



remembrance ni



The Rangoon Memorial

The Rangoon Memorial bears the names of almost 27,000 men of the Commonwealth land forces who died during the campaigns in Burma (now Myanmar) and who have no known grave.

The memorial stands in Taukkyan War Cemetery, which is the largest of the three war cemeteries in Burma. It was begun in 1951 for the reception of graves from four battlefield cemeteries at Akyab, Mandalay, Meiktila and

Sahmaw, which were difficult to access and could not be maintained. The last was an original 'Chindit' cemetery containing many of those who died in the battle for Myitkyina. The graves have been grouped together at Taukkyan to preserve the individuality of these battlefield cemeteries.

Burials were also transferred from civil and cantonment cemeteries, and from a number of isolated jungle and roadside sites. Because of prolonged post-war unrest, considerable delay occurred before the Army Graves Service were able to complete their work, and in the meantime many such graves had disappeared. However, when the task was resumed, several hundred more graves were retrieved from scattered positions throughout the country and brought together here.

The memorial was designed by Mr. H.J. Brown, ARIBA and unveiled by General Sir Francis Festing, GCB, KBE, DSO on 9 February 1958.

The cemetery now contains 6,374 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 867 of them unidentified.

Seven holders of the Victoria Cross

Seven holders of the Victoria Cross (VC) are interred at this site and the names of several (including five Indian VC holders) are inscribed on the Rangoon Memorial. The interred soldiers are:

- [Michael Allmand](#) (1923–1944), for action in Burma on June 23, 1944

- [Frank Gerald Blaker](#) (1920–1944), for action in Burma on July 9, 1944
- [George Albert Cairns](#) (1913–1944), for action in Burma on March 13, 1944
- [Charles Ferguson Hoey](#) (1914-1944), for action in Burma on February 16, 1944
- [George Arthur Knowland](#) (1922–1945), for action in Burma on January 31, 1945
- [Claud Raymond](#) (1923–1945), for action in Burma on March 21, 1945
- [William Basil Weston](#) (1924–1945), for action in Burma on March 3, 1945

Hard fought ground for the Inniskillings

Here follows an excerpt from the register at Rangoon Memorial. These are the records for those whose names begin with Mc.

McALEESE, Fusilier, JOHN, 6979130. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th - 19th April 1942. Age 27. Face 11.

McBRIDE, Drummer, GEORGE, 6977833. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 29th March 1942. Age 25. Son of Samuel and Rebecca McBride. Face 12.

McCABE, Fusilier, PATRICK, 6977706. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 19th April 1942. Age 27. Son of James McCabe, and of R. A. McCabe, of Armagh, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McCAFFERY, Fusilier, HUGH, 6979178. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 29th March 1942. Age 22. Son of William and Mary McCaffery. Face 11.

McCALLION, Fusilier, JOHN, 6979003. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th January 1943. Age 25. Face 11.

McCALLUM, Fusilier, JOSEPH MILLAR, 3134303. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th February 1943. Age 22. Face 11.



The Rangoon Memorial was featured in the series of stamps issue to mark the end of WW2

McCANDLESS, Fusilier, JAMES, 6979141. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 21st April 1942. Age 22. Son of William and Jane McCandless, of Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland. His brother George also fell. Face 11.

McCAULEY, Fusilier, PATRICK, 6977562. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 4th May 1942. Age 27. Face 11.

McCLOSKEY, Fusilier, DAVID JOHN, 6978777. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 30th March 1942. Age 22. Son of David McCloskey, and of Isobela McCloskey, of Killure, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McCLURE, Corporal, THOMAS, 6980474. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 13th April 1942. Age 24. Son of W. H. and Mary I. McClure. Face 11.

McCLUSKEY, Private, ANTHONY, 2824211. 1st Bn. Seaforth Highlanders. 24th April 1944. Age 27. Face 17.

McCLUSKEY, Fusilier, DANIEL, 6409648. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th February 1943. Age 35. Son of John and Frances McCluskey; husband of Elizabeth McCluskey, of Whitehall, Dublin, Irish Republic. Face 11.

McCONKEY, Corporal, HUGH, 6979164. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th January 1943. Age 30. Face 11.

McCONNELL, Major, SAMUEL BRITTON, 13070. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 19th April 1942. Face 11.

McCORMICK, Serjeant, JAMES STEELE, 1486896. Army Catering Corps attd. 1st Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool). 19th May 1944. Age 34. Son of

Joseph Samuel and Caroline McCormick; husband of Eileen McCormick, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Face 19.

McCULLOUGH, Fusilier, WILLIAM GEORGE, 4856805. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th January 1943. Age 25. Son of William and Mary McCullough, of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McCUNNIE, Fusilier, JAMES, 7012126. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th January 1943. Age 29. Face 11.

McDAID, Serjeant, WILLIAM JOHN, 6976534. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 29th March 1942. Age 30. Son of David and Annie McDaid. Face 11.

McDERMOTT, Fusilier, JOHN, 6979341. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th - 19th April 1942. Age 26. Son of Stephen and Emily McDermott, of Londonderry, Northern Ireland; nephew of Matilda McDermott, of Londonderry. Face 11.

McDONALD, Lance Corporal, JOSEPH EATON JOHNSTON, 4614119. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th - 19th February 1943. Age 25. Son of Joseph McDonald, and of Minnie McDonald, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McFADDEN, Fusilier, MANUS, 6976583. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 29th March 1942. Face 11.

McGARVEY, Fusilier, JOHN, 6981349. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th January 1943. Age 32. Face 11.

McGOLDRICK, Fusilier, JAMES, 6974194. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th April 1942. Age 39. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James McGoldrick, of Waterside, Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McGRATH, Fusilier, MICHAEL GERARD, 6984205. 1st Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers formerly Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th March 1944. Age 21. Son of Thomas and Margaret McGrath, of Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Face 9.

McILROY, Fusilier, OWEN, 7013152. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th - 7th January 1943. Age 23. Husband of Mary McIlroy, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McKEE, Lieutenant, IAN ERNEST COOTE, 156444. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers formerly of Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). 18th April 1942. Age 21. Son of the Revd. Dr. E. J. McKee, C.F., and of Mrs. M. G. McKee, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McMANUS, Fusilier, MICHAEL, 6978068. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 25th April 1942. Age 25. Son of Andrew and Mary McManus, of Roslea, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McMANUS, Fusilier, TERENCE, 6979762. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th - 19th April 1942. Age 28. Son of Terence and Kathrine McManus, of Derrybrusk, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

McVEIGH, Fusilier, PATRICK ALEXANDER, 6978380. 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 18th January 1943. Age 26. Son of John and Margaret McVeigh, of Brantry, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Face 11.

Roll of Honour

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+CAMPBELL, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 5414. Died 21/04/1915. Age 36. Nineteen years' service. Served in the South African Campaign. Native of Ballyworkan, Portadown. Son of Thomas and Martha Campbell, of 20, Hollycroft Avenue, Bloomfield, Belfast. Nineteen years' service. Le Touquet-Paris Plage Communal Cemetery, France

1916

+BRADSHAW, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9355. Died 21/04/1916. Age 23. Son of Mrs. Margaret Belshaw, of 47, Broadbent St., Old Lodge Rd., Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

+HAMILL, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 20th Btn. Rifleman. 11/3736. Died 21/04/1916 in the Military Hospital, Belfast from pneumonia. Age 19. Born 11/05/1896 at Taylorstown, Ballyscullion. Son of John and Nancy Hamill, of Taylorstown, Toomebridge. They were a farming family. Alexander was one of eight sons, with seven surviving. His brother Shepherd Hamill also died in service 03/09/1915 aged 16 of illness at home during the war and both share the same grave. Grange Corner Presbyterian Churchyard. Grange Presbyterian Church WM

+HENDERSON, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Rifleman. 5835. Died 21/04/1916. Age 19. Son of William and Mary Eliza Henderson, of 6, Finlay St., Ligoniel, Belfast. Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France

1917

+KERR, William

Royal Scots, 9th Btn. Private. 352450. Died 21/04/1917. Age. Son of Alexander and Sarah Kerr, of Skerry East, Newtown Crommelin, Co Antrim. Arras Memorial, France

+McBURNEY, William

Royal Engineers, Training Centre (Newark). Sapper. 57696. Died 21/04/1917. Age 41. Son of John and Sarah Busby McBurney, of Belfast; husband of Martha McBurney of 46, Fife St., Shore Rd., Belfast. Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds

+WILSON, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. B Coy. Private. 10349. Died 21/04/1917. Age 24. Son of Mrs. Annie Wilson, of 20, Roseberry Gardens, Belfast, and the late W. Wilson. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

1918

+McILROY, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. M M. 19878. Died 21/03/1918 as a result of being gassed. Aged 22. Thomas McIlroy was born in Maghera. Prior to enlisting Thomas lived in Upperlands and worked at William Clark & Sons Ltd. In 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal (M.M.) as a result of his bravery during the Battle of Cambrai. St Souplet British Cemetery, Le Cateau, Nord, France

+MOORE, S

Royal Engineers, 63rd Field Coy. Driver. 25832. Died 21/04/1918. Age 23. Born at Ballynahinch. Son of Hugh and Mary Moore, of 7, Belmont St., Woodstock Rd., Belfast. La Clytte Military Cemetery, Belgium

+NELSON, Robert B

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. 8/13357. Rifleman. Died 21/04/1918. Age 24. Born Whiteabbey 13/07/1893. Enlisted Belfast. Son of William and Margaret (nee Barnes) Nelson, of 6, New St., Ballyhackamore, Belfast. Bard Cottage Cemetery, Belgium

+WHITE, Cecil Godfrey

Royal Air Force, 53rd Sqdn. and Royal Field Artillery. Captain. Military Cross. Died 21/04/1918. Age 26. Son of Dr. Robert Godfrey White, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., and Minnie Moore White, of Lonsdale, Strandtown, Belfast. Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Belgium

+WILLIAMSON, Thomas John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Lance Corporal. 19450. Died 21/04/1918. Age 22. Son of James and Hannah Williamson, of Clintyfollow, Greystone, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Canada Farm Cemetery, Belgium

1941

+BROWN, Patrick

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 2/23. Btn. Private. VX.26172. Died 05/04/1941. Aged 39. Son of William and Ann Jane Brown, of Londonderry. Alamein Memorial, Egypt, Column 92

1942

+GIBSON, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Fusilier. 6978597. Died 21/04/1942. There is a J Gibson, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, on the Tobermore War Memorial. This is thought to be the best fit. Fusilier Joseph Gibson has no known grave and is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial in Myanmar (Burma).

+McCANDLESS, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6979141. Died 21/04/1942. Aged 22. Son of William and Jane McCandless, of Coleraine. His brother George also fell. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar (Burma).

+MULHOLLAND, William James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 5250596. Died 21/04/1942. Age 24. Son of Joseph and Rosanna Mulholland, of Lisburn. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar (Burma).

1943

+SMITH, Peter Tristan

RAFVR. 61 Sqdn. Sergeant (Navigator). 1290933. Died on 21/04/1943. Aged 21. Navigator on Avro Lancaster W4795 when it took off from RAF Syerston, Nottinghamshire on a night time operation at 2127hrs on 20th April 1943. The Mark I RAF 61 Squadron bomber crashed near "Renik Airfield" at around 0230hrs on 21/04/1943 and all on board were killed. Born on 31/03/1922 in Romford, Essex. Son of Leonard Francis Sampson Smith and Lilian Elizabeth Smith (nee Brooker) of Bangor, Co. Down. They had four children. Berlin 1939 - 1945 War Cemetery, Germany

+MONAGHAN, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal.7014323. Died 21/04/1945.Aged 24. He was born in 1920 at 12 Baker Street, Belfast. Husband to Margaret Monaghan of 39 East Street, Belfast. Argenta Gap War Cemetery, Italy.

VETERAN

LINDSAY, Frederick John

North Irish Horse. Corporal. Frederick John Lindsay wasborn on 21/02/1876 at Drumlamph, Bellaghy, County Londonderry, the second of six children of farmer Stewart Lindsay and his wife Nancy (nee Hutchinson). Frederick grew up at Drumlamph and worked there on the family farm. His older brother Creighton Hutchinson Lindsay and sister Anna Sarah became medical practitioners.

Lindsay enlisted in the North Irish Horse between 29 October and 16 November 1912 (No.753). He embarked for France on 21 August 1914 with C Squadron, seeing action on the retreat from Mons and advance to the Aisne.

In April 1915 Lindsay sustained a severe bullet wound to his leg. He was evacuated to the UK for treatment. The Mid-Ulster Mail of 10 July reported that:“Corporal Fred Lindsay, North Irish Horse, and Sergeant Clement Hueston, 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers, who are now convalescent, visited their homes at Islandburn and Grovehill respectively this week”.

Whether Lindsay saw any further service in France is not known at present. On 31/01/1918 he was transferred to

the Army Service Corps (No. T/40579) with the rank of transport corporal.

Lindsay died at his home, Portmore House, Portstewart, on 21/04/1963. Corporal Lindsay's older brother, Creighton, also served in the war, in the Royal Army Medical Corps, reaching the rank of colonel. He was awarded a CMG and DSO and was twice mentioned in despatches.



April 1918 - Queen's University professor had to determine cause of death of the Red Baron

Thomas Sinclair, Professor of Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, in April 1918, found himself at the centre of one of the major incidents of the First World War, namely determining the cause of the death of the most famous and deadliest German fighter pilot, Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron.

Kansas University Medical Center states - In July 1917 The Red Baron crashed in Belgium after being attacked by Captain Donald Cunnell of The Royal Flying Corps, sustaining a severe head injury, likely a skull fracture. In spite of blurred consciousness and visual compromise he had managed to land his plane. Over several months he

flew occasionally and had several operations to remove bone splinters from his head wound.

He suffered headaches and a distinct change in his personality which persisted until his death. Against medical advice he returned to regular flying with his group in October of 1917 downing 18 planes until his death six months later.

At the time of his death he had downed 80 planes in all. He was the leading air ace of WW-I followed by René Fonck of France with 75 confirmed kills and Billy Bishop of Canada with 72. Both Fonck and Bishop lived on long after the war, each dying in the 1950s.

Von Richthofen met his end on 21 April 1918 in somewhat unusual circumstances. While pursuing a Canadian pilot with little experience and at a very low altitude (Lieutenant Wilfrid May) he was chased away by a seasoned Canadian pilot (Captain Arthur Brown) who dived steeply and fired at him before climbing to avoid crashing into the ground. The Baron resumed his pursuit of May but shortly, facing concentrated fire from Australian troops on the ground, he made a rough landing in a field near The Somme River. The soldiers, who had fired on his plane from the ground, got to his wrecked red Fokker triplane quickly and may or may not have heard his last words which, allegedly, included the word kaput. Exact accounts of damage to his plane by gunfire - before it was dismantled by soldiers seeking souvenirs - are not to be found.

His body was taken to an Australian Flying Corps hangar at Poulainville, washed by a corpsman, and shortly examined

by at least four medical officers. The body was not opened.

An entrance wound and an exit wound were superficially identified and probed with a fence wire. Subsequent reports by two of these men - one a colonel and the other a captain - are not congruent. The most plausible conclusion of the several viewings of his body, immediately and a bit later, suggest that a single bullet entered von Richthofen's right lateral chest, passed through his right lung and heart, and exited through his left chest. Before the red Fokker airplane was scavenged some thought that a single bullet hole on the right side of the cockpit lined up with his chest entry and exit wounds.

His body was buried on 22 April in a village churchyard near Amiens, France, after a military funeral conducted by Commonwealth forces. The myths and mystique associated with Manfred von Richthofen and his death resulted in immediate and continuing fascination by the press and other media.

Captain Arthur Brown received a bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross but not the Victoria Cross, earlier allegedly promised by Britain for the man who killed The Red Baron.

In spite of many claimants no Australian soldier received any decoration for causing von Richthofen's end. The best scenario for the death of von Richthofen gives credit to Sergeant Cedric Popkin of the 24th Machine Gun Company of the First Australian Imperial Force who fired his Vickers machine gun at the red Fokker DR1 triplane as it banked to the left and fled to avoid fire from Lewis guns manned by Robert Buie and Snowy Evans. It can be assumed that the flying skills of The Red Baron were quite intact on 21

April for he had downed two enemy planes just the day before. There was no glamour in trench warfare and precious few heroes. By contrast aerial warfare was the stuff of gallant knights of the air dueling in single combat far above the mud, misery, and mortality of the trenches far below them.

That Baron von Richthofen was almost surely brought to his death barely above these trenches by a plucky Australian machine gunner remains a great irony of The Great War.

<https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/academics/departments/history-and-philosophy-of-medicine/archives/wwi/essays/biography/red-baron.html>

On this day

21st Apr 1945, 38 (Irish) Brigade, north of Argenta, Italy:

"The object of our operation was to form a deep bridgehead over this canal. The Skins were to be on the right, the Faughs on the left.

"It was an achievement of the highest order that they were in a position to launch this attack by 0130 hrs..."

2 Innisks – GOMI:

0100 A barrage of 400 guns opened up.

0132 D Coy reported medium guns falling short.

0200 At this time, it was reported that C Coy had also suffered many casualties by own barrage.

Died on 21 April:

L/Sgt Robert Sharman, Wealdstone

Fus Kenneth Biggs, Mansfield

Fus Patrick Essling, Notting Hill

Fus William Emmerson, Liverpool

Cpl Charles Cornwall, Liverpool

L/Cpl Clifford Barron, Sheffield

L/Cpl Robert Monaghan

Fus George Horton, Islington

Sgt John Geoghegan MM, Wicklow

Fus David Burrell

Fus Robert Roberts, Buckley

Fus Alexander Wyllie, Southwark

Fus Alfred Robinson, Dartford

Fus Stanley Furmage, Kentish Town

Fus Alfred Standish, Mitcham

Fus Albert Tilson, Millwall

L/Cpl Albert Packham, Brixton

Fus David Burrell

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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Sgt John Geoghegan MM, Wicklow

Fus David Burrell

Fus Robert Roberts, Buckley

Fus Alexander Wyllie, Southwark

Fus Alfred Robinson, Dartford

Fus Stanley Furmage, Kentish Town

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