



remembrance ni



Vimy Ridge Memorial

Today's Roll includes records of a Belfast adjutant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in WW1 and an officer with the Royal Canadian Engineers in WW2 who had both been members of QUB Officer Training Corps. There are quotations from moving correspondence to the parents of an 18 year old Randalstown casualty, and the post-war civic service of a

Remembrance Ni, March 3

decorated officer of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Photo - Vimy Ridge Memorial.

On this Day – March 3



Operations on the Ancre, January to March 1917
(Photo IWM Q1779)

1915

3rd March 1915 Belfast Newsletter

DIVISIONAL CYCLIST COMPANY. Inspection by Major-General Powell.

In connection with an extensive recruiting tour by a detachment of the 36th (Ulster) Divisional Cyclist Company, which commenced from the headquarters at Bangor yesterday, an inspection was held at noon by Major-General C. H. Powell, C.B., General Officer Commanding. The importance of the cyclist adjunct to the fighting forces engaged in the present war is now well known to the public, and the progress of the company with machines and full equipment—about 100 officers and men strong—attracted considerable crowds, especially at the inspecting point, which was in College Square North. The cyclists looked particularly smart and fit in their service kit, and in most cases the machines were decorated with miniature Union Jacks. Accompanying the party was a playful little dog, which has been adopted as the company's mascot.

The inspecting officer, General Powell, was accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sir George Richardson, K.C.B., and Lieutenant-colonel J. C. F. Gordon, C.I.E., in addition to the following members of the Ulster Divisional Headquarters Staff :—Lieutenant-Colonel James Craig, M.P., Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General ; Major G. T. Drage, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General ; Captain W. B. Spender, General Staff Officer; and Second-Lieutenant R.F. Henry, A.D.C. The company was under the command of Lieutenant Warman. A Very exhaustive examination was made of the equipment of the men and the fittings of the machines, and at the conclusion General Powell and General Richardson expressed their complete approval of the turn-out in every detail.

It may be mentioned that the 36th Cyclist Company requires some 100 men to complete its establishment, and it is

expected that the present tour will be the means of bringing it up to the necessary strength. In the afternoon the company proceeded to Carrickfergus, and it is understood that the itinerary will include visits to Antrim, Ballymena, Coleraine, Londonderry, Omagh, Enniskillen. Portadown, and Lisburn, returning to Bangor via Belfast.

1917

First major strike of the Russian "February Revolution" starts at the giant Putilov factory in Petrograd

1918

With the KaisersBattle 17 days away German raids on **36th (Ulster) Division's** positions at St Quentin intensified. This day saw a number of daylight raids during which in the words of the Divisional Commander, 'they got severely biffed.'

Russia and Germany sign the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. Eager for peace, the Bolsheviks give up vast territories to the Central Powers. With the fighting in the east over, Berlin is now free to shift millions of troops to the Western Front for a massive Spring offensive.

1940

The German blockade runner, Arucas, encountered the RoyalNavy Heavy Cruiser HMS York, in the Denmark Strait, whilst trying return to Germany. Rather than let his ship fall in to RN hands the Arucas' Captain scuttled it in heavy seas, 13 of his crew were drowned.



Wyndham (Photo above) -see 1942 next page

The Russians launch a massive offensive and bring Viipuri under direct attack. This brings home to the Finns the fact that they cannot resist for must longer against the overwhelming force that the Russians are now deploying. Italy protests to Britain over proposed ban on Italian imports of German coal.

1941

Moscow denounces the Axis rule in Bulgaria.

1942

Japanese aircraft attacked the coastal towns of Broome and [Wyndham \(Photo above\)](#), in Australia's northwest. A squadron of nine Zero fighter planes swept over Broome, opening fire at the busy harbour and the aerodrome. It is estimated that over one hundred people were killed and forty wounded in the Broome attack. At the same time Broome was being attacked, eight Japanese fighters hit Wyndham (above), but this raid was focused on the town's aerodrome.

RAF Bomber Command, under its new C-in-C, Air Vice Marshal Harris, attacks the Renault plant in the Paris suburb of Billancourt. Of the 235 RAF planes that took off, only 1 failed to return. The new navigation device, GEE wasn't used, although the target was marked with flares for the first time and serious damage done to production facilities with many French workers killed. This successful raid was a much needed morale boost for the bomber crews.

Vichy announces that 'official' German figures put the number of French arrested in 1941 at 5,390 and executions at more than 250.

General Chiang Kai-shek meets General Wavell in Burma.

1943

173 Londoners are killed in panic crush at Bethnal Green tube station when a new Anti-Aircraft weapon noise is heard



The Lancaster bomber makes its operational debut, laying mines of the French port of Brest

for the first time.

Russians take Rzhev, over 100 miles to the west of Moscow.

Battle of the Bismarck Sea: Australian and American air forces devastate Japanese navy convoy

1944

German attacks cease at Anzio after losing 3,500 men and 30 Panzer's in four days.

For the war to date British civilian casualties total 50,324 dead, with military deaths at 50,103.

Under pressure from the Western Allies to withdraw all remaining Spanish troops from the Eastern front, the Franco government orders members of the so-called "Blue Legion,"

attached to the German 121st Infantry Division, to return home and outlaws service by Spanish citizens with the Axis forces. Nevertheless, a handful of fanatically anti-Communist Spaniards defy orders and volunteer for service with the Waffen SS, some of them fighting suicidally to the end in the ruins of Berlin.

The allies announce that Russia is to get a third of Italian fleet, or equivalent in British and American warships.

Japanese counter-attacks on Los Negros fail.

1945

German forces recaptured Lauban, and encircled a large group of Soviets. Those were destroyed within 4 days of brutal fighting.

This is considered to be one of the last German victories of the war. Goebbels visited the town for propaganda purposes.

Units of the Canadian First Army capture Xanten on the lower Rhine in the battle of the Reichswald.

The US First Army captures Krefeld.

100 Luftwaffe night-fighters attack 27 RAF airfields, in what is the last night intrusion raid of the war. 22 RAF aircraft were destroyed for 6 German.

Finland declares war on the Axis.

American and Filipino troops recapture the city of Manila from Japanese forces. The month-long battle resulted in the death of over 100,000 civilians and the complete devastation of the city. The fighting ends in Manila.

Japanese resistance ends in Meiktila.



1945 - American and Filipino troops recapture the city of Manila from Japanese forces.

Roll of Honour – March 3

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+DEAN(E), Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 'C' Coy, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 3739. Died

03/03/1915 of pneumonia while training at Clandeboy, Co. Down. Enlisted in Randalstown. Born at Balnamore, Ballymoney. Son of Joseph and Susan Dean; husband to Annie of 15, Daisy Hill, Randalstown. Belfast City Cemetery.

+MURRAY, Patrick

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 6th Bn. Private. 1484. Died 03/03/1915. From Londonderry. Bedford Cemetery, Bedfordshire

+ROY, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 6594. Died 03/03/1915. Age 20. Son of William and Isabella Roy of Maytown Terrace, Bessbrook. Samuel's brother William died at home from wounds on 11/05/1915. Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

1916

+HILL, William Charles

Gordon Highlanders, 1st Btn. Private. S/9326. Died 03/03/1916. Aged 19. Born Glasgow. Resided Craigpark, Bushmills and Glasgow. Son of Charles and Mary Hill of Paisley Road, Glasgow. Charles Hill, Craigpark and Mary Laverty, Carrowreagh, married in Billy Parish Church on 24/05/1897. Charles Hill was a farmer and John Laverty, father of Mary Laverty was a policeman. Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

+LYONS, William Thomas

Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Captain. Adjutant. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 03/03/1916. Aged 35. He

was educated at Methodist College, Belfast and Royal School, Dungannon, and commenced his business career in the counting house of Messrs James Lindsay & Co Ltd, Donegal Place, where he held the position of foreign correspondent for 11½ years. About 1910 he became accountant and office manager of the Jaffe Spinning Company Limited, Newtownards Road, and was assistant secretary when he enlisted. He spoke four languages, and was particularly fluent in French, while he held several diplomas for accountancy and commercial work. He formerly taught bookkeeping in the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast and the Bangor and Ballyclare Technical Schools. He was also well known as an elocutionist, being one of Mr Pyper's gold and silver medallists, and was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 372.

He was a member of the Queen's Training Corps 1913 - 14. He joined the Officer Training Corps in May 1913, and became a first-class signaller in November 1914. He joined the battalion; then commanded by a distinguished County Derry officer, Colonel W R H Beresford-Ash, at Bournemouth and he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 5th June 1915. He qualified with first class honours at the Hythe School of Musketry in July, and was subsequently given command of a company, being appointed adjutant to the battalion in September. In early March 1916, the brigade was brought up from their rest period to retake from the Germans some trenches taken in the previous month. It was during this attack, which was entirely successful, that Captain Lyons was killed. He was in a dugout with his Colonel and second-in-command when a shell landed on top of the dugout, killing all inside.

He was the eldest son of Martha Lyons, Kerrsland Drive,

Strandtown, Belfast, and the late William Lyons. Spoilbank Cemetery, Spoilbank Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium



Dawn at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery

+McANDREW, Hector

Royal Irish Rifles, C Coy. 11th Btn. (South Antrim Volunteers) Rifleman. 3738. Died 03/03/1916. Aged 18. He was a son of John and Sarah McAndrew, Craigstown, Randalstown. Captain Samuels sent the bereaved parents a letter of condolence, in which he says:—

“Hector was one of the most popular boys in the battalion. Everyone knew him, and his cheeriness and good humour, even in the most trying circumstances, endeared him to all. As his company officer I feel his loss very deeply. He was a very brave soldier, a help and support to his officers and comrades. He is buried in the little military cemetery behind the trenches here, where he lies beside another man of my company who was killed the day before. Your son has given



Guillemont Road Cemetery contains 2,263 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 1,523 of the burials are unidentified. A terrible testimony to the brutal nature of the prolonged fighting in this area.

all he had to give for a great cause; he has died a soldier's death on the field of battle, and his name will go down on that long and glorious roll of honour of those who, in her day of greatest trial, laid down their lives for their country."

Rev. Andrew Gibson (Lurgan), Presbyterian chaplain, who laid his remains to rest, has also sent a sympathetic letter, in which he says:— "Your son was a good lad, young in years, but with a man's heart in him. He was a great favourite with his comrades, and will be missed in his regiment." (Belfast Telegraph 28/03/1916). Hector is named in Randalstown Old Congregation records. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France.

1917

+COCHRANE, Robert

Royal Field Artillery. 134th Brigade Ammunition Column. Driver. 48765. Died 03/03/1917 whilst engaged in operations in Mesopotamia. Believed to have resided 54 Dundela Street, Strandtown, Belfast. Basra Memorial, Iraq. Strandtown WM

+MEHARG, R J

Royal Engineers, Inland Water Transport, attd. Royal Indian Marine. Lieutenant. Died 04/03/1917. Larne. Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Larne WM

1918

+COLQUHOUN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 1794. Died 23/03/1918. Son of Mrs. Rebecca Colquhoun, of 10, Broadbent St., Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France

+ELLIOTT, Richard

North Irish Horse. 1799. Died 03/03/1918 at home. Enlisted Antrim 06/11/1915. In August 1916 Elliott was hospitalised with pleurisy, and was discharged on 11 December 1916 as physically unfit for military service. A medical board found that: ... "while in camp [he] was continually getting exposed to cold and wet, without change of clothes. Developed severe cold with cough and spit. This has been gradually getting worse. Pain in both lungs. Sputum contains TB. Night sweats. It therefore determined that his illness, tuberculosis, resulted from his military service, and he was granted a full pension." Elliott was born on 12/12/1893 at

Lewis Street, Belfast, son of labourer Robert Elliott and his wife Annie (nee McAfee). By 1915 he was living with his family at Rugby Avenue in Belfast and working as a bread server. His place of burial is at present unknown. His name is now recorded on the Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial, Surrey, England.

+McLEAN, William

RNR. Sub - Lieutenant (E). 4163/ES. HM Drifter Expectation. Died 30/03/1918. Age 46. Born Coleraine 25/12/1875. Son of Thomas and Julia McLean; husband to Agnes McLean, Turin Street, Grosvenor Road, Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery AA/-/58. IMR

1919

+McCULLOUGH, Samuel

Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Private. 57202. transf. to (620125) Labour Corps. 620125. Died 03/03/1919. Age 39. Husband to Agnes McCullough, of 6, Brussels St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1920

+McLENAGHEN, Daniel

Labour Corps, 324th Coy. Private. 553776. Died 03/03/1920. Age 50. Husband of Eliza Ann McLenaghan, of 5, Stanhope St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

1942

+ACWORTH, John Pelham

12th Frontier Force Regiment, India. Lieutenant Colonel. AI/387. Died 03/03/1942. Age 44. Husband of Jean Craig Acworth, of Newcastle, Co. Down. Singapore Memorial, Singapore

+WEIR, Samuel

Corps of Military Police. Lance Corporal. 7042868. Died 29/3/1942. Age 36. Husband to Elizabeth Weir, Larne Road, Ballymena; Son of Hugh and Mary Weir of Straid, Ahoghill. St. Colmanell's Church of Ireland Churchyard, Ahoghill.

1943

+LANGLANDS, John Porter

RAFVR. Sergeant. 947052. Died 09/03/1943. Age 24. Navigator on Beaufighter aircraft (EL359) when it stalled and crashed on approach, three miles east of Brampton Aerodrome. Born in Dungannon 29/11/1918. Son of John Baxter Langlands and Winifred Langlands, of Dungannon. Drumcoo Cemetery, Dungannon. Dungannon WM

+POLLEY, Edward Victor

Royal Canadian Engineers. Lieutenant. Died 03/03/1943. Aged 22. He died in an accident. He was riding a motorcycle on military manoeuvres when a crash resulted in a compound fracture to the skull. He was a student of Civil Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast and moved to Canada where he studied at University of Toronto. He enlisted in the Canadian Officer's Training Corps in December 1942. He trained at Petawawa, Ontario, Canada

and Brockville, Ontario, Canada. He was the only son of Robert Victor Polley and Edith Polley of Belfast. Robert served with Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and died on active service on 17/02/1921. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension. QUB WM, University of Toronto WM

1945

+McSHANE, ROBERT JOHN

Seaforth Highlanders, 5th Bn. 1449211. Died 29/03/1945. Age 26. From Harryville, he was originally a member of the local anti-aircraft battery in Ballymena, but transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders. Son of Frank and Mary Ann McShane, of Ballymena. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

1947

McCORMICK, Andrew

Aircraftman 1st Class. 1351473. Served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War. Known as Andy, he was the son of James McCormick and Mary Jane McCormick, and husband to Margaret McCormick of 10 Fairymount Square, Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Aircraftman 1st Class McCormick died on 03/03/1947 aged 34 years old. He had been medically discharged from the Royal Air Force and died at home due to heart failure, secondary to pulmonary tuberculosis. His grave is in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Lisburn, Co. Antrim. His name is on the Lisburn War Memorial, Lisburn.

VETERANS

MacILWAINE, Alexander Gillilan Johnston

WW1.RAMC. Lt. Colonel. 50557. Died 03/03/1942. Age 55 .Served in WW 1 in Mesopotamia. Medical practitioner London. L.R.C.P.S., C.I.E. Golders Green Crematorium. QUB

McMURRAY, William

North Irish Horse. Sergeant. Military Medal. Some 43 North Irish Horsemen were awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the First World War. Unfortunately the citations detailing the deeds done to earn the award have been lost.

Sergeant William McMurray from Lurgan, County Armagh, was one of a number of men awarded a Military Medal for their role in the fighting in the last months of the war during the Advance to Victory offensive. (At the time the regiment had exchanged their horses for bicycles.)

His local newspaper 'The Lurgan Mail' proudly published the letter of recommendation for the medal from his squadron officer.

"I would like to bring to your notice the good work done by Sergeant McMurray during the recent advance. Sergt. McMurray got his patrol into action at Bonne Enfance Farm on the 5th October, against about 200 of the enemy, who were digging-in along the sunken road north of Montecouvez Farm, and drove them back to a fresh position behind the farm. As he had only a small troop of 14 men, he

had to withdraw later owing to heavy gas shelling and machine-gun fire. While withdrawing he saw a battalion of the K.R.R. coming up on his left flank some distance away, and he immediately rode across under heavy shell fire to inform them of the enemy's position, thus saving them heavy casualties. On the 10th October, in making a personal reconnaissance, we were cut off from the troop, and this sergt. took a message back under very heavy machine-gun fire. Sergt. McMurray has set his men a fine example by his coolness under fire, and has shown great devotion to duty.”

Demobilised 03/03/1919.

Before the war McMurray was well known in local football circles. He assisted the Lurgan Rangers to win the Beattie Cup, the Mid-Ulster Cup and the Junior Cup, and his team were the runners-up for the Belfast Combination, first division. Prior to joining up he was employed as a tenter by Messrs Johnston, Allen and Co, Lurgan.

MORRISON, Thomas Dawson MC

Captain, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Thomas Dawson Morrison was born on 14/09/1893 to James Morrison, a school teacher and Mary Ann Morrison (nee Dawson). Thomas was the eldest of their four children. His family lived in Mountstewart before moving to Regent Street in Newtownards.

On enlisting Thomas was appointed temporary Second Lieutenant in Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from 16/11/1915. While acting Lieutenant and adjutant he was promoted Lieutenant on 01/07/1917; and acting Captain while holding appointment of adjutant from 03/08/1917.

Thomas was awarded the Military Cross on 16/09/1918: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a heavy enemy attack he led an assaulting party with great dash, and retook a position. Throughout operations his untiring energy and cheerfulness were of the greatest assistance."

He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre in 1918: "The President of the French Republic has awarded the Croix de Guerre to Captain T. D. Morrison, M.C., 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Newtownards, and Second-Lieutenant J. M. M'Caw, M.C., 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, formerly of Portglenone. (Belfast Newsletter, 16/12/1918).

After the war, in 1920, Thomas enlisted in the Royal Irish Constabulary and on the formation of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1922 was a District Inspector

In 1925 he married Elizabeth Stuart, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Stuart, Bank of Ireland House, Newtownards.

In November 1926, Thomas was one of six Ulstermen appointed to the Dublin Bar and in January 1927 was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland.

Thomas died on 03/03/1985. Aged 92. He was survived by his wife Margaret and sons Daryl and Peter. His funeral was from Ballygilbert Presbyterian Church to Bangor New Cemetery.

The local press carried notices of sympathy from two bodies - (i) The Officers and General Council of the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council of which he was a Life Vice-president and former Chairman, and (ii) The

Officers and Members of the Ulster Council, Irish Amateur Boxing Association of which he was a former President

MULHOLLAND, Henry Holmes

RAMC. Colonel. MiD. Campbell College. QUB MB BCh, BAO, 1912. Lieutenant RAMC May 1913. Mobilised 15/09/1914. Served in Gallipoli from 15/06/1915. Waritstan Field Force, India 1918 - 21, Afghanistan 1921. WW2 - BEF, France 1939 - 40. Post - war MO North Rhodesia. Born 1887. Son of James and Janet Mulholland, Warren Rd., Donaghadee. Died 03/03/1979

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 email below

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

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.
