



## remembrance ni

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**On this day the 38th (Irish) Brigade takes part in the final successful attack on Monte Cassino in 1944**

# Roll of Honour – May 12

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+COYLE, John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 5918. Died 12/05/1915. Age 20 years old. Son of John and Catherine Coyle, of Tifforum, Forkhill, Co. Armagh. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+CREE, Arthur**

Royal Engineers, 17th Field Coy. Sapper. 18291. Died 12/05/1915. Age 24. Son of Arthur and M. J. Cree, of 116, Limestone Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+DALZELL, James**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Sergeant. 5505. Died of wounds in the No3 Casualty Clearing Station 12/05/1915. Wounded during the 2nd Battle of Ypres, Frezenberg. Aged 23. Before enlisting was employed at Tavanagh Weaving Factory. Was a drill instructor for (4) Portadown UVF. Enlisted in the Reserves. To France with the British Expeditionary Force in November 1914. Born 24/04/1892 at Drumcree, Portadown. Son of James and Sarah Anne Dalzell (nee McCausland), 15 Fowler's Entry, Portadown, Co Armagh. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Ext, France. Portadown WM. St Mark's Parish Church WM

**+KILPATRICK, John.**

1 BR. Lance Corporal. 9232. Died 12/05/1915. Age 39. Born in Moy, Co. Armagh, he lived in Lisburn, enlisted at Carlisle. Husband to Mrs. E. McCabe (formerly Kilpatrick) of 5 Carman's Row, Lambeg, Lisburn. Died of wounds received in Gallipoli. Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

**+LYNN, William James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 10302. Died 12/05/1915. Age 21. Son of Robert A. and Mary Ann Lynn, of 57 Bristol St., Belfast. Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

**+THOMPSON, David**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 8548. Died 12/05/1915. Husband of A. Thompson, of 35, Brownlow St., Belfast. Merville Communal Cemetery, France

**1916**

**+MILLAR, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5549. Died 12/05/1916. Age 36. Born in Lisburn, he lived in Dunmurry, and enlisted at Lisburn. Son of Alexander and Maria Millar of Hurst Street, Belfast. Le Treport Military Cemetery, France

**+SCOTT, J C**

Royal Engineers, 122nd Field Coy. Corporal. 57522. Died 12/05/1916. Age 29. Son of Matilda and the late John Scott,

of 37, Bedeque St., Belfast. Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France

**1917**

**+HORAN, George Patrick**

Royal Warwickshire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private. 23616. Died 12/05/1917. Age 37. Born in Armagh. Son of Mrs. Sarah Dawe, of 21, Normandy Rd., Easton, Bristol. Willesden New Cemetery

**1918**

**+BROOKS, Frederick Thomas**

Army Service Corps. 1058th Mechanical Transport Coy. Private. M/345879. Died 12/05/1918. Age 22. Enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers on 16/09/1914. On 25/05/1915 he was discharged because he was medically unfit. He re-enlisted with the Army Service Corps. His brother David served with the Royal Irish Fusiliers and died on 01/07/1916. Son of John and Mary Jane Brooks, of 16, Barrack St., Armagh. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France. St Mark's C of I Parish Church, Armagh WM

**1920**

**+McMULLAN, Albert Vogt**

Leading Seaman. J6196. HMS Vivid. Died 12/05/1920. Age 27. Born Downpatrick 01/09/1893. Son of Alexander McMullan, of Irish St., Downpatrick; husband of the late Margaret McMullan, of Irish St. Down Cathedral New Cemetery. Downpatrick WM. ADM 188/659/6196

**1940**

**+SYNOTT, DFO**

RAF. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1796523630. Died 12/05/1940.  
Age 19. Newry, Co. Down

**1942**

**+GILMORE John**

RN. Able Seaman. C/SSX 18758. Date of Death  
12/06/1942. Age:29. HMS Grove. Eight years service. "Mr.  
and Mrs. Terence Gilmore, Maymore, Tolye, Killyleagh, have  
been officially notified that their eldest son, AB John Gilmore  
has been killed by enemy action. He had eight years'  
service with the Royal Navy, and was home last Christmas.  
He was torpedoed on two occasions and was in the Dunkirk  
episode. His younger brother, Edward, is at present in the  
Navy." Son of Mr. and Mrs. Terence Gilmore, Maymore,  
Killyleagh. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 26//06/1942).  
Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 54 Killyleagh WM"

**1943**

**+LOWRY, Robert**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1502000. Died 12/05/1943,  
aged 22, at Riccall, Selby, Yorkshire. 26 Connsbrook Drive,  
Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

**+STEWART, Robert McFerran**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 6977397.  
Died 12/05/1943. Aged 30. Son of Hugh Boal Stewart, and  
of Ellen McFerran Stewart, of Monkstown. Carnmoney  
Cemetery

**1944**

**+CARLIN, John A**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6978538. Died 12/05/1944. Aged 26. Son of Thomas and Teresa Carlin, of Londonderry. Hotton War Cemetery, Luxembourg, Belgium

**VETERANS**

**DAVIDSON, William MacFarlane**

RN. Surgeon Captain. 1939 - 73. Civilian MO RN Engineering College, Plymouth. B 12/05/1916. Son of Dr IA Davidson, Laurington, Antrim Rd., Belfast. MB BCh BAO, QUB, 1938. Campbell College 2295

**McCOLLUM, David Hugh**

RAMC. Military Cross. MB 1940 QUB. After qualifying David McCollum enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was responsible for the triage and evacuation of casualties from the Anzio beachhead. David was responsible for the care of both Allied and German wounded alike, but always claimed that he was awarded his Military Cross for dispensing tea with high brandy content to the general. After a spell in the Royal Maternity Hospital in Belfast and a short time in Leicester as an assistant in general practice, he moved to be a partner in Penkridge, Staffordshire, where he then became singlehanded for 15 years. He left a wife, Jean; four sons; and seven grandchildren. Former general practitioner Penkridge, Staffordshire. Born 1917. Died 12/05/2004.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

*We will remember them*

## On this Day – May 12

### In the newspapers - May 12

**Belfast Newsletter, 12th May 1915**

#### **MILITARY IN BALLYMENA**

A party of 5 officers and 180 men of the 36th Division Cyclist Company and 7 officers and 110 men of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, both at present stationed at Antrim, arrived in Ballymena yesterday. The cyclists were under the command of Lieutenant Warman, and the Dragoons were under Major C. B. D. Strettell. The cavalry officers were billeted in the Clarence Hotel, Mill Street, and the cyclist officers in the Adair Arms Hotel, while the men's quarters for the afternoon and night were in the Protestant and Town Halls. The party will leave for Ballymoney this morning.

**Belfast Newsletter, 12th May 1915**

#### **THE ULSTER DIVISION REVIEW.**



**Major-General Powell's Congratulations** - Major-General C. H. Powell, C.B., commanding the Ulster Division, has issued the following order with reference to last Saturday's review and parade :-

The G.O.C. congratulates all ranks in the Division on their fine, soldierly appearance at the review on Saturday. He was much impressed with their behaviour on parade, and believes that they will show the same steadiness when they come under the enemy's fire.

General Powell has also written as follows to the Lord Mayor :-

Headquarters Ulster Division, Belfast May 10, 1915

My dear Lord Mayor - I wish to send you my grateful thanks for your very kind help during the pas week, which did so much to make the review of the Ulster Division so successful. Mr. Moneypenny. Will you be good enough to let them know how very muck I appreciate their help ?

The Army Council has notified that in future the 36th (Ulster) Division Reserve Park, stationed in temporary barracks in Great George's Street, Belfast, will be known as the 36th Reserve Park.

## **10th BATTALION INNISKILLINGS.**

### **Enthusiastic Welcome at Londonderry.**

After nearly eight months' absence, during which they have been training at Finner Camp, Ballyshannon, the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Derry Volunteers) reached Londonderry City yesterday on their march to join



their brigade at Randalstown, and were given a most enthusiastic reception.

On the previous night the battalion had bivouacked in the show grounds at Strabane. Reveille was sounded at 4 a.m., and the men set out at six o'clock for the Maiden City. They carry full service kit and equipment.

At Prehen the brass band of the 3rd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, from Ebrington Barracks, met their comrades and played them to their joint encampment, the old polo field, Up to this the 10th battalion had been headed by their own rifles and drums, under Sergeant Drummer Matthews. The weather was dry when Strabane was left behind, but when half the day's march was over a thick haze developed into a drizzle, which ended in a mild downpour. This was the first rain experienced since the battalion left Finner on Saturday last.

Notwithstanding the rain the battalion march into the city in fine fettle, with Lieutenant-Colonel Ross Smyth, D.S.O., J.P.; Major Kinhard, and Captain Toker, adjutant, at their head, and proceeded, amid rousing cheers from the assembled crowds, through the streets elaborately bedecked with Union Jacks and other loyal emblems. The route taken was via Spencer Road, Clooney Terrace and Clooney Road. On reaching polo field the 3rd Inniskillings' band dropped out and the lead was taken by the battalion band; which in turn took up a position in the centre of the field and the men marched past to the stirring music of the "British Grenadiers" Subsequently that were dismissed and, owing to the bad weather, were accommodated in the hutments that have been erected here for military use. On all bands

were heard favourable comments on the splendid condition and fine soldierly appearance of the men.

To-day a recruiting parade of the city will take place.

## On this Day – May 12

### **1916.**

At the Battle of Verdun the French extend their position South-East of Haucourt and repulse German attacks directed on the centre.

### **1917**

Royal Navy try to destroy the lock gates of Zeebrugge in occupied Belgium. Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) aircraft provide artillery spotting, but many had to abort due to engine trouble. Fighter escort was provided by Sopwith Pup and Triplane aircraft.

### **1940**

Nazi blitzkrieg and conquest of France begins with the crossing of the Muese River.

French forces withdraw behind the Meuse river between Dinant and Sedan as advance German panzer columns push out from the Ardennes.

Germans troops continue their advance through Holland, crossing the Yssel and Meuse rivers at several points.

Massive German artillery bombardments are maintained on western front, the Luftwaffe continues to reek havoc across Northern France and Belgium, causing refugees to stream west, clogging the roads for allied forces.

Internment of Germans begins in Britain.

## **1941**

A British convoy, codenamed 'Tiger', arrives at Alexandria with much needed tanks and aircraft.

Submarine HMS Undaunted was lost on or around this date while on patrol off Tripoli, Libya. The cause of her disappearance is unknown: she may have struck a mine or been sunk by an Italian patrol boat. All 32 crew were lost.

## **1942**

The first contingent of the US Eighth Army Air Force arrives in Britain.

Timoshenko's offensive grinds forward into Army Group South with two pincer attacks, one Northwest out of the Izyum bulge by the 6th Red Army and the other West then Southwest by the 28th Red Army from the Volchansk area, designed to converge west of Kharkov. The Red Army falls back towards Kerch in the Crimea.

## **1943**

Axis forces in North Africa surrender - Surrender of all German and Italian forces in Tunisia (130,000 German and 120,000 Italian prisoners). General von Arnim and 25 other

axis generals are claimed captured, so ending the life of the once mighty 'Afrika Korps' and marking the end of the three-year North African campaign.

## **1944**

British, American, French, New Zealand, and South African forces mounting the last attack on the monastery of Monte Cassino, its capture a week later would eventually lead to the liberation of Italy.

Fierce counter-attacks are put in by the German defenders at Monte Cassino.

800 bombers of the US 8th Air Force carry out attacks against the synthetic fuel plants at Leuna-Merseburg, Latzkendorf, Zeitz and Braix.

The remains of German Seventeenth Army in Crimea are destroyed, with the Russians taking 36,000 Axis troops prisoner.

The Japanese attacks to the South East of Imphal are broken off.

## **1945**

British relief troops land at St Helier in Jersey, to an 'overwhelming' welcome.



*British troops at Monte Cassino.*

The German garrison in Crete under Major General Bentach surrenders

General Vlasov, commander of the anti-Bolshevist Russian Liberation Army is handed over to the Russians by the Americans and will be executed for treason in August, 1946.

## **Final attack on Monte Cassino**

On this day in 1944 British, American, French, New Zealand, and South African forces mounted the last attack on the monastery of Monte Cassino.

Its capture a week later would eventually lead to the liberation of Italy. Fierce German counter-attacks are put in by the German defenders at Monte Cassino.

The log of the **38 th (IRISH) Brigade**, records Brigadier Scott, at Presenzano south of Cassino:

"The Divisional Commander and I visited each battalion in turn on the morning of the 12th and talked to all the troops. He told everyone what our role was to be and explained the battle generally. He then retired out of earshot to give me a chance of saying a few words that I thought members of the Irish Brigade would like to hear before an all out party of this nature. Everyone was in excellent heart and there was a feeling of considerable confidence."

Lasting from 17th January 1944 until 19th May 1944, the battle of Monte Cassino lasted 127 days, involved almost a quarter of a million men, almost 2,000 planes and around 4,000 tanks.

The battle cost the allies 55,000 casualties including dead and wounded and when finally won, paved the way for the advance and capture of Rome.

The battle itself is often forgotten, overlooked by the events of D-Day, the destruction of the great Abbey and other events of the year.

It was a hard won victory and one which brought many nations together in for a common goal, one which involved many soldiers, both full time and reserve, of all services, Indian, New Zealander, Australian, American, South African, Canadian, Polish, British and more.

All fought hard and worked together to free Italy of fascism and help bring an end to the war.

## 1959

The recommissioning ceremony for the Royal Navy light cruiser, **HMS Belfast**, took place at Her Majesty's Naval Base, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon, 12th May 1959. The ship has been extensively rebuilt and modernised. Built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast, the ship was launched in 1938 and saw service in World War II and the Korean War. Since 1971, "Belfast" has been permanently moored on the River Thames in London as a museum ship.

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

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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 [houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com](mailto:houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com)

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