



remembrance ni



HM Submarine Tetrarch was lost off Sicily. Photo of sister ship HMS Torbay

NI Submariner's service in WW2 recognised on this day

**Lieutenant Henry Walmisley a RNVR submariner from
Kilkeel was mentioned posthumously in despatches on
07.04.1942**

He was lost in HM Submarine Tetrarch off Sicily. Age 27.

After a period of intense action, Lt. Walmsley was hitching a lift from Malta to the UK in the submarine Tetrarch.

He was Mentioned in Despatches (posthumously), in the London Gazette of 07/04/1942.

He had completed seventeen Central Mediterranean War Patrols with HM Submarines Unbeaten, Upholder and Ursula.

He served in actions which:

Torpedoed three large escorted Italian transports off Tripoli 18/09/1941. Sank the Italian Torpedo Boat Albatross off Cape Rascolmo, north Sicily on 27/09/1941.

Tetrarch sailed from Alexandria on 17/10/1941 for Malta to adjust complement before proceeding to refit in USA. The submarine arrived at Malta on 24/10/1941.

Tetrarch sailed from Malta on 26/10/1941 for a refit in Britain, via Gibraltar. She failed to arrive in Gibraltar on 2 November and was declared overdue. Her route passed through a known minefield. On Monday 27 she communicated with P34, which was in the same area. This was the last contact with the submarine. She is presumed lost to Italian mines off Capo Granditola, Sicily, Italy in late October 1941.

Henry was the son of James Charles and Margaret Walmsley, Kilkeel. He is commemorated on the Valetta WM.

Inniskilling and Irish Fusiliers at war in the wadis

Today's Roll of Honour for 1943 reflects the 6th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers assault on Djebel el Mahdi.

The attack on the area of high ground was part of the Allied thrust towards Tunis and saw 6th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers of 38th Irish Brigade begin the assault.

Despite the terrain including a wadi or valley, rows of wire fortifications, and minefields, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers took their objective halfway up Djebel el Mahdi by the early morning. 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers passed them and claimed the summit by 1400hrs.

Among the fatalities was **Lt Col Charles H.B. 'Heaver' Allen, Commanding Officer of 6 Inniskillings**. He had brought his battalion HQ forward during the assault on Djebel el Mahdi. A and C Companies were advancing with A securing its objectives.

However, C was held up by heavy enfilading fire. Heaver Allen went forward to help C Company. He spotted the machine gun post that was causing most trouble and directed LMG fire on it but the Brens failed to silence the enemy machine gun and Allen decided to take it out himself.

He called for a Bren but, in doing so, raised his head, was spotted, and shot dead by the enemy. 'His action was typical of a highly popular and respected commanding officer. In

spite of his death, or perhaps in revenge for it, C Company went on to take its objectives.

The Irish Brigade took Djebel el Mahdi following further attacks by 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers.

On this Day – April 7

1916

The first group of married men are called up.

1940

The RAF spots units of the Kriegsmarine steaming North towards Narvik and Trondheim loaded with troops and equipment.

1941

British war budget raises income tax.

Germans break towards Salonika.

Great Britain severs diplomatic relations with Hungary.

German troops capture Skopje in Macedonia forcing the Yugoslav forces to withdraw in the south of the country, which exposes the Greek flank. British promise allegiance to Yugoslavia.

Derna is captured by the 5th Light Afrika Division along with Generals Neame and O'Connor later in the day.

1942

The U.S. Treasury lends 40,000 tons of silver to Electric Generator plants to replace copper being used in conductors; the copper will be used for military production instead.

After 4 days of desperate fighting on Bataan, the Japanese have managed to penetrate 4 miles in to the US-Filipino lines, bringing General Wainwright's forces to the brink of collapse.

1943

Hitler spends the better part of four days at Klessheim Castle near Salzburg (which has recently been refurbished as a Nazi Party conference center and spa) alternately browbeating and cajoling Mussolini to keep Italy in the war. Concerned by Mussolini's evaporating morale, Hitler spends the rest of April summoning to Klessheim the leaders Vichy France, Norway, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia for a series of pep talks. With the war's tide clearly turning against the Axis, the Fuhrer has limited success.

Eighth Army joins up with the U.S. 2nd Corps in central Tunisia, while the British First Army makes progress in the North forming a solid line against the German army.

The Japanese air force begins a 10-day, round-the-clock bombing offensive against US shipping in the Solomon's.

1944

Goebbels takes overall control of Berlin.

Two Jewish inmates escape from Auschwitz-Birkenau and make it safely to Czechoslovakia. One of them, Rudolf Vrba,

submits a report to the Papal Nuncio in Slovakia which is forwarded to the Vatican.

1945

38 (Irish) Brigade - Forli: Individual training carried out by 2 LIR and 1 RIRF. 2 Innisks relieved on Senio floodbank by elements 1 Surreys and 56 Recce. Relief completed by 2100 hrs without incident.

The U.S. First Army takes Gottingen, 25 miles Northeast of Kassel. The US Ninth Army captures Hameln and Eisenach.

Army Group Centre under General Schorner continues with its attacks against the 2nd and 4th Ukrainian front.

In Yugoslavia, German Army Group E under General Lohr evacuates its remaining troops from Sarajevo.

The battle of East China Sea begins as U.S. aircraft from Task Force 58 sink the Japanese super-battleship Yamato in a three-hour battle, 60 miles to the Southeast of Japan. Japanese casualties are reported as 2,488 sailors killed, four destroyers sunk, 58 aircraft destroyed.

US Third Army finds Nazi art and gold stash in salt mine in Merkers worth \$500 million.

B29s fly their first fighter-escorted mission against Japan with P-51 Mustangs based on Iwo Jima.

Roll of Honour – April 7

*Representing their comrades who died on
this day*

1916

+CAMPBELL, A

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14173. Died 07/04/1916. Age 19. Son of Agnes and the late Louis Campbell, of 9, Nore Street, Belfast. Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

1917

+LYONS, Samuel Douglas

Canadian Mounted Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 150479. Died between 07/04/1917 and 10/04/1917. Age 24. Born 13/01/1892, one of eleven children of Robert and Mary Lyonsof Drumgane, Glenanne, Armagh. He worked for a time on the family farm before emigrating to Canada. He enlisted in November 1915. Son of Robert and Mary Lyons, of Drumgain, Mowhan, Co. Armagh. Vimy Memorial, France

+McCOLLUM, R

Royal Field Artillery, 5th Bty. Driver. 76593. Died 07/04/1917. Son of Mrs. F. McCollom, of 32, Crossley St., Templemore

Avenue, Belfast. Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery, France

+McKENDRICK, Andrew

Black Watch, (Royal Highlanders), 6th (Perthshire) Territorial Battalion. Black Watch. Private. 266783. Died 07/04/1917. Born Shankill, County Antrim (Belfast). Arras Memorial, France. Duncairn Presbyterian Church, Belfast WM

+McLEAN, R

Army Service Corps, attd. 11th Bn. Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Corporal. T4/111300. Died 07/04/1917. Age 21. Son of Robert and Eliza McLean, of 42, College Park Avenue, Belfast. Dickebush New Military Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+DORNAN, George Irwin

Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Lance corporal. Died 07/04/1918. Aged 32. Born in Belfast between May and September 1885 he was educated there before emigrating to Australia in about 1910 aged 25. This was also the year of his father's death.

A grocer (or dairy produce merchant according to his application to join the AIF) by trade, he was a single man aged 30 and living at 59 McCleary Street, Freemantle when he enlisted in the AIF at Perth Western Australia, on the 13/01/1916. Given his preliminary medical examination that day (although his military service is dated from the

12/02/1916), he had a dark complexion, grey eyes and black hair. 5' 5" tall, he had a 33" to 35" chest and weighed



Not far from VC Corner, is CWGC's Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery. Surrounded by a moat and weeping willows, this site in France commemorates 350 commonwealth soldiers of the First World War.

139 lbs. Recorded as having been vaccinated in infancy his vision was 6/6 in the right eye and 6/9 in the left. Having no military experience when he enlisted, he may have done at least part of his training at Blackboy Hill before being posted as a Private to the 1st.Reinforcements for the 44 AI (1641) on 03/06/1916. Three days later he embarked for England from Freemantle, Western Australia on the "Suevic".

Arriving at Plymouth on 21 July he was taken on strength on the 13 October and left Southampton for France on the 25 November. Placed on a charge for being absent without leave on the night of the 21/22 July 1917 he was given four days Field Punishment No. 2 and lost five days pay

amounting to £1.5s.0d. His crime had been, “absenting himself without leave in that he was absent from his quarters from Tattoo 21/7/17 [9.30 p.m.] until Reveille [6 a.m.] 22/7/17. 8½ hours”. Not that this appears to have been held against him. On 1 November that year he was promoted to Lance Corporal and a note in his service record shows that he was due “two blue chevrons”.

Admitted sick to hospital on the 13/03/1918 he was diagnosed as suffering from Scabies. Re-joining his unit a week later on the 20/03/1918, he was KIA at Saille-le-Sec on the Somme. His remains were buried about 800 yards east north east of the village,. They were subsequently exhumed and re-buried in Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France, plot 13, row D, grave 7. There is no headstone inscription.

His death is also commemorated on the family headstone in Cargycreevy Presbyterian churchyard where both his parents are buried. He was the son of James Dornan (born 1854, died 1910) and Minnie Dornan (born 1857, died 1921) of 30 Madrid Street, Belfast. The legatees in his will were his mother, sister Margretta (Greta) Sarah Dornan and brothers John and James. His uncle Frederick Ernest Dornan of South Terrace, Freemantle, was named as executor although he may have passed some of this responsibility onto his eldest nephew John with whom he lived.

His effects were sent to his mother in May 1918 and on 11/06/1918 she was granted a pension of 40 shillings per fortnight beginning on the 15th of the month. His brother John received his war medals in March 1922. Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France. Family headstone in Cargycreevy Presbyterian churchyard.

+GRAHAM, Andrew McClintock

Australia. 11th Regiment. 19th Btn. Private. 4420. Died 07/04/1918. Age 43. Born 07/09/1875 at Meenlougher, Castlefin, County Donegal.. His father, Robert Graham, was a school teacher and the family came to live at Claggan, Cookstown. Andrew immigrated to Australia in 1909-10 and had been a regular soldier. Just before he enlisted he had undergone an operation in hospital for varicose veins in both legs. On 14/11/ 1915, he was wounded in action. He arrived back in Australia in September 1917 and was finally discharged from the army on 18/03/1918. Andrew died at Sydney Hospital , from a heart condition. He was 43 years old. Rockwood Necropolis, Sydney, New South Wales. Cookstown WM, Clagan Presbyterian Church RH

1920

+DAVIS, Henry Carlisle Monsell Davis

Indian Army. Lieutenant. KIA 07/04/1920. Born 12/12/1899, Sydney, Australia. Campbell College, Belfast. Son of Thomas William Monsell Davis, and Marian Davis, Sydney, Australia. No known grave. Delhi Memorial, Face 31. Memorial in Culfeittrin Parish Church, Co. Antrim

1943

Assault on Djebel el Mahdi in Tunisia

On 07/04/ 1943 the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. and 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn, of 38th Irish Brigade began the assault on Djebel el Mahdi in Tunisia. The area of high ground had to be taken as part of the Allied thrust towards Tunis. Despite the terrain including a wadi or valley, rows of wire fortifications, and minefields, the Royal

Inniskilling Fusiliers took their objective halfway up Djebel el Mahdi by the early morning. 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers passed through and claimed the summit by 1400hrs.

+ALLEN, Charles Henry Belton

Royal Ulster Rifles, commanding Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Lieutenant Colonel. 36245. Mentioned in Despatches. Former 2 i/c of London Irish. Son of Maj. Henry George Allen, O.B.E., R.A.V.C., and Rosamunde Elizabeth Allen; husband of Katharine Elizabeth Mary Allen, of Barnby Dun, Yorkshire. Son of Maj. Henry George Allen, O.B.E., R.A.V.C., and Rosamunde Elizabeth Allen; husband to Katharine Elizabeth Mary Allen, of Barnby Dun, Yorkshire. Beja War Cemetery, Tunisia. St Peter and St Pauls Church WM, Barnby Dun

+KERR, William Thomas

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6980904. Died 07/04/1943 in the assault on Djebel el Mahdi. Age 27. Son of Robert and Jeannie Kerr, of Castlederg. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

+LAW, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 7014291. Died 07/04/1943. Age 22. Rangoon Memorial Burma, Face 11.

+McVEIGH, Edward Josphe

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6979430. Died 07/04/1943. Age 23. Son of William and Mary An McVeigh, of Enniskillen. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar

+MEGARITY, Samuel

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Corporal. 7043743. Died 07/04/1943 in the assault on Djebel el Mahdi. Age 24. Son of Samuel and Sarah Megarity, of Armagh. Oued Zarga War Cemetery, Tunisia

+O'NEILL, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6982776. Died Between 07/04/1943 and 08/04/1943. Aged 21. Born on 23/01/1922. Son of Hugh and Bridget O'Neill, Chapel Street, Cookstown. He had worked as a message boy prior to enlisting with the Inniskillings on the 26/06/1940 at Omagh. The 1st Battalion RIF were stationed in India prior to the outbreak of World War Two. On 7th / 8th April 1943 Hugh O'Neill was part of a patrol which engaged a Japanese force in Padana Chaung area, Burma. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Cookstown WM

+QUINN, Michael Joseph

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 538203. Died 07/04/1943. Aged 24. Son of Michael and Mary Josephine Quinn, of Londonderry. Burlington (Holy Sepulchre) Cemetery, Ontario, Canada

+ROBINSON, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Fusilier. 6984687. Died 07/04/1943 in the assault on Djebel el Mahdi. Age 19. Son of Joseph Robinson, and of Elizabeth Robinson, of Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. Oued Zarga War Cemetery, Tunisia

+SEAWRIGHT, Thomas

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 5th Btn. Private. 7014284. Died 07/04/1943. Age 21. Born 24/05/1922. Initially enlisted with the Royal Ulster Rifles. Son of Thomas G. and Louise D. Seawright, of Dungannon. Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia. Dungannon WM, Newmills C of I Parish Church WM

+SHERRY, Basil

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 979599. Died 07/05/1943. Aged 26. 70 Sqdn. Son of Thomas and Gertrude Sherry, of Whitehead, Co. Antrim. Tripoli War Cemetery, Libya

+THOMAS, Sydney Arthur

Northamptonshire Regiment, 5th Btn. Lance Corporal. Died 07/04/1943. Age 24 years. Son of William and Lettie Thomas; husband of Bridget Thresa Thomas, of Annsborough, Co. Down. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

+TINMAN, Albert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Corporal. 6983317. Died 07/04/ 1943 in the assault on Djebel el Mahdi. Age 27. Before going to war, Albert was a well-known member of Corcrair Flute Band in his hometown. Son of Robert and Fanny Tinman, of 16 North Street, Portadown. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

+TRIMBLE, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Fusilier. 7044343. Died 07/04/1943. Aged 29. Son of John and Susan Trimble;

husband to M. Trimble, of Riverside, Antrim. Medjez-el-Bab Memorial, Tunisia

1944

+TELFAIR, John Macklin

Royal Artillery. 135 (M) HAA Regiment. 491 Bty. Gunner. 1524020. Died on 07/04/1944. Aged 50. Son of John and Jane Telfair of Belfast; Husband to Rachel Telfair of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery East

1945

+BURNS, Robert Hugh

RNVR. FAA. 1836 Squadron . Sub Lieutenant (A). Died 07/04/1945. Age 22. In the carrier HMS Victorious which was operating in the East China Sea. Flying a Vought F4U-1A Corsair fighter while on a strike on Hirara airfield, it appears he lost his bearings and was obliged to ditch the aircraft. His body was subsequently recovered from the sea. Had been a member of QUB OTC and Troop Leader in 13th Belfast Scout troop. Brother serving with RAF in India. His father served in WW1. Elder Son of Mr & Mrs R Burns, Colenso Parade, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 25/05/1945). Lee -on- Solent memorial, Bay 6, Panel 3

+KANE, David

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7043667. Died 06/04/1945. Age 38. Fell whilst attacking the German village of Lingen, about 20 kilometres from the Dutch border. David Kane was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Kane. He was

born in County Londonderry about 1907. By the time of his enlistment he was living in County Tyrone. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany. Tobermore WM

+THOMPSON, Kenneth

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman.14429341. Died 07/04/1945. Aged 19. Oldenzaal Protestant Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

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 houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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