



remembrance ni



Promotion for key players at Jutland

In 1919 Admirals Jellicoe and Beatty (above) were both promoted to Admiral of the Fleet. They were both CinC of the Royal Navy Grand Fleet during WW1 and both key players at Jutland and their contributions have been under discussion since.

On this Day – April 3

1915 Belfast Newsletter

The Sergeants Mess of the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers had held a very successful smoking evening in their mess at Shane's Castle, Randalstown. Lt Col Ricardo DSO and other officers attended. Toasts included 'Our comrades at the front'

1915 Belfast Newsletter

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Leader

Major John Leader, who is promoted to the command of the 16th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (2nd County Down Battalion) is a native of the South of Ireland. He formerly belonged to the Bedfordshire Regiment, having obtained his first commission on 5th September, 1896. He served in the South African War and took part



Lieutenant Colonel John Leader

in the operations in the Orange Free State, and in Cape Colony, south of the Orange River, including the actions at Colesberg. He wears the Queen's medal with two clasps. Lieutenant-Colonel Leader, who was posted to the 16th Battalion R.I.R. in November last, has taken a prominent part in the recruiting campaign, and is very popular with the men who are serving under him at Lurgan.

1918

Ulster Division - The 107th are now on route to Ten Elms Camp in the Poperinghe area, little do they know as they travel to Second Corps area, orders are being drawn up for the Division to take over the line North East of Ypres

1919

Admirals Jellicoe (below) and Beatty were both promoted to Admiral of the Fleet. They were both CinC of the Royal Navy Grand Fleet during WW1 and both key players at Jutland and their contributions have been under discussion since.



1940

War Cabinet reshuffle, Churchill to chair committee directing general war policy.

Soviets begin massacre of 20,000 Polish officers in Katyn Forest.

The United States Congress cuts military spending 10 percent and refuses to fund heavy bombers as “aggressive weapons.”

1941

Hungarian Prime Minister Pál Teleki commits suicide rather than collaborate with Germany.

In Iraq, military officer Rashid Ali overthrows Regent Abdul Illah and forms pro-Axis government.

1942

Japanese aircraft bomb Mandalay in central Burma, killing 2,000. They met no opposition from the RAF as all its aircraft had by now been withdrawn to India.

The final Japanese offensive on Bataan begins with a five hour artillery and air bombardment, after which the Japanese launch infantry attacks supported by some tanks, which allows them to make penetrations in to US-Filipino defensive positions.

United States Navy Task Force 39 arrives at Scapa Flow to cover the Murmansk and Mediterranean runs, the first unit of the US Atlantic Fleet in British waters.

3 April 1942 (Easter Friday) SS men shot 11 Polish prisoners at the Death Wall located on the yard of Block 11

which was the prison of the German Auschwitz camp. When SS men ordered them to undress, Jan Murek started singing patriotic and religious songs. Before being taken outside to



be shot he started singing a song, 'God Forbid'. He was brutally beaten. He died shouting 'Poland Is Not Yet Lost' (First line of Polish national anthem).

1944

Forty-two Royal Navy, fleet Air Arm Barracuda torpedo-bombers from the British aircraft carriers HMS Victorious and Furious hit the Battleship Tirpitz 14 times in a daring raid on the Alten Fjord, in Norway.

1945

The British Second Army reaches Munster; the U.S. Ninth Army captures Recklinghausen in the Ruhr, while the US First Army takes Fulda and Kassel.

Thousands of prisoners of Buchenwald concentration Camp were forced to evacuate and march away from the Allied advance.

The Austrian resistance leader Major Szokoll and Russian military authorities confer about co-operation on the Russian offensive against Vienna.

The 2nd Ukrainian front advances close to Vienna. The Russians breaches the German defensive lines between Wiener Neustadt and Neusiedler lake. Hard fighting continues as the Red Army advances towards Bratislava.

British commandos secure islands in Lake Comacchio, Italy.

MacArthur is appointed as C-in-C of land forces in the Pacific.

Admiral Nimitz is appointed as C-in-C of all naval forces in the Pacific.



Roll of Honour – April 3

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

1915

+BINGHAM, J

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4945. Died 03/04/1915 by a sniper. Age 22. Brother of Rifleman Robert Bingham 1st Btn. RIR who died 09/05/1915. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bingham, of 2, Johnson's Row, Lurgan. White House Cemetery, St Jean Les Ypres, Belgium

+FOSTER, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 4424. Died 03/04/1915. Aged 35. Born Slatmore, Clogher about 1876. Samuel was a farm labourer. Samuel Foster enlisted in Omagh. Husband of Maggie Foster, of Ballymagowan, Clogher, Co. Tyrone. Boulougne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Clogher WM, St Macartan's Cathedral, tablet

+SEAWRIGHT, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8738. Died 03/04/1915. Age 25. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Seawright, of Belfast. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

1916

+ANDERSON, Thomas

Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1 Btn. Private. 19554. Died 03/04/1916. Born in Drumbo, Co. Down, he lived in Carryduff, Co. Down, enlisted at Mauchline, Ayrshire. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+BLACK, David Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Serjeant. 15318. Died 03/04/1916. Londonderry links - in memoriam notice. Authuile Military Cemetery, Authuile, France

+HALL, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 14260. Died 03/04/1916 at Hamel. Age 20. Killed by a shell bursting. It wounded 11 others two of whom would die of wounds later. Private Hall was the first of the Tandragee Volunteers to be killed in action. In 1911 James was working as a shop assistant for Samuel J Barr, Tandragee. Son of Edward and Elizabeth Hall, of Clare, Tandragee, Co. Armagh. Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France. Tandragee WM. Ballymore Parish Church WM

+KELLY, Henry Mitchell

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 1st/6th Btn. Private. 3261. Died 03/04/1916. Age 24. Born Castlecaulfield. Worked as a draper in Dungannon. He was living in Coleraine when he enlisted. Son of John and Rebecca Kelly, of Mochan, Castlecaulfield. Maroeuil British Cemetery, France. Dungannon WM. Lower Cloonaneese Presbyterian Church, Castlecaulfield RH

1917

+HARMES, A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 25743. Died 03/04/1917. Age 33. Son of John Frederick Harmes, of 65, Aberdeen St., Belfast, and the late Isabella Harmes. Savy British Cemetery, France

1918

+ANDERSON, Thomas

Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1 Btn. Private. 19554. Died 03/04/1916. Born in Drumbo, Co. Down, he lived in Carryduff, Co. Down, enlisted at Mauchline, Ayrshire. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+BIGGART, William

North Irish Horse. 2nd Regiment. Trooper. 1932. And Royal Irish Fusiliers. Died 03/04/1918 as a prisoner of war. Born on 28/05/1895 at Bendooragh, Ballymoney, the fifth of nine children of farmer John Biggart and his wife Mary Ann (nee McNeill). His twin brother John died just 28 days later. In 1911 he was still living at Bendooragh with his family, and was working as a tailor. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim on 19/11/1915 (No.1932). He embarked for France on 3 August the following year, where he was posted to the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment. He joined his unit in the field at Flesselles on 11 August.

In September 1917 the 2nd 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, Biggart was transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers on 20 September and soon after posted to the 9th (Service) Battalion – renamed the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion. He was issued regimental number 41388 and posted to A Company. He probably saw action with the battalion during the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917.

Biggart was one of the many of the 9th Battalion listed as missing following the retreat from St Quentin from 21 to 28/03/1918 during the German spring offensive. In fact he had been captured, suffering from wounds to his stomach and thigh, probably at the action near Erches on 27 March. He died on 03/04/1918 and was buried by his German captors, according to a Red Cross report, "on the left of a village street near the western exit of Parvillers".

It was some time before Biggart's family learned of his fate. A report in the *Northern Whig* of 04/10/1918 stated: Mr. John Biggart, Bendooragh, Ballymoney, has received official intimation that his son, Trooper Wm. Biggart, Irish Horse, previously reported wounded in the leg and missing, has died in a German hospital. Private Biggart's younger brother, Rifleman John Biggart of the 14th Btn, Royal Irish Rifles, was killed in action at the Battle of Langemarck on 16/08/1917, aged 19. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.

+BREEN, James

South African Infantry, 4th Regt. Private. 15792. Died 03/04/1918 of wounds whilst a prisoner of war. Aged 28. Son of Mary Breen, of Froughmore, Clogher, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, and the late John Breen. Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Clogher WM, St Macartan's Cathedral, tablet

+COY, Charles

Lancashire Fusiliers, 15th Btn. Private. 235386. Died 03/04/1918. On his 37th birthday. The eldest of five children. Son of John and Eliza Coy, of Rossmore, Lissan, Cookstown. Quesnoy Farm Military Farm, Bucquoy, Pas-de-Calais, France. Cookstown WM

+DONNELLY, David

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Bn. 29973 Private. Died 03/04/1918. Aged 19. Born: Coleraine. Lived: Glasgow. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly, Russel St., Partick, Glasgow. Enlisted: Finner Camp. St. Sever Cemetery

+McCURDY, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. C Coy. Private. 793. Age 23. Died of wounds whilst a prisoner of war on 03/04/1918. William had been taken by the Germans during their 1918 Spring Offensive. He was born at Crushybracken, near Ballymena on the 23 /03/1896 and was the son of Alexander McCurdy and Anne (or Anna) Maria Dysart. The couple, Alexander from Artnacross and Anna from Crushybracken, had married in Finvoy Presbyterian Church, near Rasharkin on the 23/11/1888. The family later lived at Artnacross, Rasharkin. St Souplet British Cemetery, Le Cateau, Nord, France

+McMULLAN, J

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. Serjeant. 15457. Died 03/04/1918. Age 21. Brother of Letitia McMullan, of 191, Sandy Row, Belfast. Avesnes-sur-Helpe Communal Cemetery, France

+QUAIL, Wesley

Royal Irish Rifles, 21st Entrenching Btn formerly 8/9th Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. M.M. 17/1750. Died 03/04/1918 of wounds. Age 19. Born 1899 to James and Selina Quail of Belfast. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France. Crumlin Rd Methodist WM

1942

+CLARKE, William

Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. Driver. B/85462. Died 03/04/1942. Age 40. Son of Annie Donnelly, of Castlederg, Co. Tyrone. Toronto (Prospect) Cemetery, Naval and Mil. Plot. Canada

1943

+LINTON, Albert Edward

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftsman. 1222596. Died 03/04/1943. Aged 37. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Edward Linton, Cloughmills/Clough; husband to Florence Gladys Linton, of Barking, Essex. Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan

+WALLACE, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Bn. Fusilier. 7043812. Died 03/04/1943. Age 28 years old. Son of William and Martha Wallace, of Lurgan. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Lurgan WM

1944

+KING, Walter

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 6977150. Died 03/04/ 1944. Son of William and Jeannie King, of Waterside, Londonderry, Northern Ireland; nephew of Margaret Alford, of Waterside, Londonderry. Naples War Cemetery, Italy

+PHAIR, William Francis

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 5Btn. Corporal. 7011508. Died 03/04/1944. Aged 29. Son of Charles and Mary A. Phair, of Lisnaskea. Lisnaskea (Holy Trinity) C of I Churchyard

+SLATER, John James

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), 1st Btn. Private. Died 03/04/ 1944. Age 21. Son of Richard Edmund and Alice Slater, of Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh. Caserta War Cemetery, Italy

1945

+COX, Rosemary Elizabeth

WAAF. Leading Aircraftwoman. 2145916. Died 03/04/1945. Aged 20. Daughter of Robert Duncan and Adelaide Dorothy Cox, Belfast. Dundalk (St. Patrick's) Cemetery

+McDOWELL, David

This name is on the Killyleagh War Memorial in Co. Down.

The only entry in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records which matches this name and date of death is that of Private, 6984365, David McDowell of the 4th Btn, King's Own Scottish Borderers. Died 03/04/1945. Aged 23. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

+WILSON, William James

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1796543. Died 03/04/1945. Age 21. Son of William and Alice C. Wilson, of Hillsborough, Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

1947

+HALL, Andrew

RAF. Corporal. 295211. Died 03/04/1947. Age 46. Son of James and Mary Hall, Lurgan. Lurgan New Cemetery

VETERANS

ADAIR, Henry

L/Cpl Henry Adair 10773, Royal Irish Fusiliers. Henry was born at Watson Street, Portadown, Co. Armagh in May 1892 and enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in September 1911, initially serving with 2nd Battalion at Quetta, Baluchistan, in what is now Pakistan. By the outbreak of war in August 1914, he was attached to the regiment's 1st Battalion and embarked for the Western Front on 22/08/1914. He fought initially at Le Cateau on 26/08/1914, and was gassed at Ypres in 1915. He also saw action at the Somme in 1916 and Arras and Cambrai in 1917 being wounded in the right thigh. Through exposure to shellfire, he contracted epilepsy and was discharged with the silver war badge on 03/04/1918. Henry returned to Portadown where he married and raised a family. He sadly died aged 41 in July 1933.

FRY, David

Private. M2/079398. Army Service Corps. David from Concord St, Belfast enlisted in Apr 1915 and served with 363 MT Coy ASC attached to 18 Bde RGA in France and with 913 MT Coy ASC attached to IV Mountain Bde RGA in Salonika and Palestine. Demobilised May 1919.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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

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

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

remembrance ni

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

Remembrance Ni April 3

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.
