



remembrance ni

A day of NI
Gallantry

WW1 VC,

WW2 MM,
2 DSMs and a
GC



In 1915 for service near Messines Robert Morrow was awarded the Victoria Cross.

In 1944 the Belfast Telegraph reported that two members of the Royal Navy, **Stoker P Rocks and Lieutenant Crosswell** from Warrenpoint had been presented with DSMs at Buckingham Palace.

In 1945 **Sergeant Gerald Ballard** from Londonderry was serving with the **North Irish Horse** in Italy when he was awarded the Military Medal.

John Archibald Beckett who died this day in 1947 was awarded the George Cross for his action in dealing with a violent fire during a refuelling operation on a Lancaster bomber at RAF Station Ein Shemer, Levant.

Robert Morrow VC

Robert Morrow joined the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers at Armagh in 1911 and after basic training went with the Battalion to England. In August 1914 the Battalion was ordered to join the British Expeditionary Force and embark for France; he was then aged 23.

A quiet, disciplined, hard working soldier and small in stature, he did not look like a hero, yet when his battalion was fighting, he knew no fear. One of his typical exploits happened when he and his friends were in trenches at Messines.

Everyone was very thirsty and to get water meant crossing open ground in clear view of German snipers. Private Morrow volunteered to go, and carrying a two-gallon stone rum jar he ran to the farm and filled the jar, dodging bullets there and back. Just as he jumped back into the trench a bullet hit the jar he was holding and the water was lost. Calmly, Private Morrow grabbed some water bottles and made another trip, again dodging, and managing to escape every German bullet.

On 12 April 1915, the 1st Battalion was in trenches below [Messines Ridge](#) when Private Morrow's Company lines came under heavy and accurate shellfire, burying several of the soldiers when the trenches collapsed. Ignoring the shells landing around him, Private Morrow dug six soldiers out and carried them to safety, returning each time to see whom else he could help. For this outstanding act of bravery, his name was put forward for a Victoria Cross. Less than two weeks later he was badly wounded at St Julien and died of his wounds the following day on 26 April 1915. His grave is in White House Cemetery near Ypres.

King George V presented the Victoria Cross to his mother at Buckingham Palace. Tsar Nicholas of Russia also awarded Private Morrow the Medal of St George for his selfless act of bravery. The Regiment raised over £100 to give to the Morrow family. Knowing the high esteem in which her son had been held, Mrs Morrow presented the Victoria Cross to the Regiment in his memory.

The award of the Victoria Cross to Robert Morrow appeared in The London Gazette dated 21 May 1915 and the citation read as follows:

No. 10531 Private Robert Morrow, 1st Battalion, Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers).

For most conspicuous bravery near Messines on 12th April, 1915, when he rescued and carried successively to places of comparative safety, several men who had been buried in the debris of trenches wrecked by shell fire.

Private Morrow carried out this gallant work on his own initiative, and under very heavy fire from the enemy.

RN DSMs in the newspapers

The Belfast Weekly Telegraph of 12/04/1941 carried the following notices -

ROCKES, P

Stoker. DSM presented by HM King George VI. He also served in WW1.

CROSSWELL, EC

Lieutenant. DSM for gallantry and devotion to duty at Dunkirk. Son of Mr and Mrs JI Crosswell, Charlotte St., Warrenpoint.

Auction reveals Warrenpoint RN officer's gallantry at Dunkirk

On June 25, 2008 a set of medals was sold at Noonan Webb auctioneers. Lieutenant Crosswell's role was referred to in the provenance. See below -

A fine Second World War Dunkirk operations D.S.M. group of nine awarded to Chief Petty Officer A. H. H. Gutsell, Royal Navy, for services in the yacht Thele.

Distinguished Service Medal, G.V.I.R. (J. 28475 A. H. H. Gutsell, C.P.O., H.M.Y. Thele); 1914-15 Star (J. 28475 Boy 1, R.N.); British War and Victory Medals (J. 28475 L.S., R.N.); 1939-45 Star; Atlantic Star; War Medal 1939-45; Jubilee 1935; Royal Navy L.S. & G.C., G.V.R., 3rd issue, coinage bust (J. 28475 P.O., H.M.S. Victory), the Great War period awards with contact marks and polished, thus fine or better, the remainder generally good very fine (9)
£1800-2200 D.S.M. London Gazette 16 August 1940: 'For good services in the withdrawal of the Allied Armies from the

beaches at Dunkirk.' The original recommendation states: 'For conspicuous boat work and in effecting contact with G.H.Q. He worked the dinghy under heavy fire.'

Arthur Henry Herbert Gutsell was born in Hastings, Sussex in June 1898 and joined the Royal Navy as a Boy 2nd Class in 1913. Appointed to the cruiser H.M.S. Achilles in October 1914, he remained similarly employed until August 1918, in which period she formed part of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron in the Grand Fleet and sank the German raider Leopard north of the Shetlands in March 1917. Remaining a regular between the Wars, Gutsell was appointed to the motor yacht Thele, recently requisitioned by the Admiralty for services as an Auxiliary Patrol vessel, soon after the outbreak of hostilities, and it was in this capacity that he won his D.S.M. off Dunkirk.

Thele's C.O., Lieutenant H. M. Glassborow, R.N.V.R., submitted the following report in respect of her movements on 31 May 1940: '0600 - arrived off Bray. Proceeded to La Panne under orders from Ankh to take soldiers off beach. 0630 - arrived off La Panne, took soldiers from surf boats and transferred them to destroyers. Later ordered by captain of a destroyer to place ourselves at the disposal of a paddle steamer anchored off the beach. Did this, collected her boats, took them in to the beach and brought soldiers to her. The Commodore in Bounty suggested we used our launch and with assistance of soldiers on board, we tried to get the launch in the water but smashed it in the process. Later called up by the destroyer Keith and ordered to anchor astern of her. After about half an hour there was an air raid and Keith weighed and left ordering me to remain where I was as despatch boat. As bombs were falling all around, weighed anchor but remained in position.

The Commodore arrived in a small boat, transferred to us and took over the ship. Sailed round La Panne and Bray, boarding ships and transmitting Commodore's orders. 1300 - went alongside the sloop Hebe and took her captain on board. Put Commodore on board paddle steamer. While we were alongside her, she was attacked by aircraft and she weighed and left with the Commodore aboard. Heavy air attack at La Panne; captain of the Hebe ordered me to signal all ships to move half a mile westward. Followed Hebe to try and put her captain aboard. Arrived alongside her off Bray, just as she was attacked by bombers, so was ordered by her captain to lie off her while she was in action, but close enough for him to pass orders to her if necessary.

Later, put him on La Panne and took off G.H.Q. personnel. Was given night operation orders to hand to Lord Gort. Proceeded to La Panne escorted by Hebe and lay off pier. 1630 - sent dinghy with A. H. H. Gutsell, C.P.O. and G. Duncan, A.B., with orders to contact G.H.Q. and hand over night operation orders. While waiting took on soldiers.

Dinghy returned with Lieutenant Crosswell, R.N., N.L.O. to Lord Gort.

Lord Gort was taken off by a destroyer's launch. Went to Bray to try and contact Hebe, but on the way was ordered by the Admiral to go in to the beach with whaler and take off a General. At beach, Ahola arrived and transferred to me Lord Gort's baggage, valet and driver. Requested Ahola to attend to the General and off again to find the Hebe. Ordered by the Admiral to proceed to sea to collect boats drifting about. Went about two miles out and collected three boats and brought these back to Bray. Closed Hebe and put Lord Gort's gear and servants aboard. Lieutenant Crosswell

remained with me. Lay off La Panne ferrying soldiers to destroyers until 0200, when no more troops could be found. Proceeded in direction of Bray and was ordered by M.T.B. 102 to lay off H.M.S. Keith as we might be wanted. Did this until 0300 when shelling of water started. Keith weighed and went off without giving me orders. Informed by Lieutenant Crosswell that everything had to be gone by 0400 and, as no ships could be seen at 0325, left beaches and proceeded to Dover and arrived 1100. It is estimated that about 250 soldiers were taken off in the course of the day. Chief Petty Officer A. H. H. Gutsell remained by the dinghy in spite of heavy shelling of the pier, until G.H.Q. staff arrived.'

Military Medal for North Irish Horse Sergeant in Italy

Sergeant Gerald Ballard from Londonderry was serving with the North Irish Horse in Italy in 1945 when he was awarded the Military Medal.

The wording of the citation is given here:-

"On the night of April 12th 1945, A Squadron North Irish Horse, did an unsupported night attack from the Argenta Canal to La pastorella a distance of nearly five miles.

"As they approached La pastorella approximately 15 enemy tanks were heard to start up and make off in a northerly direction.

"As daylight was breaking Major R.J. Griffith ordered Sergeant Ballard to take a small dismounted patrol, consisting of co-drivers to find out where and in what strength the enemy was.

"Sergeant Ballard, who had no previous experience of this type of work , carried out a most brilliant patrol.

“Seven Germans were captured, the exact enemy positions on the Santerno banks were discovered. He searched houses, dug outs and gun positions and found excellent ambush positions for the squadron.

“He was sniped at and spandau’ed constantly by the enemy.

“He was back again in an hour with this vital information and the success of the subsequent operations was largely down to him.

“This NCO has an outstanding record of battle and his skill and conduct under fire have been of the highest order.”

Recommend by Lieutenant-Colonel A.W.A Liewellen-Palmer DSO, MC. Commanding Officer North Irish Horse
Endorsed by

Major-General D.Russell, Commander 8th Indian Division
Approved by

Lieutenant-General R.I. McCreery General Officer
Commanding 8th Army.

John Archibald Beckett GC

John Archibald Beckett (1906-1947) was born on 14/03/1906 in Lurgan, County Armagh, Ireland, the son of Samuel Nicholl and Elizabeth Swanton Beckett. By 1911, the family had moved to Donnybrook St., Belfast where John had two siblings, Eileen and James Morrison. His father worked as an Assurance Company Superintendent.

There were later two more children born into the family, William and Samuel. Sadly both William and Samuel would

be killed in action in World War II. William died with the Merchant Navy in 1941 and Samuel, a Warrant Officer in the RAF, was killed on 11th April 1943.

John was educated at St Enoch's Public Elementary School, Belfast, and gained his first employment as a fitter for Coombe Barbour (Textiles) and Harland & Wolff (Shipyard).

He enlisted with the RAF in July 1935, and his first role was as a rigging mate, before becoming a rigger, then a fitter. It is believed that he was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940, before he served for two years in Canada (1942-1944), and his next recorded posting was to the Middle East on 21/02/1946 based at Hetropolis. He served there as a member of the ground crew for the aircraft.

On 28/03/1947, at RAF Station Ein Shemer, Levant, during a refuelling operation on a Lancaster bomber of 38 Squadron, a violent fire suddenly broke out in the pumping compartment of the refuelling vehicle of which Beckett was the driver. He was enveloped by flames, setting him alight. Another airman beat out the flames, but Beckett was badly burned on the hands and face.

At this time there was a grave risk that the main tank of fuel, containing over 2,000 gallons, would explode, destroying all 20 of the aircraft in the park and killing many of the aircrew. In spite of his injuries and pain, he got into the driver's seat of the burning vehicle and drove it a distance of 400 yards to a point outside the aircraft park, where it could do no further damage.

He was then taken immediately to station sick quarters but sadly died of his injuries on 12/04/1947. John was buried with full military honours at Khayat Beach War Cemetery. He was recommended for a posthumous George Cross, and his citation was published in the London Gazette on 16/12/1947. His George Cross was presented to his parents at an investiture at Buckingham Palace. Khayat Beach War Cemetery.



On this Day – April 12

1940

Norway announces German control of Kristiansand, Stavanger, Bergen and Trondheim in the south, Narvik in the north.

1941

The Yugoslav capital Belgrade, surrenders.

Greek and British forces fall back to the Mount Olympus line in Greece.

German armoured units complete the encirclement of Tobruk and push on up the coast road towards the Egyptian frontier.

US troops land in Greenland.

1942

Both German and Russian forces pause for breath after an extremely difficult winter (temperatures dropped to a nippy Minus 30C). The Russians have outrun their supply lines and exhausted their supply store of tanks and guns, which has allowed the initiative to slip back to the Germans.

However, the Germans are aware that they can no longer take Moscow with a knockout blow and so choose another alternative. They intend to drive southward as part of a “grand pincer” movement through the Caucasus to link up with Rommel’s Afrika Corps, which will solve their oil problems, disable the Russian economy, and menace the Middle East.

Japanese troops capture Migyaungyein Burma, which exposes the western flank of 1st Burma Corps and put the oilfields at Yenangyuang under threat.

1943

German radio announces that 4,150 Polish officers that were deported by the Russian authorities in 1940 have been found in mass graves near Smolensk.

The Eighth Army takes Sousse, to the East of Kairan and claim that 20,000 axis prisoners have been taken in Tunisia since the 20th March.

1944

Irish Brigade - Major Franklyn-Vaile 1 RIrF at Cassino:

“Dearest Olive I am writing this letter by the aid of a hurricane lamp in a small dug out on the side of a mountain. Outside is the constant sound of machine gun fire. Someone is firing Tommy Guns & our mortars are firing. Every now & again comes the crump of the German mortars & then perhaps a short spell of silence. More MG fire has just started & also the rain which is annoying to us. This is a normal uneventful night ‘in the line’. It is just what happens every night...”

At Cassino: 2030 Col Rudniczy, 5 Kresowa Division recd brigade area: “The Poles were being given the unenviable task of capturing the monastery. Their commanders seemed very good chaps & we felt grateful that someone else would be cracking this unpleasant nut.”

Hitler authorizes a withdrawal of 230,000 German and Romanian troops to the fortress of Sevastopol. However, this is four days too late and the delay results in many unnecessary losses.

Finland rejects the heavy Russian demands for the ending of the war.

1945

36 Irish Brigade - “Plan now slightly adjusted - 36 Brigade will break out of the Santerno bridgehead first & attack west. When they are clear, 38 Brigade will attack north.

36 Brigade started their attack at 1800 hrs. 1 RIrF told to maintain contact by patrolling...."

The U.S. Ninth Army crosses the Elbe, taking Brunswick.
The U.S. Third Army takes Erfurt.

French troops take Baden-Baden on the southern flank. The U.S. 6th Armoured Division overruns Buchenwald concentration camp. The British Second Army captures Celle 60 miles to the South of Hamburg.

The Germans evacuate Zenica, Yugoslavia.

A German war communique confesses that Königsberg did surrender and announces the death penalty for the fortress commander, General Lasch.

After suffering a massive cerebral hemorrhage, President Roosevelt dies at Warm Springs in Georgia, aged 63. Harry Truman is sworn in as 32nd President of the United States.



Roll of Honour – April 12

*Representing their comrades who died on
this day*

1916

+DEANS, Hamilton

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Derry Volunteers), 10th (Service) Btn. Private. 15454. Died 12/04/1916, aged 18, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire. He had contracted meningitis attributable to his military service in the trenches. He enlisted in the 10th Inniskillings soon after their formation in September 1914 and embarked for France with the battalion in October 1915.

Private Deans was interred in Londonderry City Cemetery on Monday, April 17, 1916. The funeral took place from his parents' residence. A short service was conducted by the Reverend Dr Stuart, pastor Waterside Presbyterian Church, who paid a tribute to the deceased soldier, who, he said, when the call of King and country came was, notwithstanding the fact that he was only seventeen years of age, amongst the first to answer.

Prior to the war deceased had always been a regular attender at the Bible class, and was a boy of high principle and sterling character. They deplored his loss, but knew that he had made the great sacrifice in a righteous cause.

The funeral was attended by the brass band and pipes of the 3rd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, under Drum-Major Leech, and a firing party of the battalion, under Sergeant R. Doherty, while behind the gun-carriage bearing the coffin, enveloped in the Union Flag, marched the members of the different battalions of the City of Derry Regiment of the U.V.F.

A large number of the general public also attended. The pipes played 'The Flowers of the Forest,' and approaching the cemetery gates the band played the Dead March in Saul. Reverend Dr Stuart and the Reverend W.P. Hall, B.A., T.C.D., pastor Gortnessy Presbyterian Church, officiated at the graveside. The firing party afterwards discharged volleys and the trumpeters sounded 'The Last Post.'

Born near Donemana, Co. Tyrone in 1897 and moved to L'Derry in infancy. Son of Robert and Grace Deans, 3, Cuthbert Street, Waterside, Londonderry. Londonderry City Cemetery. Diamond WM, Londonderry. Waterside Presbyterian Church RH.

+HIGGINS, William John

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7515. Died 12/04/1916. Aged 20. Only son of William and the late Elizabeth Higgins, of King St., Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry. He was born on 10/03/1896 in Magherafelt. By 1911 William had left school and was working as a telegraph messenger. He worked for the Midland Railway Company. The family lived in King Street. William's mother died on 404/12/1914. William joined the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles in the early summer of 1915. William's sister died on 03/10/1915, aged

just 16. Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Magherafelt C of I RH

+McCOURT, Samuel

Canadian Expeditionary Force, 49th Btn (Alberta Regiment). Private. 432658. Died 12/04/1916. Enlisted 11/01/1915. Samuel was born at Glencush, Mountcastle, on 23/01/1891 to James and Sarah McCourt. He was related to the McCourt family of Moyagh. His father may have been an agricultural labourer and he himself worked for a time as a "servant" at the Mitchell farm at Killymallaght, Co. Londonderry. Samuel listed his mother as his Next of Kin, giving an address as 4 Chalmer Street, Greenock, Scotland. Second Donaghedy Presbyterian Church RH

1917

+FARQUHAR, W

South African Infantry. 1st Regt. Private. 10376. Died 12/04/1917. Age 39. Probably born in Clonkeen, Drummaul on 05/06/1877. Son of Alexander Farquhar, of Antrim and Mary Dickey; husband to Gertrude Anna Farquhar (later Liehenberg), of "Formosa," Southfield Rd., Plumstead, London. Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux, France

+HATCHELL, Nicholas

Leinster Regiment 2nd Btn. Private. 15022, Died 12/04/1917. Age 27. Son of Martin and Kate Hatchell Husband to Margaret Atkinson (formerly Hatchell), of 3, Flush Place, Lurgan. Arras Memorial, France

+KERR, John

Royal Scots, 11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 25633. Died 12/04/1917. Born Shankill Road area, Belfast. Enlisted Belfast 18/06/1915, initially with Royal Scots 17th Btn. He was then living in 20 Whiterow, Whitehouse, Co. Antrim. Son of Alexander and Mary Kerr, Richmond St., Shankill Rd., Belfast; husband to Margaret (nee McClarnon) who later lived at 24 Tate's Row, Greencastle, Belfast. Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux, France

+MELVILLE, Alexander Saunders

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 13th Btn. Private. 6574. Died 12/04/1917. Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France. Larne WM

1918

+ADAMS, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 3rd Bn. C Coy. Private. 10126. Died 12/04/1920. Age 32. 13 years' service. Son of George and K. Adams, of Hyde Park, Mallusk, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+BOWDEN, A E

Royal Garrison Artillery, 20th Siege Bty. Serjeant. Died 12/04/1918. Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+BRYDON, Walter

South African Heavy Artillery, 73rd Siege Bty. Major. DSO. MiD. Died 12/04/1918. He had been wounded on several occasions including gunshot wound to the arm and

hospitalization after a gas attack. Born Jordanstown 21/03/1880. John Buchan in his "History of the South African Forces in France" wrote of him - "No officer in the British Army had a finer record for gallantry and devotion to duty. His battery was known everywhere on the front as 'Brydon's Battery' and he was beloved by his men, for his only thought was for them". Buchan continues, "It was one of the many ironies of the war that he never received the Victoria Cross, for he won it a dozen times." Son of William Walter Brydon and Jenny (nee Marshall) Brydon. His mother later lived at 36 Blessington Rd., Lewisham, London. Noeux-Iles-Mines Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. St Paul's Anglican Churchyard WM, Rondebosch, South Africa

+CHUBB, Ernest Edward

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Lance Corporal. 8/12665. Died 12/04/1918. Age 25. Son of Herbert Chubb, of 78, Thistle St., Belfast. Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany

+CLARKE, J William

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. D Coy. Sergeant. 19414. Died 12/04/1918. Age 40. He enlisted at Antrim, possibly in 11 RIR. Born in Ballinderry, Co. Antrim, he lived in Crumlin Co. Antrim. A member of the Orange Order in Glenavy. Son of Thomas and Sarah Clarke of Crumlin, his wife Catherine Graham subsequently re-married and lived at 19 Malt Street, Grosvenor Road, Belfast. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium

+COLLINS, William Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. D/11411. Died 12/04/1918. Age 21. Son of Frederick Charles and Lily Jane

Collins, of 41, Disraeli St., Belfast. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France



Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial

+CORRY, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 17372. Died 12/04/1918. Age 45. Born in Hollywood, he had served in the 2nd. Battalion RIR for 9 years and saw active service in the Boer War. He lived at Ballymullen, Lisburn and enlisted in the town, possibly in 11 RIR, with whom he may have embarked for France from Bordon in October 1915. Son of Henry Corry and husband of Jane Corry of Ballymullen, Lisburn and 151 Dunluce Avenue, Lisburn Road, Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, panels 138-140.

+GALLEY, Archibald

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 931. Died 12/04/1918. Age 34. Born Islandtown, Ballymena 21/06/1889. Enlisted Belfast. Son of John and Elspie (Mitchell nee Wiseman) Galley; husband to Agnes Weir (formerly Galley nee McKinstry), of Ballyalbanagh, Co. Antrim. They married in

Christ Church C of I, Ballynure on 19/05/1914. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Ballyclare WM

+HENRY, Robert

Gordon Highlanders, 1st Btn. Private. S/51467. Died 12/04/1918. Aged 19. Robert Henry was the eldest son of David and Tillie Henry. He was born 16/04/1899 in Aghadowey. He was one of at least four children and lived in Boveedy, Kilrea. David Henry died in Kilrea in 1907 when Robert was just seven years old. Robert Henry enlisted in Stirling, Scotland. Son of Mrs. Tillie Henry, of 7, Bruce St., Greenock. Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium

+HILL, George Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 1777. Died 12/04/1918. Age 24. He lived in Lurgan, enlisted at Clandeboye. Son of Maria Jane Hill of Lisburn Road, Ballinderry Upper, Co. Antrim. Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Named on family headstone in Ballinderry Middle Church

+HILLIS, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 17880. Died 12/04/1918. Born at Edinburgh, and living in Lisburn, he enlisted there and embarked for France from Bordon with A Company 11 RIR in October 1915. He was one of the men involved in the attempt to save Henry Corkin from drowning on the 17/05/1916 and was himself wounded at the Somme on the 01/07/1916. Subsequently transferred to 12 RIR (17880) and possibly reported wounded in September 1917. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, panels 138-140.

+HULL, Matthew

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 6441. Died 12/04/1918. Age 19. Born and enlisted at Lurgan. Son of John Hull and Ann Jane Hull of Aghalee, Lurgan. Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium

+McCLINTOCK, David

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 13/16731. Died 12/04/1918. He was born on 08/11/1888 at Kinbally, Broughshane, the son of David McClintock and Sarah Austin. The couple, both from Ballygarvey, had married in 2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church on 07/01/1881. 41-year-old iron miner David was living at Carncoagh by 1901 with Sarah and five children. In 1911 Engine Driver David and Sarah, both 51 years old, were living at Carnkeen, Broughshane and son David, then 18, is said to be a footman. He was later butler to the O'Neills of Tullymore House, Broughshane. David enlisted in Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, 2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church RH.

+MILLER, David Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 9th Btn. 2nd Lieutenant. Died 12/04/1918 near Ypres, Belgium. Born 24/01/1895 in Banbridge. Later lived at Atlantic Avenue Belfast. He worked as a designer for William Ewart & sons Belfast. Member of the Ulster Volunteer Force. Enlisted into the North Irish Horse 22/05/1915 (1567). Served in France from 11/01/1916 to 06/05/1917. Prompted to Lance Corporal 27/11/1916 and then Corporal 05/07/1917 and joined the 12th Officer Cadet Btn at Newmarket. Commissioned into the Princess Victoria Royal Fusiliers on 30/10/1917, he was

posted initially to the 7th & 8th service Btn in the 49th Brigade, 16th Irish Division. He joined the 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers on 16/02/1918 when the former disbanded and was posted to B company. Son of William John and Mary Jane Miller, Bridge St, Banbridge. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Banbridge WM

+ROBB, John James

Lancashire Fusiliers, 15th Btn. Serjeant. 10089. Died 12/04/1918. Age 29. Born Bridge St, Portadown on 09/03/1889. Lived Belfast. He was a student of theology. Enlisted Salford, England. Son of James and Elizabeth Ann (nee Steele) Robb, of Lisnville, Whitehouse. Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+SMYTH, George

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 29th Btn. Private. 43966. Died 12/04/1918. Age 20. Born Tildarg, Rashee on 17/09/1898. Son of William and Margaretta (nee Kisson) of Tildarg Cottage, Ballyclare. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Ballyclare WM

+SWANN, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Serjeant. 13678. Meritorious Service Medal. Died 12/04/1918 in the Military Hospital, Sains-du-Nord. Taken captive and died with a bullet wound to his skull. Born Whitehouse 19/05/1896. Enlisted Belfast. Son of Henry and Agnes (nee Phearson). In 1911 Robert was living with the family at Ballyclare St., Belfast. Sains-du-Nord Communal Cemetery, France

1920

+ADAMS, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. C Coy. Private. 10126. Died 12/04/1920 from acute endocarditis in Victoria Barracks Military Hospital. Age 32. CWGC record. Other records state he was a Sergeant in 2nd Btn. 13 years' service. Born Darkley, Co. Armagh 28/08/1888. Son of George and K. Adams, of Hyde Park, Mallusk, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1940

+HAIRE, Oscar

RAF. Corporal. 567057. Died 12/04/1940. Aged 22. 77 Sqdn. Son of Henry and Mary Haire, of Tanderagee, Co. Armagh. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 21

1943

+CAIRNS, John O

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7021078. Died 12/04/1943. Aged 20. Born in Co. Down. Son of Robert E. Cairns and Mary Jane Cairns, of Ashfield. Donaghcloney Old Graveyard

+McCURDY, Samuel Patrick

RNPS. Seaman. LT/JX/181806. HMS Europa. Died 12/04/1943 at Hopefield Hospital as a result of injuries sustained in an E-Boat attack in February 1943. Age 24. Serving with the Royal Naval Patrol Service and was based at HMS Europa in Lowestoft. Age 24. Son of John and Ellen

McCurdy, Rathlin Island. Rathlin (St Thomas) Church of Ireland Churchyard.

1944

+McKENNA, Charles Cecil

RAFVR. Sergeant, A.G.1795560. Died 12/04/1944. Aged 20. 50 Sqdn. Son of Charles K. and Jessie McKenna, of Belfast. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 233. Knockbreda Parish WM

+MORRISON, William John

RAFVR. Sergeant. DFM.1542075. Died 12/04/1944 on board Handley-Page Halifax BB310 of No. 1647 Heavy Conversion Unit. He was 21 years old. The Halifax took off with a crew of 9 men at 1705hrs on 11/04/ 1944 from Longtown Airfield near Carlisle. The flight was a non-operational cross-country training flight for Coastal Command practice. The bomber came down on Little Dun Fell, Northern Pennines, Cumbria. Early in the morning of 12/04/1944, the crew was on the return leg of their flight. In low cloud, the plane overshot the runway and struck high ground north of Appleby, Cumbria at 0137hrs. All those on board died in the incident. Born on 08/01/1923, he was the youngest son of David Morrison and Matilda Morrison (née Cathcart) of 53 Southwell Road, Bangor, Co. Down. He attended Woodvale Public Elementary School, Belfast, Co. Antrim, and Ballymullan Public Elementary School, Bangor. he worked at the Bangor Shipyard and later at Harland and Wolff Shipyard, Belfast. Sergeant Morrison received his call up in February 1942. His older brother, Flight Sergeant David C Morrison also served overseas with the Royal Air

Force. Reverend WAA Park of Ballygilbert Presbyterian Church, Co. Down conducted the service attended by members of the Royal Air Force and Bangor Air Training Corps. Colleagues from the RAF acted as pall bearers and a RAF standard draped the airman's coffin. Bangor New Cemetery.

1945

+BARKER, Eric Swift

Royal Artillery. 77 (The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regt. Gunner. 962840. Died 12/04/1945. Aged 28. Son of Walter Ernest and Alice Barker; husband of Jane Barker, of Newry. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

+POTTS, Edward

East Lancashire Regiment, 1st Btn. Warrant Officer Class II - Company Sergeant Major. DCM. 3384774. Died 12/04/1945. Age 30. The London Gazette of 19/04/1945 listed CSM Potts as a recipient of the Distinguished Conduct Medal in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in northwest Europe. He was the son of Edward Potts and Agnes Potts, and husband to Margaret Potts of Belfast. Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany. Newtownards WM

1947

+BECKETT, John Archibald

Royal Air Force. Sergeant. 521319.GC.28/03/1947 Levant, Israel. Died 12/04/1947. Age 41. Born on 14/03/1906 in Lurgan. Brother of William and Samuel. Both died in action.

William died with the Merchant Navy in 1941 and Samuel, a Warrant Officer in the RAF, was killed on 11/04/1943. Son of Samuel Nicholl Beckett and Elizabeth Swanton Beckett, Donnybrook St., Belfast. Khayat Beach War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza) See article above

VETERAN

HENRY, Gilbert Newman

Leading Aircraft Man (LAC).1414533. Henry was born at Model School, Coleraine on 28/05/1913 to Robert Henry, School-Master and Gertrude Henry nee Hallett. They had married on 25/07/1904 at Merrion Hall, Dublin. Henry was educated at Coleraine Academical Institution where he won a number of prizes. On 01/07/1931, Henry joined the Belfast Banking Company and was based initially in Head Office, Waring Street, Belfast before transferring to Bangor branch later that year.

On 03/09/1941he volunteered for service in the RAF with Service Number 1414533. His career in the RAF took him into many areas: 6th September 1941 to 20th October 1941 - RAF Receiving School. 21st October 1941 to 10th January 1942. RAF Cranfield. 10th January 1942 to 21st May 1942 - RAF RTU Glasgow. 21st May 1942 to 15th September 1945 - No. 80 (Signals) Wing RAF (Radio Counter Measures). 21st May 1942 to 28th August 1942 - No. 3 Wing Signals School, Cranfield. 28th August 1942 to 15th September 1945 - No. 80 (Signals) Wing RAF, Radlett. 7th November 1944 - Promotion to LAC. 1st February 1945 to 13th May 1945 - Bruges, Belgium & Wendjyne, Holland; No. 50 MSU. 15th September 1945 to 12th April 1946 - No. 48 Squadron

Transport Command, Cairo, Egypt. 21st January 1946 to 12th April 1946 - RAF Moral Leadership School, Jerusalem

After demobilisation, Henry returned to work for the Belfast Banking Company on 17th August 1946 and was working in Bangor branch from 1947. He was a member of the Belfast Banking Company Sports Club in March 1948. In the 1966 annual accounts of the Belfast Banking Company, Henry is recorded as being manager of Saintfield branch. Henry is remembered on the Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour and his name also appeared in a booklet from 1947. The Belfast Telegraph of 19th March 1971 published a family notice recording the engagement of Hilary Jordan, Saintfield to Clifford Henry, Belfast Bank House, Saintfield. Gilbert Henry retired in 1974 and died on 12/04/1994.

LOGUE, A

RN. FAA. Chief Petty Officer. "Was at home this weekend. Attached to escort carrier, he was with the Russian bound convoys all through the northern passage in wintry conditions. The last big convoy" (Ulster Gazette 12/04/1945). Railway St., Armagh

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We will remember them

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

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

remembrance ni

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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