



remembrance ni



**Meilo War Cemetery, Netherlands.
See yesterday's post (May 6) for details.**

Roll of Honour – May 7

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+CANNING, A

Royal Field Artillery, 103rd Bty. Gunner. 81925. Died 07/05/1915. Age 40. Husband of Annie Canning, of 64, Moira St., Belfast. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

+CLOSE, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4816. Died 07/05/1915 at Hill 60, 2nd Battle of Ypres. Age 20. Born in Seapatrick 15/10/1894, son of Joseph & Elizabeth Close (nee Smart), 2 Anderson St., Banbridge, then Newry Rd., Banbridge. Member of Seapatrick Parish Church. His brother Rifleman William Close, 1st Royal Irish Rifles, died in action 29/05/1915 aged 30, and is commemorated on Ploegstreet Memorial to the Missing. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Banbridge WM.Seapatrick Parish Church WM

+COCHRANE, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5/5508. Died 07/05/1915 at Hill 60, 2nd Battle of Ypres. Age 23. Born 11/05/1892 at 55 Gallows Street, Dromore. A twin brother

John died later. Son of Thomas & Ellen Jane (nee Davidson) Cochrane, Laffery Place Dromore, Co Down. A member of 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church. Enlisted in Belfast in the 5th Royal Irish Rifles (Reserve). His brother Lance Corporal Albert Cochrane (73265) Machine Gun Corps was transferred to the Z reserve 10/9/1919 and discharged 19/1/1920 suffering from the effects of Shell Shock. Their father, Sergeant Thomas Cochrane (snr) was a veteran of the Boer War with the 83rd Foot (Royal Irish Rifles. 561). He enlisted 04/07/1885 and was discharged 23/07/1902. At the outbreak of the Great War he re-enlisted in 16th Royal Irish Rifles (Pioneers) for home service at Brownlow House. Thomas (snr) was a member of Skeogh LOL 861 , RBP 11 Juniper Tree Dromore, later transferred to Ballymacormick LOL 793. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church WM.

+FERRIE, F

King's Own Scottish Borderers, 2nd Btn. Private. 16910. Died 07/05/1915. Age 27. Son of Francis Ferrie, of Belfast; husband of Isabella Ferrie, of 52, James St., Mile End, Glasgow. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+GOLIGHER, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 2265. Died 07/05/1915 of wounds received at Festubert in April 1915. A Special Reservist, he embarked for France in November 1914. Fosse 7 Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France. Clooney Hall Methodist Church RH , Londonderry

+HUGHES, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5313. Died 07/05/1915. Age 19. Son of David and Martha Hughes, of 19, Moscow St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+LARKIN, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 15051. Died 07/05/1915. Age 37. Sixteen years service. Also served in the South African War. Husband to Emma Martin Larkin, of 27, Sidney St. West, Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+McCOLLUM, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4864. Died 07/05/1915. Age 34. Son of John and Catherine McCollum, of Gilford Rd., Lurgan. Etretat Churchyard, France

+McDONALD, Daniel

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7137. Died 07/05/1915. Aged 33. Son of William John McDonald, of 49, Tomb St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+MOCKLER, Edward Cecil William

Lance Corporal Edward Cecil William Mockler, Canadian Infantry, was born in Ballinderry on the 24/06/1893. He was educated at the local school. At the aged of 13 he won an Incorporated Society's exhibition which entitled him to three years free education at Dundalk Institution.

A second exhibition gave him two more years and residence at Mountjoy School in Dublin. On completing his education he emigrated to Canada, against the advice of his principal who wanted him to go to Trinity.

Having secured a post with the Canadian Bank of Commerce he sailed for Montreal in July 1912 and lived in Humboldt, Saskatchewan for two years before joining up at Valcartier Camp, Quebec on the 22/09/1914 aged 21 years and 3 months.

A single man, he had no previous military experience. After training at Valcartier he served in 1 CI WOR (I8822) being posted first to Salisbury and then to the Western Front in late march or early April 1915. He died in the military hospital in Cambridge on the 07/05/1915 age 21 from wounds received at Langemarck near Ypres on the 22 or 23 April.

Because of his knowledge of French, he had been asked by Major Kimmins to accompany him to the French lines. On their way there Kimmins was killed and Mockler hit in the back by shrapnel which punctured his lung. Although he took cover, he was hit several more times as well as being exposed to the gas which the Germans had released on the French. It took him six hours to crawl back to his own lines from where he was taken back to base, eventually arriving in hospital in Cambridge late on the 1 May. His father was able to visit him in hospital before his death and had his remains brought home.

The son of Edward Mockler of Fruithill, Rose Lane Ends, Ballinderry, Co. Antrim who sat on the Lisburn Board of Guardians, he is buried in the family plot in Ballinderry

Middle Church Cemetery, Ballinderry. According to a report of the funeral in the local news-paper the Lisburn Standard, "There was a large number present and it was evident from the tear-brimmed eyes seen on all sides that the deceased was held in very high esteem in the neighbourhood in which he was born and reared. Numerous wreaths were sent by relatives and friends."

The events in which Mockler was involved were described by John McClelland a Dunmurry man who was also serving in the CEF. In a letter home to a friend in the village he wrote, "I expect you have heard all about our heavy casualty list. We got it good and hard while it lasted, but I might tell you we gave quite as much as we got until the Germans started shelling with the poison gas fumes. I could fill quite a few sheets of writing paper with what I came through from April 22 up until the morning of 24 when I got hit and half poisoned as well. We made two charges with fixed bayonets. I came through the two charges without a scratch, but three hours later I was giving a wounded comrade a drink and I got it good with a large chunk of shrapnel in the shoulder fracturing some of the bones; but the gas is worse than their biggest shells. The Germans did their best to break through our lines, but all efforts failed. They even drove the French Algerians out of their position, and that's where we lost so many in recapturing the lost ground. We lost very heavily but we saved the situation. To tell you proper, if they had got through and crossed safely over the Yser canal there would have been nothing to prevent them being in Calais".

It is not clear whether John McClelland survived the war or not. There are a number of casualties with that name in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission register but it is

impossible to say whether he is one of them. As for Major A. E. Kimmins, the CWGC records that he died on the 24 April 1915. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

+SPENCE, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9385. Died 07/05/1915 during the 2nd Battle of Ypres near the infamous Hill 60. One of nine in the battalion who died on this day. Age 23. Thomas was the youngest son of Sarah Spence and a brother to Charles Spence, the family lived in Lancastarian Street, Carrickfergus. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

1916

+CRAWFORD, Robert James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 13598. Died 07/05/1916. Age 27. Son of James and Sarah Crawford, of Osnagh, Beragh, Co. Tyrone. Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille, France

+CURRAN, Herbert

Royal Fusiliers, 24th Btn. Private. 2101. Died 07/05/1916. Aged 21. Third son of Miles and Edith Curran, of 9, Myrtlefield Park, Belfast. Tranchee de Mecknes Cemetery, Aix-Noulette, Pas de Calais, France

+MURPHY, A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9866. Died 07/05/1916. Age 24. Son of John and Elizabeth

Murphy, of Coleraine, Co. Derry. Auchonvillers Military Cemetery, France

+RICHARDSON, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 14 Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 15854. Died at Muckamore from phthisis on 07/05/1916. Born at Donegore on 08/08/1888. Enlisted Belfast 14/09/1914. Discharged at Randalstown 30/04/1915 as he was no longer physically fit for war service. At some time he had suffered from tuberculosis. Son of John and Ellen (nee Carlyle) Richardson. James lived at Newtownbreda and was a cloth cutter by trade. He worked for linen manufacturer John McCann of Marcus Ward St., Belfast for five years. Muckamore Presbyterian Church RH

1917

+BOYD, John

Canadian Infantry, 47th Btn. Western Ontario Regiment. Private. 790538. Died 07.05/1917. From Lisburn district. Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+BOYD, William

Canadian Field Artillery. 2nd Brigade. Farrier Sergeant. 41712. Died 07.05/1917. Born in Co. Donegal on 29/03/1884, he had been a member of the Orange Order in Glenavy, and enlisted at Quebec on the 26/09/1914 aged 30. A farrier by occupation, he had by this time had 4 years "Imperial service" and 7 years and 3 months "Canadian service". In a letter to his father, Major Alderson wrote, "Sergeant Boyd was in charge of three wagons carrying material to the gun position, when the enemy opened up on

the road they were taking. He was hit by a splinter and his death was instantaneous. I sympathise with you very much in your loss, a loss in which the officers and men of this Battery have a share. He was very popular with all ranks, and his death has caused a gap which we all feel will not be easily filled". His brother James a Sergeant Major with Canadian Engineers and died from pneumonia on 02/20/1918. Son of William Boyd of Main Street, Crumlin, Co. Antrim. La Targette British Cemetery, Neuville-St.-Vaast, Pas de Calais, France. Crumlin WM. Glenavy Protestant Hall RH. Canadian Virtual War Memorial

+BROWN, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Serjeant.10839. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Died 07/05/1917. Age 46. Served in the Tirah and Punjab Expeditions (1897-98). Husband to Irvina Brown, of 5, Ashfield Terrace, Omagh. Dublin Road Cemetery, Omagh

+GILPIN, David McCleery

North Irish Horse. Private.1634. Died 07/05/1917 at home due to tuberculosis. Age 23.David McCleery Gilpin was born on 01/09/1892 at 2 Beechfield Street, Belfast, the last of ten children of master-mariner William Gilpin and his wife Fanny (nee Montgomery). By 1911 he was living with his parents, five siblings, the husband of his recently deceased sister and their four children, at 67 Castlereagh Street, Belfast, in the final year of a five-year apprenticeship with linen business R. McBride & Co.

Gilpin enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim on 28/05/1915 (No.1634). Soon after, however, he fell ill. Diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis, he was discharged on 29 /09/1915 as being "not likely to become an efficient soldier" (paragraph 392 iii(c) of King's Regulations). His character was recorded as "good".

Gilpin's tuberculosis was initially assessed as pre-dating his military service. However this was overturned on appeal, a minute dated 10/11/ 1916 stated: [The disease] originated at Antrim Aug '15. States he was on duty attending diseased horses in open field without shelter. He had a bad wetting & reported sick. He is losing weight, now only 9st 5lb. He has a constant hacking cough with profuse expectoration. TB positive in sputum. ... Breathing shallow & rapid. ... Result of ordinary military service & aggravated thereby. Result of exposure to contagion of TB during ordinary military service."

As a result, Gilpin was granted a military pension. He died at home on 7 May 1917. Carnmoney C of I Churchyard and extension.

+LENNON, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers.1st Btn. Private. 7092. Died 07/05/1917. Enlisted Dundalk. On 21/12/1916 he was tried for desertion and fraudulent enlistment in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Born at Crossmaglen. Son of Patrick and Mary Lennon. Arras Memorial, France

+RAINEY, Robert Boyd

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Corporal. 12/23295. Died 07/06/1917. Age 38. Son of William and Agnes Rainey, of Newtownards. Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium

+RUSH, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Corporal. 17354. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Son of Frank and Mary Rush, of Clare Bridge, Cookstown. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+WHITESIDE, Samuel

Canadian Infantry, 43rd Btn. Private. 859743. Died 07/05/1917. Aged 29. Son of William and Isabella Whiteside of Gilford, Co.Down, and the brother of Alexander, Minnie, Hugh, William and John. Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-Au-Bois, Pas-de-Calais, France. Gilford WM, Ballymacanallen Orange Hall WM

1918

+DIAMOND, J

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 18/1748. Died 07/05/1918. Age 22. Son of Joseph and Mary Ann Diamond, of Quarry Court, Portrush. Gwalia Cemetery, Belgium

+NIXON, Thomas James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 12280. Died 07/05/1918, at the residence of his uncle William McCalister, New Bridge-street, Downpatrick. Son of William James and Ellen Nixon, Downpatrick. He was a member of Loyal Orange Lodge No. 359.

1941

+LANE, Hugh William Edward

RAF. Pilot Officer (Pilot). 42847. Died 07/05/1941. Aged 29. 38 Sqdn. Son of Hugh and Clara Mildred Lane, of Londonderry. Ismailia War Cemetery, Egypt

1943

+KEEL, Norman Harry

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 132611. Died 07/05/1943. Age 23. Born 22/04/1920. Educated MCB. Son of Albert Edward and Wilhelmina Keel, Earl Haig Pk., Belfast. Moose Jaw (Rosedale) Cemetery, Canada

+MEENAGH, Lewis

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), attd. Border Regiment. Private. 14411790. Died 07/05/1943. Aged 26. Husband to Sarah B. Meenagh, of Armagh. St. Dymphna Roman Catholic Churchyard, Dromore, County Tyrone

+SHERRY, Basil

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

1944

+Stewart, Donald Campbell

Royal Navy. Able Seaman. D/JX 146752. HMS Tamar. Died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp at Osaka on

07/05/1944. Age 23. He was captured at the fall of Hong Kong, and died of acute pneumonia. Second son of John and Elizabeth Stewart, 94, Beechwood Avenue, Londonderry. His younger brother, Sergeant James Dickson Stewart, lost his life in 1943 while on active service with the R.A.F. His two remaining brothers also served in World War 2 – Corporal John Stewart in the R.A.F. and Telegraphist Robert Stewart in the Royal Navy. Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan

1945

+ELLIS, George

HMS Caroline. RN. Lieut-Commander (S). Died 07/05/1945. Age 68. Circumstances of death not identified. Family and Address Details: None Recorded on CWGC. Bangor Cemetery

VETERAN

STEVENSON, Henry

Henry (Harry) Stevenson was born in Ballyholme on 07/07/1893, the son of James Stevenson, a labourer and his wife Jemima (nee M'Gowan). He enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in May 1915 (Service No 405119) although his Attestation papers recorded he had served 4 months with the 109th Regiment. He listed his profession as tailor as was also recorded in the 1911 census. Returning to Canada after the war the family memorial in Bangor cemetery records he died on the 7th May 1947 "from wounds received in 1914-1918 war."

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them



On this Day – May 7

In the newspapers

7th May 1915 Belfast Newsletter

THE ULSTER DIVISION TO-MORROW'S REVIEW

Arrangements for the March Past THE ROUTE FROM
MALONE

The arrangements for the review and march past of the Ulster Division in Belfast to-morrow have been practically completed, and it may safely be asserted that the display will provide a military spectacle without parallel in the history of the city, Sir Edward and Lady Carson will cross from England to-night for the purpose of witnessing the proceedings, and in addition to members of the Irish Unionist Parliamentary Party, it is anticipated that a number of English representatives will be present.

The event has aroused enormous public interest not only in Belfast but throughout the North of Ireland, and it is expected that there will be a large influx of visitors from various provincial centres, the railway companies having arranged to provide special travelling facilities to and from the city.

As already announced the 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Young Citizen Volunteers) have arrived in Belfast, and the remaining two battalions of the 109th Infantry Brigade which are to take part - the 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (County Tyrone) and the 11th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Donegal and Fermanagh) - will make the journey to the city by special trains from Randalstown to-morrow morning.

The four battalions forming the 107th Infantry Brigade, the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 16th Royal Irish Rifles, are coming by route march from Ballykinlar, and will reach the city this evening.

The 108th Infantry Brigade, the 11th, 12th and 13th Battalions Royal Irish Rifles, composed of Volunteers of the counties of Antrim and Down, and the 9th Battalion Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers (County Armagh) will make

the journey to-morrow morning in special trains from Bangor and Newtownards.

The Divisional troops, including the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Medical Corps, the Cyclist Company, and the Service Squadron of the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons, as well as the 16th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Pioneers) and the 17th (Reserve) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, will also be included.

THE ROUTE FROM MALONE

The route from the review ground at Malone will be as follows :-- Lisburn Road, Shaftsbury Square, Great Victoria Street, and Wellington Place, past the saluting base at the City Hall, Chichester Street, Victoria Street, High Street, Castle Place, and Royal Avenue to the junctions of North Street, where the Brigades will disperse as previously announced.

THE TROOPS ON PARADE

Staffs and Battalion Officers

The following is a list of the battalions and divisional units which will be on parade at the review, with their order, in the march past of the Ulster Division to-morrow; also the Divisional Staff and the different brigade staff, with officers commanding the various battalions and divisional units :--

Headquarters Staff

General Officer Commanding - Major-General C. H. Power, C.B.

Staff Officer - Captain W. B. Spender.

Staff Officer (Musketry) - Captain R. W. Barnett.

Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster - General Lieutenant Colonel James Craig, M.P.

Deputy - Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster - General
Major G. T. Drage.

Assistant Director Medical Services - Lieutenant Colonel F.
J. Greig.

Deputy Director Medical Services - Major S. Boylan Smith.

Assistant Director Veterinary Services - Major C. Rose.

Aide-de-camp - Second Lieutenant R. F. Henry

Acting Divisional Ordinance Officer - Hon. Captain J. Wright.

The Troops of the Division will March in the Following Order:

Squadron 6th (S.S) Inniskilling Dragoons - Major . B. D.
Strettell.

36th Divisional Cyclist Company - Lieutenant W.H. Warman.

Royal Engineers - Officer Commanding - Colonel H. Finnis.

121st Field Company - Major C. Craig.

122nd Field Company - Major V. D. D. Cooper. 150th Field
Company - Captain J. H. Otway.

36th Divisional Signal Company - Captain W. T. F.
Thompson.

107th Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier General G. H. H. Couchman, D.S.O.

Brigade Major - Captain E. P. Grant.

Acting Staff Captain - Captain J. T. Duffin (15th R.I.R.)

Acting Musketry Officer - Captain W. Howland (8th R.I.R.)

8th R.I.Rifles. (East Belfast) - Brevet Colonel H. T. Lyle.
D.S.O.; Major P. T. Chute, D.S.O.

9th R.I.Rifles. (West Belfast) - Lieutenant Colonel G. S.
Ormerod, Major F. P. Crozier.

10th R.I.Rifles. (South Belfast) - Colonel H. C. Bernard
Major J. Bernard.

15th R.I.Rifles. (North Belfast) - Lieutenant Colonel G. H.
Ford Hutchinson, D.S.O.; Major C. Jackson.

108th Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier General - W. G. Hacket Pain, C.B.

Brigade Major - Captain R. R. Smyth.

Acting Staff Captain - Lieutenant Kenneth M. Moore (11th
R.I.R.)

Acting Musketry Officer - Captain J. W. Bell.

11th R.I.Rifles. (South Antrim) - Lieutenant Colonel H. A.
Pakeham, Major P. L. K. Oliphant.

12th R.I.Rifles. (Central Antrim) - Lieutenant Colonel R. C.
A. McCalmont, M.P., Major C. G. Cole Hamilton, D.S.O.

13th R.I.Rifles. (County Down) - Lieutenant Colonel W. H.
Savage, Major R. D. P. Maxwell.

9th R.I.Fusiliers. (County Armagh) - Lieutenant Colonel S.
W. Blacker, Major A. C. Pratt.

As Brigadier General Hacket Pain is indisposed the 109th

Brigade to-morrow will be under the command of Lieutenant
Colonel Savage, 13th R.I. Rifles and that battalion will be in
command by Major R. D. P. Maxwell.

109th Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier General - T. E. Hickman, C.B. D.S.O., M.P.

Brigade Major - Major Honourable A. C. S. Chichester.

Acting Staff Captain - Captain F. J. Murray (9th R.I.F.). Acting
Musketry Officer - Second Lieutenant F. S. Pardoe.

9th R. Inniskilling Fusiliers (County Tyrone) - Lieutenant Colonel A. St. Quentin Ricardo, D.S.O. : Major E. H. Llywellyn.

11th R. Inniskilling Fusiliers (Donegal and Fermanagh) - Lieutenant Colonel W. F. Hessey, Major the Earl of Leitrim.

14th R.I.Rifles (Young Citizen Volunteers) Lieutenant Colonel R. P. D. Spencer Chichester, Major H. R. Brave.

The remaining battalion of this brigade, the 10th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, being at Finner Camp, will not take part in the review. Their place will be occupied by the divisional battalion.

16th R.I.Rifles (Pioneers) - Lieutenant Colonel J. Leader.
36th Divisional Train, Army Service Corps - Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Harrison.

Divisional Medical Units, including 108th Field Ambulance, 109th Field Ambulance, 110th Field Ambulance - Lieutenant Colonel F. J. Greig.

Military wickets will be supplied by the 17th R.I.Rifles Reserve Battalion from Newcastle, of which Colonel R. H. Wallacem C.B., is the commanding officer.

The Chaplains to the Ulster Division are: Church of Ireland - Rev. Canon R. G. King. Rev. C. C. Manning. Rev. R. Ussher Greer., Presbyterian - Rev. J. J. Wright. Rev. D. R. Mitchell Wesleyan - Rev. W. J. Robinson.

1915

2nd Battle of Ypres - the infamous Hill 60

Hill 60 is the wartime name for the high ground close to the village of Zillebeke created when a railway cutting was made here in the nineteenth century. By the conclusion of the First Battle of Ypres in 1914 it was on the front line, with positions held on the slopes by French troops and the high ground largely in the hands of the Germans. During the Second Battle of Ypres in April and May 1915 the Hill saw heavy fighting, with four Victoria Crosses being awarded for one day alone. On May 5th 1915 the Germans retook Hill 60, using gas again. Most of the trenches on either side of the hill were immediately regained by counter-attack, but not the high ground itself. The casualties of the British had been very heavy, and two battalions of the 7th Brigade - the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles, and 2nd South Lancashire - were put at the disposal of the 5th Division.

On the 6th the 2nd Battalion R.I.R was ordered to march to a point north of Hill 60 and relieve the Bedfords of the 13th Brigade. The relief was carried out amidst considerable confusion. The guides led the Battalion from the ill-famed Shrapnel Corner, on the Ypres - Wytschaete road, along the side of the Zillebeke Lake, in single file, amid falling shells, by a path littered with the wounded and gassed, whose stretcher-bearers had been forced to set them down for a few moments' rest to their aching arms. Having lost their way more than once, they reached Dormy House, the Battalion headquarters, at 1.30 a.m. on the 7th. And for 2.30 a.m. a bombing attack to clear a communication trench held by the enemy had been planned.

Father Gill, the Battalion's chaplain, who describes the relief, states that he saw the scheme on the back of an envelope. The men were not in position till ten minutes

before that hour, utterly wearied already. Moreover, the
barricade, which was
supposed to have been
mined, did not "go up,"
and the bombers were
met by heavy fire from it.

The attack failed with
heavy loss, **Captain
Burgoyne** and
Lieutenant Leask being
wounded, and of other
ranks **9 killed and 16
wounded.**



A German submarine sinks **the passenger liner Lusitania** 11 miles off the south-west coast of Ireland.. The ship carries 1,198 people, 128 of them Americans. *Lusitania* fell victim to torpedo attack relatively early in the First World War, before tactics for evading submarines were properly implemented or understood. The contemporary investigations in both the United Kingdom and the United States into the precise causes of the ship's loss were obstructed by the needs of wartime secrecy and a propaganda campaign to ensure all blame fell upon Germany. Argument over whether the ship was a legitimate military target raged back and forth throughout the war as both sides made misleading claims about the ship. At the time she was sunk, she was carrying over 4 million rounds of small-arms ammunition (.303 caliber), almost 5,000 shrapnel shell casings (for a total of some 50 tons), and 3,240 brass percussion fuses

1926

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Frederick Charles Doveton Sturdee died aged 65. Sturdee has a long Royal Navy career spanning the late 19th and early 20th centuries but is best known as the victor of the Battle of the Falklands in 1914 where he defeated Adm Von Spee.

1939

Germany and Italy announce an alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis

1940

British PM Neville Chamberlain resigns.

During the Norwegian campaign HMS Aurora sustained serious damage during air attacks with two turrets disabled and the loss of a RM gun crew..

All Dutch Army leave suspended.

1941

British capture U110 and its Enigma machine.

The Luftwaffe launches the first of two consecutive night raids against the British port of Hull.

1942

Dutch Jews are forced to wear the yellow 'Star of David' badge.

Vichy French resistance ends in Madagascar.

The Battle of the Coral Sea begins, as the Japanese Striking Force (Admiral Inouye), which consists of the carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku, 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers make the first strike. This is against the oiler Neosho and her escorting destroyer, which are on their way to rendezvous with Admiral Fletchers Task Force 17, which includes the carriers Yorktown and Lexington, 8 cruisers and 11 destroyers. The Neosho takes serious damage and eventually has to be scuttled. Admiral Fletcher then orders a cruiser squadron consisting of HMAS Australia, Hobart, USN Chicago and 2 destroyers to attack the Port Moresby invasion force, but this soon comes under Japanese air attack, although it did divert Japanese attention away from the American carriers. At the same time, Admiral Inouye orders the Invasion Force to turn away from the Jomard Passage until the American carriers have been dealt with.

Admiral Fletcher now launched a strike from the Yorktown against what he thought was a major Japanese task force, but which turned out to be only 2 light cruisers and 2 gunboats. However, aircraft from the Lexington spotted the Japanese carrier Shoho and sank her. Later that afternoon the Japanese launched 27 aircraft against the US carrier Task Force, but they failed to locate their targets and only 6 returned safely. At midnight, Admiral Inouye decided to postpone the invasion of Port Moresby for two days.

1943

The last major German strongholds in North Africa—Tunis and Bizerte—fall to Allied forces. In a speech to Nazi Party Reichsleiters and Gauleiters in Berlin, Hitler says that U-boat warfare will be stepped up as the surest way to “cut the arteries of the enemy.” Even as the Fuhrer speaks, however, the calamity of “Black May” for the U-boat force is unfolding in the Atlantic. 1944. The US 8th Air Force launches a 1,500-bomber raid against Berlin 300,000 Japanese troops begin their preliminary moves prior to an offensive from the Canton and Hankow area in eastern China, with the aim of using airfields.

1945

(Photo below) The German Chief-of-Staff, General Jodl, signs Germany’s unconditional surrender to the western allies and Russia at 2:41am. Operations are to cease at 1 minute after midnight (GMT) on the 8th May. General Bahne announces the unconditional surrender of German troops in Norway. British troops enter Utrecht to a tumultuous reception.

The British Eighth Army crosses the Italian/Austrian border.



capt

U-2336 sinks the last allied merchant ships of the war off the Firth of Forth, these are the Norwegian vessels Sneland I and the British Avondale Park.

7th May 1945, 2 Inniskillings– UDINE:

0900 Orders were received to establish road blocks on the 3 main roads leading to Udine with a view to controlling movement of unauthorised people & looting of enemy dumps. The Garrison of each post was comprised of 8 Inniskillings & 8 Yugoslavs.

May 1945, CQMS O'Sullivan 2 London Irish Rifles

"I managed to get to Mass on the Sunday. Although it was Italy, the Mass was in Serbian. We moved the next day back into Italy proper. It was Monday 7th May and the war in North- West Europe was in its final day."

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Aged 20 - V C, D S O and 2 Bars, M C

On this day in 1917 the death took place of 20 year old Captain Albert Ball of the Royal Flying Corps, 56th Sqdn. formerly of the formerly 7th (Robin Hood) Btn. Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

V C, D S O and 2 Bars, M C, Mentioned in Despatches

Legion d'Honneur (France); Order of St. George, 4th Class (Russia). Son of Sir Albert Ball, J.P., of Stansted House, Wollaton Park, Nottingham.

An extract from the "London Gazette" dated 8th June 1917, records the following

"For most conspicuous and consistent bravery from the 25th of April to the 6th of May, 1917, during which period Capt. Ball took part in twenty-six combats in the air and destroyed eleven hostile aeroplanes, drove down two out of control, and forced several others to land. In these combats Capt. Ball, flying alone, on one occasion fought six hostile machines, twice he fought five and once four. When leading two other British aeroplanes he attacked an enemy formation of eight. On each of these occasions he brought down at least one enemy. Several times his aeroplane was badly damaged, once so seriously that but for the most delicate handling his machine would have collapsed, as nearly all the control wires had been shot away. On returning with a damaged machine he had always to be restrained from immediately going out on another. In all, Capt. Ball has destroyed forty-three German aeroplanes and one balloon, and has always displayed most exceptional courage, determination and skill."

He is quoted "Oh, won't it be nice when all this beastly killing is over, and we can just enjoy ourselves and not hurt

anyone. I hate this game, but it is the only thing one must do just now”



remembrance ni

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston 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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