



remembrance ni



Meilo War Cemetery is near the village from which it takes its name in the south of the Netherlands, some 12 Kms east of Eindhoven.

The cemetery was started in the spring of 1945 when graves were brought in from the surrounding district, most of them being casualties of September-November 1944. At that time the main fighting was concerned with clearing the region south and west of the Maas and with opening up the

Scheldt estuary further west. Helmond itself was occupied on 25 September, 1944. Mierlo War Cemetery now contains 664 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, seven of them unidentified, and one Dutch war grave.



On 5 May 1945 German forces in the Netherlands officially surrendered to the Canadians, ending the fighting there. The Dutch people had suffered greatly and are forever grateful to Canada who played a leading role in their freedom, together with appreciation of the hospitality of Canada towards the Dutch Royal Family during WW2.

Roll of Honour – May 6

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+BEW, John Vincent

RN. RND. Chief Petty Officer. Dev/167694. Anson Battalion. Died 06/05/1915. Age 39. Born Carrickfergus 19/05/1876. Son of late Charles and Elizabeth Ann Bew. Helles Memorial, Turkey. ADM339

+BUNTING, William James

RN. RND. Stoker 1st Class. SS1077140. Hood Battalion. Died 06/05/1915 in Gallipoli. Aged 26. Enlisted 27/05/1908 serving to 24/05/1913. Enrolled in RFR 25/05/1913. Service resumed 02/08/1914. In Pembroke II and Victory IV (RND Hood). Hood Battalion A/211 and A/193 17/09/1914 - 06/05/1915. A cabinetmaker. Single. Born Lurgan 21/02/1887. Son of Mr. T. Bunting. Brother of Thomas Bunting, Sloan Street, Lisburn. 1914 Star issued to father 12/03/1925. Listed in the Hood Muster Roll for Antwerp, in Len Seller's book "The Hood Battalion" as "'A' Company 1st Platoon.". Lurgan WM. IMR. ADM 188/1113/107140

+KELLY, Charles

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 3434. Died 06/05/1915. Age 25. Shortly afterwards, Charles' brother, Edward McAnaw, wrote to his wife in Barrack Street,

Dungannon. He stated that his brother Charles McAnaw had been killed and he saw him buried in the same cemetery as Lord Northland. Charles enlisted in Strabane. Son of Michael McAnaw Kelly and Mary Jane Kelly; husband to Madge McAnaw Kelly, of Lettermore, Drumkeen, Stranonar, Co. Donegal. Cuinchy Communal Cemetery, France.
Dungannon WM

+McGOWAN, David

RNVR. RND. AB. 20119. KX/432. Howe Btn. Died 06/05/1915. Age 24. Enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry 01/09/1914 and transferred to the RNVR 09/09/1914 ; Hood Battalion B/212 09/09/1914 - 06/05/15. Born Coatbridge 17/09/1891. An Iron Worker he resided at North Square, Gert Skerric, Coatbridge, Scotland, on enlistment.. Son of John McGowan, Ringclare, Donaghmore, Newry, Helles Memorial. (Gallipoli). Glascar - PCI RH

+OLIVER, Richard Henry

Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 3/9605. Died 06/05/1915. Age 22. Son of George and Margaret Oliver, of 47, Cannon St., Regent St., Leeds. Born at Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+RAFFERTY, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 3240. Died 06/05/1915. Age 21. Disembarked in France December 1914. His brother Francis died on 06/06/1918 serving with American forces in France. Son of John and Ellen Rafferty, of 5, Navan St., Armagh. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

1916

The 14th Btn at Thiepval Wood on the 06/05/1916 came under heavy Trench Mortar attack, they lost 1 Officer killed, 1 NCO killed, 9 O/R killed , 22 NCOs and O/Rs wounded before being relieved by the 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and going to Martinsart Wood for two days rest.

+BEATTIE, A

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman.17242. Died 06/05/1916. Age 20. Son of the late Mr. D. A. and Mrs. D. Beattie, of Belfast. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

+MARTIN, Tom

Royal Irish Rifles.14th Btn. Rifleman.16869. Died 06/05/1916. Age 22. Son of Samuel Alexander and Fanny Martin, of 314, Springfield Rd., Belfast. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

+McKEOWN, David Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 6744. Died 06/05/1916. Age 24. Killed instantly by a trench mortar in the trenches at Thiepval Wood while manning his machine gun.His name appeared in battalion orders for gallantry under fire. Employed as a Bus Conductor for Belfast City Tramways. Enlisted at Belfast. Born in Dromore, Co. Down, he lived at Tullyniskey. Son of George McKeown of Tudyniskey, Dromara, Co. Down. A member of the Orange Order. A wreath left in front of the headstone in July 2002 read "In proud and loving memory of Bro [brother] D.T. McKeown from the officers and members of Waringsford

Rising Star LOL 545 Co. Down. July 2002". Authuile Military Cemetery, France. Dromore WM. Waringsford Orange Hall RH

+SLOANE, Thomas George

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 18780. Died 06/05/1916. Age 26. Son of Benjamin and Harriet E. Sloane, of 9, Elswick St., Belfast. Authuile Military Cemetery, Authuile, Somme, France

+TOLERTON, George

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 6050. Died 06/05/1916. Born in Magheragall, Co. Antrim, he lived in Portadown, where, before the war he was employed by the Great Northern Railway Company. He enlisted at Belfast. Eldest son of Private Thomas and Jane Tolerton, Knocknarea, Magheragall, and brother of James Tolerton, KIA on the Somme on the 01/07/1916. His father and another brother also served. His wife and two children lived in Portadown. Authuile Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Magheragall Parish Church WM

+WALKER, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14642. Died 06/05/1916. Age 24. Son of John and Mary A. Walker, of Clady, Dunadry. Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

+WALKER, Jerome Lennie

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 06/05/1916. Aged 27. He went to school in Belfast, to Campbell College, from September 1903 to July 1905.

Campbell College give his address at that time as 31 Boulevard Vandenpeereboom, Courtrai. His father Franklin Manderson Walker was a wealthy flax merchant. It was not uncommon for Belfast flax merchants and linen manufacturers to have residences in continental flax growing areas. Jerome was there when the War broke out and the school magazine records that "The family escaped during the first week, but [Jerome] remained behind and joined the Red Cross Society with his motor, and drove it until the Germans took possession of the town. ... [He somehow became trapped but] managed to reach Ypres and stayed there during the three months of the bombardment, at one time living in a cellar for a fortnight". He eventually reached Belfast via London and obtained a Commission in the Royal Irish Rifles in December 1914. Son of F. Manderson Walker and Helen Lennie Walker of Mount Royal, Whitehead. Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Barn Mills war memorial tablet, now held in Carrickfergus Town Hall, and it is presumed he must once have worked in this flax mill. Also named on a North Down war memorial, and one reference gives the family address as Wynard, Helen's Bay, Co. Down.

1917

+ASHMORE, Richard Howell.

Canadian Army Medical Corps, Attached to 2nd Field Ambulance. Private. 525078. Died 06/05/1917. Age 45. He was educated at RBAI and QUB (BA, 1892), before becoming the principal of the Intermediate School in Lisburn, later the College, Clonmel, and Headmaster, Bangor Grammar School (1903 - 05). However, chronic laryngitis forced him to give up teaching for a number of years and for a time he studied in Germany. He

subsequently emigrated to British Columbia where he lived in McKay, returned to the teaching profession, and became principal of Cranbrook High School, BC. Enlisting at Victoria, BC. on the 11/11/1916 aged 44 having been in the 18th Field Ambulance in Vancouver for one month. Born in Creevelea, Co. Leitrim on the 22/02/1872. He was the son of the Rev. John and Mrs. Ashmore of Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim and husband to Mary Ashmore of McKay, Mission City, British Columbia. Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. It was used by the 1st Canadian CCS in 1917 during the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Corps.

+MOORE, Richard

North Irish Horse. Private. 2206. Died 06/05/1917 of pneumonia at the Military Barracks in Belfast. Age 23. Born on 24/09/1893 at 44 Hillview Street, Belfast, son of grocer James Moore and his wife Sarah (nee Mulholland). By 1911 he was working as a clerk in a Belfast linen factory. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim in June 1916. He died in Belfast. His remains interred in Annahilt Presbyterian churchyard in the family burial ground of James Moore. 1918

+McNEILLY, Duncan

Seaforth Highlanders. 8th Btn. Private. S/43179. Died 06/05/1918. Age 20 Son of Samuel and Mary McNeilly, of Liminary, Ballymena. Kells & Connor New Presbyterian Cemetery

+NIXON, T J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 12280. Died 06/05/1918. Age 23. Son of William James and Ellen Nixon, of Downpatrick. St Margaret's Churchyard, Downpatrick

1941

+NELSON, Edward John

RM.Marine. CH/X 1707, Died 22/05/1941. Age 33. HMS Gloucester. Brother of Samuel Nelson, RN. Son of Samuel Nelson. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 28/08/1942). Chatham Naval memorial

+McKINNELL, William John

Boy 1st Class.D/JX 162882. Died 22/05/1941 Age 17. HMS Gloucester. Joined aged 15. Father served in RN during war. Son of Mr and Mrs J McKinnell, Bournalon St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/06/1941, and 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49

1942

+ERVIN, Graham Hamilton

RNVR. FAA. Sub Lieutenant (A). Died 06/05/1942. Age 23. Operating from HMS Illustrious when the Swordfish he was piloting failed to return from strikes against Vichy warships in Diego Suarez, Madagascar. RBAI. Faculty of Medicine 1937 - 40 QUB. Son of Walter Kennedy and Maude Jane Ervin, Ravenhill Pk., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/05/1942). Diego Suarez War Cemetery, Madagascar. RBAI WM. QUB WM

1943

+DEVILLE, Thomas Charles

Pioneer Corps. Private. 7020517. Died 06/05/1943. Aged 35. Foster-Son of James George and Emily Deville. Bangor New Cemetery

+GRAHAM, William

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver.T/1475605. Died 06/05/1943. Aged 38. Son of William and Agnes Graham, of Newtownards; husband to Sarah Graham, of Newtownards. Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

+MAGUIRE, Thomas

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Lance Serjeant. 2718338. Died 06/05/1943. Aged 26. Son of Bernard and Rose Ann Maguire, of Tullyrosmearn, Co. Fermanagh. Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia

1944

+LAWSON, David

Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 4196588. Died 06/05/1944. Aged 29. Son of Robert Lawson, and of Annie Lawson, of Newcastle, Co. Down. Kohima War Cemetery, India. Newcastle WM

+YEAMAN, Richard George

RAFVR. 2957 Squadron. Leading Aircraftman. 1350724. Died 27/04/1944. Aged 27. It was reported in the 06/05/1944 issue of the Newtownards Chronicle that he died on 27/04/1944 as the result of a bullet wound. Born on 30/07/1916 in Carrowdore. Son of William James Yeaman

and Sarah Ann Yeaman, of Newtownards. William James Yeaman worked as a labourer and during the Great War he served with the 11 Btn, Royal Irish Rifles. He was awarded the Military Medal. Carrowdore Christ Church Churchyard, Carrowdore. Newtownards WM. St. Mark's C of I Parish Church, Newtownards RH

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them



On this Day – May 6

The newspapers

6th May 1915 Belfast Newsletter

14th ROYAL IRISH RIFLES. Young Citizens Arrive in Belfast.

The 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Young Citizen Volunteers) left camp Randalstown yesterday morning, and marched via Crumlin to Belfast for the purpose of taking part in the review of the Ulster Division on Saturday. The men carried their rifles, packs, and entrenching tools, and notwithstanding the long distance they had covered- 22 miles - they appeared to be in excellent condition as they passed through the centre of the city at six o'clock in the evening on their way to the yard of Messrs. Davidson & Co. Ltd., Mountpottinger Road, where they piled arms and were dismissed.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. D. Spencer Chichester, the commanding officer, rode at the head of his men, and the battalion band played appropriate airs. A large number of spectators witnessed the progress of the men through the city. The battalion was accompanied by its cyclist, signalling, and ambulance detachments, as well as by its transport.

This evening the rank and file will be the guests of the officers at the Royal Hippodrome, and at six o'clock tomorrow evening they will attend a meeting in the Ulster Hall. On Sunday they will attend a Divine service in the Ulster Hall at 2:30 p.m., and at noon on Monday they will leave the city on the return march to Randalstown.

6th May 1915 Belfast Newsletter

THE DIVISIONAL REVIEW

Progress with the Arrangements. Major - General Powell's Views.

The arrangements in connection with the review and parade of the Ulster Division in Belfast on Saturday next are rapidly approaching completion, and the display promises to provide military spectacle on a scale such has never been seen before in the city. After the review at Malone the division will proceed via Lisburn Road, Shaftsbury Square, Great Victoria Street, and Wellington Place, past the City Hall, up Chichester Street, and through Victoria Street, High Street, Castle Place and Royal Avenue to the junction of North Street. When they reach the junction of North Street and Royal Avenue, the cavalry and cyclists will move off at once, keeping clear of the route.

The dispersal arrangements for the other units are briefly as follows :--

The three Field Companies of the Royal Engineers will proceed at once to Midland Railway terminus and entrain for Antrim;

The Signal Company, Royal Engineers will march via North Street, Waring Street, and Albert Square to the County Down terminus, or to billets as may be arranged;

The 107th (Belfast) Brigade will proceed up North Street, Peter's Hill and Shankill Road;

The 108th Brigade will turn down North Street, and march up Waring Street, Albert Square and Queen's Bridge to the County Down terminus or other place arranged;

The 109th Brigade will proceed directly up Royal Avenue and Donegall Street, possibly resting in the Alexandra Park, before proceeding to the Midland terminus;

The 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles may be detached in to a side street, as they are not returning to Randalstown that evening;

The 16th Royal Irish Rifles will return to the Great Northern Railway by a route east of Royal Avenue, and entrain for Lurgan;

The Army Service Corps, Divisional Train, and Reserve Park will proceed up York Street, into Great George's Street and Corporation Street; and the R.A.M.C. may select their own route.

The route of the 108th Brigade from the County Down terminus to the Ormeau Park in the morning has been altered. Instead of proceeding via Short Strand the brigade will march via Lagan Bank Road and Albert Bridge to Ravenhill Road.

First aid dressing stations, marked by a Red Cross flag, will be established at intervals along the route by which the troops will march from Deramore Park to Royal Avenue. The tram traffic will be stopped in certain districts, and no trams will pass through the column of troops.

Sir Edward and Lady Carson have arranged to cross from London to-morrow evening, and will be present at the review and at the saluting base, City Hall.

The 107th Infantry Brigade from Ballykinlar, will reach the city by road to-morrow evening.

Arrangements for a church parade on Sunday are being made by various units. The 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles will attend service in the Ormeau Park at 10:30 a.m., the

officiating clergymen being Rev. Canon Harding, Rev. Dr. McKean, and a Methodist clergyman.

6th May 1918, Northern Whig

Rifleman Ralph Anthony Parker, 8/3139, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, 28 years of age, died of wounds 11th April, 1918, in No. 36 casualty clearing station. He was a son of Richard Parker and Husband of Mary Parker nee Dailey, of 27 Mount Street, **Belfast**. Deceased is buried in Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Corporal Robert Patterson, 8902, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Ulster Division), 28 years of age, killed in action 22nd March, 1918. He was a son of Mr. William Patterson of 54 Foundry Street, **Belfast**. Deceased is buried in Savy British Cemetery, France.

Private John Seymour, 23735, 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 22 years of age, died of wounds 28th March, 1918. He was a son of Robert and Elizabeth Seymour, of **Randalstown**, County Antrim. Deceased is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.

1915

During the Gallipoli Campaign, the main Allied landings took place around Helles and Anzac Cove. The Plymouth Battalion RND (Royal Naval Division) took part

At the Second Battle of Ypres the British recover some lost trenches on Hill 60.

1917

The French successfully resist all German counter-attacks on the Aisne. It is reported that 29,000 German prisoners are taken by the French since the 10th of April 1917.

1940

Hitler again delays X-Day, this time till the 10th May.

Francis Sayre is sent to Tokyo for talks with Foreign Minister Arita.

1941

Bob Hope gives his first USO show at California's March Field.

US Secretary for War advocates US Navy protection for British supply convoys.

Stalin declares himself 'Chairman of the Council of Peoples Commissars', in other words Premier of the Soviet Union

The last Brigade of the British 10th Indian Division arrives at Basra with its commander Major General Bill Slim. Axis aircraft begin to land at the Mosul airfield in northern Iraq.

1942

in 1942 the Madagascar Campaign was underway to deny the island as a base for the Japanese.

At about 2000 hours on the 6th May fifty Royal Marines from HMS Ramillies commanded by Captain Martin Price RM, sailed from anchorage in the destroyer HMS Anthony at high speed and, after running the gauntlet of shore batteries in the dark, landed on the quay at Antsirabe.

After storming the French army barracks and taking the troops there by surprise, the marines captured the arsenal and took 500 prisoners. Their impact was so successful that they were embarrassed by the number of prisoners they took, and by 0300hrs on 7 May the town and its defences were taken.

Antsirabe is the third largest city in Madagascar and the capital of the Vakinankaratra region.

Corregidor surrenders after five months resistance, with 15,000 prisoners taken by 1,000 Japanese.

B-17's from Australia spot the Port Moresby Invasion Fleet south of Bougainville. They attack the Japanese Carrier Shoho but miss. Admiral Fletcher is now convinced that the main Japanese force would make for the Jomard Passage between Papua and the Louisiade Archipelago and so organizes his forces for the coming battle.

1943

Hitler makes one of his increasingly rare visits to Berlin for Viktor Lutze's funeral.

1944

In India, British release Gandhi from prison on medical grounds – Gandhi opposed India supporting the British war effort without a promise for independence. He had been imprisoned since August 1942.

1945

38 (Irish) Brigade - 2 Inniskillings – Treviso/Udine

1700 A conference was held at Btn HQ at which the Commanding Officer outlined the political situation in the area. The situation was rather complex and, on no account, were we to get involved in any political quarrels that might arise. Tension existed between Tito's Yugoslavs & the Green scarf Partisans of Italy. The Yugoslavs claimed to be Patriots, while the "Greens" claimed "they" were democratic. The situation was further complicated by the presence of Garibaldi Partisan Red Scarfs and the Italian Regular Army.

The last U-boats of the war sunk with all hands: U-853 and U-881 in the North Atlantic by US destroyer escorts, and U-3523 in the Baltic by the RAF.

Axis Sally makes her final propaganda broadcast to Allied troops.

The U.S. Fifth Army enters Austria from Italy.

Breslau surrenders after an 82-day siege, during which the Russians inflicted 29,000 civilian and military casualties and took more than 40,000 prisoners.

German SS troops try to crush uprising in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

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

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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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