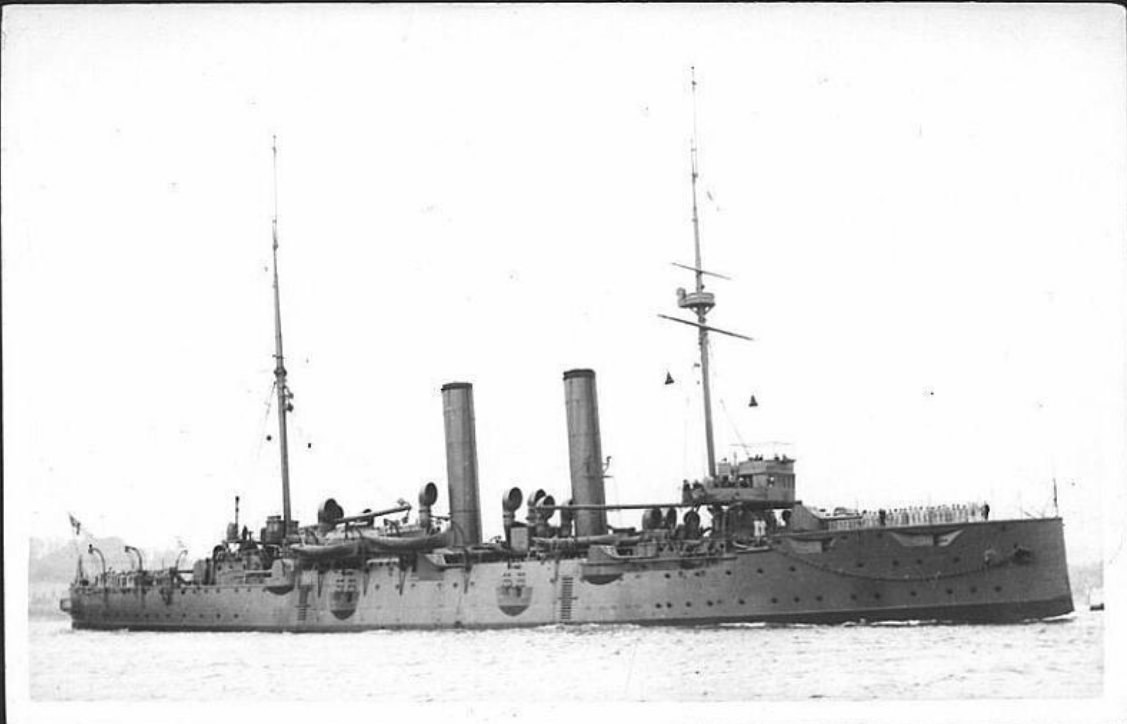




remembrance ni



Derry sportsman survived HMS Hawke sinking and was lost in HMS Crescent

Charles Trainor, RN. AB.177805. Died on 18/04/1915 in HMS Crescent (photo above). He was 44 years old.

A contemporary report records, "Charles Trainor was an AB on board HMS Crescent and had been home on a few days

leave from the Mediterranean, where he had been in active service with his ship. He was one of the reservists called up on the outbreak of the Great War, and joined the crew of HMS Hawke at Queenstown. Previously he had served on H.M.S. Hogue. After joining the Hawke at Queenstown that ship immediately commenced patrol duty, in which she was constantly engaged till she met her doom on Thursday, October 15, 1914, being sunk by a German submarine in the North Sea.

“Trainor, who was one of the few survivors of the ill-fated vessel, gave an excellent account of the sinking of the Hawke. ‘I was on duty on the mess deck,’ he said, ‘at eleven o’clock in the morning. Our ship had stopped to pick up mails from the sister ship Endymion. This work having been completed, immediately afterwards the Hawke was shook from stem to stern by a violent explosion. In a moment every man was at his post. It was instantly seen that the ship had sustained irreparable damage. She took on a heavy list, and in seven minutes turned. The catastrophe was so sudden and she went down so rapidly that any efforts to get out the boats were futile. One boat was launched, but it was capsized. Captain Williams held on to the rail of the bridge to the last. When it was recognised that the launching of the boats was impossible “Every man for himself” was the order.’

“At the time of the disaster Trainor was suffering from a fracture of the ribs, two of which were broken. These injuries were, he said, sustained by him some days before during coaling operations, when he was badly crushed through an accident. Heavily handicapped as he was with his injury

Trainor made a jump for life, and being a good swimmer was able to keep himself afloat until he was picked up by a small boat. While in the small boat Trainor saw the periscope of the German submarine. About four o'clock in the afternoon they were taken aboard a Norwegian steamer. Trainor was asked why the submarine remained in the vicinity. 'Because she was evidently waiting to see whether the Endymion would return to our assistance, so that another torpedo could be launched at her.'

"Trainor then gave some interesting information in regard to the respective methods of operation of the British and German submarines, stating that in his opinion the British boat was decidedly superior. The Germans could not hit a cruiser unless she was halted, whereas the British gunners were able to sight and strike a moving ship. Trainor was asked what complement did the 'Hawke' carry. 'About six hundred, of whom seventy were saved.'

'Were there many Irishmen among the crew?' 'A good number.'

'Were there many from the North West?' 'No, not many. There was one chap I knew named McGinley, from Inch, but I believe the poor fellow went down with the ship. Of course, a lot were killed by the explosion, and I am afraid he was among them. The ship's doctor was, I believe, from the Derry district. His name was Ross, and he often talked to me about Derry.'

"Trainor was afterwards transferred to HMS Crescent. It was believed that the shock of the experience in the North Sea hastened his demise. His funeral took place on Tuesday, April 20, 1915. A detachment of the Royal Naval Reserve



The War Memorial, The Diamond, Londonderry

under Lieutenant W.J. Bibby, HMS Corantes, and a Company of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, with their Brass and Pipe Bands, under Lieutenant Kelly, marched immediately in front of the gun carriage, which bore the remains, in a solid oak coffin, covered with the Union Flag. The deceased's cap was placed on the coffin. There was a very large attendance of the general public, embracing all creeds and classes. Large numbers also lined the thoroughfares through which the procession passed, and in most houses the blinds were drawn as a tribute of respect. On the way to the Cemetery the bands played the Dead March, and after the service at the grave, which was conducted by the Reverend L. Hegarty, C.C., a party of the Inniskillings, under the command of Sergeant Fullerton, fired three volleys. The Last Post was then sounded. After the

grave was filled in a number of beautiful wreaths were placed on it by deceased's comrades in the Navy. The chief mourners were – Mr George Trainor (father); Messrs. James and Alexander Trainor (brothers); Mr James Trainor (uncle); Messrs. Edward, Charles and Alexander Hillen, and William and John Quigley (cousins). The clergy present were – Reverend L. Hegarty, C.C., St Eugene's; Reverend J.L. McGettigan, C.C., St Eugene's; and Reverend W. O'Neill, C.C., Long Tower.

“The chaplain of HMS Crescent, Reverend C.H. Payton, wrote a sympathetic letter to the widow of Charles Trainor, dated April 20, 1915. It read as follows:- ‘Dear Mrs Trainor – I am just writing a short letter to you to say how deeply the ship’s company sympathises with you in your recent great loss. I have not joined up with this ship very long, but am safe in saying that like the rest of our gallant navy, your husband was doing his best, and no man can do more. At a time like the present, when so many of our gallant fellows are paying the price for their country, it is very hard to try and condole with their relatives; but your husband’s case was exceptionally sad, and we all feel it to be so. All we can do is to pray that his soul, together with the souls of all whom we have lost in the present struggle, is at peace for ever with his Maker. We have the promise that “the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there shall no torment touch them.” This promise has been of great help to me wherever I see that some friend or relation has been suddenly called from his work here. May I, in bringing this brief note to a close, once more offer you our heartfelt sympathy.’

Besides being a competent seaman, Charles Trainor was known as a capable boxer and footballer, being a member of Derry Rangers F.C. He was the only Derry man who took part in a boxing tournament organised by the Royal Irish Constabulary some years before his demise. On the first anniversary of his death, his mother and father had the following in memoriam lines inserted in a Derry newspaper:-

‘Though your hand we cannot clasp,
Nor your face we cannot see,
But while life with us remains
We will still remember thee.’

Born in Londonderry. Son of George and Mary Trainor, Nelson St., Londonderry; husband to Catherine Trainor, North St., Londonderry. Londonderry City Cemetery. Londonderry, The Diamond WM.

First RFC squadron in France in WW1 was led by an Armagh officer

Number 2 Wing RFC was the first to land in France . The Commanding Officer was Major CJ Bourke from Armagh and originally of the Royal Irish Regiment. Of the one hundred aircrew who formed this first deployment in August 1914, about 20 per cent were either Irish or from Irish regiments.

Charles Bourke was one of the earliest British Army officers to consider air power in depth.

He served in the Boer War and for three years on the West African Frontier. Captain 1909. He learned to fly in France 1910. 1911 serving as a Captain in the Army Balloon School. On 13/05/1912, Burke became the commanding

officer of the Flying Corps' No 2 Squadron and was promoted to major. The squadron established the first operational military airbase in the United Kingdom.

He was mentioned in Sir John French's despatch on 08/10/1914. The following month, on 29/11/1914, Burke was appointed the first commanding officer of No 2 Wing of the Royal Flying Corps and he set up his headquarters at Saint-Omer. His wing comprised Nos 5 and 6 Squadrons.

In 1915 Burke was involved in recruiting for the RFC in Canada. As well as directly recruiting personnel, Burke suggested that training aerodromes might be established in Canada under British control.

From February to June 1916, he served as the Commandant of the Central Flying School. In the summer of 1916 he re-joined the Royal Irish Regiment. He died commanding a battalion of East Lancashire Regiment.

In 1915 Burke was involved in recruiting for the RFC in Canada. As well as directly recruiting personnel, Burke suggested that training aerodromes might be established in Canada under British control. From February to June 1916, he served as the Commandant of the Central Flying School.

In the summer of 1916 Burke rejoined his old regiment, the Royal Irish Regiment, which was suffering a severe shortage of officers. Burke was killed in action on 09/04/1917, whilst commanding the 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment.

It was the first day of the Battle of Arras and he was visiting the right, front post of B Company when it was hit by a shell. Both Burke and his orderly, Lance Corporal R Pentland

were killed. He was the youngest son of Michael Charles Christopher Burke and Amy Burke, of Ballinahone House, Armagh, and husband to Beatrice O. Burke, Stoney Cockbury, Winchcombe, Glos.

Burke is buried at the Point-du-Jour Military Cemetery, Athies, France in Plot: III. C. 2. His orderly is buried next to him. Men of Thomond Memorial at St Mary's Cathedral (Church of Ireland), Limerick.

In the newspapers

18th April 1915 Belfast Newsletter THE CALL TO THE COLOURS, West Belfast Recruiting Meeting, ADDRESS BY MR. BLACKER QUIN.

There was a crowded attendance at a recruiting meeting held yesterday afternoon in the West End Picture House, Shankill Road, Belfast, under the chairmanship of Mr. Stewart Blacker Quin. The proceedings were opened with the singing of the hymn "O God, our help in ages past," and prayer by Lieutenant Rev. J. A. Donnelly. A striking film, entitled "Joseph and his Brethren," was shown, vividly depicting scenes in the well-known Biblical story, and Miss A. Waterworth gave a very effective rendering of "The Better Land."

The Chairman said no apology was needed for holding that meeting on a Sunday afternoon, The baby-killers did not respect the Fourth Commandment, and the very fact that even as he was speaking, and they were sitting there, their own brave soldiers and the brave soldiers of their devoted Allies were being done to death in their fight for them surely

made the holding of such a meeting is work of both necessity and merry. (Hear, hear.)

Proceeding, Mr. Blacker Quin said --In the distant days of chivalry and romance the knightly hero buckled on his armour, and went forth voluntarily to valiantly avenge the desecration of honour and virtue. Are the days of chivalry dead ? Are there not heroes in this building to-day ? You are not called upon to fight for any cause of knight errantry, but in the common cause of humanity and ordinary decency, which is the common characteristic of all civilization.

Assuredly the Germans have taken to the sword, and if the splendid manhood of the British nation does but its simple duty, most assuredly will the Germans perish by the sword. Never in the world's history has there been a more insistently righteous call to arms. We cannot all go—I wish we could—but the man who is eligible and who is free to go and feels the call and does not respond, is assuredly not only a traitor to his country, but a traitor to the human race, unfaithful to the high traditions of British freedom, and does he not, indeed, outrage the very laws of God ? Oh, the wild joy of being able to take part in one glorious charge against so vile a foe, and as every blow went home to shout exultingly --That for a broken treaty ! That for murder and aggression ! That for outraged women! That for killing babies ! That for insults to British citizens ! That for the honour of Ulster, for Empire, for right, justice, freedom, and for God ! And, oh, the sweet memory in after years of having lived through such a glorious moment, and if one should fall, could one suffer a more righteous or a more glorious death ? if the call is for you, don't hold back. In the name of God, buckle on the armour of courage and take up the shield of faith and enlist to-day. (Loud applause.)

Major F.P. Crozier said that in the Ulster Division they wanted as many men as possible at once, so that, they could get to the front themselves. It was absolutely necessary for them to have a reserve for wastage—unfortunately, there was such a thing as wastage in war—and probably 100 men per month would be required to keep a battalion up its strength. He hoped the young men of West Belfast would freely come forward. They wanted the close co-operation of the employer and the employed—a working agreement—so that as many men as possible might have substitutes found for them, and to allow the men to get into the firing line. He believed the services of the women could be availed of to some extent in this respect. In conclusion, the Major said he knew there was no man in Belfast who would not go if he could . (Applause.)

Lieutenant Saunderson said that two of the greatest nations in the world were fighting for their lives, and one had to come out on top. That nation would be the one which made the greatest sacrifices and it was their duty as Britishers to fight for their nation. They appealed to all the eligible men to ask themselves if they were "doing the thing " in not joining. The speaker pointed out that the army knew no politics or creed. So long as they were fit men they were wanted in the Ulster Division. (Applause.)

Mr. John Graham said that when he was asked to speak at that meeting he agreed with a certain amount of diffidence, because he thought that West Belfast had already done very well, indeed. (Hear, hear) At the outbreak of the war they had in that division some 1,600 or 1.700 Volunteers, and when he told them that about 1.400 of these had joined the colours, either in Kitchener's Army or on being called up on reserve, he believed they would agree that West Belfast

had done splendidly. (Applause.) He thought the people ought to be given to know exactly how they stood, because the British people when they got a reverse and knew the worst came forward and recruited to a man. He joined with the other speakers in urging every eligible man who was able to do so to join the colours at once, and lend his assistance in crushing the enemy. (Applause.) Speeches were also made by Lieutenant Rev, J. A. Donnelly and Lieutenant. W. A. Smiles, and we understand that the recruiting results were of a very satisfactory character. In the course of the afternoon some military pictures were shown, and the National Anthems of the Allies were played. The pipes and drums of the 9th Battalion (West Belfast Regiment) Royal Irish Rifles were in attendance and played appropriate selections.

On this day – April 18

1915

Submarine HMS E15, which ran aground in the Dardanelles on 16 April and fell into enemy hands, was destroyed by Royal Navy picket boats in a daring night action. Seven of E15's crew died during the Turkish attack on the boat following her grounding.

1916

Londonderry Sentinel 18th April 1916

MESSAGE FROM SIR E. CARSON

In connection with the recruiting campaign at present being conducted by 500 soldiers who are making house to house

visitations and personally appealing to eligible men, the following message was received yesterday from Sir Edward Carson: -

“The Ulster Division badly wants recruits to keep our battalions up to full strength. Let the Imperial Province once more set a glorious example to the whole country.”

1940

British submarine Starlet sunk off Norway.

Germans advance further north of Oslo. More British troops are landed at Aandalesnes in Norway with the plan of co-operating with the British and French troops already at Namsos to surround and then retake Trondheim. However, the Norwegian commander, General Ruge persuaded the Aandalesnes force, to move south in order to give support to his troops still holding out at Lillehammer.

1941

Britain warns that if Cairo is bombed, then the RAF will attack Rome.

The German 12th Army forces a crossing of the river Aliakmon between the Greek First Army and the British forces. Athens is placed under martial law. Greek Prime Minister, Alexandros Korizis commits suicide.

1942

The entire US eastern seaboard is ordered to black-out its lights at night, in an attempt to reduce the success of the U-boats at night.

Colonel James H. Doolittle leads 16 US Army B25 bombers from the carrier Hornet in first ever air raid on Japan. They took off from the carrier Hornet, about 750 miles east of Tokyo. Escort fighters were provided by the carrier Enterprise. Bombs were dropped on Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohama, Nagoya and Yokosuka. Only one aircraft was damaged during the raid, although all 16 were lost on crash landings in China. The material damage inflicted by the raid was minimal, although the damage to Japanese prestige was considerable and gave the allies a boost when their fortunes in the Pacific were at a low ebb.

1943

Submarine HMS P615 was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U123 off Freetown with loss of all 44 crew.

The Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was killed on a flight near Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, by American P-38 Lightnings flying from Guadalcanal. American intelligence had decoded signals that provided the timetable for Yamamoto's flight. Yamamoto, Commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was the architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Operation Vengeance" was conceived to locate and shoot down Yamamoto. Eighteen P-38 fighters from the U.S. Army's 339th Fighter Squadron of the 347th Fighter Group, Thirteenth Air Force, were given the mission. Their P-38G aircraft, equipped with drop tanks, would have the range to intercept and engage and shoot him down.

The German 17th Army begins its attacks to eliminate the Russian beachhead at Novorossiysk, but fails and gives up on the 23rd April.



Photo: Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto alighting from a staff car during a tour of inspection to Japanese units in the South West Pacific in April 1943.

1944

The Foreign Office bans all coded messages from foreign embassies and says that diplomatic bags are to be censored. Only the fighting allies are to be excluded from the ban.

The Russians take Balaclava.

The first reinforcements for the British garrison at Kohima begin to arrive. Japanese forces launch a new offensive in central China.

RAF Bomber Command - April 17/18th, Wednesday night and early Thursday.

1) Cologne - 26 Mosquitoes on a nuisance raid. All returned safely.

2) Minor Ops - 2 Mosquitoes to Le Mans railway yards. Two Serrate patrols.

14 Halifaxes and 6 Stirlings gardening in Kiel Bay and the Frisians.

4 OTU nickelling sorties.

One of the minelayers failed to return:-

428 Sqdn, Halifax II, JN973, NA-U, P/O. G. W. Lillico RCAF and crew were lost without trace.

1945

Famed American war correspondent [Ernie Pyle](#), 44, was killed by Japanese gunfire on the Pacific island of Ie Shima, off Okinawa.

The Ruhr pocket is finally annihilated, with 317,000 Germans being captured, including 29 generals. The U.S. Ninth Army takes Magdeburg. The U.S. First Army enters Dusseldorf. General De Lattre's French troops link up at Freudenberg behind the Black Forest. The British Second Army captures Aachen and Lunnenburg. The US Third Army captures Nuremberg advancing units across the German/ Czechoslovakian frontier.

Between Stettin and Schwedt the 2nd Belorussian front breaks through the Oder defenses, pressuring Army Group Weichsel even more. The 1st Ukrainian Front captures Forst on the Neisse river. North of Frankfurt, while the 1st

Belorussian Front continues its attack to take the Seelow Heights, gradually wearing down the vastly outnumbered German defenders.

The British Fourteenth Army in central Burma captures the Chaulk oil centre on the Irrawaddy.

1947

Royal Navy detonated largest non-atomic explosion in history when they set off 7,000 tons of unused WW2 explosives on the German island of Heligoland. The charges were fired by Lt Cdr Mildred in HMS Lasso, 9 miles away on the 4th pip of the 1300 BBC time signal - Photo below



April 18 – Roll of Honour

**Representing their comrades who died on this
day**

1915

+HOGG, John Ormandy

Army Cyclist Corps. Private. 6045. Died 18/04/1915. Age 40. Native of Belfast. Son of Margaret Hogg, of 2, Ormiston Crescent, Knock, Co. Down, and the late Robert Hogg. Bournemouth East Cemetery, UK

+McCLUSKEY, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 19096. Died 18/04/1915. Aged 21. Son of James and Ellen McCluskey. Born at Ballycam. Ballymanish Presbyterian Cemetery, County Down.

+TRAINOR, Charles

Able Seaman. 177805 (RFR CHB 1353), Died 18/04/1915. See article above.

1916

+BARBOUR, George

Highland Light Infantry. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 11958. Died 18/04/1916. Age 23. Born in Armagh. By 1901 he is believed to be living in Glasgow. Son of the late Mrs. Annie Manlavery Barbour. His effects went to his aunt Maria Irwin. Basra Memorial, Iraq

+MONTGOMERY, Samuel

Highland Light Infantry, 1st Btn. Private. 6964. Died 18/04/1916. Born in Dungannon. Basra Memorial, Iraq

1917

+BURKE, Charles

Royal Flying Corps. Wing Commander. Lt.Colonel. DSO, MiD. Royal Irish Regiment, Second battalion, attached to First Battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Charles Burke was killed in action on 09/04/1917, He was the youngest son of Michael Charles Christopher Burke and Amy Burke, of Ballinahone House, Armagh, and husband to Beatrice O. Burke, Stoney Cockbury, Winchcombe, Glos. Point-du-Jour Military Cemetery, Athies, France. Men of Thomond Memorial at St Mary's Cathedral (Church of Ireland), Limerick. See article above.

+HANNA, F

Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 11942. Died 23/04/1917. Age 19. Son of Mrs. Mary Jane Hanna, of 148, Matilda St., Belfast. Botham Cemetery, Heninel, France

+McALINDEN, John

RNVR. AB. Clyde Z/5173. Anson Battalion RND. Died 18/04/1917. Age 19. Enlisted 07/06/1915 ; Draft for MEF 25/10/1915, joined Anson Battalion 22/11/1915 - 28/04/17. Born 02/04/1894. Home address: Hopedale, Camelon, Falkirk. Son of Joseph McAlinden, Majorca St., Belfast. Arras Memorial, Bay 1

+NICHOLL, H

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 40941. Died 18/04/1917. Age 25. Son of John Nicholl, of 18, Jubilee St., Larne; husband to Ellen Nicholl, of 16, Bridge St. Place, Ballymena. St Quentin Carbarret Military Cemetery, Belgium

+TODD, John

Canadian Infantry, 29th Btn. Private. 116550. Died 18/04/1917. Age 28. Born Donegore 22/05/1888. Pre-war worked as a fireman. Enlisted at Vernon, British Columbia, Canada on 20/08/1915. Son of Margaret (nee Bell) Todd, of Halftown, Doagh and the late Samuel Todd. His brother William James also served with Canadian Infantry during the war. He was wounded and survived. Levin Communal Cemetery Extension, France. First Donegore Presbyterian Church RH

1918

In the early morning of 18 April a composite battalion of 400 men from the 9th and 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, and 12th Royal Irish Rifles, were caught in an enemy bombardment while moving to positions on the western slopes of Mount Kemmel.

+BENNETT, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Serjeant. 1221. Died 18/04/1918. Age 33. Son of the late James and Annie Bennett, of 23, Rosevale St., Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

+DAVEY, Allen

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 41589. Died 19/04/1918/ Age 30. Born on 31/01/1888 at Loughmourne, Carrickfergus, County Antrim, the first of eleven children of farmer William John Davey and his wife Maggie Isabella (nee Allen). By 1912 he was living in North Street, Carrickfergus and working as an insurance agent. On 10/04/1912 he and Sarah Elliott Patterson married at St

Nicholas Church, Carrickfergus. The couple had three children in the next three years – Sarah Elizabeth, George Allen and William John.

Davey enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Belfast between 14 and 16 October 1914 (No.1312). He embarked for France on 01/05/1915 as part of D Squadron, which was serving as divisional cavalry to the 51st Division. Later that year or in early 1916 he was posted to C Squadron, which was serving as divisional cavalry to the 3rd Division.

In June 1916 C Squadron combined with F Squadron and the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons Service Squadron to form the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment, serving as corps cavalry to X Corps. In August-September 1917 the 2nd NIH Regiment was disbanded and its men, together with some surplus to the needs of the 1st NIH Regiment, were transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers, an infantry regiment.

Davey was one of 70 men given the job of conducting the regiment's horses to Egypt, to be handed over for use by mounted units there. They embarked from Marseilles on board HMT *Bohemian* on 25 August. After a month at Alexandria they returned to France, via Italy. On 5 October 1917 they arrived at the 36th (Ulster) Division Infantry Base Depot at Harfleur for infantry training, and after just a few days were posted to the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers – which had been renamed the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion – joining it in the field at Ruyaulcourt on 12 October. Davey was issued regimental number 41589.

It is probable that Davey saw action with his new battalion in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and

perhaps also in the retreat from St Quentin from 21 to 28 March 1918 during the German spring offensive.

On 09//04/1918 the 9th Battalion was on the Ypres front when the Germans began their offensive in that sector. The battalion saw severe fighting between Wulverghem and Kemmel for more than a week and suffered many casualties. Davey was one of those killed, probably in the early morning of 18 April when a composite battalion of 400 men from the 9th and 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, and 12th Royal Irish Rifles, were caught in an enemy bombardment while moving to positions on the western slopes of Mount Kemmel.

According to the battalion diary for that day:

2 am. Moved to Kemmel, as composite Bn with 1st R. Ir. Fus. cmd. by Lt. Col. Kelly. Heavy casualties, while moving into position, from enemy shelling. Capt. Despard wounded and died soon after.

... and the 108 Brigade diary:

Battalion moved to Kemmel Hill, but whilst halted near foot of N. slope was heavily shelled, losing Captain Despard killed ... and about 70 other casualties.

As he has no known grave, Private Davey is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 141, Belgium.

+DESPARD, Charles Beauclerk

6th Dragoons (Inniskilling), att'd. 9th Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers. Captain. Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross. Died 18/04/1918. Age 37. Son of William and Mary Despard, of

"Sheelagh," Malone Park, Belfast; husband to Josephine Despard, of The Acacias, Portarlinton, Queen's Co. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

+DICKSON, Thomas John Ingram

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Lance Corporal. 23697. Died 18/04/1918 of wounds at Kemmel, near Ypres. Age 19. Son of David and Rachel Dickson, of Drumhillery, Madden, Keady. Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium. Armagh WM

+ELLIOTT, William Thomas Elliott

Inniskilling Dragoons, 6th. Service Squadron. Private. 41159. Died 18/04/1918. Born on 08/03/1891 at Moybane, Letterbreen, County Fermanagh, the second of eight children of herd William Elliott and his wife Mary Anne (formerly Reid). By 1911 he was living at nearby Donegall and working as a general labourer. Elliott enlisted in the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons Service Squadron at Enniskillen between 26 and 31 August 1915 (No. UD/284). He embarked for France as a reinforcement for the squadron in the second half of 1916 or first half of 1917.

In June 1916 the Inniskillings squadron had joined with C and F Squadrons of the North Irish Horse to form the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment, serving as corps cavalry to X Corps until August 1917. The following month the regiment was dismounted and most of its men transferred to the infantry. After a brief period of training at the 36th (Ulster) Division's Infantry Base Depot at Harfleur, Elliott was transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers on 20 September and soon after was posted to the 9th (Service) Battalion – renamed the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion. He was

issued regimental number 41159. He probably saw action with the battalion during the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and perhaps also during the retreat from St Quentin from 21 to 28 March 1918.

On 9 April 1918 the 9th Battalion was on the Ypres front when the Germans began their offensive in that sector. The battalion saw severe fighting between Wulverghem and Kemmel for more than a week and suffered many casualties. Elliott was initially listed as missing, but his death was later accepted.

It is likely that he died in the early morning of 18 April when a composite battalion of 400 men from the 9th and 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, and 12th Royal Irish Rifles, were caught in an enemy bombardment while moving to positions on the western slopes of Mount Kemmel. According to the battalion diary for that day:

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... and the 108 Brigade diary:

Battalion moved to Kemmel Hill, but whilst halted near foot of N. slope was heavily shelled, losing Captain Despard killed ... and about 70 other casualties. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

+HARRISON, Frederick

Durham Light Infantry, 15th Btn. Private. 81582. Died 18/04/1918. Age 32. Son of David Harrison, of 7, Artana St.,

Belfast, and the late Charlotte Mary Harrison. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

+McGURK, Michael

Leinster Regiment, 7th Btn. transf. to (446191) 712th Coy. Labour Corps. Private. 1732. Died 18/04/1918. Age 32. Born about 1886 in Pomeroy, County Tyrone. He was one of at least three children. The family moved to Belfast. Michael McGurk and Mary Ellen Bloomer married on 06/06/1909 in Belfast. Michael McGurk enlisted in Belfast, joining the Leinster Regiment. He later transferred to the Labour Corps. Son of Alice McGurk, of Belfast. Husband to Mary Ellen McGurk of 61, Norfolk St., Belfast. Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France

+MORTON, Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 28773. Died 18/04/1918. Age 17. Enlisted October 1917. His brothers Robert (04/09/1918) and William (17/10/1918) were also fatalities. Son of Mr. R. Morton, of 6, Lonsdale St., Armagh, formerley of Co. Cavan. Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SMYTH, Walter Henry

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23793. Died 18/04/1918. Age 21. Son of James Smyth, of Lakeview House, Ballinderry, Lisburn. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

1920

+REYNOLDS, William

Royal Garrison Artillery, 4th Siege Bty. Corporal. 5817. Died 18/04/1920. Age 44. Husband of Elizabeth Reynolds, of 132, Roseberry Rd., Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

1941

+CASSIDY, Thomas

RNVR. HMS Voltaire. Seaman. P/X 20080A. Died 18/04/1941. Aged 25 He died from wounds as a prisoner of war on board an enemy ship.

Voltaire (built by Workman and Clark, Belfast) was sunk by enemy action, some members of the crew being taken prisoner. The burial service was conducted by the commanding officer of Voltaire who was also a prisoner.

Thomas had joined the RNVR and was called up on the outbreak of war. Son of John and Margaret Cassidy, Harbour Rd., Kilkeel, Co. Down. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 19/06/1942). Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 60

+DUFFY, Patrick

Royal Army Service Corps. Private. T/178296. Died 18/04/1941. Age 27. The cause of death was gas poisoning caused by an electrical fault in the days following the Belfast Blitz. His son, Patrick Duffy Junior also died as a result of the leak. The gas leak came to the attention of a Royal Ulster Constabulary patrol at 0145hrs on 18/04/1941. Officer R McClenaghan investigated, finding 5 people suffering effects of poisoning. A later inquest by Belfast Coroner Dr. Herbert P Lowe returned a verdict of accidental death caused by the escape of bitumen coal gas. The cause was

a short circuit in the electrical mains outside the Seaforde Street house. A later inquest by Belfast Coroner Dr. Herbert P Lowe returned a verdict of accidental death caused by the escape of bitumen coal gas. The cause was a short circuit in the electrical mains outside the Seaforde Street house. At the inquest, Coroner Herbert P Lowe stated that Private Duffy's death was caused by accidental escape of gas from a short circuit in an electric main due to enemy action. Husband to Margaret Duffy of 5 Seaforde Street, Belfast. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

1942



+HERRON, Michael John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6979562. Died between 18/04/1942 and 19 /04/1942. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Catherine Hoey, of Dungannon. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Dungannon WM

+McKEE, Ian Ernest Coote

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Formerly of Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). Lieutenant. 156444. Died 18/04/1942. Age 21. Arts 1938 QUB. Son of the Revd. Dr. E. J. McKee, C.F., and of Mrs. M. G. McKee, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar



+REID, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 6086637. Died 18/04/1942. Age 26. Robert enlisted in the Queen's Own Regiment in 1935 before transferring to the Fusiliers. He had served in India for 4 years and was a keen boxer and footballer. The Belfast Telegraph newspaper carried news that Reid was officially missing on 13th October 1942. Son of Alexander Reid and Margaret Reid of 35 Blythe Street, Belfast. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Reid family memorial, Belfast City Cemetery



+YOUNG, George Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal.
6976947. Died 18/04/1942. Age 26. Son of Edward and
Margaret Young; nephew of Robert Maguire, of Holywood.
Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

1944

+BRADLEY, Alexander

R.A.C. Reconnaissance Corps, 45th Regt. Sergeant.
6977220. Died 18/04/1944. Aged 30. He was originally a
Royal Irish Fusilier. From Tobermore. At the time of his
death, 45 Recce was training for its part in Orde Wingate's
Operation Thursday, the second Chindit expedition. For its
role with the Chindits, 45 Recce formed two columns, 45
Column and 54 Column. The operational unit of the Chindit
force was the column, roughly equivalent to half a
battalion. Taukkyan War Cemetery

+GLOVER, David

Reconnaissance Corps, R.A.C. 45th Regt. Trooper. 7018207. Died 18/04/1944. Age 22. He was originally a Royal Ulster Rifleman. At the time of his death, 45 Recce was training for its part in Orde Wingate's Operation Thursday, the second Chindit expedition. For its role with the Chindits, 45 Recce formed two columns, 45 Column and 54 Column. The operational unit of the Chindit force was the column, roughly equivalent to half a battalion. Son of David Glover, and of Mary Glover, of Dundonald, Co. Down. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

1945

+CLARKE, Robert

RAF. Sergeant. 619994. Died 18/04/1945. Aged 42. Son of Robert and Isabella Clarke, of Newtownards; husband to Wilhelmina Clarke, of Newtownards. Madras War Cemetery, Chennai. India

+KAVANAGH, Laurance

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Fusilier. 6980438. Date 18/04/1945. Age 27. Son of Margaret Kavanagh, and stepson of John Hutton, of Londonderry. Faenza War Cemetery, Italy

+MEREDITH, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Lance Sergeant. 6984401. Date 18/04/1945. Age 23. Son of James Gardiner Meredith and Mary Jane Meredith, of Newtownards. Argenta Gap War Cemetery, Italy

1947

+NICHOLL, Samuel James

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Gunner. 3225012. Died 18/04/1947. Age 21. Son of Samuel and Emma Nicholl, of Antrim. Fayid War Cemetery, Egypt

VETERANS

DOWNEY, James Edwin

WW2. RAF. MCB. Born 18/04/1918. Son of Robert J Downey, Rushfield Ave., Belfast. Postwar. Carreras Rothmans (NI) Ltd. Mount Merrion Park, Belfast

HUGHES, Thomas William Gillilan Johnson

North Irish Horse. Major. Thomas Hughes of Dalchoolin, Craigavad, County Down, was born in Belfast on 30/03/1889, the only son of wealthy landowner Edwin Hughes J.P., and his wife Emma Sophia (nee Rhodes). He was educated at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge.

On 22/06/1910 Hughes was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the North Irish Horse. When war was declared he joined A Squadron of the North Irish Horse, which embarked for France on 17/08/1914. The squadron saw action on the Retreat from Mons and Advance to the Aisne. Two accounts from the time mention Hughes:

“I shall never forget the day we had the bayonet charge with the Inniskillings. My troop, under **Lieutenant Hughes**, took up a position on the railway line. The enemy was about 500 yards away, when suddenly their artillery opened fire and we

had to retire in the open under a heavy shell fire. I shall never forget the sound of the bursting of their 'Jack Johnsons', as the Highlanders call them. When we took up another position with the Gordons and Inniskillings we made our rifles tell on the advancing German infantry. It was horrible to see the heaps of dead and dying, both men and horses".

(Private William Morton in *The Belfast News-Letter*, 29 December 1914)

[At] night they were pegging down their horses in garden, preparatory to retiring for the night's rest in some hay lofts, when suddenly bullets whistled overhead. Lord Cole, who was in command, shouted to Lieutenant Hughes: 'Get your men out, Hughes.' The men readily responded, and fixed bayonets. They advanced through a field of vegetables in the direction from which the sound of firing came, and then heard the cheers of the 2nd Inniskillings and Cameron Highlanders as they charged the enemy. Lord Cole ordered the charge, and the North Irish Horsemen answered with cheers, and rushed forward along with the infantry. The Germans did not wait, but took to their heels. The Horse then retired that night a further ten miles, escorted by the two foot battalions, and thus gained a short respite from the pursuing Germans. (Private James McArow in *The Belfast News-Letter*, 6 November 1914)

Hughes was promoted to lieutenant on 01/09/1914 and captain on 18 November the following year.

In May 1916 A Squadron joined with E and F Squadrons of the North Irish Horse to form the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment. In February 1918 the regiment was dismounted and converted to a corps cyclist regiment. Hughes remained

with A Squadron throughout. He was mentioned in Field-Marshal Haig's despatch 09/04/1917.

From 15 January to 1 February 1918 he acted as lieutenant-colonel in command of the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment, following the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Cole.

After the war, Hughes remained an officer of the North Irish Horse. When he relinquished his commission on 30/03/1934, having reached the age limit for officers, he was granted the honorary rank of Major.

He died on 18/04/1963.

LEATHEM, Edward

Rifleman Edward Leathem, 9/15100, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (West Belfast Volunteers), enlisted 11th September, 1914. He was wounded 01/07/1916 and was later in hospital in Glasgow. He was discharged due to wounds (gunshot wound right forearm) on 18/04/1918, with Silver War Badge No. 404889. Edward was also entitled to the trio of medals, 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medal. His brother, John, of the Royal Field Artillery, was accidentally drowned in May 1917 whilst serving in Salonika. Another brother, George, of the North Belfast Volunteers, was home on sick leave, having also been wounded. Edward was married, his wife resided at 32, Dunmore Street, Belfast. His mother resided at 29, Valentine Street.

MAFFETT, David Watson

Wireless Operator Air Gunner, David Watson was liberated by Russian forces on 18/04/1945.

Educated at Alton Burn Boarding School for Boys at Nairn, Scotland, and Downpatrick High School. He completed matriculation at 17 and joined the RAF aged 18.

He qualified as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner, and was posted to 9 Squadron 3 Group Bomber Command in December 1939 at RAF Honnington, Suffolk, which was flying Vickers Wellington MC 1C.

He completed a tour of 30 operations by September 1940 and was posted to 20 OTU Lossiemouth, Scotland, as an Instructor. He returned to active service at 218 Squadron RAF Marham Norfolk in April 1942 and flew on the first 1000 bomber raid on Koln on 30/05/1942.

Shot down on 07/08/1942 and held in Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf Upper Silesia from September 1942 to 22 January 1945. He was force - marched from VIIIB from 22/01/1945 until 15/04/1945 across Germany due to advancing Russian forces.

He was interred at Stalag IIIA Luckenwalde, 50 miles from Berlin on 15/04/1945. Liberated by Russian forces on 18/04/1945 he was moved by Russians to American lines in June 1945 and repatriated to RAF Cosford mid June 1945.

Born 14/11/1920, the son of David John Maffett, The Highlands, Downpatrick and of Farrankad-Greenwood.

RANKIN, John Ernest Fitzgerald

WW2. RNVR. Lt(A). Appointed Temporary Sub-Lieutenant 1943. Ap Sci, QUB 1939? MCB, Born 18/04/1922. Son of Ernest Rankin, Chichester Road, Belfast

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We will remember them

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remembrance ni at

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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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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