



remembrance ni



Ramleh war cemetery

Roll of Honour

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+ARMSTRONG, Michael Richard Leader

Royal Engineers, 150th Field Coy. Second Lieutenant. Died 22/04/1916. Age 27. B.A. (Mechanical Science Tripos Trinity College, Cambridge). Son of Henry Bruce Armstrong and Margaret Armstrong, of Deans Hill, Armagh. Authuille Military Cemetery, France. Armagh WM

+CLAYTON, William Ernest Arthur

Cheshire Regiment, 1th Btn. 2nd Lieutenant. On the evening of 13/04/1916, he was seriously wounded by a shell fragment and died from his wounds on 22/04/1916. Son of the Rev. William John Clayton (Methodist Minister), of Downpatrick. He had been a boarder at Methodist College, Belfast. He entered the Bank of Ireland and was posted to the Donegall-place branch, Belfast. After two years he was promoted and sent to Portadown. On the declaration of war by Germany he joined the QUB OTC, through which he received a commission on 11/12/1914. Merville Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

+HAMILTON, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th Btn. Private. 15575. Died 22/04/1916. Age 20. Son of Mrs. H. Hamilton, of 19, Upper Violet St., Waterside, Londonderry. Claudy New Cemetery

+JOHNSTON, David Andrew

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 252104. Died 22/04/1916. Age 24. Son of William and Jane Johnston, of Colaghty Lach, Co. Fermanagh. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille. France

+McBRIDE, William and “The Green Fields of France”

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 12/23965. Died 22/04/1916. Age 20. The name William McBride is familiar to many people the world over thanks to its use in the song “No Man’s Land” (also often known as “The Green Fields of France”), written in the 1970s by singer/songwriter Eric Bogle.

Private William McBride was born on 23/09/1895 in Racarbry/Rathcarbery, Keady, Co. Armagh to Joseph and Lina. In 1901, six-year-old William can be found living with his five siblings and parents in Racarbry. Eight years later, on 13/04/1908, a significant event was to occur in the McBride family. William’s father, Joseph died aged sixty-eight in Roughan. Sadly, he did not live to see his seventh child, Margaret, who was born a month after his death. Two years later, in 1911, the McBride family can be found on the census still in Roughan, however, William and older brother, Thomas are not to be found with the family.

William and Thomas are living in Cavan, their occupations recorded as salesmen. Before joining the Army, William served his time in the shoe trade, firstly as an apprentice in Eakins, Cootehill. He then went to Irvinestown for a short time before moving to Allingham’s, North Street, Belfast.

William McBride enlisted in the 9th Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1915. Just nine months later, on April 22/04/1916, he fell on the field of battle. In writing to William's mother, Lina, 2nd Lieutenant John Kelly of the 9th Inniskillings wrote: 'I need not tell you how much we miss your son, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that I had recommended him to my company commander for bravery in carrying a message under very heavy shell fire on the night of March 10. "You may rest assured that he died in a manner which will always to be an example to his comrades, doing their duty.' Private William McBride's grave is in Authuille Military Cemetery in northern France.

+NELSON, Matthew

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. B Coy. Corporal. 13944. Died 22/04/1916. Age 27. Son of Thomas and Jane Nelson, of 39, New St., Sion Mills; husband of Isabella Mary Nelson, of 11, New St., Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

1917

+McGEARY, P

Royal Field Artillery, 34th Bde. C Bty. Gunner. 80855. Died 22/04/1917. Called up with the Special Reserve on the outbreak of war. Born in Coalisland area 07/03/1881. Son of Peter and Bridget McGeary. One of eight siblings born in the Coalisland area. Husband to Phoebe (nee Hall) McGeary of Leith, Scotland. They had two children. Albuera Cemetery, Bailleul-Sire-Berthoult, France

+MURRAY, Edward

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). 1st/7th Btn. Lance Corporal. 292477. Died between 22/04/1917 and 25/04/1917. Born at Sion Mills. Enlisted Armagh. Disembarked in France on 14/07/1917. Effects left to Miss Ellen Murray of Sion Mills. Athies Communal Cemetery Extension, France

1918

+CARGILL, George Roulston

RN. Stoker 1st Class. SS109513. HMS Gaillardia. Died 22/03/1918. Aged 25. Took part in the naval operations in connection with the landing at Gallipoli. HMS Gaillardia was an Aubretia Class Convoy Sloop, 1,250 tons, 17 knots, 92 crew and was built with mercantile appearances and used as Q-ship. On 22/03/1918, in the North Sea, off the Orkney Islands she was carrying out buoying operations in the newly-laid Northern Barrage between Scotland and Norway aimed at interrupting the passage of U-boats into the North Atlantic, when she was blown up and sunk by one of the barrage mines. Although most sources put her loss down to mines, at least one suggests she was torpedoed. At time of death he had a brother on active service in France. Possibly a member of Clooney Hall Methodist Church. Born Londonderry 21/11/1891. Son of George Roulston Cargill and Emma Cargill, Moore St., Waterside, Londonderry. Chatham Naval Memorial. Londonderry, The Diamond WM. ADM 188/1115/109513

+SMYTH, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 12/3375. Died 22/04/1918. Age 24. Son of Margaret Hamilton of Rathkenny, Co. Antrim. UK Book of Remembrance



A look back to when HM QUEEN ELIZABETH attended the unveiling of the CWGC's Ottawa Memorial, which commemorates over 800 Commonwealth service personnel, on 1 July 1959.

1918

+HOLLAND, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 27777. Died 22/04/1918. Age 23. From N Ireland. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

1919

+CUNNINGHAM, C

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Sergeant. 19240. Died 22/04/1919. Dundonald Cemetery

+HYLANDS, Thomas

King's (Liverpool Regiment), 27th Btn. Private. 111967. Died 22/04/1919 Larne connection

1940

HMS PELICAN

HMS Pelican (L86) was an Egret-class sloop, built for the Royal Navy. She was active during WW2 and was a successful anti-submarine warfare vessel, being credited with the destruction of four U-boats. In April 1940 Pelican took part in the Norwegian Campaign and was Badly damaged in an air raid off Narvik.

+BEGGS, Ernest

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 20662. HMS Pelican. Died 22/04/1940. Age 21. Three years in service. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 04/05/1940). Son of James and Margaret Jane Beggs, of Mile Bush, Carrickfergus. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 37

+WALLACE, William John

Assistant Steward. C/LX 22917. Died 22/04/1940. HMS Pelican. Formerly in HMS Dragon. Before joining the service he worked for Star Yeast Company, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1940). Son of William John Wallace, Chater St., Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial Panel 39

1943

+BARNES, John Brian Hamilton

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Flying Instructor). 120407. Died 22/04/1943 in a flying accident. Age 26. Armagh Royal School. Played for Ireland at rugby and played regularly for the gentlemen of Ireland at cricket. Son of Robert and Martha Barnes English St., Armagh; husband to Kathleen Barnes, of Armagh. A son was born shortly before his father's death. St Mark's (C of I) Churchyard, Armagh

+HOBBS, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Sergeant. 7044982. Died 22/04/1943 in the assault on Hill 622 and Butler's Hill. Age 31. Son of Robert James Hobbs and Elizabeth Hobbs, of Belfast; husband to Violet Hobbs, of Belfast. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

+MARTIN, Robert Hamilton McKee

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 127827. Died 22/04/1943. Aged 30. 52 Sqdn. Campbell College. B.A.(Hons.) TCD. Trinity College, Cambridge, 1937. Irish rugby trial 1938. Assistant District Commissioner Basutoland, 1938-1940. Son of The

Revd. Hamilton Martin and Ina C. Martin, Belfast. Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
1945

+MONAGHAN, Robert

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

+NEILL, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th (Home Defence) Btn.
Sergeant. 6972028. Died 22/04/1945 of illness while in
service at Southend General Hospital in Essex. Aged 51. He
was employed as a mill worker prior to serving in WW1. He
later married and they had six children. William Neill re-
enlisted once more with the 5th (Home Defence) Battalion,
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers on 05/08/1940. Eldest son of
William and Jane Neill, of Cookstown and husband to
Elizabeth Neill, of Gortin. Cookstown New Cemetery.

VETERANS

ARMSTRONG, James Harold

RAF. MCB. BA, TCD 1949. Born 22/04/1921. Son of James
Armstrong, Ballygomartin Rd., Belfast. Postwar Civil Service
NI. Holywood

LEIGHTON, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Battalion. He volunteered for active service in September 1914, aged 20 years; before enlisting he was a member of the Portstewart Company, Coleraine Battalion, North Derry Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force. He served in France, was wounded on two occasions and was discharged from the Army in August 1918 after losing the sight of an eye. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Leighton, Bellemont, Portstewart. For many years after the War William operated a market garden at Queenora Gardens, Portstewart. He was living in Bangor when he died on 22/04/1971 and his remains buried in Clandeboye Cemetery, Bangor. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Agherton Parish Church.

Every Day is a Remembrance Day
We will remember them

On this day

22/04/1915 - The Second Battle of Ypres begins with much of the town of Ypres (leper) largely destroyed.

The German advance is checked by the Canadians after the French/Colonials retreat in panic before the attack and first use of poisonous gas by the Germans.

22/04/1943, 38 (Irish) Brigade north of Medjez-el-Bab in Tunisia: "1945 - Artillery begin barrage on Heidous, Sandy Ridge, Tanngoucha, Pt 622 and Longstop preparatory to

large scale attack by 78 Division...” Two years of bitter struggle still lay ahead for the men of the Irish Brigade.. FAB.

22/04/1945, 38 (Irish) Brigade. Brigadier Pat Scott: “11 Brigade passed through the ‘Kangaroo Army’ to attack towards the Po di Volano. We had a rest & the battalions had certainly earned it. It had been a very tough battle under very difficult circumstances & everyone had done magnificently..”

1951 The Battle of the Imjin River, Korea

Remembering today the Royal Ulster Rifle's and other regiments who took part in The Battle of the Imjin River, also known as the Battle of Solma-ri or Battle of Gloster Hill in South Korea. On the 22nd to 25th April 1951 during the Korean War (The Forgotten War)

The Royal Ulster Rifles were the spearhead battalion of the British 29th Brigade, Britain's strategic reserve which was committed to the Korean campaign.

On 22nd April, the 29 Brigade found themselves in a central salient along the United Nations line which was dug in at the Imjin River, just north of Seoul, with the main body of US forces to their right. The Chinese Army seemed to have melted away and routine patrols could not find them. In fact, the clever Chinese tactics of using camouflage concealed the fact that some 300,000 troops were massed for an assault.

The attack, launched on 22nd April, was designed to overwhelm the UN forces, surround and destroy the main US force, and take Seoul for a third and final time. Stretched supply lines and limited motorised transport meant the Chinese 63rd and 64th Armies had about six days to do this.

The Chinese attack when it came was a complete surprise to UN forces and the RUR found themselves in a vicious fight, along with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Gloucestershire Regiment (the Glosters) and a Belgium battalion, all bearing the weight of the main Chinese thrust South.

As the 29th Brigade pulled back in a fighting retreat on 25th April to a blocking position which they then held, the Glosters were isolated on a hill top and annihilated by wave after wave of Chinese troops (some 622 of 650 were lost, either dead, wounded or missing; 34 would die in captivity).

The stout resistance of the 29th Brigade, along with the Belgium troops, allowed the main US force to extricate itself and move south, avoiding the pincher movement that would have sealed victory for the Chinese and disaster for the UN forces.

US General Ridgeway, as UN Commander, responded with all the enormous firepower at his disposal, including naval artillery. Inflicting serious losses on the 63rd Chinese Army (perhaps 10,000 or one third of its fighting force) Now with its supplies exhausted, was stopped five miles short of Seoul.

The UN had withstood the largest massed attack by a communist army since the Soviet capture of Berlin in 1945. It was the last decisive action of the Korean War. Though the War would drag on in often heavy skirmishing along the 38th parallel until 1953, Seoul and the Republic of Korea were saved at the battle of Imjin River.

Today, the RUR lives on as the Royal Irish Regiment and the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars as the Queen's Royal Hussars

We Will Remember Them
Quis Separabit

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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