

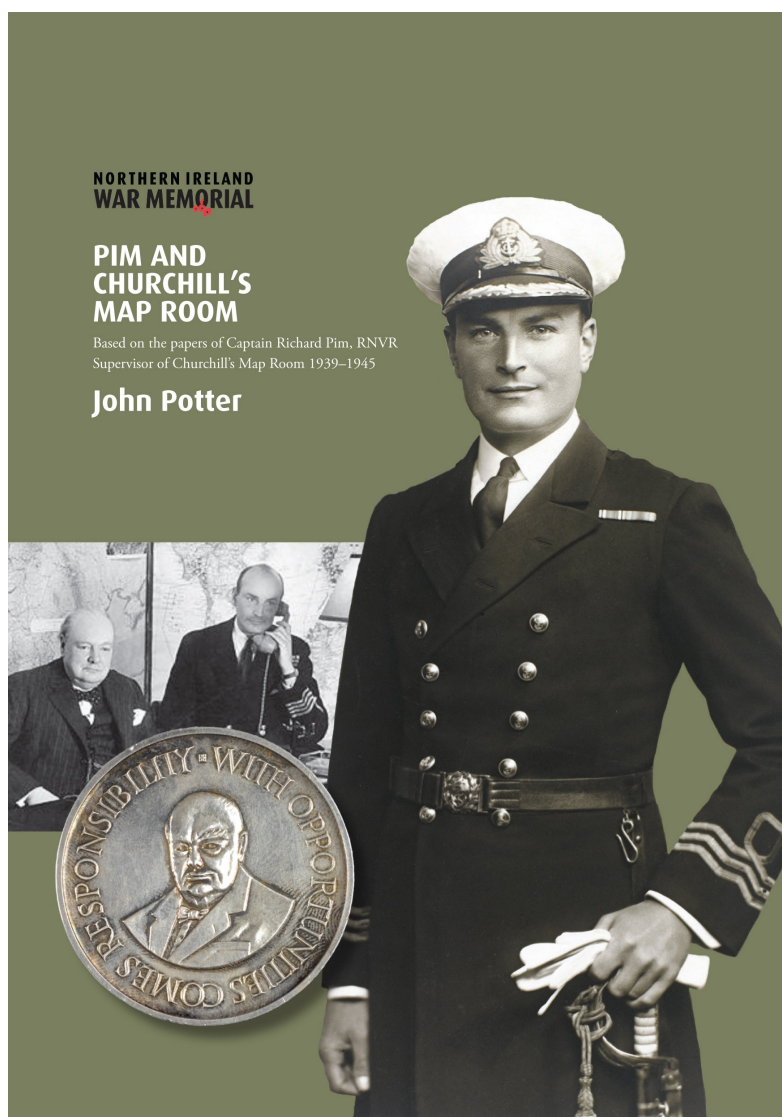


remembrance ni

# Ulster Naval Reserve officer's key role on Churchill's staff

**Sir Richard Pim, a RNVr officer from HMS Caroline, was in charge of Sir Winston Churchill's map room on which daily deployments of ships and other forces were displayed.**

Captain Pim accompanied the Prime Minister on almost all of his journeys abroad, setting up a 'Map Room' for the



latter's use at each place of conference and in each ship in which he took passage to and from summit meetings.

These included Newfoundland for the Atlantic Charter Meeting with President Roosevelt (H.M.S. Prince of Wales); to Washington and Quebec meetings (R.M.S. Queen Mary); to Malta and Alexandria, for Cairo (H.M.S. Renown); Casablanca (H.M.S. Bulolo); Marrakesh, Yalta (s.s. Franconia) for the meeting with Stalin and finally to the Potsdam Conference in 1945.

**Captain Sir Richard Pim, KBE, VRD, DL.** - On the declaration of war Commander Pim was appointed to the Admiralty and directed by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, to set up and take charge of a War Room in Admiralty House for the personal use of Mr. Winston Churchill who had just assumed the post of First Lord. On the latter's appointment as Prime Minister the following year, Pim set up a comprehensive naval/military 'Map Room' in the annexe to No. 10 Downing Street. This was kept up to date day and night and gave precise information relating to the position of every British and Allied warship, of convoys, their speed, the number of ships involved, their escorts and the estimated position of any known enemy naval units at sea, together with full comparable military information.

He was promoted Captain R.N.V.R. in 1940 and had other R.N.V.R. and military officers appointed to his staff. These included Lieutenants H. W. McMullan and J. E. Sayers (a survivor of H.M.S. Courageous) of the Ulster Division.

Lennox Kerr and Wilfred Granville in their book entitled 'The R.N.V.R.' refer to Captain Pim's war service as 'one of the

most interesting appointments and one of the greatest compliments paid to the R.N.V.R.'

In 1940 Captain Pim obtained temporary release from the Admiralty and took command of an ex-Dutch Schuyt which had been renamed H.M.S. Hilda and assisted in the rescue of survivors of the B.E.F. from the beaches at Bray Dunes in the retreat from Dunkirk.

**In 'Their Finest Hour' (Vol. 11 of the "Second World War") Sir Winston Churchill writes:**

**'In those days I missed the head of my Admiralty Map Room, Captain Pim, and one or two other familiar faces. They got hold of a Dutch Schuyt which in four days brought off eight hundred soldiers.'**

In October 1942 Captain Pim flew to Gibraltar and set up a War Room inside the Rock for use by General Eisenhower and Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham (to whose staff he had been temporarily appointed) prior to and during the Allied landings in N. Africa (Operation 'Torch').

The following month he accompanied them to Algiers to carry out a similar duty there and to assist in the organisation of air raid precautions, as that city, and more particularly the harbour, was being subjected to nightly enemy air attacks.

For these duties Captain Pim was mentioned in despatches. He was appointed a Commander of the 'Legion of Merit,' USA.



## **Pim and Churchill's Map Room - a book based on the papers of Captain Richard Pim**

In 2014 the Northern Ireland War Memorial published a book by John Potter, "Pim and Churchill's Map Room - a book based on the papers of Captain Richard Pim RNVR, supervisor of Churchill's War Room 1939 - 45. The following article is based on it and on Sir Richard Pim's entry in the Cambridge Dictionary of Irish Biography

Richard Pim was born in County Antrim in 1900, the son of a well-known Quaker who managed a linen firm. Richard's brother Thomas, an observer in the Royal Flying Corps during World War I, served in Gallipoli, Egypt and France but was killed before the Armistice. That same year, 1918, Richard joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a midshipman. After the war he read law at Trinity College, Dublin, and later joined the Royal Irish Constabulary, where he fought against the IRA insurgency in southern Ireland.

Following the partition of Ireland in 1922, Pim was posted to Northern Ireland's Home Office, where he worked for the prime minister, Lord Craigavon. By 1938 he was overseeing

air raid precautions and the province's War Book, collating the action to be taken in the event of war with Germany. When war came in September 1939, he was given the rank of Commander and transferred to the Operations Division of the Admiralty in London where he was put in charge of Winston Churchill's map room, a post he held throughout the war. He described this task as "the most fascinating and rewarding [I] could possibly have had."

This fine little book distills Pim's memoirs, which are lodged in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast. Expertly edited by John Potter, it offers charming vignettes of what it was like to work for Churchill, as Pim saw him on an almost daily basis and travelled with him to almost all the wartime conferences.

When Admiral Sir Dudley Pound sent Pim to work for Churchill, he said, "It won't be easy." Sure enough, the new First Lord of the Admiralty only gave Pim forty-eight hours in which to get the Map Room fully operational, something that he nonetheless managed to do. In May 1940 Pim was promoted to captain and followed Churchill first to Downing Street and then, during the Blitz, to the No. 10 Annexe: the ground floor of the building above what are now the Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall.

In May 1940, Churchill appointed his first government ministers in his flat at the Admiralty, Captain Pim and Brendan Bracken marshalling the candidates in various rooms. At one point, recalled Pim, Anthony Eden was in the drawing room, Archibald Sinclair in the bedroom, Lord

Beaverbrook in the dining room and Churchill's successor as First Lord, A.V. Alexander, in the cloakroom.

A major problem during the Fall of France was maintaining contact with key persons on the spot. Pim recalled Churchill trying to reach French Premier Paul Reynaud, General John Dill and the British ambassador to Paris: "The speed of the German advance was disorganizing the French telephone system," he wrote. What with "the prevalence of Fifth Column and my bad French when talking on the telephone, getting any connection at all was very difficult."

Churchill convened the Defence Committee in the Admiralty in late May 1940, with Chief of the Imperial General Staff Edmund Ironside and his soon-to-be-successor Sir John Dill, who had returned from France after the German victory at Sedan. It was now clear that the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) might be cut off on the continent. "The PM got to his feet and, with his hand stuffed in the back of his trousers, paced to and fro," Pim wrote. "We cannot leave our Army to be slaughtered or to surrender, NO, never that!," Churchill exclaimed. "We must get them out and provide them with the necessary weapons to deal with the enemy." Churchill understood that much equipment might be lost, "but if we lose the men then we lose the war. Our men must battle through to Dunkirk. When they get there, the Navy will get them out."

Pim wanted to help get men off the Dunkirk beaches. Late in the evening of 28 May, having been on continuous duty for thirty-six hours, he asked Churchill for four days' leave to take part in that vital operation. "God bless you," Churchill replied. "I wish I was going myself."

Pim commanded a flotilla of twenty small boats, transferring about 3500 men from the beaches onto destroyers, under almost continual artillery and aerial bombardment. When he



returned on 2 June, the Prime Minister said with a twinkle in his eye: “So you’re back again to do some work.” Churchill appreciated Pim’s personal courage, the characteristic he admired above all others.

Pim’s maps covered every theater of war, and were kept constantly up to date with the positions of every Allied and Axis ship, air squadron and military formation in the world in the light of the latest Intelligence reports. Pim and the map room accompanied Churchill on his travels, including numerous voyages and flights. His staff took losses; on the way to Yalta one of the map room staff, Colonel Newey, was killed when his aircraft was forced to ditch off the coast of Tunisia.

The devoted Pim sometimes worked into the early morning hours to update the maps for Churchill, who was not above his little joke. A wartime secretary, Elizabeth Nel, recalled Pim on his knees, working over a huge map laid on the floor, his naval cap upside down next to him. Churchill entered, took a long look, fished a coin from his pocket, and tossed it in Pim’s cap. But everyone knew how much Churchill relied on him. The map room saw a virtual Who’s Who of notables, visiting at Churchill’s proud invitation. Indeed it’s almost shocking how many random people were allowed inside this most sensitive of areas. They included King George VI, Sir William Beveridge, Wendell Willkie, Charles de Gaulle, Robert Menzies, Orde Wingate, Guy Gibson, Ernest King, Churchill’s cousins Shane Leslie and Clare Sheridan, King Haakon of Norway, Averell Harriman, Russian General Golikov and Admiral Kharlmov.

Pim occasionally served as Churchill’s tour guide. After dinner one evening in Cairo in November 1943, Churchill

showed the map room to Chiang Kai-Shek and his wife, in company with Anthony Eden, Lord Mountbatten and General Carton de Wiart. The PM gave the Chinese couple “a colourful and candid account of the events of the war, past and present including plans for the future,” Pim recorded. He went on for ninety minutes, pausing only when his cigar went out—whereupon Pim stepped in to take up the theme until it was re-lit. Pim recalled hoping that “the cigar when lit would last a long time.”

On Saturday, 3 June 1944, Pim joined Churchill and Jan Christian Smuts to see the armada preparing for the invasion of France. Boarding a motor launch at Southampton Water, they crossed the Solent to Cowes, then Ryde and came ashore at a jetty in Portsmouth. “We had sailed past ship after ship...warships, passenger liners (including three of the familiar Belfast cross-channel ferries) coasters and landing craft. It was the most impressive sight of British naval might that I shall ever see.”

At 10am on 26 July 1945, it fell to Captain Pim to bring Churchill the first disastrous results of the General Election: “I think the first ten [seats] were Labour. The Prime Minister was in his bath and certainly appeared surprised if not shocked. He asked me to get him a towel and in a few minutes, clad in his blue siren suit and with a cigar, he sat in his chair in the map room where he remained all day.” Pim and his staff of eight marked up the results from each constituency from the tickertape machine he had installed. By 5pm it was clear that Labour had won convincingly.

Churchill asked Pim to arrange a car for 7pm to take him to Buckingham Palace to resign. Yet the outgoing prime minister still had the thoughtfulness to send refreshments



and cigars to the map room staff that evening, telling Pim that he had seen many elections but none so well displayed. He returned twice to the map room that evening to reminisce with the staff about their wartime voyages together. As he went to bed he told them: “God bless you always.”

Pim received a knighthood in the resignation honours list on 14 August. It was, he wrote, “the final act of one who had shown me on so very many occasions nothing but kindness and friendship during six most strenuous years.” But it was not the final act. Churchill also sent him all six volumes of *The Second World War* and four volumes of his speeches, all personally inscribed. He also found him a good job as the Inspector of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Captain Pim knew Churchill as well as almost anyone else during the Second World War, and admired him unreservedly. This charming, well-written short book deserves a place on the bookshelves of everyone interested in “the Greatest Briton.”

## On this Day – April 20

**1889**

Adolf Hitler, the Nazi dictator of Germany who led his country into World War II and was responsible for persecuting millions of Jews, was born.

**1916**

The disguised German warship "Aud" is sunk while trying to land arms on the Irish coast.

## 1918

The Battle of the Lys, April 1918



## 1940

Danish Army demobilized.

## 1941

British forces in Greece retreat from Mt. Olympus. King George II heads new Greek government.

Greek forces in Albania surrender.

Luftwaffe launches raid on Athens and Piraeus, sinking five ships—heavy raids will continue for next three days. Riot between Sikhs and Muslims in Bombay, India leads to 400 casualties.

1942 An assassination attempt on Doriol, head of the French Fascists fails. Pierre Laval, the premier of Vichy France, in a radio broadcast, establishes a policy of “true reconciliation with Germany.”

In a reprisal for Resistance sabotage of German troop trains, the Germans execute thirty French hostages at Rouen. The next day, twenty more hostages are killed at St. Nazaire.

Adolf Hitler plans the German summer offensive, but the first priority is to remove the Barvenkovo salient in the Ukraine, which gives the Russian a springboard to retake Kharkov, or turn South and retake the Ukraine. General Friedrich Paulus, a tall, ascetic Prussian staff officer, draws up the plans for a panzer offensive to pinch out this salient. Amazingly, the Russian are simultaneously planning their own offensive out of the salient.

The US aircraft-carrier Wasp delivers 46 Spitfires to Malta as reinforcement, although such is the intensity of the axis air onslaught (9,599 sorties in April), that almost all these aircraft had been destroyed on the ground within 3 days.

German Jews are banned from using public transportation.

As a result of the Doolittle raid on Japan, the Japanese decide that Operation ‘Mi’ must take place as soon as possible, while plans to capture Samoa, Fiji and New Caledonia are to be postponed.

## **1942**

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## **1943**

The limited recruitment of women into the Home Guard is announced in Britain.

The Jewish uprising in Warsaw triggers a massive German response and initiates a month long massacre of the 60,000 Jews in the ghetto.

The Americans announce that their airmen captured in the ‘Doolittle Raid’ on Tokyo were beheaded by Japanese.

## **1944**

Colonel General Hans V. Hube, whose hard-charging aggressiveness on the Eastern Front had made him one of Hitler’s favourites, is killed when his plane crashes on takeoff from Berchtesgaden on the return trip to his command after offering the Fuhrer birthday greetings. Grief-stricken at losing such an outstanding commander, Hitler orders a state funeral for Hube in the Reich Chancellery in Berlin.

## **1945**

**38 Irish Brigade**, north of Argenta, Italy:

"The 20th started as a day of rest but, at 4pm, we got a message to form a bridgehead over the San Nicolo canal. These operations led to the decision for London Irish to enlarge their bridgehead."

Died on 20 Apr: Cpl Frederick Hipkin from Welling.

Adolf Hitler emerges momentarily from his underground bunker in Berlin to decorate a handful of child soldiers. It's one of the last times he'll be seen above ground alive.

The British Home Secretary says that 60,585 British civilians have died and 86,175 have been seriously injured in air attacks since outbreak of war.

The U.S. Seventh Army takes Nuremberg.

The U.S. Fifth Army reaches the Po river Plain in northern Italy as a German retreat to river ordered.

Russian artillery begins to shell Berlin. The Germans desperately counterattack both North and South of Frankfurt an der Oder. A Furious battles takes place at Sternbeck and Protzel.

In Czechoslovakia the Russian pressure increases at Moravska-Ostrava and Brno.



# Roll of Honour – April 20

*Representing their comrades who died on  
this day*

**1915**

**+ANDREWS, Robert**

2 RIR. Private. 5694. Died 20/04/1915. Aged 17. Born in Culcavey, he enlisted at Belfast. Son of Mrs. Alice J Andrews of 62 Mountjoy Street, Belfast. Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery, Voormezelle, Belgium

**+McARDLE, Patrick**

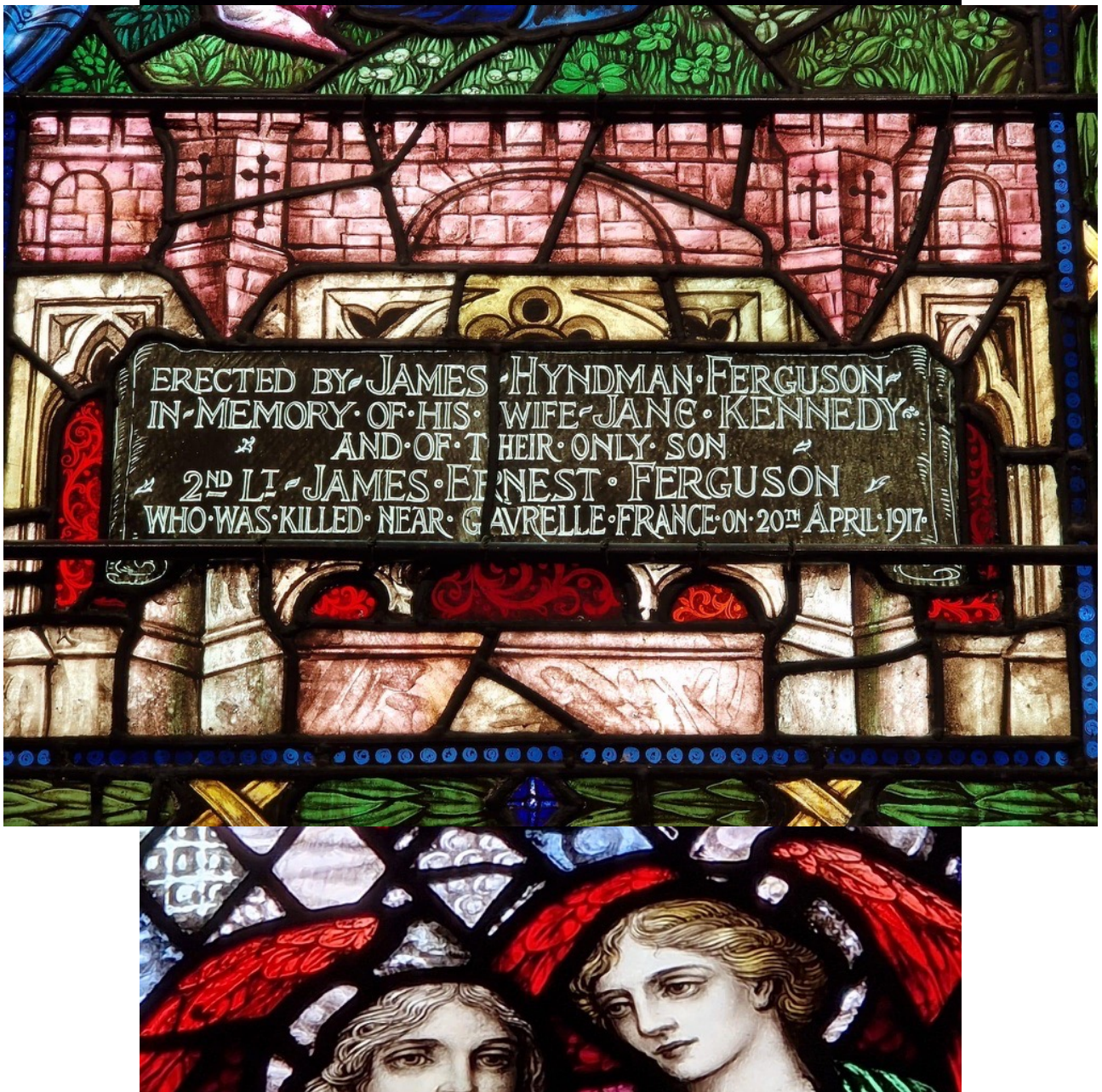
Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. B Coy. Private. Died 20/04/1915. Age 44. He disembarked in France 19/01/1915. Born in Keady, Co. Armagh. Son of the late Patrick and Margett McArdle (nee White). Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**1916**

**+GAVAN, Charles**

Royal Engineers. 1st/3rd Lowland Field Coy. Sapper. 5189. Died 20/04/1916. Age 15. Son of John and Christina Gavan, of Acton, Poyntzpass, Co. Armagh. He had three brothers and three sisters. Colchester Cemetery





From the stained glass window in St. John's commemorating 2nd Lieutenant **James Ernest Ferguson**, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, killed in action at the **Battle of Arras**, **20th April 1917**.

James' name is to be found on the **Arras Memorial**, alongside those of **34,798** of his comrades, from regiments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, South Africa, and New Zealand.

The insignia of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers is found at the top of the window in St. John's.

**Ferguson 2/Lt James Ernest** arrived 8 Dec and was taken on the strength of the battalion. Arras Memorial "killed in France on 20th April 1917, while leading the company and buried near **Gavrelle**, only son of James Hyndman and Jane Ferguson. "

He had served as a private (6780) in Royal Fusiliers 18<sup>th</sup> Btn prior to commissioning in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Regimental records state that at his death he was 4th. battalion, attached 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 1917

### **+BOYLE, Hugh**

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). 1st/7th Btn. Private. 265491. Died 20/04/1917. Age 23. Born Belfast. Son of Hugh and Sarah Boyle, of 13, Argowan St., South Side, Glasgow. Born at Belfast. Gaza War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

### **+HOWELL, Thomas**

Royal Field Artillery, 232nd Bde. C Bty. Driver. Died 20/04/1917. Age 24. Son of Mrs. Catherine Howell, of 30, Manderson St., Belfast. Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France

## **+MAYNE, Margaret**

Sister. Associate Royal Red Cross Medal. Served in the Great Eastern Hotel Hospital, Harwich where she died 20/04/1917. A British Red Cross Society list dated 1915, describes it as a Military Hospital staffed by Essex VAD, with Mr. Etherden as the Commandant. It provided beds for 110 other ranks. Margaret passed the qualifications of the Central Midwives Board in 1914 at Belfast Union Maternity Hospital. She worked as a Staff Nurse in the North Staffordshire Infirmary from 1907 until the outbreak of WW1. The London Gazette dates her ARRC as 23/02/1917. She died soon after in the second quarter 1917 in the Colchester registration district. Her award was sent on 22/05/17 to a woman who was presumably her mother, a Mrs. Mayne, Ballinamallard. A plaque to the memory of Margaret, who was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross Medal for her work, was placed in the Chapel of the North Staffordshire Infirmary. Since 2015, this plaque has been situated in the Atrium at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, UK.

## **+TURKINGTON, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 12/7538. Died 20/04/1917 at home from phthisis. Born Cogry 18/02/1896. Enlisted Belfast 18/06/1915. Between 16/07/1915 and 06/08/1915 he was in a convalescent hospital in Sleaford with pluerisy. He was discharged from the army in 03/01/1916 because he was no longer fit for war service. Son of Robert and Agnes (nee Adamson) Turkington of Cogry, Ballyclare WM. Kilbride C of I parish church RH

**1918**



### **+BOOTH, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 17/2354. Died 20/04/1918. Age 18. Son of William Thomas Booth, of 22, Lawyer St., Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

### **+BROWN, William Balfour**

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 1st Btn. Private. S/40125. Died 20/04/1918. Age 25. Brother of Miss Jennie Brown, of Ill, Rosebery Rd., Belfast. Loos Memorial, France

### **+BUNTING, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 12/17206. Died 20/04/1918. Enlisted Mossley. Born in Jordanstown 08/11/1887. Son of John and Jane (nee Elliott) Bunting. James and Mary Wallace married on 30/03/1909 in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. He was resident at 18 Sussex St., Belfast. In 1911 he was living with his wife and daughter in Wall St., Whiteabbey and working in the local mill. Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium

### **+HAMILL, Robert Herbert William**

4th (Queen's Own) Hussars. Corporal. 8792. Military Medal. Died 20/04/1918. Born 2 Smith St., Belfast 24/05/1890. Son of Elizabeth O'Hara, previously Hamill, nee Fitzsimmons, of 20 Abbey Gardens, Whiteabbey. Elisabeth remarried after the death of of Henry, Robert's father. Guise (La Desolation) French National Cemetery, Flavigny-Le-Petit, France

## **+MORROW, R**

Royal Engineers, 126th Field Coy. Sapper. Died 20/04/1918. Age 38. Husband to Mary Ann Morrow, of 24, Central St., Belfast. The Huts Cemetery, Belgium

## **+ROBB, Herbert**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 22804. Died 20/04/1918. Age 24. Worked as a labourer. Disembarked France 20/07/1910. Wounded at Kemmel, Ypres, in 1917 and died from his wounds. Son of Richard John and Martha Robb, of Abbey St., Armagh. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

## **1941**

## **+BAIRD, Joseph**

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 840236. Died 20/04/1941. Aged 25. Son of William and Elizabeth Baird, of Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. Oxford (Botley) Cemetery. Dungannon WM, Newmills Parish Church WM

## **+LITTLE, Edward**

Royal Artillery. 52 Lt. AA. Regt. 155 Bty. Sergeant. 821949. Died 20/04/1941. Age 30. Husband to Norah Little, Bessbrook. Athens Memorial, Greece. Bessbrook WM

## **+WOODS, James Arthur**

Royal Engineers, H Special Coy. Pioneer. 313004. Died 20/04/1918. Age 23. Son of James and Charlotte Woods, of Belfast. Pernes British Cemetery, France

**1942**

**+LEWIS, Joseph**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1108878. Died 24/04/1942. Aged 26.114  
Sqn. Son of Thomas and Anna Mary Lewis, of Lisburn.  
Runnymede Memorial, Panel 88

**1943**

**+BLACK, Ian Hamilton Lewis**

New Zealand Expeditionary Force, 21st Infantry Battalion.  
Private. 500907. Died 20/04/1943. Aged 27. Son of William  
James and Linda Jane Black of Otorohanga, Auckland, New  
Zealand. Ian was born about 1916. He was a school teacher  
before enlisting. He enlisted in Ngatea with the Second New  
Zealand Expeditionary Force and was sent to Tunisia. When  
enlisting, he named his wife, Iola Jessie Black as his next of  
kin. Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia. Moy WM

**+McCLUNEY, David Alexander**

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1065764. Died 20/04/1943. Aged  
21. Son of David and Agnes Craig McCluney, of Ballyclare,  
Co. Antrim. Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan

**+SMITH, Peter Tristan**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1290933. Died 21/04/1943. Age 21 61  
Sqn. He was the Navigator on Avro Lancaster W4795 when  
it took off from RAF Syerston, Nottinghamshire on a night  
time operation at 2127hrs on 20/04/1943. The Mark I  
bomber came down near "Renik Airfield" at around 0230hrs  
on 21/04/1943. Son of Leonard Francis and Lilian Elizabeth



Smith, of Bangor, Co. Down. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Charlottenburg, Germany

**1944**

**+AGNEW, James Thompson**

RAFVR. Flying Officer.155576. DFC. Died on 20/04/1944, aged 27. Educated at Belfast High School, Belfast, he joined the RAFVR in 1943. While with RAF 57 Squadron, he received a Distinguished Flying Cross on 10/12/1943. His citation stated the award was for:

*Valorous conduct during a series of operations over enemy territory, during which he showed great skill and fortitude.*

He was quoted in the Belfast Newsletter of 31/12/1943. "On the whole, I have been very lucky during my tour. Our aircraft has been hit only three times by flak but never seriously. We have escaped all the roving night fighters. The most exciting raid was the Peenemunde one, for although we were not actually attacked by a fighter, we knew that there were plenty of them about" he said.

While flying in Bomber Command with RAF 57 Squadron, James Agnew took part in raids over Peenemunde, Berlin, Nuremberg, Cologne, Friedrichshafen, Italy, and North Africa. James later flew with No.1655 Mosquito Training Unit from RAF Warboys, Huntingdonshire. He was the navigator on board De Havilland Mosquito DZ439. He died when the Mark IV plane crashed on take-off at 1115hrs coming down at Little Raveley, Huntingdonshire. A failed inlet valve in the port engine was the cause of the accident. Pilot Flying Officer Robert Davidson (146432) also died as a result of the crash.

Only son of James and Dorothy J. Agnew of 29 Bryansford Street, Belfast. His funeral took place on 27/04/1944. A local unit of the Royal Air Force attended as did two of his colleagues from England. Family Memorial, Dundonald Cemetery

**+KERR, Mark**

RAFVR.Flight-Sergeant.1795226. Died 20/04/1944. 236 Sqdn. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 219. QUB WM

**1945**

**+COLE, Norman**

RN. AB. D/JX 302541. HMS Renown. Died 20/04/1945. Age 22. He attended Drumgoose Public Elementary School, Portadown, Co. Armagh and also attended the local church and Sunday School. As a teenager, Norman worked for Messrs. Thomas Hyde and Sons in Mandeville Street, Portadown, Co. Armagh. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in September 1941 after turning 18 years old. While on active service he contracted an illness and the Royal Navy discharged him on medical grounds in July 1943. He died at Armagh Hospital, Tower Hill, Armagh. "He bore his final illness with great patience and was very cheerful up till the last week of his death." Portadown News – Saturday 28/04/1945.Son of William and Lucinda Cole, foster son of Teresa Symington, Portadown. Seagoe Cemetery. Portadown WM.

**+LOWDEN, George Henry Crawford,**

RNVR. FAA. Sub-Lieutenant (A). Died 20/04/1945. Age 22. HMS Gannet. Aircraft accident. Gannet was a Royal Naval Air station at Prestwick. Educated at Bangor Primary School

and Bangor Grammar School. Enrolled as early as he could in 1940. Completed course at Belfast Wireless College from which he was appointed to a RN cadetship as a wireless operator. After 18 months he transferred to Fleet Air Arm, training in England, Canada and USA in 1943. Involved in ferrying planes. Son of George and Jeannette Lowden, First Ave., Baylands, Bangor. Lee-on-Solent Memorial Bay

**+SUIISH, Samuel Alfred**

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 56536. Died 20/04/1945. Aged 39. 190 Sqn. Husband to Aileen Norah Suish of Hillsborough. Eglantine Parish Churchyard

**1947**

**+EDMONDS, John**

Royal Artillery. 9 HAA Regt. 5 Bty. Gunner.1469241. Died 20/04/1947. Aged 35. Son of David and Maria (née Magilton) Edmonds of Newtownards; Husband to Florence Edmonds of 62 Mill Street, Newtownwards. John Edmonds died at the home he shared with his wife. Newtownwards Cemetery, Movilla

**VETERANS**

**BICKERSTAFF, William**

WW2. Royal Artillery. 8th HAA Regt. Died 20/04/2016

**MARTIN, Edward (Teddy)**

Australian Imperial Force. Private/Bugler 3886. Teddy enlisted on 27/11/1915 in Sydney, New South Wales; he gave his age as 24 years although he was actually 31 years old.

Initially he was appointed to 9/19th Battalion (18/12/1915), then to 60th Battalion (15/03/1916), to 57th Battalion (04/01/1917), and finally to 5th Divisional Salvage Company (27/01/1917). He served in Egypt mainly at Tel El Kebir (15/03/1916 to 02/08/1916), and in France mainly in the Etaples and Rouen areas (31/12/1916 to 24/03/1917). He became seriously ill with pleurisy and bronchitis in May 1916 but was able to return to duty in July 1916.

His illnesses recurred in March 1917 and he was in hospital in France and England for over 4 months. He was returned to Australia and discharged as medically unfit on 30/10/1917. He re-enlisted (Service Number 92966) in Sydney on 20/07/1918 and joined D Company, Recruits, but was discharged in September 1918 as medically and permanently unfit for further military service.

Teddy was born on 20/04/1884. He had emigrated to Australia before the War and had been employed as a lift attendant.

His parents were Mr. William Martin (farmer) and Mrs. Mary Clara Martin (nee Samuels), Millbank House, Portstewart. His brother, Mr. Frank Martin, also lived at Millbank House and later became the Town Clerk of Portstewart.

He is commemorated on Portstewart's War Memorial and the Roll of Honour in Agherton Parish Church.

## **McNABNEY, John**

John served with the 36th Division Signals Company, Royal Engineers. He was awarded the Distinguish Conduct Medal, Military Medal with bar, 36th Ulster Division certificate and was Mentioned in Dispatches.

John was born in 1889 in Ballygelly and by the 1901 census the family were residing at 57 Moat Road, Ballymena. In 1914 the family were recorded as living at 9 Larne Street (where a plaque has been erected ). John signed the Ulster Covenant in September 1912. He was member of the Ballymena battalion of the Ulster Volunteer Force where he was trained as a signaller.

In September 1914 John and his brother enlisted together on the same day in the Royal Engineers. Both would survive the Great War. John served until his discharge in 1919.

John died on the 20/04/1940 at Polly Lane, Armagh and his remains interred in Armagh Presbyterian cemetery.

**Every day is a  
Remembrance Day**

***We will remember them***

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

**remembrance ni**

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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 [houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com](mailto:houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com)

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