



remembrance ni



Remembering HMS Dorsetshire and HMS Cornwall

Heavy cruisers **HMS Cornwall** (above) and **HMS Dorsetshire** were attacked and sunk by Japanese dive- bombers south-west of Ceylon.

In March 1942, Dorsetshire was transferred to the Eastern Fleet to support British forces in the recently opened Pacific Theatre of the war.

At the end of the month, the Japanese fast carrier task force—the Kido Butai—launched the Indian Ocean raid.

On 5 April, Japanese aircraft spotted Dorsetshire and her sister Cornwall while en route to Colombo. A force of dive bombers then attacked the two ships and sank them. More than 1,100 men were rescued the next day, out of a combined crew of over 1,500. 424 men from the two ships died and 1122 were rescued. Five of those who died were from Northern Ireland.

The Battle of Kohima begins in 1944

The Battle of Kohima was the turning point of the Japanese U Go offensive into India. The battle was fought in three stages from 5 April to 22 June 1944 around the town of Kohima in Nagaland in northeast India.

From 3 to 16 April, the Japanese attempted to capture Kohima ridge, a feature which dominated the road by which the besieged British and Indian troops of IV Corps at Imphal were supplied. By mid- April, the small British and Indian force at Kohima was relieved.

From 18 April to 13 May, British and Indian reinforcements counter-attacked to drive the Japanese from the positions they had captured. The Japanese abandoned the ridge at this point but continued to block the Kohima– Imphal road.

From 16 May to 22 June, the British and Indian troops pursued the retreating Japanese and reopened the road.

The battle ended on 22 June when British and Indian troops from Kohima and Imphal met at Milestone 109, ending the Seige of Imphal. The battle is often referred to as the “Staligrad of the East”.

In 2013, the British National Army Museum voted the Battle of Imphal and Kohima to be "Britain's Greatest Battle". For account of battle see “The Burmah Star” web site.

On this Day – April 5

5th April 1915 Northern Whig

Ulster Division Rank and File Fatality

The remains of **Lance-Corporal John Bowden**, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, who died in Newtownards Hospital on Thursday last after a brief illness; were interred on Saturday in the New Cemetery, Ballymena, with full military honours. Prior to enlisting the deceased, who was a native of Slatt, was a clerk in the office of Mr. John Owens, solicitor, Ballymena, and was well known in athletic circles. The arrival of the remains by motor hearse at Queen Street, Ballymena, shortly after three o'clock was witnessed by a large gathering. The military were under the command of Captain the Hon. Hugh O'Neill, M.P., adjutant of the 12th Battalion R.I.R., and the firing party under charge of Sergeant Wright, also of the 12th Battalion. There was a

large attendance of members of A, B, and C. Company North Antrim Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force, under the command of Mr. George C. Young, Galgorm Castle, commander of the 1st Battalion North Antrim Regiment, U.V.F., Mr. William Stuart, C.E., quartermaster ; and Messrs J. Hillis and R. Sloan, company commanders. The deceased was enthusiastic member of Harryville Unionist Club.

Rifleman John Bowden, 18880, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died of Scarlett fever at Newtownards Fever Hospital, 1st April, 1915. Son of David and Margaret Bowden nee Aiken, of Slatt, Ballymena, County Antrim. Deceased was 19 years of age and is buried in Ballymena New Cemetery.



The first Convention of the Irish National Volunteers was held.

At it, John Redmond said that “the next great parade of the Irish National Volunteers... will be when they march down with me... to open the gates of the Irish Parliament.” Most of the men who followed Redmond served in WW1, and with great cost, in the 16th Irish Division.

1918

Ballymena Observer - Notification has been received from the Red Cross by Mr. James Pryde, Leighinmohr, Ballymena, that his son Captain R. M. Pryde of the Royal Irish Rifles, is a prisoner of war at Karlsruhe, Germany, and is well. Captain Pryde was unofficially reported as missing last week. He is the third son of Mr. J. O. Pryde and was married last summer to Rose, second daughter of Mr. James Caruth, the Grange, Ballymena. He joined the forces at the outbreak of war and has seen much fighting. Captain Pryde was a lieutenant in the Ballymena Company of the Church Lads' Brigade and a prominent Ulster Volunteer.

1940

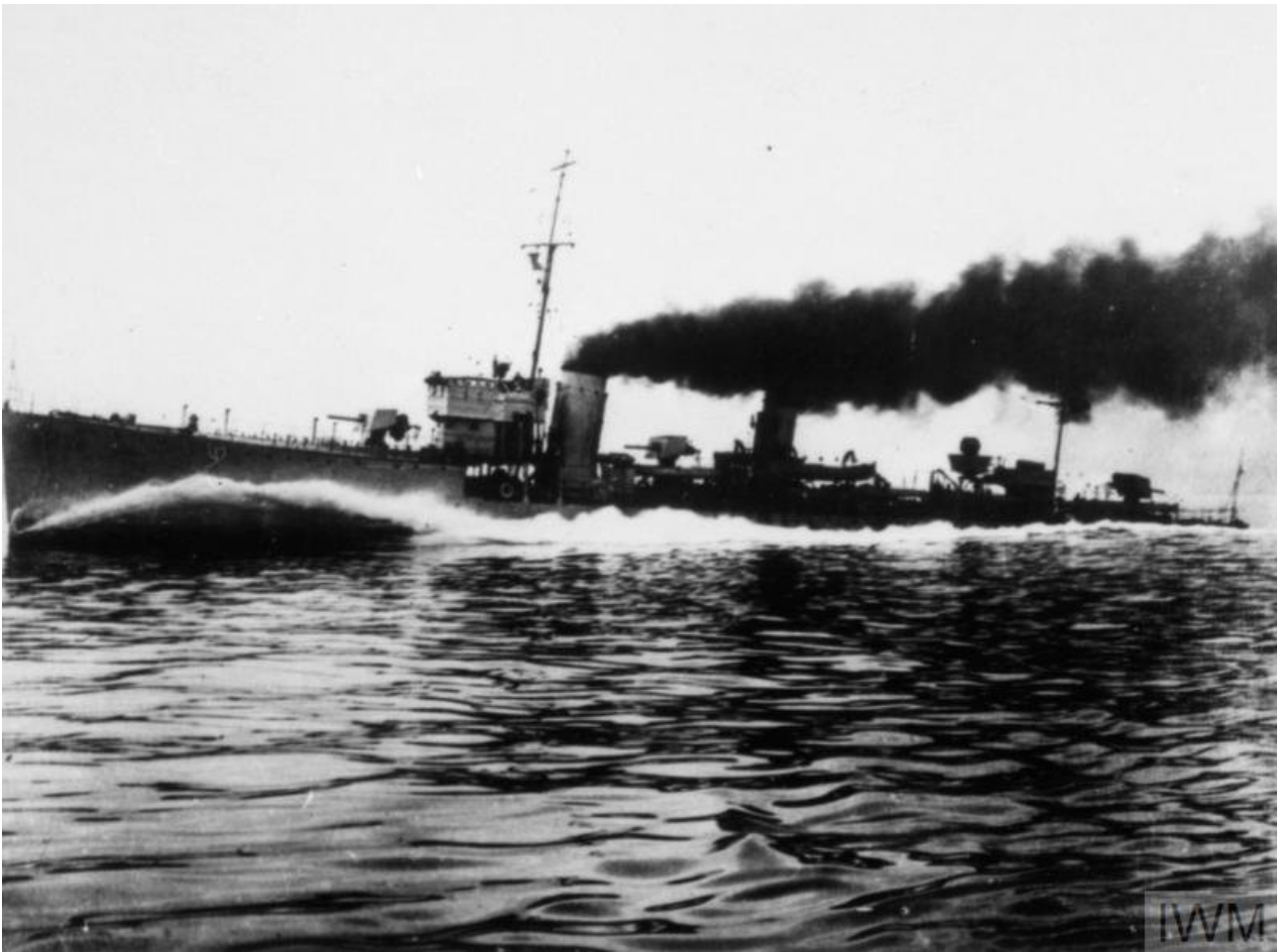
British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, tells the British people that Hitler has ‘missed the bus’, meaning that a German invasion of the west is now unlikely to succeed.

Norway and Sweden are both informed of the allied intention to mine Norwegian waters.

RAF launch attacks against ships at Wilhelmshaven.

1942

Destroyer **HMS Tenedos** was attacked by Japanese aircraft while under repair in Colombo harbour, Ceylon. She sank with the loss of 33 officers and men.



[HMS Tenedos](#) - see above

Heavy cruisers **HMS Cornwall** and **HMS Dorsetshire** (above) were attacked and sunk by Japanese dive-bombers south-west of Ceylon. 424 men from the two ships died and 1122 were rescued. Photo - next page. See RH this post.

Destroyer **HMS Gallant** was rendered a total loss after being damaged by German bombing while under repair at Valletta, Malta. Her hulk was expended as a blockship at St Paul's Island off Malta in September 1943.

A Jewish girl **Judith Malcsiner** was born in Szombathely in Hungary to Tibor and Magda. She was killed in Auschwitz in July 1944. She was two years old.



[HMS Dorsetshire \(above\)](#)

Fuhrer Directive 41 rolls off the mimeograph machines in Rastenberg and the Wehrmacht has its marching orders for 1942. Leningrad is to finally be captured, but that's a secondary objective. The big plan is in the South, which involves 2nd Army and 4th Panzer Army breaking through to Voronezh on the Don. The 6th Army will break out South of Kharkov and combine with the 4th Panzer Army to surround the enemy. After that, the 4th Panzer Army and 6th Army will drive East under the command of Army Group B and surround Stalingrad from the North, while Army Group A's 17th Army and 1st Panzer Army will do so from the South. Once Stalingrad is taken, the 6th Army will hold the flank defense line while Army Group A drives South into the Caucasus to seize the oilfields and become the northern punch of a grand pincer movement (the southern half being

Rommel) to seize Suez, the Nile Delta, the Middle-East and its oilfields.

One hundred and eighty Japanese planes from five aircraft carriers attack the Royal Navy's base at Colombo in Ceylon. These came from Admiral Nagumo's 1st Air Fleet under Admiral Kondo's Southern Force which was tasked with destroying the Royal Navy's Fleet in the Indian Ocean. However, the British received prior warning and sailed the bulk of their fleet to the Maldives, although the armed merchant cruiser Hector and destroyer Tenedos were sunk. Fifty-three Japanese carrier-aircraft did however locate and sink the Royal Navy's heavy cruisers Dorsetshire and Cornwall, to the south east of Ceylon, in just 22 minutes.

1943

The British 8th Army attacks the next blocking position of the retreating Axis forces at Wadi Akarit.

1944

The RAF and USAAF conduct the first of 24 round-the-clock raids on the Ploiesti oil refineries in Romania.

A Jewish inmate, Siegfried Lederer, escapes from Auschwitz-Birkenau and makes it safely to Czechoslovakia. He then warns the Elders of the Council at Theresienstadt about Auschwitz.

2nd Bn Coldstream Guards April 1944 Monte Cassino (first deployment)

During WW2 the Battalion was in Cassino twice. The first period was between April 5th and April 23rd, during which time the Coldstream Guards took over the positions from the

NZ Division (25 Maori Bn) who had taken (and consolidated) the southern and eastern half of the town the previous month.



HMS Fury after she had been mined and driven ashore in a gale off the beachhead, Arromanches, Normandy July 5, 1944. A bulldozer was used to clear rocks from around HMS Fury preparatory to re-floating.

Positions in the town were grim. Overlooked by the enemy held monastery, Cassino, and the main road into it (the “Mad Mile”) were in ruins. Streets were invisible under a blanket of rubble and almost all buildings above a single story in height had collapsed, many of them burying the previous defenders alive. Bodies lay unburied everywhere and Craters scarred the landscape.

Bailey bridges over the rivers and canals (placed by Commonwealth and US troops during the previous four months) had been reduced to twisted fingers of metal, whilst NZ Sherman tanks (immobile in the debris of the city) stood silent in shadowy corners of the shattered town, secretly manned by their crews who were unable to escape.

Movement during the day was impossible, and even at night, smoke was often required resupply to the Guards. Observation posts and Snipers were everywhere (Drill Sergeant Walker being sniped and killed in the Nunnery on the 11th) and “Spandau Joe” (the eponymous description for a German Machine Gunner, or collection of gunners, on the hill) controlled the Mad Mile. Mortars and artillery could shell any part of the town at a moment’s notice...should an unwary guardsman show his head... and less than half a mile away to their south west the enemy strongly occupied a line of houses around the base of the hill (anchored in the famous Hotel Des Roses, Hotel Continental and Roman Amphitheatre): the buildings containing a Battalion of heavily armed German Fallschirmjäger.

With Two rifle companies in the town and one in reserve, the Coldstream role was to defend the parts of the town held by the Allies. One Company was based around the Nunnery, Winter Gardens and town hall, the other the houses to the North West of this position (south of the Allied occupied Castle hill). Forward headquarters was in “the Crypt” under the Nunnery.

Patrols were few and the limit of offensive action was the use of rifle grenades, PIAT rounds and mortars. Many Guardsmen having to lie prone for most of the hours of

daylight for fear of being shot, unable to relieve themselves or move more than a foot to drink water.

Unsurprisingly, rumour had gotten around that Germans who spent two weeks in Cassino were eligible for the iron cross. Members of the Battalion ironically commenting that every member of 2 Coldstream would have earned this honour twice over. The Coldstream were relieved on the 23rd by the 6th Battalion Black Watch, only to return shortly afterwards.

1945

During a raid on Kiel by the U.S. 8th Air Force, severe damage is caused to the cruisers Hipper and Emden. A U.S. military government is established on Okinawa. The US 8th Air Force carries out another heavy attack (450 bombers) against Kiel. The 3rd Ukrainian Front reaches the railway North West of Vienna, cutting rail link with Linz. Eighteen U.S. divisions begin the clearance of Ruhr Pocket. The French First Army captures Karlsruhe on the upper Rhine.





Abee Aerodrome Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Roll of Honour – April 5

*Representing their comrades who died on
this day*

1915

+LANYON, William Mortimer

Royal Irish Rifles, 5th.Btn.Captain.Died 05/04/1915 .Shortly
before his death he was Adjutant of the 5th R.I.R., and on

the 15/03/1915, he took out a draft to the front. He entered the Rifles' trench about midnight on Easter Sunday and early the following morning, [05/04/1915] as he was standing against the parapet, he was hit in the head by a sniper's bullet, and killed instantly. Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Lanyon, nee Blizard), c/o The Westminster Bank, Canterbury. His wife and their two young children lived at The Villas, Downpatrick.

1916

+BURNS, John Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 26930. Died 05/04/1916. Age 25. Only son of Margaret Burns, of 26, Seymour St., Belfast, and the late John Burns. Bethune Town Cemetery, France

+GILLILAND, Samuel Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 24074. Died 05/04/1916. Age 20. Husband to Elizabeth McVeigh (formerly Gilliland), of 25, Lower Mount St., Albert Bridge Rd., Belfast. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+McKENNA, John

Scots Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 6260. Died 05/04/1916. Age 26. Born 27/02/1879. Son of Frank McKenna, of Clogher, Co. Tyrone; husband to Alice McKenna, of 50, Rosebery Gardens, Harringay, London. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium. Clogher WM

+SMYTH, Robertson Stewart

Royal Army Medical Corps. Major. Died 05/04/1916. Age. 36. Dungannon Royal School. Medicine, Trinity College, Dublin. He joined the RAMC on completion of his studies in 1905. He won three Irish international caps at rugby football 1903 - 04. He served in India 1907 - 12. He was invalided out due to gas poisoning and was sent to a nursing home in London. He relinquished his commission on 22/02/1916. Banbridge Town cemetery.

+WILSON, Robert

Canadian Infantry, 20th Btn. Central Ontario Regiment. Private. 58104. Died 05/04/1916. Age 35. He had been in Canada about 12 years. Son of Samuel Wilson and Eliza Kennedy Wilson, of Main St., Cullybackey. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Cunningham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cullybackey, RH

+WYLIE, David

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 20446. Died 05/04/1916. Age 26. Enlisted Glasgow. His brothers John (28/04/1918) and Archie (02/10/1918) also died. They served with Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Three sons lost within five months. Born Ballywatermoyle, Craigs. Bethune Town Cemetery, France

1917

+HORNER, Thomas Martin

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1073. Died 05/04/1917. Son of Elizabeth Horner, of Killinchy Woods, Crossgar, Co. Down. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+LOGAN, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 17/786. Died 05/04/1917. Age 20. Son of James and Mary Logan, of Station Rd., Cullybackey. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Cunningham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cullybackey, RH

1918

+BELL, William James Knox

Royal Garrison Artillery. 9th Siege Bty. Second Lieutenant. Military Cross. Died 05/04/1918. Aged 28. Born in Scotland 1890. Son of James and Fanny Jane Bell, Ashbrook, Upper Captain Street, Coleraine. Bertrancourt Cemetery, France. Coleraine Academical Institution WM

+GORDON, Thomas Edward

Canadian Infantry, 13th Btn. (Royal Highlanders of Canada). Private. 1031162. Died 05/04/1918. Aged 29. Born on 05/11/1888 in Dungannon, son of James and Mary Gordon. The 1901 census shows the large family living at Cromac, County Antrim. (This could be in Belfast). Thomas was 15 years old and was working as a Messenger in a 'Pinafore and Apron Manufacturer'. Thomas moved to Boston, USA, and worked as a labourer. He was married. He went to Canada to enlist. Thomas Gordon was one of five brothers who died in WW1. Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France

+HANNA, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Serjeant. 29416. Died 05/04/1918. Age 23. Son of Hugh and Bridget Hanna, of 30,

Mount Collyer St., Belfast; husband to Agnes Hanna, of The Square, Skerries, Co. Dublin. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

+WILSON, John

Northamptonshire Regiment, 6th Btn. Private. 46968. Died 05/04/1918. Age 21. Son of Marshall and Margaret Wilson, of Millbay, Carnspindle, Islandmagee. Poizeres Memorial, France

1941

+MAUGHER, Leslie Henry Willis

RN. Commander (E). Died 05/04/1941 of an illness at a military hospital in N Ireland. Aged 43. Served in the Belfast-built HMS Adamant and in HMS Dolphin. Son of Henry Louis Mauger and Emily Minnie Mauger (née Neville) of Beckenham, Kent. His father had died months earlier on 10/02/1941. By 1911, they have moved to 4 Rose Villa, Dendy Road, Paignton, Devon. Leslie and Marjorie CA Webber married in 1922 in Totnes, Devon. Leslie's funeral service took place at Bangor Abbey at 1400hrs on 08/04/1941 and at Bangor Cemetery

+McCLEMENTS, David

RAFVR. Aircraftman. 2nd Class. 1126104. Died 05/04/1941. Aged 40. Son of Samuel and Annabella McClements, Coleraine; Husband to Anne McClements, Coleraine. Liverpool (Kirkdale) Cemetery

+REYNOLDS, James

Wiltshire Regiment, 4th Btn. Corporal. 5570858. Died 05/04/1941 as a result of an accident. Aged 22. He had

enlisted in July 1939 before the outbreak of the war. He was the son of Maggie Stewart (formerly Reynolds) of Pound Cottages, Ballymena. Brother of Leading Aircraftman Walter Reynolds who served in the RAF during WW2. A funeral with full military honours took place at St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena. Ballymena New Cemetery.

1942 HMS DEVONSHIRE & HMS CORNWALL

+BRADLEY, John

RN. AB. D/JX 164784. Died 05/04/1942. Age 27. HMS Dorsetshire. 12 years service. Son of John and Wilhelmina Margaret Bradley, Oldpark Rd., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/05/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 64

+JACKSON, William Hugh

RN. AB. D/JX156447. Died 05/04/1942. Age 29. HMS Dorsetshire. His brother James was killed in action in HMS Galatea. Born Longshot, Ballyclare. Son of Peter and Eliza A. Jackson, Ballyclare. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 65

+JORDAN, Herbert Mason

RN. Leading Seaman D/J19351. H.M.S. Dorsetshire. Died 05/04/1942. Aged 46. Husband to Lilian Gertrude, Belfast,. Plymouth Naval Memorial. St Jude's Church, Ballynafeigh, Belfast, WM. Fitzroy PC WM, Fitzwilliam PC WM

+MARTIN, David

RN. Stoker First Class. D/KX 93801. Died 05/04/1942. Age 27. HMS Dorsetshire. 4 years service. Cousin of Mr

Matthew Hall, Osborne St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/05/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 70

+MAUGHER, Leslie Henry Willis

RN. Commander (E). Died 05/04/1941 of an illness at a military hospital in N Ireland. Aged 43. Served in the Belfast-built HMS Adamant and in HMS Dolphin. Son of Henry Louis Mauger and Emily Minnie Mauger (née Neville) of Beckenham, Kent. His father had died months earlier on 10/02/1941. By 1911, they had moved to 4 Rose Villa, Dendy Road, Paignton, Devon. Leslie and Marjorie CA Webber married in 1922 in Totnes, Devon. Leslie's funeral service took place at Bangor Abbey at 1400hrs on 08/04/1941 and at Bangor Cemetery.

+McCORKELL, Edward Stanley

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/JX 180584. Date of Death: 05/04/1942. Age:17. Possibly the youngest from County Tyrone to die in action. Son of Charles and Anna McCorkell, Strabane. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 67

+MILLAR, James

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/JX 184634. Died 05/04/1942. Age17. HMS Cornwall. Son of Archibald and Annie E. Millar, Newmarket St., Coleraine. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 67

+O'NEILL, Robert John

RM. Marine. CH/X 3059. Died 05/04/1942. Age 20. HMS Cornwall. Son of John and Georgina O'Neill, Killaughey, Millisle. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 65, 2

1942

+BARR, Frederick

RN. AB. D/JX206075. Died 05/04/1942. Age 19. HMS Kingston. After taking part in the battles of Sirte, on 04/04/1942, whilst the destroyer was in dock at Malta repairing the damage from this encounter there was an air raid. A bomb fell directly at the entrance of the Corradino tunnel, where part of her crew was taking shelter. Fourteen crewmen were killed by the blast including Commander Philip Somerville DSO., Lieutenant P. Hague, and Yeoman of Signals John Murphy, who was at their side, whilst directing the men into the safety of the Corradino tunnel. All 14 crewmen are buried at either the Mtarfa Military Cemetery or the Capuccini Naval Cemetery. Approximately 35 dock workers were also wounded. Son of Samuel and Mary Ann Barr, Townsend St., Strabane. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 15/05/1942). Imtarfar Military Cemetery, Malta

+FERRIS, William Arnold

RN. Warrant Engineer. HMS Dorsetshire. Died 05/04/1942. Age 32. Youngest son of the late David Ferris, Armagh, and Mrs. Ferris, Dunmurry. Husband to Cicely H. Ferris, of Farlington, Hampshire. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 63. (Belfast Newsletter 07/05/1942. Ulster Gazette 08/05/1941)

+LOCKHART, James

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot). 74708. Died 05/04/1942. Aged 26. 258 Sqdn. Son of James and Elizabeth M Lockhart; husband to Morwenna Burt Lockhart, of Chelsea, London. Columbo (Kanatte) General Cemetery, Sri Lanka. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1945

+COFFEY, John Bracken

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1062192. Died 05/04/1945, aged 27, in a Lancaster crew from 153 Sqdn. at Scampton, Lincolnshire, laying mines over the Kattegat. From Lisnaskea. When he returned on leave to Fermanagh he took off his tunic flight wings, telling his mother he was Ground Crew so she would not worry. Son of John and Lily Coffey; husband of Edith Sybil Coffey, of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Dungannon WM

1946

+COLE, Cecil

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 623905. Died 05/04/1946. Aged 24. Died at Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. Last address was 34 Roxburgh Street, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

VETERANS

ALLEN, Frank

RN. Lieutenant (L). BSc 1940 QUB. MCB. Born 05/04/1919. Son of Rev T J Allen, South Parade, Belfast. Post war Fareham, Hants

ATKINSON, H

Petty Officer. Survivor from HMS Dorsetshire. Son of Mr and Mrs. S. Atkinson, Moyesset, Tobermore

BOYD, Samuel

RN. Stoker First Class. 'Has returned to duty after leave' (Ulster Gazette 05/04/1945). Tyra, Armagh

CAMPBELL, Wilfrid Ayre Boyd

RNVR. Surgeon-Lt. 1942-46. MiD. Born 10/04/1919. Died 05/04/1998. Son of SB Boyd Campbell, Wellington Park, Belfast. Campbell College 2462. MB BCh BAO, QUB 1941

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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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