Bovington Tank Museum along with the story of its commander and the VC he won.

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1938

Herman Goering warns all Jews to leave Austria.

1940

Canadian election returns Mackenzie King as prime minister.

First flight of Curtiss C-46 Commando cargo plane in St. Louis MO.

Curtiss C-46D

1941

The German Army High Command gives approval to RSHA and Heydrich on the tasks of SS murder squads (Einsatzgruppen) in occupied Poland.

HMS York is severely damaged and then beached at Suda Bay in Crete, when it is hit by an Italian motor boat loaded with explosives.

1942

Two of the freighters from the recent relief convoy to Malta are sunk in port by the Luftwaffe. These two ships were still almost fully loaded as damage to the docks at Valletta has prevented their swift unloading. Of the 26,000 tons of supply that had been sent from Egypt on this latest convoy, only 5,000 tons were eventually unloaded.

General Blamey becomes the Commander-in-Chief of Australian Military Forces.

Churchill tells the conservatives, 'It now seems very likely that we and our allies cannot lose this war, except through our own fault'.



1943 On 26 March 1943, Eighth Army resumed its offensive against the Mareth Line in South Eastern Tunisia.

Following the setback experienced in the first assault against the Mareth Line on the 21 March, General Bernard

Montgomery, Commanding Officer Eighth Army, on the 23 March, decided to switch his main axis of advance to outflank the defensive position. This flanking advance had got underway at the same time as Operation Puglist, but its initial skirmishes with the Italian and German defenders turned up similar results to the attack directly against the Mareth Line.

Codenamed Operation Supercharge II, the second battle of the Mareth Line began at 15:30 on the 26 March, with the start of an aerial bombardment, followed at 16:00 with a rolling artillery barrage against known enemy positions. At this juncture, the main ground offensive got underway as British tanks, supported by New Zealand Infantry, rolled across the defending German Infantry. Within an hour of H-Hour the attack was gaining momentum and by 18:00 the 1st Armoured Division was passing through the initial gains ready to breakthrough.

In the early morning hours of the 27 March 1943, the tanks of the 1st Armoured began their advance, brushing aside many German defensive positions that lay in their way. An enemy armoured counter-attack was beaten off, when slowly but surely the offensive was running out of momentum. This was further compounded by a lack of clear direction by the Allied High Command on what town should be taken, El Hamma or Gabes, which forced a temporary halt to the ground advance. Then, late on the 27 March, the German and Italian defenders began their withdrawal from the Mareth Line to prevent becoming encircled.

The Mareth Line had finally been breached by Eighth Army.

1944

Brigadier Scott near Cassino: "The General told me that we would have to take over from the French in the mountains north of the Monastery on the foothills of Mount Cairo. I sent James Dunnill & John O'Rourke to have a look round.."

Koniev's armies reach the River Pruth on a 50-miles front. The Russians recapture Kamenets-Podolsk. in the Ukraine.

1945

The U.S. Third Army reaches Main and establishes contact with U.S. Seventh Army on the East side of Rhine, near Worms. The US Third Army captures Darmstadt.

General Patton dispatched 300-strong Task Force Baum to liberate prisoner of war camp OFLAG XIII-B near Hammelburg, 80 km behind German lines. 32 men were killed and about 200 were captured as the mission resulted in a complete failure.



The Battle of Iwo Jima (*19 February – 26 March 1945*) was a major battle in which the United States Marine Corps landed on and eventually captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) during World War II. The Battle of Iwo Jima ended this day. The 36-day assault resulted in more than 26,000 American casualties, killed and wounded. The Japanese lost 18,000 men, only 216 were taken prisoner. The last organized Japanese troops on Iwo Jima made a suicide attack. Total U.S. killed on Iwo Jima is 6,891, with more than 20,000 Japanese being killed and only 216 captured.

The Russians take Papa and Devecser, both German strong points covering the approaches to the Austrian border. The Reichsführer-SS is replaced by General Heinrici as Commander in Chief of Army Group Weichsel.

US Eighth Army lands on Cebu in Philippines.

US Tenth Army lands on Kerama Islands 15 miles west of Okinawa to build artillery base; seizes 350 kamikaze torpedo boats.

David Lloyd George, British prime minister during WWI, dies at age 83



Roll of Honour – March 26

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+HAMILL, Patrick

Royal Field Artillery, 13th Bde. 2nd Bty. Gunner. 61372. Died 26/03/1915. Aged 28. Eldest son of George and Rose Hamill, of Roan, Eglish, Dungannon. George Hamill was a blacksmith. Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool. Eglish RH

+McCLELLAND, William

Royal Irish Regiment, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9507. Died 26/03/1915. Age 26. Son of James and Agnes McClelland, of 26, Cromwell St., Belfast. Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin

1916

+CLARK, John

Private. 349. Died 26/03/1918. From Londonderry

1917

+COLLINS, J

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Private. 21418. Died 26/03/1917. Age 28. Born at Drogheda, Co. Louth. Son of James and M. A. Collins, of 17, Granville St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

+DUNWOODIE, William David

N.Z.E.F. Auckland Regiment, 1st Btn. Private. 31968. Died 23/06/1917. Aged c 19. William Dunwoodie attended Dilworth Ulster Institute in Auckland, New Zealand from 1906-1911. After leaving school William worked as a labourer in New Zealand before enlisting with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. William David Dunwoodie was the son William Dunwoodie. William was born about 1898. He lived at Millberry, Caledon, Tyrone. By the time of the 1901 census his mother had died. Messines Ridge (NZ) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Dungannon WM

+KITSON, Alexander

Royal Field Artillery, 6th Div. Ammunition Col. Gunner. 48097. Died 26/03/1917. Age 28. A brother Thomas died in the war 05/05/1915. Alexander was born, twin of David, at Donegore 30/07/1889. Enlisted Belfast. Son of James and Maggie (nee Nelson) Kitson; husband to Ruth Marett (formerly Kitson), of William St. East, Pembroke, Ontario, Canada. Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, France

+McCOTTER, John

Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery, 11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 1961. Died 26/03/1917. Age 23. Died 16/03/1917. John was the eldest son of John and Mary McCotter. Born on 19th/11/1893 in Killygullib, Hervey Hill, Kilrea. His father was a farmer. John emigrated to Australia about 1913. Prior to enlisting, John worked as a tram employee in Brisbane. John enlisted in Brisbane on 30/11/1915. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 01/12/1916. He was admitted to hospital with mumps. He returned to his unit in January 1917. He was wounded in action on 25/03/1917 with a gunshot wound to the chest. He died of his wounds the following day. Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Bailleul, Nord, France.

1918

+ASHE, Samuel

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 40th Btn. formerly Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 29026. Died 26/03/1918. Age 29. Born Donegore 28/04/1889. Enlisted Antrim. Son of John and Ellen (nee Beattie) Ashe, of Loanends, Muckamore, Co. Antrim. Arras Memorial, France, Antrim Town WM, St Jude's C of I Parish Church WM.

+BOYD, Henry

RMLI. Lance Corporal. 14258. Plymouth Division. SS Lady Cory Wright. Died 26/03/1918. Vessel sunk by UC-17 shortly after sailing from Devonport. The Captain and 38 to 41 men were lost. Enlisted 21/11/1907. War service in Roxburgh, Endymion and President. Demobilised and joined RFR 31/01/1917. Transferred from SS Canopy Gun Crew to SS Lady Cory Wright Gun Crew 08/02/1917. Born Belfast 11/05/1890. Son of Mrs Agnes Boyd, Ebenezer Villa.

Whitehead - PCI RH. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 28.
ADM 159/155/14258

+CAIRNDUFF, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 17388. Died 26/03/1918. Age 26. Robert Carnduff enlisted in Newtownards and he was stationed at Clandeboye Camp, Bangor when he and Sarah Kerr were married on 12/02/1915 in Ballygrainey Presbyterian Church. Sarah Kerr, a box-folder from 41 West Street, Newtownards was a daughter of Nathaniel Kerr, a mason. Rifleman Robert Carnduff served with the 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in 108 Brigade of the Ulster Division and he was wounded during the Battle of Langemarck in August 1917. He was transferred to the 12th Btn. Son of Samuel and Ann Jane Cairnduff, of 20, Greenhill Terrace, Newtownards; husband to Sarah Cairnduff, of 39, Robert St., Newtownards. After Robert's death she moved to High Street, Portaferry. Robert Carnduff was just 19 months old when his mother, Ann Jane, died of apoplexy in Church Street, Newtownards on 22/10/1893 (aged 46). Pozieres Memorial, France. Newtownards WM, Second Newtownards Presbyterian Church RH

+CHEEVERS, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 29816. Died 26/03/1918. Thomas was working in Scotland at the outbreak of the First World War and enlisted in Glasgow in early 1917. Private Cheevers joined his battalion at the front as a battle casualty replacement in late 1917. He was wounded in the retreat from St. Quentin during the German Spring Offensive of March 1918 Born in Cookstown on

20/05/1893, son of James and Margaret Cheevers, of Millburn St., Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Noyon New British Cemetery, Oise, France. Cookstown WM, St Luran's Church WM

+CLARKE (Clark) Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 21929. Died 26/03/1918. Aged 25. His family lived at 45 Springwell Street, Ballymena. He enlisted at Harthill and lived at Lanark, West Lothian. St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France. Buckna Presbyterian Church RH

+CONWAY, William John

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 2nd Btn. (attch. 7th) Service No: S/6003. Corporal. Died: 26/03/1918. Aged 22. He was born 01/10/1895 at 10 St. Leonard Street in Belfast. He was the second child of Robert Conway, a Railway Guard, and his wife Margaret Jane (nee Moore).

William's father Robert came from Conlig, a small village midway between Newtownards and Bangor. Robert was working as a car driver when he married Margaret in Ballygilbert Presbyterian Church in February 1892. Robert and Margaret were living in Castle Street, Bangor, when their first child Margaret was born in Dec 1892 – Robert now working as a Railway Porter – before moving to Belfast where William was born in 1895 and his sister Minnie Agnes was born 12 St Leonard Street in 1899.

The family then moved to Stevenston in Ayrshire, although the exact date is unknown. It was there that Williams four other siblings where born – Robert, Martha, Hugh, and Thomas.

William enlisted in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), entering France on 20/09/1915 – the date which the 10th Battalion are recorded as entering France. Two months later, in November 1915, the 10th were sent to Salonika.

In April 1916, suffering from acute nephritis, William (recorded as serving with D Company, 10th Batt.) was transferred to the Hospital Ship Formosa and in December he embarked at Shat-el-Arb for Bombay (now recorded as serving with the 2nd Battalion) and in February 1917 was transferred to England.

As the 2nd Battalion stayed in Palestine and Mesopotamia, however, it is logical to assume he was transferred to the 7th Battalion with whom he is recorded as serving when he was presumed killed on 26/03/ 1918. Arras Memorial. Stevenston WM Ayrshire. Family memorial in Bangor Cemetery

+DURNEEN, John James

North Irish Horse. A Sqdn. Private. 71655. Died 26/03/1918. Aged 21. John James Durneen (also spelt Durnan, Durnien, Durnian) was born on 26/07/1896 at Clogher, County Tyrone, the first child born to farmer James Durneen and his wife Margaret Eleanor (previously Johnston, nee McCrea). By 1911 he was living at 77 Main Street, Fintona, where he worked as an apprentice draper to George Bullock. Between 27 and 29/11/1915 Durneen enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim (No.1987 – later Corps of Hussars No.71655). In 1916 or 1917 he embarked for France, where he was posted to A Squadron of the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment.

In February and March 1918 the 1st Regiment was dismounted and converted to a cyclist unit, serving as corps cyclists to V Corps. On 26 March during the German spring offensive Durneen and another man, Reginald John Armstrong, were on reconnaissance duty near Toutencourt, west of the old Somme front, when they were killed by a stray shell.

The *Tyrone Courier and Dungannon News* of 11 April 1918 reported that: Mr. James Durnan of Clogher has received official intimation that his son, Pte. John Jas. Durnan, N.I.H., was killed in action on 26th ult. His Captain writing to the father says that deceased was returning from special reconnaissance work and was instantly killed by a stray shell. His death was a great loss he added, to the regiment as he was always bright and cheerful and done extremely well and lately was given a most responsible position – that of corps guide. Deceased was aged 22 and was formerly in business with Bullock & Co., Draper, Fintona, and later in Mulholland Bros., Cookstown. He was a year and nine months in the army.” Durneen and Armstrong’s remains were interred together at Toutencourt Communal Cemetery, Somme, France,

+ELLIOTT, Thomas

Machine Gun Corps, 62nd Btn. Private. 66484. (Formerly 7657 of Connaught Rangers). Died 26/03/1918. He was born in Ahoghill and was the son of weaver John Elliott, Ahoghill, and domestic servant Margaret Mullan, Ahoghill. The couple had married in Ahoghill RC Chapel on the 11/08/1872. Thomas enlisted in Glasgow. He was a keen boxer and a boxing champion. Bienvillers Military Cemetery,

Pas de Calais, France. Family headstone at Ahoghill Roman Catholic Cemetery.

+FERRIS, David

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. G Coy. Company Sergeant Major.4849. LSGCM. MiD. Died 26/03/1918. Age 39. David Ferris was born on 13/11/1879 in the townland of Glasker, Banbridge. He was a son of William and Jane Ferris (nee McCreedy) who were married on 04/11/1867 in Newry and Mourne. They had at least six children. David Ferris was a career soldier. On 10/03/1910 David Ferris was presented with a gold watch on the occasion of his leaving the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles to take up duty on the Permanent Staff of the Royal North Downs (4th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles).

David Ferris and Elizabeth Emily Crawford (nee Seavens), a widow from Newtownards, were married on 21/11/911 in Helen's Bay Presbyterian Church and they lived at 86 Church Street, Newtownards.

David Ferris was an all-round sportsman and had acknowledged soccer skills. He was on the Royal Irish Rifles team that won the All-Army Challenge Football Cup and for that he received a gold medal and a silver cup. He won at least fourteen other medals on the soccer field. When he was posted to Newtownards, David Ferris readily gave his services to Ards Football Club.

In 1914 David Ferris was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and on 09/01/1915 he was promoted to the rank of Company Sergeant Major. It was reported in the press that he was offered a commission at a later stage but he declined saying that he 'preferred to stay in the ranks

with his comrades'. On 26/01/1916 CSM David Ferris was posted back to his old Battalion – the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He went to the Front and fought through several battles. CSM David Ferris was granted two weeks home leave in February 1918 and less than a month later he died of wounds sustained in action.

Elizabeth Ferris first heard unofficially that David had been mortally wounded but she retained some hope that he was still alive. This hope was eventually dashed some ten months later when she received official confirmation that he had died just five days after the start of the German Spring Offensive which began on 21/03/1918. In a letter dated 28/01/1919 from the Infantry Record Office in Dublin the circumstances of his death were described. His Captain was killed and in an attempt to stem the onrush of the Germans when they broke through the line at St Quentin, David Ferris led an attack on a nest of enemy machine guns. He received such serious injuries from shell and machine gun fire that both of his legs were shattered.

David Ferris and his comrades were taken prisoners of war and they carried him on an improvised stretcher to a German field hospital at Flavy-le-Martel where he died some six hours later without regaining consciousness. Pozieres Memorial, France. Newtownards WM, Regent Street Presbyterian Church RH

+FREEMAN, George

5th (Royal Irish) Lancers. Private.163. Died 26/03/1918. There is a Trooper George Freeman of the Irish Lancers listed on Dungannon War Memorial. However, absolutely no link between this man and Dungannon can be found.

George Freeman was born in Drumcondra, Dublin, and he was serving with the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers when he was killed in action on Tuesday 26/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Dungannon WM

+GIBSON, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 4403. Died 26/03/1918. Age 21. Son of James and Sarah Gibson, of Ballykinvar, Armoy. Pozieres Memorial, France

+GREEN, Percy Harold

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 26/03/1918. Age 25. Educated at Methodist College, Belfast. Enlisted Sept., 1914, 20th (Public School's Btn.) Royal Fusiliers. Son of Herbert P. and Jessie Green, of Limehurst, Holland Park, Knock, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

+HENRY, George Adams

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 41401. MM. Died 26/03/1918. George Henry joined the North Irish Horse prior to the war and as a trooper had gone to France at the outbreak of hostilities. For some months he was the bodyguard of Sir John French when he was Commander-in-Chief, and afterwards of General Smith-Dorrien. On 13/01/1918, Sergeant Henry was awarded the Military Medal along with Lance Corporal A.C. Clarke. He received severe wounds in action on 14/03/1918 and died at the Australian General Hospital at Rouen. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France. Kingsmills Orange Hall RH

+HOUSTON, Arthur Oswald

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 26/03/1918. Age 26. Born in Maghera on 15/12/1891. Son of Thomas and Margaret Houston. Thomas was a grocer in Maghera. Arthur, like two other brothers, worked as a clerk in a linen office of William Clark & Sons Ltd in Upperlands. Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France. Wm Clark & Sons WM

+JONES, Gerald Adrian Disney

The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Private. G/23352. Died 26/03/1918. Age 26. Gerald was killed during the Easter week of 1918. He was the second son of the late Reverend J Jefferies Jones incumbent of St Columba, Knock, Belfast and Mrs Geraldine Blanch France of 'Ferndale' Westward Ho. Arras Memorial, France

+JOYCE, James

6th Dragoons (Inniskilling). Private. 7158. Died 26/03/1918. Aged 25. James was born about 1893 in Aughnacloy, County Tyrone, the son of David and Eliza Joyce. David Joyce was a farmer. In 1901 James (11) was living with his family at Glenkeen, Ballymagran, Co. Tyrone. He disembarked in France on 16/12/1914. His effects were left to his mother Eliza Joyce. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. IMR

+McDOWELL, William Hunter

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Sergeant. 18/1324. Died 26/03/1918 Larne WM. No CWGC record

+McDOWALL, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Serjeant. 1324. Died 26/03/1918. Age 36. Son of Andrew and Mary McDowall; husband to Janet McDowall, of Drumalis, Larne. Pozieres Memorial, France

+REA, John

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 57th Btn. Private. 6273. Previously Royal Irish Rifles (999). Died 26/03/1918. Age 22. Born and lived at Carnanee, Co. Antrim. Enlisted Belfast. Son of Francis and Sarah Rea, of Clarke Lodge, Craigarogan, Mallusk, Belfast. Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium

NORTH IRISH HORSE RELATED

+DUREEN, John James Durneen

Corps of Hussars. Formerly North Irish Horse. Private. 71655. Died 26/03/1918. John James worked for Bullock & Co, a draper in Fintona, County Tyrone. He then moved on to work for Mulholland Bros., Cookstown. Between 27 and 29 November 1915 Durneen enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim (No.1987 – later Corps of Hussars No.71655). In 1916 or 1917 he embarked for France, where he was posted to A Squadron of the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment.

In February and March 1918 the 1st Regiment was dismounted and converted to a cyclist unit, serving as corps cyclists to V Corps. On 26 March during the German spring

offensive Durneen and another man, Reginald George Armstrong, were on reconnaissance duty near Toutencourt, west of the old Somme front, when they were killed by a stray shell.

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"Mr. James Durnan of Clogher has received official intimation that his son, Pte. John Jas. Durnan, N.I.H., was killed in action on 26th ult. His Captain writing to the father says that deceased was returning from special reconnaissance work and was instantly killed by a stray shell. His death was a great loss he added, to the regiment as he was always bright and cheerful and done extremely well and lately was given a most responsible position – that of corps guide. Deceased was aged 22 and was formerly in business with Bullock & Co., Draper, Fintona, and later in Mulholland Bros., Cookstown. He was a year and nine months in the army."

He was born on 26 July 1896 at Clogher, County Tyrone, the first child born to farmer James Durneen and his wife Margaret Eleanor (previously Johnston, nee McCrea). By 1911 he was living at 77 Main Street, Fintona.

Durneen and Armstrong were buried together at Toutencourt Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Clogher WM, St Macartan's Cathedral plaque

+HENRY, George Adams Henry

9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, subsequently named the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion. MM. Died 26/03/1918. For some months he was the bodyguard of Sir

John French when he was Commander-in-Chief, and afterwards of General Smith-Dorrien. On 13/01/1918, Sergeant Henry was awarded the Military Medal along with Lance Corporal A.C. Clarke.

Henry enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Cookstown between 23 February and 19 March 1912 (No. 683). He embarked for France with C Squadron on 20 August 1914, seeing action in the retreat from Mons and advance to the Aisne.

On 28 November 1914 the Mid-Ulster Mail reported that: Driver W. J. Arbuthnott of the North Irish Horse, son of Mr. W. J. Arbuthnott, Drumbonaway, writing to a friend says:--"... I have come through a few battles safely. All the rest of the boys are well and doing good work at the front, especially the Cookstown chaps. We are very well looked after with food and clothes, and we never want for anything, and not one of the Cookstown party of the North Irish Horse has got a wound, though all have shown up bravely at the post of duty.

"Sergeant Ashcroft, John Maxwell, Samuel Espey, Willie Crooks, Willie Anderson, George Henry, and Albert James McKenna, are the Cookstown fellows in the same troop as me."

Henry was also mentioned in a letter published in the Mid-Ulster Mail on 12/12/1914:

"Trooper Robert Averall, of the North Irish Horse, writing to Mr. John G. Gamble, of Magherafelt, in 2nd inst., says – "We are having a badly needed rest just now, as our horses were nearly played out. Cavalry is not much use in the trenches, but we hope to get plenty of work when the

Germans get on the move again, and I hope the next halt will be in Berlin. It is hardly likely we will be home for Christmas, but I hope we will be there for the 'Twelfth!' Four Cookstown fellows are here in my troop – Sergeant Ashcroft, Corporal Espie, Lance-Corporal Henry, and Trooper Willie Crooks. We are visited by the enemy's aeroplanes almost every day. They fly over our lines and drop bombs all over the place but do not do much damage, and we usually manage to bring them down in the end. We were on guard during the King's visit, and were on the look out for spies. We succeeded in capturing two disguised as shepherds. They had some sheep and a dog. We are getting tired of mutton chops, so we will perhaps try dog-flesh for a change!! Remember me to all the comrades in the U.V.F., and tell them I am hoping to rejoin their ranks soon.”

At the end of 1915 Henry returned home on leave, a report of which appeared in the local newspaper. Inaccuracies in the report suggesting that Henry's squadron was not often in the firing line led three men of C Squadron to write to the paper seeking a correction:

“Dear Sir, – We would respectfully draw your attention to a statement which appeared in a recent issue of your paper, just come to hand, namely, that Troopers S. Espie and G. Henry were home on leave from the Squadron of North Irish Horse (A) acting as bodyguard to Sir John French at General Headquarters.

“The above-mentioned are corporals and belong to C Squadron, which has been acting as Divisional Cavalry since coming to France on August 22nd, 1914, with the exception

of a few months last winter, when the squadron was broke up to work with different Corps Headquarters.

“Owing to absence of real cavalry work, the chief work of the Squadron has been in the nature of pioneer work, viz., trench digging, barb-wiring, and sand-bagging redoubts, etc., and on several occasions the wiring has been done outside the front line parapets, not fifty yards from the German trenches; also carrying wounded from trenches to advanced dressing stations; escorting German prisoners to nearest rail-head from reserve line, and taking their turn in the trenches as infantry when required. In fact this Squadron has not been out of the firing line (proper) since they came out, and a good many of our comrades out here have rather resented the statement, that has so often erroneously appeared in your valuable paper, that the Squadron was on Headquarters work.

“Esteeming the favour of a correction at an early date, with best wishes to the good old Mail for the New Year. We remain

Yours faithfully,

R. Averall, H. Bradley, Corporal S. Brown
No. 1 Troop, C Squadron, N.I.H., 3rd Division Cavalry, B.E.F.”

1st January, 1916.

The Mid-Ulster Mail reported on 15 January 1916 -

“In August 1917 the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment, of which C Squadron was a part, was dismounted and most of its officers and men transferred to the infantry. After a few weeks training, on 20 September most were posted to the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, subsequently named the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion. Henry was

issued a new number – 41401 – and posted to C Company. Henry saw action with his battalion in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917. On 16 December he took part in a successful raid on an enemy outpost south of Marcoing, led by Lieutenant G.W. Vesey. Vesey was later awarded a Military Cross for his part in the raid, while Henry and one other were awarded Military Medals.”

Henry was born on 23 May 1894 at Cloghog, Cookstown, County Londonderry, the youngest of six children of farmer William James Henry and his wife Jane (nee Irvine). On the evening of 14/03/1918 as the battalion moved into reserve trenches at Grand Seraucourt, Henry was severely wounded. Evacuated to the Australian General Hospital at Rouen, he died twelve days later. St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Cookstown WM, Second Cookstown PCI RH, Kingsmills Orange Hall RH

+JOHNSTON, James F

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. formerly 6th Dragoons (Inniskilling). Private. 41126. Died 25/03/1918. Age 20. James enlisted in Enniskillen in March 1915. During the battalion's retreat from St Quentin in the German Spring offensive of March 1918, Private James Johnston received a head wound. James Johnston was the eldest son of Joseph and Mary Jane Johnston. James Frazer Johnston was born in Clogher on 19/05/1897. He was the 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. Roze New British Cemetery, France. Fermanagh War Memorial Book

+THOMPSON, William John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 26/06/1918. Age 26. "This is the third son of Mr. Thompson to be killed in action. A fourth has had his leg amputated, a fifth is wounded and in hospital, a sixth has been engaged in the present fighting in France, a seventh is serving in Mesopotamia, and an eighth is in the R.N.V.R." - The Witness 12/04/1918. Son of George Richard and Elizabeth Thompson, of Gobnascale House, Londonderry; husband to Margaret P. Thompson, of Gortinure, New Buildings, Londonderry. Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

+VESSEY (LENDRUM), George Waller

2nd North Irish Horse Regiment. Captain. MC. Died 26/03/1918. Lendrum changed his name to Vesey. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant and posted to the North Irish Horse. He was promoted to lieutenant on 18/11/1917. On 16/11/1915 he embarked for France as an officer of F Squadron. In June 1916 this squadron combined with C Squadron and the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons Service Squadron to form the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment.

The regimental war diary makes a number of mentions of Vesey over the next year:

Capt Uprichard rejoined C Squadron on being relieved at Contay by Mr Vesey. (7 September 1916)

Lieut Vesey was in charge of Digging party. (4 December 1916)

Usual trench digging party under Lt Vesey. (23 December 1916)

Lieut Vesey was in charge of working party. The party was shelled heavily for 1/2 an hour. 2 January 1917)

Trench digging party under Lt Vesey was again shelled. (6 January 1917)

Usual trench party under Lieut Vesey. (13 January 1917)

Usual Trench Digging Party under Lieut Vesey. (13 March 1917)

Working Party under Lt Vesey. There was no shelling. (28 March 1917)

Major Newman Capt Henry Lt Vesey & 2Lt Dean having been appointed to road control Squadrons in 1st & 3rd Armies proceeded to take up their new duties. (7 April 1917)

In September 1917 the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment was dismounted and most of its officers and men absorbed into the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers – subsequently known as the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Vesey reported for duty with the battalion on 17 October and was posted to A Company. On 6 December he was promoted to captain.

He saw action with the battalion at the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917. On 15 December near Marcoing, as the battalion prepared to leave the trenches for a period of rest, Vesey led an offensive patrol that successfully seized a dangerous section of trench from the enemy.

He was awarded a Military Cross for this action, the citation reading:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led a

patrol and rushed and captured an enemy machine gun which was in action in a trench running out from our lines

and killed several of the crew. He then established a block in the trench and so improved the position. His initiative and resource were a splendid example to his men.”

On 21 March 1918 the battalion was in the St Quentin sector when the German spring offensive began. Two days later after heavy fighting they fell back on Berlancourt and Guiscard, the enemy continuing to press the attack through the evening and heavily shelling the villages. That evening they came under the command of the French 62nd Division, and covered the withdrawal of their own division, the 36th Ulsters.

During the night a number of casualties were sustained, including Captain Vesey, who was severely wounded. He was left in the care of the French when the battalion withdrew from Guiscard the following day. Soon after, they brought him to one of their field hospitals, Ambulance 4/51, at Ressons-sur-Matz, west of Noyon. He died there on 26 March. He was buried at the Ressons-sur-Matz French Military Cemetery. After the war Vesey's body was exhumed and re-buried at Vignemont French National Cemetery, Oise, France

Lendrum/Vesey was born on 05/08/1882 at Magheracross, Irvinestown, County Fermanagh, son on George Cosby Lendrum of Magheracross, JP DL, and his wife Antionette Frances Lendrum (nee Butler). Lendrum changed his name to Vesey in order to inherit a family property, Derrabard House, Fintona, County Tyrone.

On 24 April 1915 he married Sybilla Sarah Bernard at Fretherne, Gloucester. The couple had one child, Barbara Waller Mary Vesey, born on 13 November 1917. Two weeks earlier Vesey had been commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant and posted to the North Irish Horse.

One of Vesey's brothers, Captain Marcus Beresford Lendrum, also served in the 9th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers. Another brother, Captain Alan Cane Lendrum, served in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and was killed in an IRA ambush near Doonbeg, West Clare, on 22/09/1920.

1919

+McCREIGHT, John

Royal Army Service Corps. Supply, Reserve Depot (Basra). Private. T/328358. Died 26/03/1919. Age 24. Son of Elizabeth McCreight, of 5, Lisbon St., Belfast, and the late John McCreight. Shankill Graveyard, Belfast

1941

+KEMP, Kenneth John

RNVR. Sub Lieutenant. (E) Died 26/03/1941. Age 22. HMS Gloucester. Perished on raft due to enemy action. CAI and QUB, BSc Hons, 1939. He had resided in Carrickfergus for eight years and was prominent in sporting circles. Son of Mr and Mrs J Kemp, Castleview House, Castlerock. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 10/05/1941 and 24/05/1941.) Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 61. QUB WM

+McDONALD, Robert

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1489950. Died on 26/03/1941. Aged 51. 176 Battery, 66 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment. Son of Alexander and Margaret Boyd McDonald of Belfast; Husband to Helen Kane McDonald of Belfast. Carnmoney C of I Churchyard

1942

HMS JAGUAR

The J Class (F34) HMS Jaguar was part of a convoy bound for Tobruk, Egypt. She sank from 2 torpedoes from a spread of four fired by U-652 off Sidi Barrani, Egypt. A total of 193 crew and ratings died in HMS Jaguar. Only 53 of a crew of 246 survived. Five from Northern Ireland are remembered here.

+KENNY, Mathew

RN. Leading Stoker. D/KX 96019. Died 26/03/1942. Aged 22. HMS Jaguar. Son of John and Mary Jane Kenny, Lisnaskea. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 69. Enniskillen WM

+KIDD, James

RN. AB. D/SSX 13321. MiD. Died 26/03/1942. HMS Jaguar. 13 years service. Son of Joseph and Matilda Kidd, Moyola St., Belfast,; husband to Elizabeth Kidd, Sydney St., West, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 17/04/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 65

+LAMONT, Allan

RN. AB. D/SSX 17853. Died 26/03/1942. Aged 26. HMS Jaguar. Enlisted in 1936. Served in HMS Iron Duke, HMS

Drake, HMS Exeter, HMS Defender, HMS Hood, and HMS Jaguar 1939-1942 was his vessel. He was a torpedo man onboard HMS Jaguar.

Born on 18/07/1915, he was the son of Margaret Jane Lamont and her fiancé Allan Mills McCullagh of Carnaboy Cottage, Coleraine. His father and uncle, Arthur McCullagh, were both veterans of WW1. He was the stepson of John McLean of Bushmills, Co. Antrim.

The army had granted Allan Mills McCullagh leave to return to Ireland, visit his newborn son, and marry Margaret. In one of his last letters home, he requested that if the baby was a son, he should be Allan.

A sniper shot Allan McCullagh as he was nearing the train station to begin his homeward journey. Stretcher bearers rushed him to a nearby field hospital. In a critical condition, he went on to a larger hospital at Le Havre, France. There, he died from his wounds.

Consequently, Allan Lamont never met his father. Each year, he and his mother Margaret paid tribute to Allan Mills McCullagh at the Bushmills War Memorial. They would lay wildflowers by the memorial as his name was called out .

For several years, Allan Lamont was an only child. Margaret would later meet and marry John McLean of Bushmills. The couple would have ten children who all looked up to their old brother Allan.

No matter what ship he served on, Allan Lamont would always bring home gifts from his exotic travels for his mother and siblings.

In 1940, Allan sustained wounds at Dunkirk, France. The RN granted him 24 hours compassionate leave and he returned to Northern Ireland to visit the family. He said goodbye to them for what would be the last time on 10/06/1940. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 65, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

+SPRATT, Joseph

RN. Leading Signaller. D/JX 135189. Died 26/03/1942. Aged 26. HMS Jaguar. Born on 20/06/1915, he was the son of John Spratt and Charlotte Spratt of Lenaderg, Co. Down. Joseph's brother-in-law Graham Charles Bradley also lost his life during WW2. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 67, Portsmouth, Hampshire. Gilford WM, All Saint's Church of Ireland, Tullylish WM

+TAPLIN, William Robert

RN. Able Seaman. D/JX 147550. Died 26/03/1942. Age 22. HMS Jaguar. Son of William and Julia Taplin, Whiteabbey. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 66

1942

+KIDD, James

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 13321. HMS Jaguar. Died 26/03/1942. Age 32. Son of Joseph and Matilda Kidd, of Belfast; husband of Elizabeth Kidd, of Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 65

+LOCKHART, JAMES

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 7009959. Died 26/03/1942. Aged 37, at a military hospital in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. At the time of his death, James had more than 17 years of military service and saw action at Dunkirk. Born 26/10/1904, he was the son of Charles Lockhart and Martha Jane Lockhart (née Wiley) of Templepatrick. James married Henrietta Cairns and the couple lived with their 2 daughters at 6 Hunter Street, Belfast. Reverend JM Payne of St. Aidan's Parish Church, Belfast, conducted services at the Lockhart home and at the graveside on Tuesday 31/03/942. Four Lockhart brothers carried the Sergeant's coffin with many members of the Royal Ulster Rifles in attendance. James' brother Company Sergeant Major Harry Lockhart also served in the Rifles. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension. The Commonwealth War Graves headstone of Sergeant James Lockhart of 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles was one of several damaged by vandalism at Belfast City Cemetery in 2019.

+LOGAN, John Graham

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 632192. Died 26/03/1942. Aged 20. 949 Balloon Sqdn. Before the war, he worked as a clerk in Belfast. Son of John and Martha Logan of 72 Kansas Avenue, Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

1943

+TAIT, John McCalla

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant (Pilot). 1063628. Died 26/03/1943. Aged 21. 78 Sqdn. Born on 04/08/1921. Educated privately before attending Sullivan Upper School, Holywood from 1930 - 1939. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer

Reserve in 1940 and during the Second World War he served in Bomber Command. He took part in 33 operational flights before he died in March 1943. He was one of an eight-man crew aboard a Handley Page Halifax Mark II aircraft (W7931) that took off at 1902 on 26/03/1943 from RAF Linton-on-Ouse in Yorkshire on a mission to bomb Duisburg. On the outward flight their aircraft was crippled by flak and crashed at Gaanderen-Pinnedijk in Holland. Five crew members survived the crash and were taken Prisoner-of-War. In addition to Flight Sergeant John McCalla Tait, two other crew members died that night. Only son of John James Tait and Jane Cowan (nee Brown) Tait, of Holywood, Co. Down. Doetingchem (Looland) General Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands. Holywood and District WM, Clogher WM, First Holywood Presbyterian Church RH, Sullivan Upper School RH

1944

+KENNEDY, Andrew

RAFV. Sergeant (Flight Engineer). 971349. Died 26/03/1944. Age 27. 10 Sqdn. Son of Alexander and Martha Kennedy, Paradise Avenue, Ballymena. Rhineberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

1945

+McGRATH, Daniel

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st Btn. Lieutenant, 288791. Died 26/03/1945. Commissioned into the Royal Irish Fusiliers on 01/03/1944. Served as a Lieutenant in 8 Platoon A Company. An older brother, Captain William McGrath, DSO,

No 74563, was killed in North Africa on 19/02/1942, while serving with the Royal Engineers. Coleraine Academical Institution. Son of James and Emily Dunlop McGrath, Mountsandal, Coleraine. Venray War Cemetery. CAI WM

+THOMPSON, Stephen Thomas

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 816056. Died 26/03/1945. Son of Simon C. and Margaret Thompson, Belfast. Singapore Memorial, Column 453. Singapore

+TROY, John

King's Own Scottish Borderers. 6th Btn. Private. 5569364. Died 26/03/1945. Age 26. Son of John and Isabella Troy, of Lisburn. Reichswald War Cemetery, Germany

1947

+CORRY, Amelia

Auxiliary Territorial Service. Private. W/50124. Died 26/03/1947. Age 25. Daughter of Johnston and Amelia Corry of Saul. Downpatrick First Presbyterian Churchyard

+McCABE, T

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1798640. Died 26/03/1947. Aged 22. Son of Owen and Margaret McCabe of Ballyward. Deehommed (St. Mary) Roman Catholic Churchyard

+WATSON, Henry De Landre

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant. 148537. Died 26/03/1947. Age 23. 48 Sqdn. Royal Air Force Pre-Entry Course in 1941-1942 at QUB. Served with RAF 1913 - 45. After the

war, Henry remained in South East Asia with RAF 48 Squadron. He was pilot of a Dakota KK120 on a regular flight over South China Seas between Singapore and Saigon. It disappeared and no trace of the aircraft was found, and weather may have been a factor. Born 29/01/1924. Son of Charles Sydney Waller Watson and of Esme M. Watson (nee de Landre), of Stramore House, Gilford. Singapore Memorial, Changi, Malaya, Column 460. now transferred to Kranji War Memorial, Singapore. Gilford WM. Dollingstown WM. QUB WM

VETERANS

CALLAGHAN, James

Lt Leonard James Callaghan RNVR died age 93 on this day - 26/03/2005. Portsmouth born James joined the Royal Navy as an Ordinary Seaman in 1942, and was commissioned to RNVR in 1944. MP for Cardiff South in 1945 and in 10 Downing Street as PM 1976-79. RN tattoos meant you never saw him in short sleeves.

CREERY, Robert Desmond Gibson

RNVR. WO. MB BCh BAO QUB (1942) MD(1947) DCH(1948) MRCP(1951) FRCP(1971). He was born in Omagh, the son of William Foster Creery, an ex-regular Army officer and an officer in the Royal Ulster Constabulary (rising to chief of police for County Fermanagh), and Blanche Isabel Maude Creery née Orr. His father had also been in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War as a navigator and on one occasion survived being shot down in Mesopotamia.

Desmond was educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, where he was head of house and a notable long-distance runner and boxer. His eldest son, John Michael, following in his footsteps, was also educated at Portora.

In 1938, Desmond entered medical school at Queen's University Belfast, where he had distinctions in anatomy and physiology, held the Malcolm exhibition and gained the gold medal in paediatrics. He also represented the university at athletics. He qualified in 1943. Continuing his student interest and promise in paediatrics, he became a house physician at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, though this was interrupted by war service.

In 1944, Desmond joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) as a surgeon lieutenant and served afloat and ashore in the East Indies and Far East. After the war, he was a permanent member of the RNVR, retiring in 1964 as a surgeon commander with the Volunteer Reserve Decoration, awarded for long service.

During his postgraduate paediatric training he worked in London at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, the Southmead Hospital in Bristol and in Belfast. During this period, he contributed many papers on infantile hypercalcaemia and other paediatric subjects. After war service as a naval reservist, Robert Desmond Gibson Creery Desmond trained in paediatrics in London, Bristol, and Belfast. His final post was in Guernsey. From 1984 to 1989 he was medical officer for schools and deputy medical officer of health for the Bailiwick of Guernsey and unofficially considered himself a 'community paediatrician' as such posts were becoming common in the UK. For his career in

full see obituary in The BMJ. Born 12/06/1921. Died 26/03/2017.

MARTIN, Norman Todd

Norman Todd Martin, born 26/03/1896, son of Rev. Prof. W. Todd Martin, D.Litt., D.D., College House, College Green, Belfast, was the brother of Sidney Todd Martin. He attended Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge during 1914-15 and went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich in 1916. He was Lieut. Norman Todd Martin, Royal Field Artillery, from 1916-22. He won the M.C. He survived the war and was a schoolmaster from 1923-29. He attended University College, London, 1930-31 and got a B.Sc.in 1931. He was seconded for service as Education Officer, R.A.F. in 1936 and recalled to Artillery in May, 1940. He was promoted to Captain and released from Reserve in 1946. He retired to Old Coastguards House, Cushendall, Co. Antrim.

MORRISON, John Reilly

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th (Service) Btn. West Belfast Volunteers). Rifleman. 9/15517. Placed on Class 'Z' Reserve 26/03/1919. Having earned the trio of medals, 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medal.

SALMON, Martin Salmon

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.Private. 13094. Born in 1894, Martin was resident at Shrigley, Killyleagh, Co. Down, and a labourer in a mill when he enlisted on 22/09/1914. He was posted to the 6th (Service) battalion and landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli on 07/08/1915. Wounded five days later, he was evacuated initially to Egypt and then to the United

Kingdom where he was treated at Cardiff. Following convalescence, he was posted to the regiment's 1st Battalion and saw action at the Somme in 1916. He was wounded in the arm and right eye at the Battle of Langemarck in August 1917 and was medically discharged with the Silver War Badge on 26/03/1918. Assessed as 100% disabled, he received a pension of £2 per week (equivalent to just over £129 today) for life. Image of Martin courtesy of Great War Ulster Newspaper Archive. The pension record mistakenly has Martin attached to the Royal Munster Fusiliers. 26/03/1918.

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We will remember them

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houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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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