

March 27



remembrance ni



On this day in 1943 the Royal Navy suffered its second largest catastrophe in home waters when the Aircraft Carrier HMS Dasher caught fire and sank after an Aviation Fuel explosion off Scotland. 379 of the 528 men on board were lost. Four men from NI were lost. Robert Babbington, a Fleet Air Arm pilot, survived.

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HMS Dasher was an Avenger Class Escort Carrier. She was built at Sun Shipbuilding, Chester. Pennsylvania. USA, as mercantile Rio de Janeiro. She was converted to an aircraft carrier and re-named BAVG-5, being transferred to the Royal Navy on completion and commissioned on the 1st of July 1942.

HMS Dasher saw action in the North African landings, Operation Torch in November 1942, carrying the Sea Hurricanes of 835 squadron. She also saw action in the Russian convoys to Murmansk

On March 27th 1943 HMS Dasher, mysteriously exploded in the Clyde. She sank within eight minutes with the loss of 379 lives, only 149 of those on board survived. Two small coastal vessels Gragsman and Lithium, and the radar training ship, Isle of Sark, along with the French La Capricieuse managed to rescue survivors from the blazing oil covered sea.

In 1993 memorial to the men who lost their lives was dedicated at Ardrossan.

Sir Robert Babington - a survivor of HMS Dasher

RNAS/ Fleet Air Arm. Sub Lieutenant. Pilot. DSC. 1939-45.

During the course of the war Robert had at least two near death experiences. His first wartime posting was flying Fairy Fulmars from the Harland and Wolff-built carrier HMS Formidable. He arrived in Egypt just as his ship was about to take part in the evacuation of Crete.

After the Crete evacuation he flew Swordfish torpedo bombers during the invasion of Syria and once spent three days in a dingy, without food or water, after being forced to

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ditch at sea. Robert was awarded a DSC. The citation reads: "The Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded to Sub Lieutenant Babington for his skill, bravery and sustained resolution in many air attacks against enemy submarines and E-boats in the Mediterranean."

He had another brush with death when the carrier HMS Dasher was sunk on March 27, 1943, while sailing in the Clyde with the loss of 379 men. As the ship was sinking, he was forced to jump overboard and swim to safety. A massive explosion took the ship under a short time later.

Dublin born, he was educated at St Columba's College and Trinity College, Dublin. Called to the Northern Ireland Bar 1947. Queen's Counsel 1965. An Ulster Unionist member. He resigned from the '66 Committee of Unionist backbenchers in October 1970. Sat for North Down from the 1969 general election until the prorogation of the Parliament in 1972. County Court Judge for Fermanagh and Tyrone from 1974.

GAZA Battle Honour for Royal Irish Fusiliers

The Battle Honour GAZA is emblazoned on the Queen's Colours of The Royal Irish Regiment.

GAZA was granted for actions over the period 26 March -7 November 1917. One such action was the battle for Beersheba on 31 October 1917. The reserve brigade in the 10th (Irish) Division for the initial attacks was 31 Brigade. As part of the final phase, 31 Brigade had the task of attacking

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the Turks over the Wadi esh Sheria to cut their defensive line across the Gaza-Beersheba road.

The Turks held a well-defended stretch of high ground called the Hureira Redoubt. The 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers (2nd Faughs), together with two companies of the 5/6th Faughs, was ordered to capture the redoubt while the 6th Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was given a subsidiary role on the right flank. The attack was hurriedly staged and began at 0700 hours on 7 November. There was insufficient time to prepare artillery support in any detail but, in the absence of the artillery's horses being watered elsewhere, the pack mules of the 5/6th Faughs galloped forward towing a supporting battery of howitzers.

Enemy machine guns caused many casualties among the troops advancing across the open ground, but when the Faughs were within 300 yards of the enemy, the attack faltered. When the Inniskillings on the right and a Faugh company on the left simultaneously outflanked the Turkish position, the Turkish fire slackened. The Faughs rose and charged the hill and overran the Turkish defenders who had not abandoned their positions. The fighting had lasted three hours and the Faughs casualties were 29 killed and 137 wounded.

General Allenby's Egyptian Expeditionary Force broke through the enemy positions at Beersheba and Gaza, and went on to pursue both the retreating Ottoman Seventh and the Eighth Army before capturing Jerusalem on 09/12/1917 and then advancing into Syria.

The 31 Brigade infantry included:

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5th Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

6th Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers

5th/6th Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers

The 6th Battalion The Royal Irish Rifles were in 10th (Irish) Division's 29 Brigade.

Courtesy The Royal Irish Regiment

Last day of 36th (Ulster) Div - Kaiserschlacht 7

After 7 days of a fighting withdrawal in the Kaiserschlacht an order was issued by XVIII Corps on 27 March for the relief of 36th (Ulster) Div by the French 56th Div. The 36th was to consolidate at Hargicourt, but had to be changed to Sourdun due to the rapid German advance.

Orders issued at 1015 hrs to 109 Brigade to hold its position as long as possible. It was considered essential that these troops if forced to withdraw, should do along the Northern Banks of the Aisne river and not pass the French.

108th Bde bore the brunt of the German attack on 36th(Ulster) Div positions on the morning of day 7 of the Kaiserschlacht, 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers were surrounded and cut off, only 1 officer and 19 other ranks made it to the rear.

John and was the last day that 36th (Ulster) Div fought as a cohesive unit. An attack by the French on Erches was not communicated and the subsequent German counter attack

split the division, 109th Bde to south, 107th to north and 108th exposed in the centre.

On this Day – March 27

1915

Death of a Cookstown Volunteer - Belfast Newsletter

The death took place in Belfast on Wednesday of **Private James Nelson, aged 17 years**. The deceased was a member of Lissan Company Ulster Volunteer Force, and of Tamlaghtmore Flute Band, and was very popular. He, with two brothers, Thomas and William, volunteered for Lord Kitchener's Army, and was at training at Randalstown. Suffering from throat trouble, he was removed to hospital in Belfast where an operation was performed. Septic poisoning however set in and he passed away, to the intense grief of his father and other relatives, and also of his comrades. His remains were conveyed to Cookstown on Thursday evening, and were met at the railway station by almost all the Cookstown Volunteers and many others. They were taken to his father's residence at Lismoney, whence they were removed yesterday for interment in Ballygoney. The cortege included a large representation of the general public, in addition to many members of the local Volunteers as well as a number of soldiers of the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, all of whom were either relatives or neighbours. Wreaths were sent by the deceased's platoon in the battalion, by Tamlaghtmore Loyal Orange Lodge No.

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469 and band, by No. 9 Section U.V.F., and by two little nephews of the deceased.

Private James Nelson, 18089, 9th Battalion Royal Inniskillings, died 24th March, 1915. Son of William John and Margaret Nelson nee Ballentine, of Lismoney. Deceased was only 17 years of age and is buried in Ballygoney Presbyterian Churchyard.

1941



Group photo of German Fallschirmjäger in Heraklion, taken after the Axis victory on the Greek island of Crete, 1941.

A coup in Yugoslavia by General Simonic and other army officers overthrows the pro-German government. King Peter takes control and a new cabinet is formed. This upsets Hitler, who decides to delay his surprise attack on the Soviet Union in order to launch "Operation Union", whose intent is the destruction of Yugoslavia.

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British troops finally take Keren, although they suffer nearly 4,000 casualties in the process, while the Italians lose some 3,000 men. The Italians are forced to withdraw towards Asmara. The 11th African Division captures Harar in Abyssinia after the Italians have declared it an 'open town'.

Tokeo Yoshikawa arrives in Oahu, Hawaii, to begin spying for Japan on the U.S. Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Under the Lend-Lease Act, US signs 99-year lease on British bases in the western hemisphere and approves \$7 billion in aid to Britain.

1942

The British raid the Nazi submarine base at St. Nazaire, France

Filippino President and Government arrive in Australia. The start of deportation of French Jews to Auschwitz.

One thousand Jews leave Drancy, France for the Auschwitz concentration camp.

1943

Germans delay British/New Zealanders at Tebaga Gap and retreat to Wadi Akarit, Tunisia.

The United States Navy defeats the Japanese in the battle of Komondorski Islands in Aleutians, the longest continuous gun battle in history of US Navy.

1944

Thousands of Jews are murdered in Kaunas, Lithuania. The

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Gestapo shoots forty Jewish policemen in the Riga, Latvia ghetto.

1945



In March 1945 Winston Churchill visits UK forces near the Rhine with Field Marshal Montgomery, the latter standing in a jeep, talking to Scottish troops.

38 (Irish) Brigade. 2 LIR – ITALY: 0900 Bttn commenced move back to Forli area. 1700 CO and Coy Commanders proceed to O Group on forthcoming 'Kangaroo' Exercise. The 'O' Group took place in the Amgot building in St Andrew's Square, Forli.

General Dwight Eisenhower declares that the German defenses on the Western Front have been broken.

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The allied bridgehead north of Ruhr is now 700 square miles. 16,257 POW's are taken for 6,781 allied casualties in four days. The U.S. Third Army captures Aschaffenburg.

The last two German V-2 rockets are launched, one of them killing 134 people and injuring 49 when it hit a block of flats in Stepney, a district in the East End of London.

Bitter street fighting in Danzig as the Russians force their way into the City defences. A German counterattack from the Frankfurt bridgehead toward Kastrin bogs down after only a few miles.

B-29s lay mines in Japan's Shimonoseki Strait to interrupt shipping.

The British raid the Nazi submarine base at St. Nazaire, France

Filippino President and Government arrive in Australia. The start of deportation of French Jews to Auschwitz.

One thousand Jews leave Drancy, France for the Auschwitz concentration camp.



Roll of Honour – March 27

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+ELLIOTT, J

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 288. Died 27/03/1916. Age 44. Son of Mr. J. Elliott, of 60, Gibson St., Belfast. Bear Road Cemetery, Brighton

+GREER, Abraham John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, Depot. Private. 12867. Died 27/03/1916. Aged 24. He died at 39 Belgrave Street, Belfast. Son of Mrs. Annie Greer, of 45, Downing St., Belfast. Apprentice Boys' Memorial Temperance LOL 1317. Funeral (with military honours) was to Belfast City Cemetery

+HIGGS, Edward J

Corporal. 9900. Died 27/03/1916. From Londonderry

+KITCHER, Jack

Private. 8851. Died 27/03/1916. From Londonderry

+MILLEN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Rifleman. 6102. Died 27/03/1916. Born Greencastle, Co. Antrim. Son of Alexander Millen. Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, Pas de Calais, France

1917

+GARVIN, Samuel

Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1st/7th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 27/03/1917. Age 20. Son of William and Sara Garvin. Born in Castledawson on 20/09/1896. The family lived in Magherafelt up until 1899. By 1901 the family had moved to Belfast. Samuel's father worked in a bar. Samuel attended Skegoneil School in Belfast. He entered the Officer Training Corps (O.T.C.) at Queens University on 27/05/1913. The following year he attended Queens from 14/10/1914, studying Science. Gaza War Cemetery, Gaza.

Castledawson WM, QUB RH

+HAMILTON, Arthur

Durham Light Infantry. 14th Btn. Private. 39213. Executed on Tuesday 27/03/1917. Aged 31. Believed to be from St Peters, Belfast. Noeux - Les - Mines Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

1918

+BELTON, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7440. Died 27/03/1918. Age 20. Son of Thomas H. Belton, of 51, Tyrone St., Belfast, and the late Kathleen Belton. Pozieres Memorial, France

+BOYD, Ernest

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 42nd Bn. Formerly Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Corporal. 18644. Died 27/03/1918. Age 24. Son of Hugh Boyd, of 13, Georges St., Londonderry. Arras Memorial, France

+CATON, John

RNVR. Sub-Lieutenant. Anson Btn, RND. Rossville, Died 27/03/1918. Killed in German offensive of March 1918. Enlisted 1 Royal Irish Rifles. 11/19430. Promoted Sergeant and later Company Sergeant Major (Warrant Officer). Commissioned Temporary Sub Lieutenant RNVR 27/06/1917; Draft for Anson Battalion BEF 08/12/1917, joined Anson Battalion 15/12/1917 - 27/03/1918. Born Bury 15/02/1893. Family moved to Muckamore. He worked in York Street Flax Spinning Co. Only son of John and Elizabeth Caton, Abbeyview, Muckamore. Husband to Robena W Caton, Rossville, Muckamore. His only child was born after his death. His wife and son moved from Railway St, Antrim to Northampton after the war. His son Jack Sydney Caton served in the RAF in World War II, and was a PoW in Germany after being shot down. A teacher, he died in Northampton in 2006. Mesmil Communal Cemetery Extension. ADM339

+CHAMBERS, George

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 1674. Died 27/03/1918. Aged 19. Born on 17/01/1899 in the townland of Ballyalton, Newtownards. Son of John Martin Chambers and Mary Chambers (nee Whitla) who were married on 15/12/1884 in St Anne's Church of Ireland Church Belfast. John Martin Chambers was from Comber. Mary Whitla was from Westmoreland Street, Belfast was a daughter of John Whitla, a farmer. They had fourteen children. George Chambers enlisted at Clandeboye in February 1917 and he joined the 18th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He left for France on 12/03/1918 to join the 2nd Battalion and fifteen days later he died in a German Field Hospital at Cugny. He

had been severely wounded in the head during the German Spring Offensive. At the time of George's death his mother was living at 17 Mill Street, Newtownards. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France. Newtownards and District WM. Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards RH. Regent Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards RH.

+CLULOW, Edward

5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's). C Sqdn. Private. D/19464. Died 27/03/1918. Age 36. Served in the South African Campaign. A Reservist. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Evitt Clulow, of Belfast; husband of Sarah Jane Clulow, of 52, Clementine St., Belfast. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

+DOUGAN, Thomas.

2 LR. Lance corporal. 1947. Born in Greenock, Renfrew, he lived at 163 Mill Street, Hilden, Lisburn with his wife and before the war had worked for the Pearl Assurance Company. He enlisted at Belfast. Died 27/03/1918. Pozieres Memorial, France.

+GILDEA, James

Royal Engineers, 122 Field Coy. Serjeant. 64253. Died 27/03/1918. He enlisted in 1914. Born 28/02/1888, son of William Gildea and Ellen nee Douglas, Springwell Street, Ballymena. James was a carpenter in a local spinning mill. He married Margaret McCaughrin, James Street, Harryville, Ballymena, in 2nd Ballymena (High Kirk) Presbyterian Church on 08/07/1912. James gave his address as Hollywood Road, Belfast. Local press said he lived at 79

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Brookmount Street, Belfast at the time of his death.
Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Townsend Street
Presbyterian Church WM, Belfast Belfast

+GILROY, George

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private.
15258. Died 27/03/1918. Age 31. Son of William and Mary
Ann Gilroy; husband of Mary Jane Gilroy, of 50, Stanhope
St., Belfast. Pozières Memorial, France

+GLASS, R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 12/27509. Died
27/03/1918. Son of William and Ellen Glass, of Aughalane,
Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone. Ham British Cemetery, Muille-
Vilette, Villers St. Christophe Chyd, France

+GOURLEY, Francis

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9790. Died
27/03/1918. Aged 30. One of five brothers serving. A sixth
brother Sergeant Joseph Leo Gourley, Royal Inniskilling
Fusiliers, died on the 22/03/1918. Son of Joseph and Jane
Gourley nee McKaig, of Winetavern Street, Belfast.
Pozières Memorial, Somme, France.

+HAIRE, Thomas John Gerald

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private.
21645. Died 27/03/1918. Aged 20. Eldest son of David and
Sara Jane Haire, of Trew and Moy Station, Co. Tyrone. By
1910, the family were living in County Cavan. Thomas
enlisted in Cavan. Pozières Memorial, Somme, France.
Cookstown War Dead Book

+HICKS, Andrew

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. D Coy. Private. 27085. Died 27/03/1918. Age 20. Son of James and Phoebe Hicks, of "Lismooney", Florencecourt, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Pozières Memorial, Somme, France.

+HOGG, James

Royal Engineers, 36th Signal Company. Pioneer. 358747. Died 27/03/1918. Age 23. Son of Samuel and Mary Hogg. Born on 28/12/1894 in Kilrea and was one of nine children. They were a farming family from Carnroe, Kilrea. James Hogg enlisted in Coleraine and was a Private with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers for a time (Service No. 19564). It seems likely he died of illness. Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France. Kilrea WM

+KIRK Isaac

Royal Irish Rifles, 22nd Entrenching Btn., late 11th/13th Btn. Lance Corporal. 12/18034. Died 27/03/1918. Age 25. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. Kirk, of Dundrum. Pozières Memorial, Somme, France.

+LUNN, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th. Btn. Rifleman. 706. Died 27/03/1918. Age 44. Son of William and Mary Lunn; husband to Sarah Jane Lunn, of Champion, Michigan, U.S.A. Native of Lurgan, Co. Armagh. Namps-au-Val British Cemetery, France

+McCABE, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 6654. Died 27/03/1918. 18 years service including the Second Boer War. Born Monkstown 07/08/1880. Brother of Mrs Jane

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Green, 3 Rowan St., Belfast. A Chaplain wrote to her - "Your brother was a fine soldier and a great favourite both with Officers and men. I have never heard such sorrow expressed about any soldier out here; where I have been for two and a half years. You have every reason to be proud of him". Serre Road Cemetery No 2, Somme, France

+McCAY, James Frederick Daniel

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Lieutenant (Acting Captain). Died 27/03/1918. Aged 26. Born 11/01/1892 in Castlederg. Entered Campbell College September 1906. Second son of Rev. James M'Cay and Jeanie (nee Gailey) McCay, of Castlederg. A brother serving with the RAMC was wounded. Pozieres Memorial. France. McCrea-Magee College, Londonderry WM. First Castlederg Presbyterian Church RH.

+McCORMICK, Thomas John

North Irish Horse. Corporal. H/71906. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Castlederg between 16 November and 2 December 1912 (No.759, later Corps of Hussars No. 71096). He embarked for France with A Squadron on 17 August 1914, seeing action on the retreat from Mons and advance to the Aisne.

In May 1916 A Squadron joined with D and E Squadrons to form the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment, serving as corps cavalry to VII, XIX then V Corps until February 1918, when it was dismounted and converted to a corps cyclist regiment.

On 27 March during the German spring offensive McCormick was killed in action just west of the old Somme front where the British line was being consolidated. The regimental diary for that day states: "Regiment employed on

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Traffic duties and Training Lewis Gunners. H/71096 Cpl McCormick Killed.”

Born on 11 December 1887 at Woodside, Killeter, County Tyrone, the fourth of nine children of farmer and carpenter Thomas McCormick and his wife Catherine Rebecca (nee Kyle). McCormick was buried in the village of Senis. After the war his body was exhumed and re-buried in the Senlis Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

+McERLEAN, James

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private.10017. Died 27/03/1918. Age 42. Son of John and Catherine McErlean, of Armoy; husband to Mary Kate McErlean, 10, Vicinage Park, Belfast. Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery, France

+McGOWAN, John

East Lancashire Regiment. 11th Btn. Y Coy. Died 27/03/1918. Age 20. Son of James and Elizabeth McGowan, of 4, Comber St., Belfast. Arras Memorial, France

+McKENNA, William H

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders,14th Btn. Private. 278293. Died 27/03/1918. Born Killylea, Armagh. Enrolled Glencorse, Midlothian. Family all appear to be living at West Calder, near Edinburgh. Husband to Catharine Hartley. Living at Armadale. They had two children,John and Edward.. Arras Memorial, France

+McKINNEY, Joseph James Moore

Royal Irish Rifles,12th.Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 27/03/1918. Age 21. Eldest child of Joseph and Martha

McKinney. He was born on 01/08/1896 in Maghera. Joseph's father owned a grocer's store in Maghera. Pozieres Mem Tobermore WM, Tobermore Baptist Church RH"

+MOORE, Robert McConnell

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 27/03/1918. Age 23. Son of Thomas Moore, of 227, Springfield Rd., Belfast. Mezieres Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+PALMER, Samuel William

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 19th Entrenching Btn., late 10th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 27/03/1918. Initially enlisted in the Royal Scots and later was commissioned into the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. His brother Captain David Palmer was killed two days previously serving with the Tank Corps. Son of David and Mary Palmer, Tandragee. Pozieres Memorial, France

+PATTON, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9993. Died 27/03/1918 as a POW from pleurisy at Flavy-le-Martel. Age 21. Born Whitehouse 31/03/1896. Enlisted Hamilton, Scotland. Son of Bernard and Annie (nee Bruce) Patton, of 73, Main St., Whitehouse, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France

+QUINN, Thomas H

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 16923. Died 27/03/1918. Born in Caledon, County Tyrone. He enlisted in Belfast. In his will Rifleman Thomas Quinn left all to his mother Mrs. M Quinn, who was living at 122 Utility Street,

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Donegal Place, Belfast. Ham British Cemetery, Muille-Vilette, Somme, France

+ROCHE, William Henry

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 10th Btn. attd. 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 27/03/1918 at Erches. No home information. Roye New British Cemetery, France

+ROSS, H

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. Rifleman 6146. Died 27/03/1918. Son of Mr. S. Ross, of 6, Hill St. Banbridge. Namps au Val British Cemetery, France

+THOMPSON, William Edward

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. Died 27/03/1918. Age 21. Son of William Edward and the late Mary A. Thompson, of 49, Belmont Rd., Strandtown, Belfast. Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Cugny German Cem. France

+THOMPSON, William John

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Private. 2537. Died 27/03/1918. Age 33. Born in Kilrea about 1885. He married Rachel Davison in June 1909. They lived with her mother and father in Gortmacrane, Kilrea. William was a general labourer. It is believed they had two children. William Thompson enlisted in Ballymoney. He was injured a number of times. Douchy-les-Ayette British Cemetery, Ayette, Pas de Calais, France. Commemorated on Arras Memorial. Garvagh WM

1921

+ALLEN, William J

Rifleman. Royal Irish Rifles. Died 27/03/1921 of phthisis pulmonalis (consumption) disease. Age 33. He had suffered a severe gunshot wound to his right leg in August 1917. Age 33. When he was discharged from the Army on 28/06/1918 his home address was 69 East Street, Newtownards.

William Allen died at his mother's house in East Street, Newtownards and she was present when he died. On his death certificate he is described as an Army Pensioner. In civilian life he worked as a linen weaver. William J. Allen was born around 1887/1888 and he was a son of William and Margaret Allen (nee Pagen). William Allen from Ballyblack and Maggie Pagan from Loughries were married on 24/06/1882 in Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church Newtownards.

1942

+SEDGWICK, John Henry

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 24692. Died 27/03/1942. Son of William and Agnes Sedgwick, Belfast; Husband to Margaret Sedgwick, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

1943

HMS DASHER

+GAMBLE, John Morris

RN. Leading Radio Mechanic. FAA/FX. 88200. Died 27/03/1943. Age: 23. HMS Dasher. Son of John and Ellen Gamble, Knock. Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Bay 4

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+HART, Henry

Chief Stoker. 208840. Died 27/03/1943. Age 32. HMS Dasher. Worked at Glenmore Bleach Green, Lisburn, prior to the war. Son of William John and Annie Hart, Ulsterville Gds, Belfast. Husband to Winifred Hart, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/05/1943). Liverpool Naval Memorial, Panel 10

+ROBINSON, William James

Died 27/03/1943. Age 32. HMS Dasher. Husband of Mary A S Robinson. Family memorial, Carnmoney Parish Church graveyard.

Two brothers-in-law, both ships' stewarts before WW2 are remembered on a headstone in Carnmoney Parish Church graveyard "in loving memory of my dear husband William Walker died 24 September 1929 aged 63 years also Elinor, beloved wife of above died 25 June 1935 aged 71 years ". William James Robinson, beloved husband of Mary A S Robinson and son-in law of the above, killed on war service H.M.S. Dasher, March 27 1943. William Walker, dear husband of Catherine son of above, lost at sea S.S. Laconia 12 September 1942.

+ROSS, Harry

Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy). Painter. Died 27/03/1943. Age 33. HMS Dasher. Son of Matthew and Margaret Ross, of Ballymena. Liverpool Naval Memorial, Panel 11.

1944

+McCANDLESS, George

Royal Artillery.136 Field Regt. Gunner. 6980157. Died 27/03/1944. Aged 22. Son of William and Jane McCandless, of Coleraine. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar

+PERRY, Frederic James

RAFVR. Flight-Lieutenant.119140. Died 27/03/1944. 431 Sqd RCAF. Husband to Elizabeth Mary Perry, of Killyleagh. Singapore Memorial, Singapore. Killyleagh WM. QUB WM

1945

+NEVILLE, William John

Royal Ulster Rifles and No. 2 Commando. Rifleman. 7902975. Died 27/03/1945. Age 24. Son of Thomas J. and Sarah Neville, of Collone, Co. Armagh. Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy

+RODGERS, William

RAF. Sergeant. 527615. Died 27/03/1945. Aged 28. Son of Robert William and Mary Jane Rodgers; Husband to Beulah Edna Rodgers of Londonderry. Londonderry City Cemetery

+SQUIRES, Francis William

RNVR. Lieutenant (A), 854 Squadron. HMS Illustrious. Died 27/03/1945. Aged 29. Launching attacks on airfields in Sakishma, Gunto. Pacific, from HM Aircraft Carriers Indomitable, Indefatigable and Victorious covered by major units of BPF and with screen of Fleet destroyers. Joint operations with US Task Group in continuation with breaks for refuelling from British Fleet Train. Graduated B.Sc. (Eng.) Hons. Son of Francis William and Florence Evelyn

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Squires; husband to Margaret Jane Squires, Limavady. Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Bay 6

VETERAN

FRY, Robert

Sapper Robert Fry 45910 Royal Engineers. Robert, from Ashton Street Belfast, was an Iron Moulder prior to enlistment and embarked for France in July 1915 serving throughout the conflict and being demobilised on 27/03/1919.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI masthead.

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

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 hiustonmckelvey@mac.com

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