



remembrance ni



**A Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) member of staff has paid a special tribute to the thousands of First World War dead killed in Gallipoli, on an Anzac Day like no other. CWGC's Burak Gundogan undertook a solo pilgrimage of the Turkish peninsula on Saturday 25 April, 2020, to lay wreaths on behalf of those who would have attended that year's cancelled Anzac Day commemorations.**

# On this Day – May 4

## In the newspapers

### FROM ENNISKILLEN TO BELFAST

*(Belfast News-Letter, 4 May 1915)*

Yesterday the Service Squadron of the 6th Enniskillen Dragoons and the Cyclist Company left Enniskillen en route for Belfast to take part in the review of the Ulster Division on Saturday next. On Wednesday night the Dragoons will, it is expected, reach Armagh, on Thursday Portadown, and on Friday Lisburn. The divisional troops are under Major Strettle, of the Dragoons. The Dragoons are up to full strength, with a full troop of reserves, and the Cyclist Company want only now a few men to complete the establishment.

## 1915

The landing at Gaba Tepe took place from the destroyers HMS Triumph, Bacchante and Dartmouth during the Gallipoli campaign. At 0415hrs about 120 men landed at Gaba Tepe to ascertain if the place was held. Beach entanglements were defended by about 500 Turks. Being outnumbered the force reembarked. The Royal Marines lost 19 men at Gallipoli on this day.

## **1916**

It is reported that German Zeppelin L.7 is destroyed by British warships off the Schleswig coast.

## **1917**

British transport ships "Arcadian" and "Transylvania" are torpedoed in the Mediterranean. A reported 19 officers and 258 men, and 31 officers and 382 men respectively lost.

## **1941**

In a Luftwaffe raid on Liverpool, England, 32 ships and boats are sunk.

## **1942**

The United States begins food rationing.

Akyab on the Burmese coast is abandoned by the British.

The Japanese Port Moresby invasion force leaves Rabaul, in New Britain.

With its naval support stripped away, the Japanese invasion fleet at Tulagi is attacked by aircraft from the American carrier Yorktown. 1 destroyer is disabled, while 3 minesweepers and 4 landing barges are sunk for the loss of just 3 US aircraft. Admiral Fletcher, now doubled back to meet up with the Lexington in the Coral Sea.

## **1943**

Italian Torpedo Boat Perseo is sunk off the coast of Tunisia by British destroyers

Hitler decides to postpone Operation 'Citadel' in order that more Tiger and Panther tanks can be deployed in the offensive. This is against the advice of a number of leading

Generals who fear that the Russian defenses will become too strong if the offensive is delayed any further.

## **1944**

The RAF carries out a night raid against Budapest.

The British counter-attacks at Kohima, are repulsed by the Japanese.

## **1945**

**On Lüneburg Heath, Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in north-west Germany, Denmark and Netherlands.**

The ceremony took place in a tent at Montgomery's headquarters on the Timeloberg hill at Wendisch Evern, the tent being intended to evoke the memories of Montgomery's Eighth Army HQ in the Western Desert. The German surrender to Montgomery had a campaign-style quality very different to the German surrender to Eisenhower at Rheims three days later. The publicity-conscious Montgomery summoned the BBC to record the event for posterity and it may be viewed at

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/germans-surrender-to-montgomery>

‘His [Montgomery's] lips were firm, and as he finished signing’, one war reporter observed, ‘he sighed faintly, sat back and removed his tortoise shell rims, relaxed. “That concludes the surrender” he said. The tent flaps were let down and we walked away over the brown heather’.

**Alan Brooke, another Ulsterman and the Chief of the Imperial General (CIGS)**, referred to the occasion in his diary: ‘A memorable day in so far as it will probably be one of the last ones of the second war with Germany!’

Although born in London on 17 November 1887, **Bernard Law Montgomery, was of Ulster stock**. The energetic Hugh Montgomery, laird of Braidstane in Ayrshire, who acquired a third of Con O'Neill's Clandeboye estate in 1605, was probably the earliest member of the family to settle in Ulster. The strongly Scottish character of north Down largely has its origins in his labours. Another ancestor had made a fortune in the wine trade in Londonderry and bought New Park, a large estate near Moville on the Inishowen peninsula.

Montgomery's father, who became Bishop of Tasmania shortly after his birth, inherited the property. Bishop Montgomery was one of the seven Anglican bishops to sign the Ulster Covenant in September 1912. While Montgomery was evicting Rommel from North Africa his mother lived in the family home at Moville across the Foyle from Londonderry. When **Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Roosevelt**, was visiting U.S. service personnel in Londonderry in November 1942, Mrs Montgomery and ‘the First Lady’ together attended the Civic Armistice Service in the city on 11 November.

**1945**



The most serious kamikaze attack on a Royal Navy carrier - HMS Formidable, May 4, 1945 - in the words of its veterans. "I'd never seen anything so horrifying, or quite splendid in a way".

It was the height of the invasion of Okinawa. Japan was throwing a last-ditch effort at unseating US Marines from their beachheads. Kamikazes swarmed attacks from Formosa (Taiwan), HMS Formidable, was to suffer a direct hit on her armour. Formidable was part of the British Pacific Fleet interdiction.



**Bala Bredan (Left). 38 (Irish) Brigade - Brigadier Scott:**

"At 8 o'clock on the 4th, we were warned to concentrate in the area of Pordenone 20 miles west of Udine. Advance parties left that morning and the Brigade was to start the next day. It was a long journey and it would take some time to get through."

## **2 London Irish Rifles**

1800 Victory Celebration at Btn HQ. CO gave a short speech and then ignited a 15 ft high bonfire of logs. Rum punch, vino, sandwiches and cakes were provided. An effigy of Hitler, escorted by pipers, playing the slow march, was brought to the fire and duly burned."

The last day of air operations in north-west Europe; 2nd TAF aircraft claim to have shot down 141 enemy aircraft during anti-shipping operations in the Baltic.

Grand Admiral Donitz, now the newly designated leader of the Reich, orders all U-boats to cease offensive operations and return to their bases (to go into effect fully at 0800 on 5th May): "You have fought like lions!"

Admiral von Friedeburg arrives at Montgomery's HQ on LÃ1/4neburg Heath with German plenipotentiaries. At 8.15pm SHAEF announce that 'Field Marshal Montgomery has reported to the supreme allied command that all enemy forces in Holland, Northwest Germany and Denmark, have surrendered. The U.S. Ninth Army breaks up the German Ninth and Twelfth Armies. The U.S. Seventh Army takes Innsbruck, Salzburg and Berchtesgarden, which is still smoking after an RAF raid. Field-Marshal von Kleist gives himself up to the U.S. Third Army near Straubing. The U.S. Fifth Army reaches the Brenner Pass.

SEAC announces that Rangoon was taken so quickly that the Japanese had no time to destroy the installations there.

Kamikaze flyers sink 17 U.S. ships in 24 hours off Okinawa.



## Roll of Honour – May 4

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+CUNNINGHAM, William**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 9894. Died 04/05/1915. Age 23. Son of Richard and Elizabeth Cunningham, of 11, Athens St., Woodstock Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+McGERR, Thomas**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 5906. Died 04/05/1915. Age 18. His father was a linen beetler. Thomas became a linen weaver. Son of Henry and Mary McGerr, of Milltown, Benburb. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium



## **+STEWART, James**

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment). Private. 51441. Died 04/05/1915. Age 33. Born in Lisburn on the 06/01/1882, he lived at Ballymullen, Lisburn but emigrated to Canada where he was employed as a steel worker. Enlisting at Winnipeg on the 29/12/1914 aged 30 years and 11 months, he belonged to the Militia but had no previous military experience, and was passed fit for overseas service the same day, "subject to teeth". Son of James, a farmer, and Margaret Stewart of Ballymullen, Lisburn, and 224 Hillman Street, Belfast, and husband to Margaret E. Stewart of McMaster's Bridge, Dunmurry. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, panel 10.

**1916**

## **+HALL, Henry**

Seaforth Highlanders. 1st/4th Btn. Private. 4165. Died 04/05/1916. Age 31. Husband of Rebecca Hall, 6, St. Mary St., Belfast. Etaples Military Cemetery, France

## **+HANNA, S**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 20942. Died 04/05/1916. Son of Samuel Hanna, of 5, Eliza St., Belfast. Bethune Town Cemetery, France

## **+HAYDEN, Arnold**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14866. Died 04/05/1916. Age 23. Son of Thomas and Louisa Hayden, of 4, Ashley Avenue, Belfast. Beauval Communal Cemetery, France

**+WHITESIDE, David John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5429. Died 04/05/1916. Age 19. Son of David and Eliza Whiteside, of 58, Canmore St., Belfast. Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St Eloi, France

**1917**

**+ARCHER, R**

Manchester Regiment, 24th Btn. Lance Corporal. 14322. Died 04/05/1917. Age 21. Son of William E. Archer, of 36, Ivan St., Belfast. Mory Abbey Military Cemetery, Mory, France

**+DOBSON, John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Second Lieutenant. Died 04/05/1917. Age 26. Son of William and Jane Dobson; husband of Mary Hopper Dobson, of Oakland, Chichester Park, Belfast. Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, France

**+DUNWOODY, John Myles**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 4th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 04/05/1917. Age 20. He was en route to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was one of 398 military casualties when the troopship Transylvania was sunk by torpedo off Cape Vado, Italy whilst bound for Salonika with reinforcements. (Armagh Gazette 02/06/1917). Born in Bessbrook. Enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers 16/09/1914. Commissioned in Royal Dublin Fusiliers 09/04/1915. Son of William George Dunwoody, M.D., and Elizabeth Dunwoody, of Dashwood House, Ramsgate. Savona Memorial, Italy

## **+KANE, James**

Canadian Infantry, 4th Btn. Private. 863136. Died 04/05/1917. Aged 27. Son of William and Elizabeth Kane, of Megargy, Magherafelt. James Kane emigrated to Toronto, Canada. Prior to enlisting he was living at 87 Riverdale Avenue, Toronto. He was a postman with the Canadian General Post Office. James Kane enlisted in Toronto on 27/03/1916. Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. Castledawson WM. Magherafelt C of I WM

## **+McGAHAN, Patrick John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 21413. Died 04/05/1917. Age 25. Born in St Patrick's Armagh. By 1911 he was living in Darkley, Keady with his mother and grandparents. Son of Mrs. Mary McGahan, of 53, Chatham St., Belfast. Vermelles British Cemetery, France

## **+TOLAND, Samuel**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th Btn. Private. 14254. Died 04/05/1917. Age 25. Husband of Lily Toland, of 4, Cornagrade Terrace, Enniskillen. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

## **1918**

## **+BOWMAN, Andrew**

Gordon Highlanders, 1st Btn. Private. S/20303. Died 04/05/1918. Aged 19. Son of Joseph and Bessie Bowman, of Drumrainey, Magherafelt. Born at Dalmuir, Dumbartonshire. Andrew's older brother Joseph also died in the war. He too served with the Gordon Highlanders. Le Vertannoy British Cemetery, Hinges, Pas de Calais, France

## **+DOUGHERTY, T**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5480. Died 04/05/1918. Age 35. Husband of Mary Dougherty, of 12, Cairns St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

## **+DUNN, John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 10th Btn. 21180. Transferred to Labour Corps. 545381. Died 04/05/1918 at hospital in Cromarty, although the cause was not recorded. He was brought home for burial. Enlisted Limavady. Born near Dunboe. Son of John and Matilda Dunn, Mullaghmore, Agivey, Co. Londonderry. Old Balteagh Burial Ground

## **+JEFFS, William John**

Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. B Coy. Private. 41102. Died 04/05/1918 in a prisoner of war camp in Hamburg. Age 35. William Jeffs enlisted in Partick, Scotland on 02/06/1916 with the Royal Scots Fusiliers. After six months training, Private Jeffs went abroad in January 1917. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers at Etaples in January 1917. Private Jeffs was captured and made a prisoner of war on 23/04/1917. The son of Robert and Amelia Jeffs. William was born in Dungannon on 14/06/1885. Husband to Margaret L. Jeffs, of Barrack St., Dungannon. Hamburg Cemetery. Dungannon WM. St Anne's C of I, Dungannon RH

## **1941**

**+CAMPBELL, Douglas George**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 748172. Died 04/05/1941. Aged 23. 37 Sqn. Glasgow High School former pupil. Son of William Gibb Campbell and Barbara McDonald Campbell, of Belfast. Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

**1943**

**+NEILL, Victor Stephenson**

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 127166. Died 04/05/1943. Aged 24. 611 Sqn. Son of Samuel James Neill and Sarah Jane Neill, of Belfast. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

**1944**

**+CAMPBELL, David**

Royal Army Service Corps. Lieutenant. 141131. Died 04/05/1944 in Ortona Italy as he attempted to escape as a POW. He had been held for several months. Aged 32. Son of William Thomas Campbell and Sarah Campbell, of Culmore, Co. Londonderry. Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy, overlooking the Adriatic Sea

**1945**

**+McBRIDE, James William**

RN. AB. D/JX 171072. Died 04/05/1945. Aged 19. HMS Offa. Son of Robert McBride and Cissie McBride of Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon



**+WRAY, William**

Pioneer Corps. Private. 13007503. Died 04/05/1945. Aged 40. Husband to Mary Ann Wray of Londonderry. Derry City Cemetery

**VETERANS**

**CHAMBERS, Henry Douglas**

RNAS. Petty Officer Mechanic. F9707. Armoured Car Division. Enrolled 16/11/1915 for hostilities. Served in President and Russia 10/10/1916 - 27/12/1917. Served to 27/12/1917, to commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in Royal Engineers. Aged 23. Born Bushmills 06/08/1895. Died 04/05/1922. Aged 26. Son of Robert Henry and Eliza Jane Chambers, Belfast formerly Clifton Terrace, Coleraine. Ballintoy Cemetery. ADM 188/579/9707

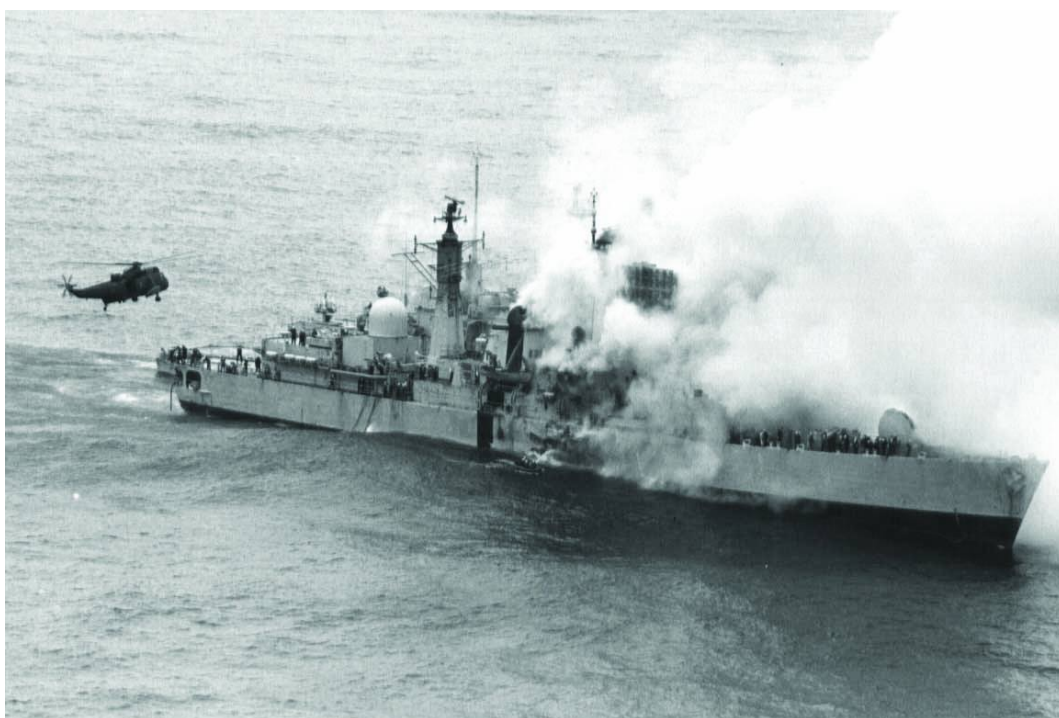
**MacLAUGHLIN, Francis Alexander**

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Surgeon Lieut. - Commander. VRD 1940. Appointed Senior Ophthalmologist to Scottish Command and RNAH Kingset 09/1939. 09/1942. Appointed Senior Ophthamologist, Nore Command, RNH Chatham. QUB M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Hons.), 1921. MRCS and FRCS 1926; 1921, Hon FRCSI 1977. RMO Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. 1922, Assistant in Anatomy, QUB. 1925, Surgical Registrar, Royal Victoria Hospital. 1927, Clinical Assistant, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Guy's Hospital, London. FRCS (Eng.), 1927. Ophthalmic Surgeon, Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, and other ophthalmic hospital appointments. Consulting Surgeon. Wellington Park, Belfast. He also served as Chairman of the Royal Victoria Hospital, as President of the Ulster Medical Society and as

President of the Irish Otolaryngological Society. Governor of Campbell College 1955 - 75. He was a man with wide interests including ornithology, archaeology, philately, numismatology, model railways but especially model ship building. He built over 100 finely detailed models, many of which were displayed in his consulting rooms; part of the collection is now housed in the Ulster Transport Museum. . Born 27/05/1899. Son of Alexander MacLaughlin and Elizabeth (nee Brown), Belfast Bank, Great Edward Street, Belfast. Husband to Florence nee Clokey. Died 04/05/1984, aged 84. Campbell College 1149

### **McCLUSKEY, Samuel John**

Sergeant, 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He was taken prisoner by the Germans near the end of the War. He was a founder member of the Portstewart Branch of the Royal British Legion. He and his wife, Annie Fleming McCluskey, lived at Main Street; he died on 04/05/1976, aged 83 years, and was buried in Agherton Cemetery. (Northern Constitution 15/02/1919).



## HMS Sheffield

**On This Day - May 4th, 1982 - The British Destroyer HMS Sheffield was struck by Exocet missiles**

**Memorial to HMS Sheffield on Sea Lion Island in the Falklands – the nearest land to where she was hit on May 4 1982 – where a cross on a hilltop cairn looks out over the expanse of the South Atlantic.**





This Day - May 4th, 1982 - The British Destroyer HMS Sheffield was struck by Exocet missiles and foundered six days later, in the ultimately successful attempt to liberate the Falkland Islands from the brief occupation by forces of the Argentine junta.

Twenty men lost their lives when Type 42 destroyer – ‘Shiny Sheff’ – was struck by an Exocet missile and fires broke out while on picket duty protecting the Operation Corporate task force from air attack. 260 men were rescued by HMS Arrow.

HMS Sheffield was the second Royal Navy ship to be named after the city of Sheffield in Yorkshire. She was a Type 42 guided missile destroyer laid down by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering at Barrow-in-Furness and was launched by Queen Elizabeth II on 10 June 1971.

On 4 May, the Sheffield was at defence watches, second degree readiness, one of three Type 42 destroyers operating as a forward ASW picket for the task force, south-east of the Falklands. On some task force ships (including Sheffield) the threat from the type 209 submarine was seen as higher priority than the threat from the air. Due to a lack of equipment, Sheffield's radar operators had difficulty distinguishing enemy aircraft.

Two Argentine aircraft, undetected by The Royal Navy, opened fire with Exocet missiles killing twenty of the crew, causing burns to many more and igniting a fire in the ship. In classic British style, as the crew of The Sheffield were waiting to be rescued, they sang Monty Python's "Always look on the bright side of life".

The fires which subsequently ravaged the destroyer ultimately led to her floundering six days later on May 10

despite valiant salvage efforts. She was the first RN ship lost to enemy action since World War 2.

Her fallen are honoured on numerous memorials to the 1982 conflict but most poignantly on Sea Lion Island in the Falklands – the nearest land to where she was hit on May 4 1982 – where a cross on a hilltop cairn looks out over the expanse of the South Atlantic.

It is maintained by sailors from the Falklands guardship, HMS Clyde, and any other RN vessel which visits the remote British territory.

# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)**



# remembrance ni

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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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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