



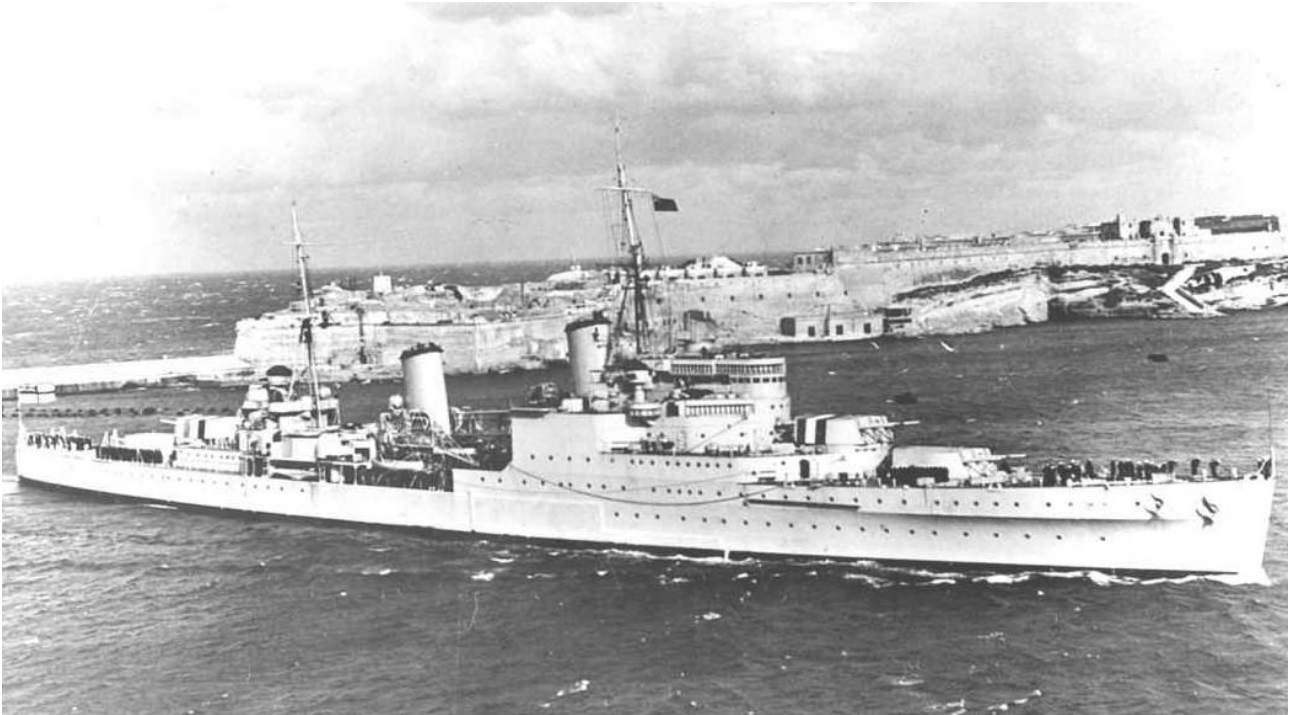
remembrance ni



HMS Gloucester - The Fighting G

NI Sailors in 'The Fighting G' faced German dive bombers at invasion of Crete

At 0800 on Tuesday 20/05/1941, Operation 'Mercury', the German codename for the invasion of Crete, began.



It was the first airborne invasion in history. The Germans planned to drop 23,000 troops, from 500 troop carriers, during the first three days.

The Luftwaffe's principle strike force, Fliegerkorps VIII, was made up of bombers, dive-bombers, fighters and reconnaissance aircraft, totalling 716 planes.

The British Eastern Mediterranean Fleet was about to encounter this force without the support of the aircraft based on Crete, which had been withdrawn to Egypt.

After German paratroopers landed on Crete on 20 May, Gloucester was assigned to Force C that was tasked with

interdicting any efforts to reinforce the German forces on the island.

On 22 May, while in the Kythira Strait, about 14 miles (23 km) north of Crete, she was attacked by "Stuka"s of StG 2 shortly before 14:00, together with the light cruiser Fiji and the destroyer Greyhound. The latter was sunk and the two cruisers were each hit by 250-kilogramme bombs, but not seriously damaged. Two other destroyers were ordered to recover the survivors while the two cruisers covered the rescue efforts.

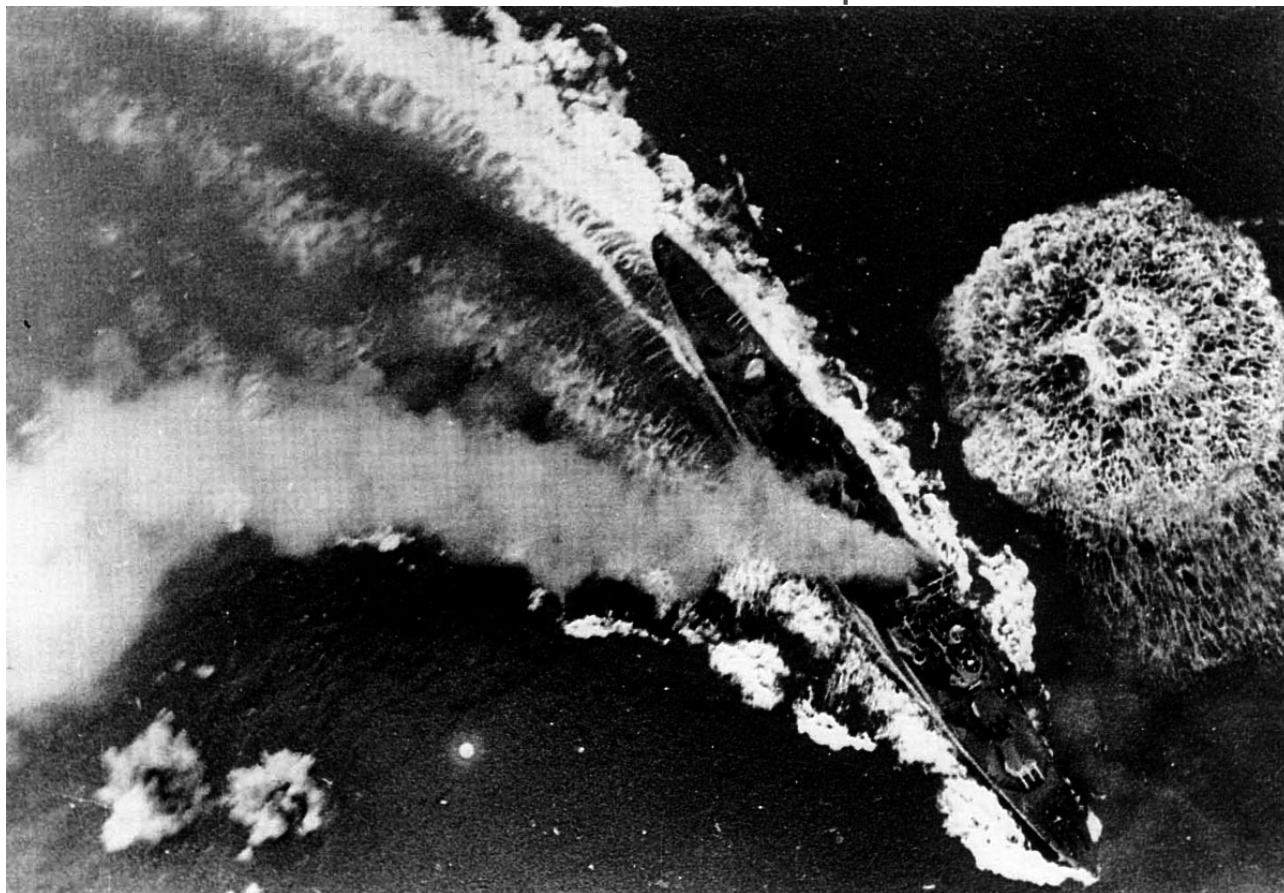
At 1550 on 22/05/1941, the inevitable happened and Gloucester was attacked almost immediately. Fiji, herself out of 4-inch ammunition, signalled that Gloucester was out of control. Gloucester's gunners were reduced to firing star shells at the Stukas, who by now were diving at the ship at mast height before releasing their bombs. Gloucester sustained three more hits and three near-misses and sank.

Luftwaffe Ju87s and Ju88s attacking HMS Gloucester Antikythera Channel Crete May 22, 1941

Only Fiji, herself desperately short of ammunition and still being attacked, remained with Gloucester. As Fiji steamed by the ravaged ship, the Captain ordered carley floats to be thrown overboard for the men of Gloucester.

It was a generous and courageous act and one that undoubtedly helped to save some lives.

However, once the men were in the water they had to fend for themselves. Several of the German planes returned and



Photograph taken from an enemy aircraft during the attack on HMS *Gloucester* by Luftwaffe Ju87s and Ju88s on 22 May 1941. The ship can be seen taking avoiding action. The *Gloucester* was completed in January 1939 and in May 1940 joined the 7th Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean fleet based at Alexandria. In July 1940 *Gloucester* was damaged by an Italian air attack and her Commanding Officer, Captain F R Garside, was killed. Between August 1940 and May 1941 the ship was involved in many actions, and earned many battle honours as well as the nickname, 'The Fighting 'G''. In May 1941 while Royal Navy ships sought to prevent a German seaborne landing on Crete they were subjected to frequent attacks from the air. After repeated attacks and numerous direct hits, HMS *Gloucester* sank in the Antikythera Channel, north-west of Crete on 22 May 1941. In less than a year's service in the Mediterranean, HMS *Gloucester* had lost over 736 men, including two Commanding Officers. Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham said, 'Thus went the gallant *Gloucester*. She had been hit by bombs more times than any other vessel, and had always come up smiling.' (IWM HU24829)

However, once the men were in the water they had to fend for themselves. Several of the German planes returned and some machine gunned those in the sea. From HMS Gloucester's total company of 807 there was a loss of 722 men including at least 14 from Northern Ireland. Only eighty-five survived the sinking of the ship and the subsequent twenty-four hour ordeal in the water.

HMS Gloucester was one of the last batch of three Town class light cruisers built for the Royal Navy during the late 1930s. Commissioned shortly before the start of World War II in August 1939, the ship was initially assigned to the China Station and was transferred to the Indian Ocean and later to South Africa to search for German commerce raiders. She was transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet in mid-1940 and spent much of her time escorting Malta convoys. Gloucester played minor roles in the Battle of Calabria in 1940 and the Battle of Cape Matapan in 1941.

War record - five battle honours

Gloucester was serving as flagship of the 4th Cruiser Squadron in the East Indies at the outbreak of war in 1939. For the remainder of that year she carried out patrols in the Indian Ocean. In December she joined Force I at Simonstown, operating against German raiders, but without success until May, when she joined the 7th Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean. She participated in Malta convoy operations, the Battle of Calabria, and operated in the eastern Mediterranean and Aegean throughout the latter half of 1940. On 11 January 1941, while part of Operation Excess, which involved a Malta convoy, three convoys to Piraeus and three other convoys, she was hit by a bomb which failed to explode. She was at the Battle of Matapan in March, and in April bombarded the North African coast several times. She was hit again by a bomb at Malta on 30 April, but the damage was not serious.

Gloucester acquired the nickname "The Fighting G" after earning five battle honours in less than a year.

BBC Documentary

In 1999, BBC released a documentary on the loss of HMS Gloucester. The BBC Press release at the time stated -

The sinking of HMS Gloucester - with the loss of more than 700 lives - may have been the result of serious blunders by Royal Navy commanders, new evidence obtained by the BBC suggests.

It was originally believed that the loss of the battleship off the coast of the Greek island of Crete in 1941 was an unavoidable consequence of enemy action.

But the documentary HMS Gloucester: The Untold Story, alleges that military chiefs blundered by splitting the cruiser from the main fleet and sending it back into action when it was low on ammunition.

It also raises questions about why, contrary to usual naval practice, a boat was not sent back under cover of darkness to rescue the survivors from the Gloucester after she was sunk.

The 9,400 ton vessel, nicknamed "The Fighting G" was directed away from the main fleet during the Battle of Crete to help evacuate British troops from the island.

The Gloucester subsequently came under attack from up to 200 German dive bombers and was sunk. Survivors were also strafed and bombed in the water.

From a complement of 807 men, only 84 of the cruiser's crew survived in the water until the next day, when they were taken to prisoner of war camps by German vessels.

Previously unpublished letters from senior officers about the sinking state that it was "a grave error" to deploy the Gloucester when it was so low on ammunition.

The fleet commander was heavily criticised for the decision and later removed from his command and sent to an office posting.

There are only 13 living survivors of the sinking of the ship, which was commemorated with a stained-glass window at Gloucester Cathedral.

Mr John Stevens, 80, of South Ockendon, Essex, recalled the loss of the Gloucester: "We were low in ammunition when we came under attack from around 200 Stukas [dive bombers]. The ship began sinking around 4.50pm and was gone within an hour.

"The tradition in the Navy is that when a ship has sunk a vessel is sent back to pick up survivors under cover of darkness. That did not happen and we do not know why. We were picked up by Germans.

"I believe a fleet commander made a fatal error in taking the Gloucester away from the fleet. We were very low in ammunition and we should have withdrawn to Alexandria to refuel and get more ammunition."

Low on ammunition

Naval records show that the cruiser was given orders to "withdraw at discretion" an hour before it was sunk, but the

Gloucester could have already been under attack at this point.

The Ministry of Defence said it was not aware of the existence of the senior officers' letters.

However, a spokesman confirmed that many of the vessels in the British fleet around Crete were similarly low on ammunition after "fierce exchanges".

Roll of Honour – May 22

Representing their comrades who died on this day

HMS Gloucester

+BAILLIE, James Francis

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 24182. HMS Gloucester. Died 22/05/1941. Age 22. Son of James F. and Sarah E. Bailie, Greyabbey. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46. Greyabbey WM

+BATES, Thomas

RN. AB. D/SSX 16011. Died 22/05/1941. Age 27. HMS Gloucester. 11 years' service. Two brothers serving in RN. Son of Mr & Mrs W Bates, Wilton Square South, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

+CASSON, William Reginald Jones

RN. AB. D/JX 141483. Died 22/05/1941. Age 23. HMS Gloucester. 11 years' service. Joined up after leaving school. Reported missing in May 1941 with advice that all imperial forces hiding in Crete had escaped to mainland Greece and that he was not amongst them. Took part in the battle for Bardin and in the Cape Matapan naval action. Son of John and Elizabeth Casson, Newry. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

+HARRIS, John

RN. Stoker 2nd Class. D/KX 118010. Died 22/05/1941. Age: 32. HMS Gloucester. Son of Evelyn Harris, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 54

+IRWIN, Thomas

LS. D/JX142449. HMS Gloucester. Died 22/06/1941. Crete. Limavady. Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 46

+KEMP, Kenneth John

RNVR. Sub Lieutenant. (E) Died 26/03/1941. Age 22. HMS Gloucester. Perished on raft due to enemy action. CAI and QUB, BSc Econ, 1939. He had resided in Carrickfergus for eight years and was prominent in sporting circles. Son of Mr & Mrs J Kemp, Castlevue House, Castlerock. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 10/05/1941 and 24/05/1941.) Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 61. QUB WM

+McCLEERY, George Henry

Able Seaman. D/SSX 18324. Died 22/05/1941. Age 21. HMS Gloucester was sunk about 40 miles off Crete with a loss of over 200 crew. HMS Fiji was lost the same day. Son

of J. A. and Harriet McCleery, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 47

+McCLURE, Walter James

RN. Petty Officer Cook (S). D/MX 49447. Died 22/05/1941. Age 27. HMS Gloucester. Eldest Son of Walter and Sarah McClure, Dunluce Ave., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/05/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 55

+McKAY, Daniel

RN. Leading Seaman. D/SSX 18521. Died 22/05/1941. Age 22. HMS Gloucester. Eight years' service. Eldest son of William James McKay and Margaret McKay, Wilton Square North, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

+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 & Mrs J McKinnell, Bournalon St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/06/1941, and 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49

+McSPADDEN, Robert

Boy 1st Class. D/JX 162883. Died 22/05/1941. Age 17. HMS Gloucester. Two years service. Son of William and Lily McSpadden, Glenrose Terrace, Newcastle. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 14/06/1941, and 18/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49. Newcastle WM

+MEGRAW, John Henry

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/JX 162146. Died 22/05/1941. Age:17. HMS Gloucester. Son of John and Mary Megraw, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49

+MOONEY, Daniel

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/JX 162737. Died 22/05/1941. Age 17 years. HMS Gloucester. Brother of John, RN. Son of Patrick and Sarah Mooney, Ballycastle. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 26/07/1941). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49

+NELSON, Edward John

RM. Marine. CH/X1707. Died 22/05/1941. Age 33. HMS Gloucester. Brother of Samuel (also RM). Son of Samuel Nelson. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 28/08/1942). Chatham Naval Memorial

+SLOAN, James

RN. Ordinary Seaman. P/JX 189420. Died 22/05/1941. Age 19. HMS Gloucester. Son of Margaret Sloan, Ahoghill. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 51. Ballymena WM

+WHYTE, Robert Alexander

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/JX 163266. Died 22/05/1941. Age 17. HMS Gloucester. Son of James and Elizabeth Whyte, Ballykelly. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 50

+YOUNG, William James

RN. AB. D/SSX 24859. Died 22/05/1941. Age 23. HMS Gloucester. He had seven years' service. Brother in the RAF and sister in WAAF. Son of William and Henrietta

Young, Downing St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 11/05/1945). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49

Survivors

QUIGLEY, Matthew

RN. HMS Gloucester. His parents were officially notified that he was missing. He wrote telling them that he had been transferred from the Gloucester before the engagement in which the ship was sunk. He also informed them that AB Hugh Stockman, son of Mrs Stockman, Killowen Street, who had also been reported missing, had also been transferred from Gloucester and was safe. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Quigley, Macdonald Terrace, Coleraine. Derry Year Book 1942. Derry Standard 20/06/1941

STOCKMAN, Hugh

RN. HMS Gloucester. Was officially reported missing after the sinking of Gloucester. Another Coleraine man AB Matthew Quigley was also reported missing. However, both men had been transferred off Gloucester before the sinking, and Quigley informed his parents that both of them were safe. Son of Mr. And Mrs. Matthew Stockman, Macdonald Terrace, Coleraine. (Derry Standard 20/06/1941)

WATTERS, Charles

RN. AB. Age 23. Notified as missing after sinking HMS Gloucester. Later notified as a PoW in Germany. Two brothers serving in RAF. Son of Mr and Mrs Watters, Langford St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/06/1941 and 16/08/1941).

HMS Fiji

+BROWNE, William Stanley

RN. Ordinary Seaman. D/SSX 35782. HMS Fiji. Died 23/05/1941. Age 22. Son of James Stavely Browne, and of Elizabeth Browne, Portstewart. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 49



1st Inniskillings costly defence of Gurkha Bluff, May 22, 1915

The Roll of Honour for 1915 reflects the cost to the Inniskillings of the defence of an area taken by the Gurkhas and named in their honour.

In Gallipoli during an artillery bombardment on the Turkish trenches, on May 13, a double company of the 1/6th

Gurkhas crept along the shore at Y Beach and assembled below a 300 foot bluff.

Then, the attention of the Turks being taken up with a bombardment, they swiftly scaled the cliffs and carried the enemy trenches with a rush.

The machine-gun section of the Gurkhas was hurried forward, and at 4.30 a.m. a second double company was pushed up to join the first.

At 6 a.m. a third double company advanced across the open from their former front line of trenches under a heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, and established themselves near the newly captured redoubt.

The 4th double company moved up as a support, and held the former firing line. The left flank, which had been firmly held up against all attempts was now advanced nearly 500 yards. Purchased as it was with comparatively slight losses this success was due to the Gurkhas bravery in the face of heavy fire and a formidable enemy.

The following General Routine Order (16) was published on May 17: 'In order to mark the good work done by the 1/6th Gurkha Rifles in capturing the Bluff on the coast west of Krithia, the General officer commanding has ordered that this Bluff will in future be known as Gurkha Bluff.'

In his book, *The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the World War*, Sir Frank Fox describes the actions of the 1st Inniskillings at Gurkha Bluff on May 22: 'After being in reserve for a few days the 1st Inniskillings on May 13 were attached to the

Indian Brigade, consisting of the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers and Battalions of Ghurkas and Sikhs.

‘The Indian Brigade was to hold a line between Ghurka Bluff and the head of Big Nullah.

‘At Ghurka Bluff on the afternoon of May 22, whilst the troops were at dinner, the enemy launched a sudden attack under cover of machine-gun fire.

‘So suddenly and resolutely did they come on that the advance post of our line was overwhelmed, and at one point on the left not only our front line but the communication trench was entered.

‘The enemy bombers came forward shouting “Allah, Allah,” careless of death.

‘Fierce hand-to-hand fighting followed in the trenches. Reinforcements came up from the Ghurka Battalion.

‘For nearly four hours the fighting continued with heavy losses on both sides.

‘Then the enemy were thrown back from the communication trench and the main trench.

‘But they still held a sap which ran out on the left of our line.

‘From this they were driven by the determined assault of a Platoon under Sgt. Waugh, all the enemy being killed or captured. ‘Then our advance post was recaptured and the

position fully restored. The enemy had paid heavily for his brief success; but on our side the losses were severe, 37 killed, 60 wounded, 14 missing.'

Roll of Honour – May 22

1915

ARMSTRONG, James.

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st. Btn. Private. 10128. Died 22/05/1915. Aged 29. Born in Lisburn, he enlisted at Belfast. Son of Walter and Sarah Jane Armstrong of 88 Broomfield Street, Crumlin Road, Belfast. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey, panels 97-101.

+CESAR, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st. Btn. Private. Died 22/05/1915. Aged 25. Born on 15/12/1889 at McClure Street in Cromac Ward. He was stationed in the Far East with the 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1911 and in India on the outbreak of the war. His battalion was recalled from India, arriving in England in January 1915 and being incorporated into the newly-formed 29th Division. The division departed England for the Eastern Mediterranean in March 1915 and Robert Cesar landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula with on 25/04/1915. Mary Cesar received a War Gratuity of £5 in July 1919. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli).

+CHARLES, Daniel

Canadian Infantry, 10th Btn. Private. 21318. Died 22/05/1915. Born in April 1890 at Low Cross, Tullyhogue, Cookstown. He was the son of Henry Richard Charles. Daniel emigrated to Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Infantry on 24/09/1914 at Valcartier near Quebec. His enlistment papers show that he was 5'7" and worked as a clerk before enlisting. Daniel would have seen action in the Battle of Ypres which was fought between 22/04/1915 and 25/05/1915. He would have been involved in the gas attack on the Canadian lines during the Battle of Gravenstafel. He would have seen action at the Battle of St. Julian where he was most likely wounded and died sometime later. Vimy Memorial, France. Cookstown WM

+COFFEY, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 8832. Died 22/05/1915. Age 25 years old. Corradarragh, Florence Court, Enniskillen. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+FLEMING, John Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. D Coy. Private. 9220. Died 22/05/1915. Age 26 years old. Son of Mrs. E. Fleming, of 4, Castle St., Enniskillen. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+FRASER, Ebenezer

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 3047. Died 22/05/1915. Born in Hillsborough, he lived at Belturbet, Co.

Cavan, enlisted at Cavan. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension

+GORMAN, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 3443. Died 22/05/1915. Age 20. Son of Mrs. Mary Gorman, of Upper Woodburn, Carrickfergus. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+GRAY, Thomas William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st. Btn. Private. 10043. Died 22/05/1915. Aged 22. Son of Thomas and Eva Gray, of Drumluce, Whitehill, Ballinamallard. Twelve Tree Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+HEGARTY, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4398. Died 22/05/1915. Born at Faughanvale, County Londonderry, enlisted at Londonderry, and died at Gurkha Bluff, Dardanelles. At the time of his death, Robert Hegarty had two brothers serving in the army. The first brother, Driver Joseph Hegarty, R.F.A., went to the Front shortly after the outbreak of war, and was wounded in the right hand and arm, losing a portion of one of the fingers. He came home for a few weeks in January 1915, but was back at the Front again in February. The second brother, Private Thomas Hegarty, joined the Royal Inniskillings. A third brother, Private William Hegarty, of the Inniskilling Fusiliers, who enlisted after the war began, was killed at Festubert on May 16, 1915. He was the son of Mrs Elizabeth Hegarty, 4, Ebrington Street, Waterside, Londonderry Twelve Tree

Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey. Diamond War Memorial.

+KENT, William George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 10135. Died 22/05/1915 at Gurkha Bluff, Dardanelles. Aged 25. William George Kent joined the army, in Londonderry, about four years before he met his death. He was for a number of years a member of St Columb's Cathedral Choir. The name of William George Kent was read out during a memorial service held in St Columb's (Church of Ireland) Cathedral, on Sunday, August 1, 1915, to commemorate the officers and men of the city of Derry, who had died during the first year of the Great War. He came from India to Rugby with his battalion shortly after war was declared in 1914. Born at the Crumlin Road, Belfast. He was the second son of Richard Kent, ex-prison warder, formerly of Londonderry, and Harriet Kent, 38, Perth Street, Belfast. Richard, was born around 1858/59 in Dublin. Harriet Lydia, was also born in Dublin around 1859/60. The 1901 Census contains information on three of their children: Elizabeth Annie, who was born around 1886/87 in Armagh, and was then working as a Drapery Assistant; the above William George; and Jonathan, who was born in the city of Londonderry circa 1897/98. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey. Diamond WM, St Columb's Cathedral (Church of Ireland) WM

+MASON, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9147. Died 22/05/1915 at Gurkha Bluff, Dardanelles. Born at Templemore, County Londonderry, enlisted at Londonderry.

He was the son of James Mason, Killea, Londonderry.
Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey

+McATEER, Adam

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. D Coy. Private. 10187.
Died 22/05/1915. Age 21. His brother Nathaniel McAteer
also fell. Son of Archibald and Jane McAteer, of 26, Waring
St., Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli,
Turkey

+McBRIDE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 9270. Died
22/05/1915. Just two days before his 28th birthday. Private
McBride was killed in an exchange of gunfire with a German
officer. The German was shot dead almost immediately
after. Youngest son of Hugh McBride. John was born in
Cookstown on 24/05/1887. He joined the army about 1907
and had spent four years in India. In 1915, he was then sent
to the Dardanelles and survived several actions. Twelve
Tree Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Cookstown WM

+McCANCE, Finlay

Border Regiment, 2nd Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died
22/05/1915. Age 23. Eldest son of J. Stouppe McCance and
Mary McCance of Woodbourne, Dunmurry. Boulogne
Eastern Cemetery, Pas De Calais, France

+McCAUGHEY, C

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 10252. Died
22/05/1915. Age 23. Son of the late John and Annie

McCaughey, of Belfast. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey

+McCORMICK, Edward.

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 8426. Died 22/05/1915. Born in Lisburn, he enlisted at Belfast. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey

+McFADDEN, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 9961. Died 22/05/1915. Aged 22. Another Coleraine man, Archie Murphy, writing to his father in Stone Row, mentioned Hugh being shot and asked his father to break the sad news to Mrs McFadden. According to Archie Murphy, Hugh was killed instantly by a bullet through the heart. The first intimation of Hugh's death in the newspapers is in the casualty lists in the Fermanagh Herald in June 1915 when 48 men in his unit were reported killed in action. Hugh's brother, John, was murdered in Armagh in 1919. Son of Maggie McFadden, of Dunlop St., Coleraine, Co. Londonderry. Nephew of Robert McFadden, Blackhill, Aghadowey. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey. St Patrick's Parish Church, Coleraine RH

+McKENNA , Patrick

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman, Bugler. 7503. Died 22/05/1915. From Derrycarr, Co. Armagh. Rue-du-Bacquerot No1 Military Cemetery, Laventie, France

+MORRIS, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 10166.

Died 22/05/1915. Age 24. Son of William and Margaret Morrison, of 30, Francis St., Newtownards. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+MORRISON, T

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 10215.

Died 22/05/1915. Age 22. Son of William and Ellen Morrison, of Belfast. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+MORTON, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st. Btn. Lance Corporal. 9794.

Died 22/05/1915. Aged 25. Born Dunluce, 1890. One of three brothers to die in service. In WW2 Albert Morton, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, died in Italy on 06/12/1944. Samuel Morton, a stoker in HMS. St Issey, died on 28/12/1942. Son of Robert and Lizzie Lorton of Ballytober, Priestland who had a family of 17 - 7 sons and 10 daughters. Enlisted Coleraine. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

+O'NEILL, Daniel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 4342.

Distinguished Conduct Medal. Died 22/05/1915. Age 19.

Son of Mary Catherine O'Neill, of 29, New Lodge Rd., Belfast, and the late John O'Neill. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+PARKE, Daniel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 7079.

Died 22/05/1915 at Gurkha Bluff, Dardanelles. Aged 38.

Lance Corporal Parke was on the reserve of the Royal

Inniskilling Fusiliers, and accompanied the Expeditionary Force in August 1914 to France. He was in the retreat from Mons and the battle of the Aisne, and took part in numerous other engagements. In November 1914 he was wounded, and after recovery was attached to the 6th Battalion. He was subsequently transferred to the 1st Battalion, and joined the Mediterranean Forces on May 18, 1915. He had fourteen years' service. Son of Alexander and Catherine Parke, of 79, Dungiven Rd., Londonderry. Brother of John, 49, Dungiven Road, Waterside, Derry. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey. Diamond War Memorial.

+PELAN, Christopher

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 10359. Died 22/05/1915. Age 30. Born in and enlisted at Lisburn. Son of William Pelan of 22 Chapel Hill, Lisburn. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey

+QUINN, J A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 10064. Died 22/05/1915. Age 22. Son of the late Robert and Ruth Quinn of Belfast. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+RAINEY, Edmund

Canadian Infantry. 13th Btn. Private. 24524. Died 22/05/1915. Age 32. Son of Joseph and Elisabeth Rainey, of 49, Tenth St., Belfast. Hinges Military Cemetery, France

+REDMOND, Walter Henry

Canadian Infantry, 24th Btn (Quebec Regiment). Sergeant. 65813. Died 22/05/1915. Age 26. On the date of his death,

the Battalion War Diary records that the Battalion was engaged in sandbagging operations on the front at Voormeezle, although 'very little progress was made with wire as the enemy were alert and our party was discovered early. They were practically unable to move and had to remain under cover of shell holes' Profession upon enlistment given as 'bank clerk'. A clerk in Molson's Bank, Montreal. Attested 26/10/1914 at Montreal aged 24 years and 9 months. Height given as 5ft 9 1/4 inches. Complexion dark, eyes grey, hair brown. Religion noted as Church of England. Previous military service given as '2 years - 3rd Volunteers' (believed to indicate service with the 3rd (Mountpottinger) Battalion, East Belfast Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force). Born Belfast, 04/01/1890. Son of John and Sarah Redmond, of 10 Parkgate Avenue, Belfast, Ireland. Next of Kin listed as John Redmond of 186 Connisbrooke Avenue, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Strandtown WM

+SHIELDS, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 9596. Died 22/05/1915. Age 23. Son of Margaret Shields, of Seskinore, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, and the late James Shields. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+WARD, William Albert Victor

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 8665. Died 22/05/1915. Age 25. Son of Stephen and Margaret Jane Ward, of 10, Eastland St., Belfast. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916

+BAXTER, Edward James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 13596. Died 22/05/1916. Son of Sarah Maxwell, of Legacurry, Beragh, Co. Tyrone. Etaples Military Cemetery, France

+STEELE, Hugh

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 12551. Died 22/05/1916. Age 22. He enlisted in September 1914 and served over six months in France. Three of Hugh's brothers were on active service at the time of his death. One of these was 354 Private Joseph Steele, 11th Light Horse Regiment, AIF, another Andrew Steele, Royal Irish Rifles. The other has not yet been identified. Hugh had been an agricultural labourer and was a member of LOL (Loyal Orange Lodge) 692 Cairncastle. Third son of Thomas Steele of Sallagh, Cairncastle. Thomas Steele, a widower of Sallagh, Cairncastle, had married Margaret Ann Wray or Rea of Ballyligpatrick, Broughshane in Buckna Presbyterian Church on 27/02/1888. His first wife, Jane Woods, had died in 1887 and the couple had had a son, James, on the 6th June that year. It is not known if there were other children of the first marriage. Hugh was born on 27/07/1894. He, his wife Martha and two children lived at Old Mill, Cairncastle. St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos. Larne WM. Cairncastle Presbyterian Church WM

+WOODS, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 22851. Died 22/05/1916. Age 16. Only child of James and Catherine Woods, of Mulboy, Derrygortrevy, Dungannon. Philosophie

British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France. Dungannon WM,
Caledon C of I RH

1917

+CUNNINGHAM, J J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 12th Btn. Private. 23142. Died
22/05/1917. Husband of Sarah Cunningham, of 2,
Hemptons Close, Londonderry. Killea Burial Ground

1918

+LYLE, William Ryan

Special List. Major. Died of wounds 22/05/1918 at The
Grove, Hillingdon, London.. He is described as a Major in
the old Mid Ulster Artillery and Wholesale Wine and Spirit
Merchant. Son of Alexander and Deborah Lyle. William was
born about 1851 in Donaghmore. William Ryan Lyle was the
husband of Agnes Stewart Lyle. The 1901 census lists
William as age 48 living with his wife at house 29 in
Donaghmore, Donaghmore, Tyrone. Hillingdon and
Uxbridge Cemetery, London.

1919

+CRILLY, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 22611. Died
22/05/1919. James enlisted on 28/10/1915. As a result of
wounds he was discharged from service on 28/05/1917.
After a short period at home where his family encountered
difficulties in his behaviour, he was admitted to the Antrim
Asylum where he died of phthisis. Born 01/12/1883 at 11

Christian Place, Belfast. Son of Francis and Annn (nee Rodgers) Crilly. Work casued them to move to Hilden, near Lisburn. James' brother Daniel, a Rifleman (17/294) with the Royal Irish Rifles died serving on 08/12/1915. Other brothers, Frank and Fred, also served but survived. Antrim New Cemetery

+TAGGART, John James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. C Coy. Private. 4198. Died 22/05/1919. Age 30. Son of Mrs. Mary Ann Gibbons, of 3, Brook St., Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Dublin Road Cemetery, Omagh.

1920

+BATES, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Serjeant. 6812. Died 22/05/1920. Age 36. Son of Mrs. M. J. Wilkin (formerly Bates), of Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. Dublin Road Cemetery, Omagh

+MONTEITH, R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Depot. Private. 31228. Died 22/05/1920. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Lizzie Monteith, of Darlans, Castlederg. Derg C of I Churchyard, Castlederg

1940

+HAWE, Robert

Royal Sussex Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private. 7011540. Died between 22/05/1940 and 31/05/1940. Age 27. Four brothers of Robert's served in the war. Jack with Auxiliary Military

Pioneer Corps, William with the Royal Air Force, Ernest was with the Royal Artillery and Albert was with the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Son of John James Hawe and Margaret Hawe; husband to Mary Elizabeth Hawe, of Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, Column 64. France

+KELLY, Charles

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 2717913. Died 22/05/1940. Aged 24. Son of James and Kathleen Kelly, of Waterside, Londonderry. Outreau Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

1941

See HMS Gloucester and HMS Fiji above

+KNOX, Thomas James

RM. Marine. PLY/X 2734. Died 22/05/1941. Aged 21. HMS Valiant. Son of Joseph and Margaret Jane Knox, of Ederney, Co. Fermanagh. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 59. Enniskillen WM

+McSPADDEN, Robert

Royal Navy. Boy 1st Class D/JX 162883, H.M.S. Gloucester. Died 22/05/1941. Age 17. Son of William and Lily McSpadden, of Newcastle, Co. Down. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Newcastle WM

1944

+FREEBURN, Alexander Henry

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1670597. Died 22/05/1944. Aged 28. 514 Sqdn. On the night of 21st/22nd May 1944, after a raid on Duisburg, his Lancaster bomber is believed to have

crashed in The Wash. All eight crew were lost. Sergeant Freeburn's body was later washed ashore at and his remains were returned home to Cookstown. Son of David and Margaret Freeburn of Cookstown. Cookstown New Cemetery. Cookstown WM, Molesworth Presbyterian Church, Cookstown, WM

+GIBSON, Thomas Lipsey

Flight Sergeant (Pilot). 984464. Died 21- 22/05/1944. Aged 22. Died when he was flying Lancaster Bomber DS633 JI-B of 514 Squadron Royal Air Force on a raid to Duisburg. A radio fix had been obtained by the R.A.F. Station at Waterbeach at 03.03 and the Crew was ordered to jettison its bombs. The aircraft may have been shot down by the Me 410 of Johann Trenke who claimed 3 aircraft over Northern Norfolk between 0305 and 0322 on that morning. - There were no survivors however all the bodies were recovered. Son of John S. Gibson and Adelaide J. F. Gibson of Stonebridge, Co. Monaghan. His remains were interred in Rosslea.

+JOHNSTON, George Acheson Bowen

RAF. Squadron Leader. 90596. Mentioned in Despatch. Died 22/05/1944. Aged 27. 520 Sqdn. Son of Thomas Bowen Johnston and Arabella Harden Johnston, of Lurgan. Gibraltar Memorial. Lurgan WM

+JONES, Thomas Ivor

RAFVR. Pilot Officer (Pilot). 171649. Died 22/05/1944. Aged 21. 103 Sqdn. Son of W. D. and Agnes Jones, of Morriston,

Glamorgan. Zwolle (De Kranenburg) General Cemetery,
Overijssel, Netherlands. QUB WM

+MORTON, Albert

Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). 1st Btn. Fusilier.
6470178. Died 06/12/1944. Age 29. Faenza War Cemetery,
Italy

+RANKIN, William Black

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1795202. Died 22/05/1944.
Aged 20. 166 Sqdn. Son of Matthew and Martha Jane
Rankin, of Bushmills, Co. Antrim. The Hague (Westduin)
General Cemetery. Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

+TRUESDALE, Albert Edward (Bertie)

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Wireless Operator (Air)). 144162.
Died 22/05/1944. Aged 22. 630 Sqdn. Son of Albert Edward
and Margaret Truesdale, of Newry. Esbjerg (Fourfelt)
Cemetery, Denmark

1945

+CRAWFORD, Richard St. John Trevor

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1073650. Died 22/05/1945. Aged
22. Son of Robert James Crawford and Ruth Dorothy
Crawford of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery East

+DOUGHERTY, Samuel

Royal Engineers, 4 Bomb Disposal Company. Corporal.
7018180. Died 22/05/1945. Aged 45. He lost his life while
involved in Mine Clearance Operations in the Horsey area of
Norfolk which had been heavily mined at the start of the

Second World War due to the threat of Invasion. His unit was based at Bury St Edmund's. Son of Samuel and Elizabeth Dougherty and husband to Annie Dougherty, of Enniskillen. Lisburn cemetery.

+HAWE, John

RN. Ordinary Seaman.D/JX 197773. Died 22/10/1945. Age 44. Son of John James Hawe and Margaret Hawe. Husband to Letitia Hawe, Ligoniel, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+MARTIN, William Robert

RAFVR. Warrant Officer. 1358095. Died 22/05/1945. Aged 23. Son of Helena Martin of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

1947

+McSWEENEY, Eugene Hector

RN. AB. D/SSX 31967. Died 22/05/1947. Age 29. HMS Moira. Husband to Jane McSweeney, Ballywalter. Whitechurch Graveyard.

VETERANS

KELLY, John Henry Kelly

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn., A Coy. 15/11687. He was taken prisoner of war 27/08/1918. He was born 22/05/1884 in Cork and resided at 5 Jersey Street, Belfast. The Belfast Newsletter on 28/07/1917 had reported on the award of the

Military Cross to CSM Kelly, stating, "Company Sergeant Major John Henry Kelly, 15/11687, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, who has been awarded the Military Cross, was in the employment of Messrs. Norman Macnaughton & Sons Ltd. Corporation Street, before he joined the colours. He is serving with a Belfast Volunteer Division."

MAGILL, Terence John Patrick Forde

RN. 1943-46. Born 22/05/1924. TCD 1942 - 43, 1946 - 50. HDipEd, BA, MA. Son of Rev.W. Magill, Ballyrashane Rectory, Coleraine. Campbell College 2811

MORRISON, Patrick

RN. Petty Officer. Patrick Morrison was home in Ballycastle on short leave in December 1914. He had been serving on HMS Theseus and when he returned from leave was to join AMC Ambrose. He had been shipwrecked on four different occasions, the last one being the wreck of HMS Drake off Rathlin Island on 17/10/1917. He was sent on leave following the sinking of Drake and survived the war. Patrick was born in Ballycastle on 22/05/1879. He was five feet six inches tall, with brown hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. Patrick joined the Royal Navy on 22/05/1895 and was described as a school boy. It was later discovered that he had joined without his mother's consent but was retained as her consent was considered not to be necessary. When his first twelve year period finished he was taken on for a second spell in May 1907 and served throughout the war. On 01/07/1919 he joined the new Coast Guard Force



On this Day

– May 22



Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini sign “Pact of Steel” forming the Axis powers in 1939.

1916

At the Battle of Verdun the French gain a footing in Fort Douaumont.

1918

Allied air raid on Zeebrugge with a report of a German destroyer sunk in the harbour.

1939

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini sign “Pact of Steel” forming the Axis powers.

1940

British cipher experts at Bletchley Park break the Luftwaffe Enigma code.

The XIX Panzerkorps (Guderian) strikes from Abbeville toward Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk along the Channel coast.

1941

Himmler establishes Norwegian SS on German lines.

British blockade of Vichy France made complete.

Heavy German air attacks on Crete sink the cruisers Fiji, Gloucester and the destroyer Greyhound. HMS Gloucester was sunk by German aircraft during the Battle of Crete. She had been sent into action low on fuel and ammunition. Loss of life was tragically heavy: of her 807 crew only 85 were saved.

HMS Fiji sank due to damage received in heavy and sustained German air attacks. She was effectively

defenceless by the end, having exhausted her AA ammunition. 241 of her 764 crew died.

The Battleships Warspite and Valiant are damaged, but the Royal Navy breaks up German supply convoy.

See article and Roll of Honour for HMS Gloucester and HMS Fiji above.

Fierce fighting continues as British troops begin to pull back from Maleme airfield towards Suda Bay in order to regroup and protect their main point of supply.

Heavy cruiser HMS York was crippled by Italian explosive motor boat attack in Suda Bay, Crete. Two of her crew were killed. She was run aground to prevent her sinking but was subsequently damaged beyond repair by German air attack.

British forces capture the last Italian stronghold in southern Abyssinia.

1942

The 6th Army and Kleist's Panzer's meets thereby pinching of the Russian salient Southeast of Kharkov.

Mexico declares war on Germany, Japan, and Italy after many ships are lost to German U-boats.

United Steel Workers of America is formed, combining smaller unions.

1943

German Gen. Adolf Galland flies Me 262 jet fighter, presses for its development.

1944

Allied forces breached the Hitler Line in central Italy.

Canadian troops in the Liri Valley took Pontecorvo.

German submarine U-476 was depth charged and damaged off Trondheim by a PBY Catalina of No. 210 Squadron RAF. She was scuttled the next day by U-990, which rescued the survivors.

German submarine U-675 was depth charged and sunk off Ålesund by a Short Sunderland patrol bomber of No. 4 Squadron RAF.

1945

Montgomery is appointed as C-in-C of the British force of occupation in Germany and a British member of the allied control commission.

"Sugar Loaf Hill" on Okinawa is finally taken by U.S. troops after changing hands 11 times in the last few days.

Due to continuing shortages, Britain cuts rations of fats, bacon, meat, and soap.

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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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