



remembrance ni



Bob Wright - from Sandy Row to Dunkirk and Burma

Robert Wright to all who met him was Bob. Born Robert Dawson Wright on Hunter Street off Sandy Row in Belfast, he was a veteran of Dunkirk and Burma. The decorated war hero was a much-loved character in Belfast and well known through his work at the Northern Ireland War Memorial on

Talbot Street, Belfast, and at its former premises on Waring Street. He had already passed retirement age before taking on this job. Before that he held a similar role at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

Enlisted aged 15

Bob Wright enlisted in the Welch Regiment in 1938 when he was only fifteen years old. When war broke out in 1939 he would have been one of the youngest combatants in Europe.

Escape from Dunkirk

The name Dunkirk has become synonymous with British escape from a near total disaster. Hundreds of thousands of troops found themselves stranded in Northern France. Undefeated, many returned home thanks in part to the famous “Little Ships”, military tactics, luck and the changeable Channel weather.

As a teenager, Bob was one of the 300,000 Allied troops rescued from Dunkirk in 1940. Despite his age, he was aware that all was not well in Dunkirk.

In an interview with Mervyn Jess on Radio Ulster in May 2015, Bob recalled, “It was a shambles you know because they were going down to the shore and if they spotted a boat coming in, anybody would be dashing out. It was a bit of a shambles. There were people there supposed to organise, you know, but half of them just wanted to get out themselves. Most of the regiments that were there tried to keep their men together, but then it got towards the end that – when they saw boats coming from England to pick

them up – they weren't waiting on the boat docking. They were trying to meet it halfway.”



Before the outbreak of war, Wright had served on a military patrol boat called the Sir William Seeger, in the Bristol Channel. During those fraught eight days in June 1940, he found himself reunited with his old vessel.

He said, “When we were evacuated I got on a ship and then the next thing I seen was a ship pulling alongside it and it was the Sir William Seeger. So the crew knew me and the Gerries came over dropping bombs on some of the ships

and we ended up pulling these people out of the water, dead or not.”

In the same interview, he revealed his main fear was to be seen to be a coward. He was one of the lucky ones who made it back to the UK and was once again deployed.

The spirit was quite good. Everybody was saying “Thank God we are out of that lads.”

In the Commandos

Three years later he volunteered to serve in the Commandos. He served with the Special Boat Service in Norway before joining No 5 Commando in Burma in 1943 at the age of 19. There he took part in raids behind Japanese lines battling in India, and Singapore as well. He was one of the first British troops to arrive in Hong Kong to liberate it and was on operations in Malaya when Japan surrendered in August 1945.

He often thought about those who served alongside him in Asia.

“You always remember the one with you who were killed. I can still remember all of their faces. I always remember one great friend who had a watch he carried in his breast pocket. His father was a railwayman and gave him this railway watch before he left, so he doted on that watch. When he was killed, we made sure that the watch was returned to his parents. That was all we could do but it was important that we did it”, he said.

Many from Northern Ireland took part in the war in the Far East. Others were not as fortunate as Bob.

Ulstermen in Asia

Many from Northern Ireland took part in the war in the Far East. Others were not as fortunate as Bob.

He commented, "We kept the Japanese out of India. We were sent to Bangladesh for a bit of a break and I met a friend from Belfast called Jackie Creighton. He was in the Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Battalion. I said to him 'What about your brother Sammy?' Jackie said, 'did you not hear about him? He was taken prisoner in Singapore.' Half the men taken prisoner were sent to Japan to work in the mines where they were badly treated. The other half were put to work on the Burma railway where they were badly treated.

"Sammy and his mate were working on the Burma railway and fed watery rice every day. His mate collapsed because he was so weak. When the Japanese saw him collapsing they hit him with the butt of a rifle and told him to get up. When they drew back, Sammy Creighton beat the head off one of the Japanese. Sammy was a Sandy Row man. They just killed him with a Samurai sword." (Bob in an interview by The Newsletter – November 2014).

In an interview with the Belfast Telegraph he recalled the people of Burma fondly, describing them as "lovely" and paying tribute to their bravery, helping British soldiers who were wounded.

He fought against the Japanese in the jungle as a Sergeant Major, describing the style of warfare as "slit trenches" which held just two men, instead of the trenches which went on for miles in the First World War. "When we advanced we just left them as they were - or chucked a bomb into them as a booby-trap," he said.

Bob said many people were scared of the Japanese, but he was not.

"They had these 28 stone wrestlers who would chuck men over their shoulders," he said.

"People got very afraid of them when they shouldn't have been.

"I was not afraid of them - you can't go in half-hearted."

Staying in the Far East

While the rest of the Commandos returned home, Bob Wright remained in Hong Kong for two years. As a Warrant Officer, he formed and trained a Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit.

While serving in the Far East, he met his future wife Joan. She had asked him for a job and told him her name, Cheung Sui Ping. The couple went on to have two children. They also established the first Chinese restaurant in Ireland – the Hong Kong and Anglo on Donegall Street, Belfast in 1959.

The couple's son Ray said his father shielded them from the horrors of war, but told them many stories about the lighter moments, such as discovering a huge Japanese store of sake, and him taming a wild dog.

"The Japanese had left behind a guard dog in Hong Kong, a big German shepherd, it was ferocious, but my father didn't want to put it down," he said. "He fed it scraps to try and tame it but it remained ferocious. Eventually he decided to jump in and wrestle it, and then it became his dog.

"He was heartbroken when he couldn't bring it home and ended up presenting it to the Governor of Hong Kong's wife, who had admired it."

The return to Belfast

Bob returned to Belfast in 1948. The devastation of the Belfast Blitz shocked him even after all he had seen overseas.

He spent two years with 602 RASC while back in Belfast. In 1950, Bob Wright was discharged after eleven years of distinguished service. He was demobbed at Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

Bob Wright worked for over a quarter of a century as a museum attendant at the Northern Ireland War Memorial on Talbot Street, Belfast and at the old premises on Waring Street. He had already passed retirement age before taking on the job. Before that he held a similar role at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

Prior to taking up work in the museum sector, he held jobs with Courtaulds, Standard Telephones and Cables, Sirocco, and Wall's Ice Cream. He retired from his role at the Northern Ireland War Memorial in August 2015 when Lt Colonel John Steele, the vice-chair of the Northern Ireland War Memorial, thanked Mr Wright for his service.

Bob was a member of the Commando Association and the Burma Star Association. And he kept faith with his comrades - "Every year on Remembrance Day I lay the wreath here (in the Northern Ireland War Memorial Building).

I'm the old soldier here, all the rest are much younger than me, but I'll never forget the sacrifice as long as I live."



Remembering Robert Wright BEM

On 16th June 2011, at the age of 89, former Company Sergeant Major, Robert Wright was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to museums. At the time he lived in the Ravelston area of Carnmoney, Co. Antrim.

Robert Wright died aged 93 on 20th October 2015.

The Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum opened a book of condolence which was presented to his family. Bob Wright's grave is in Roselawn Cemetery, Belfast.

His funeral took place on 24th October 2015. Donations in lieu of flowers were made to the Royal British Legion.

On this Day – May 23

1940

Heavy fighting around Boulogne. Units of the German 6th Army cross the Scheldt river at Oudenarde in Belgium.

The first combats took place between Supermarine Spitfires and German Messerschmitt Bf 109s. Among the RAF pilots shot down and taken prisoner was Roger Bushell, who was to mastermind the 'Great Escape' from Stalag Luft III.

Sir Oswald Mosley and other British fascists arrested. 76 IRA men arrested in Northern Ireland.

1941

During the evening, the cruiser HMS Suffolk sights the Bismarck and Prinz Eugen in the Denmark Strait. The Home Fleet makes ready to intercept at dawn on the 24th May.

Further German attempts to land troops by sea on Crete are repulsed as heavy fighting continues around Canea.

Luftwaffe sinks two more British destroyers off Crete, Kashmir and Kelly.

Air Marshal Harris issues his orders for operation 'Millenium'. The target is to be Hamburg, with Cologne as an alternate. The raid was to take place on the night of the 28th/29th May, or the first suitable night thereafter.

1942

US Navy orders production of Grumman F6F Hellcat fighter.

Air Marshal Harris issues his orders for operation 'Millenium'. The target is to be Hamburg, with Cologne as an alternate. The

1943

CQMS O'Sullivan 2 LIR in Tunis:

"My main prayers were for the repose of the souls of my many comrades and friends - Denis Griffin & Andy Gardiner, the gentle provost sergeants; George Rock & Ian Brooks; Captain Carrigan; Snootch McDowell and Harry McRory...I thought of the hundreds of others from the battalion who had died, were missing or been wounded. I also remembered those I had helped to bury, without due prayer, both friend and foe.

What a waste.

I also thought of myself and my constant terror which I had successfully hidden."

1944

General Hans Cramer, the last German commander of the Afrika Korps, who was captured in May 1943, arrives in Berlin. Imprisoned in a POW camp in Wales, his deteriorating health caused him to be repatriated to Germany through the Swedish Red Cross.

He was brought first from Wales to London, the route taken brought him through the south and south-west of England. He was allowed to see the massive build up of tanks, planes and ships getting ready for the D-Day invasion.

What he didn't know was the exact area of England he was being driven through. He was told it was southern and eastern England and this is what he reported to his seniors in Berlin, adding emphasis to the Allied propaganda that the invasion would take place in the Calais area.

The U.S. Fifth Army begins an offensive from the Anzio bridgehead toward Rome. Canadian troops breach the Adolf Hitler Line to the South West of Monte Cassino

1944 Operation Chesterfield - The North Irish Horse

The North Irish Horse was in support of the Seaforth Highlanders of the 1st Canadian Division, the Second and Third Canadian Brigades in support with the 5th Canadian Armoured Division attacking and the Second Polish Corps on their right. The Polish Corps went onto capture Piedimonte on the 25th May and the Hitler line collapsed.

On the 23rd of May at 0600 hours the battle to break The Hitler Line would begin with a creeping barrage and at 0607 hours the North Irish Horse would start their advance to support the Seaforths.

With the dust being kicked up by the shelling and the smoke from the guns visibility by 0700 hours was cut down to only a few meters.

The Horse's tanks were encountering heavy resistance from above and below, with accurate artillery fire and mines

taking its toll and many of their tanks had been put out of action before it even had reached the barbed wire defences.

From there it was 400 yards of open ground to the Seaforths, the lack of visibility was proving to be both a benefit to hide the advance as well as a hinderance requiring some to have to result in compass bearings to confirm they were heading in the right direction.

Recorded in the War Diaries are numerous acts of bravery in this hellish advance it is estimated out of the original fighting force only a 100 men reached their objective.

The men of the Seaforths with the aid of the Horse repelled several attempts by the Germans to retake the ground lost.

At approximately 1700 hours they noticed the Germans were withdrawing from the line under a fighting rear guard action by cover of artillery fire.

The Seaforth were the only battalion from their division to reach their objective and hold it against all counter attacks until reinforcements arrived.

By the end of the day the Seaforths and the Horse had fought one of the hardest battles seen to date.

The North Irish Horse had lost 32 men (CWGC) and had lost 41 tanks of which 26 were completely destroyed. The losses were heavy with it being the bloodiest day in its history of the Second World War.

The Canadians had suffered over a thousand casualties and the Seaforths alone had lost three officers and forty nine other ranks killed, seven more officers and 99 other ranks

were wounded with two officers and fifty other ranks taken prisoner.

The North Irish Horse commemorate the “Hitler Line” on the 24th May every year and the unit still wears a maple leaf in memory of this battle with the 1st Canadian division.

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Chinese forces counter-attack in central China, and also make ground along the Burma Road.

1945

British troops arrest the Donitz government and the remnants of the German High Command at Flensburg.

Himmler commits suicide at the British Second Army HQ on Luneburg Heath.

The heaviest air raid so far on the Japanese homeland, see USAAF bombers drop 4,500 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo. 21% of the city is now burnt out, but the firebombing continues for next four days.



Roll of Honour – May 23

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+DOHERTY, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. 'A' Coy. Private. 4452. Died 23/05/1915 (Whit Sunday). Aged 19. Johnnie Doherty was a former member of the St Columb's Guilds and the Owen Roe O'Neill Band, and at a general meeting of the latter, held around June/July 1915, a vote of condolence was passed to Mr John Doherty, Ann Street, in the bereavement caused by the death of his son. At the time twenty-two members of the band were serving with the colours. Tragedy was to re-visit the Doherty family five years after the death of Johnnie, when his brother, Bernard Doherty, an ex-soldier, was shot in Orchard Street on Sunday, May 16, 1920, and died within half-an-hour of receiving the wound in the chest. Eldest son of John and Sarah Doherty, 3, Ann Street, Lecky Road, Derry. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (Gallipoli). Diamond War Memorial.

+KENNEDY, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. A Coy. Private. 10092. Died 23/05/1915. Aged 21. Enlisted at Omagh. The name of Joseph Kennedy was read out during a memorial service held in St Columb's (Church of Ireland) Cathedral, Londonderry, 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. Son of Joseph and

Margaret Kennedy, 9, Epworth Street, Derry, and 124, West Graham Street, Glasgow. Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Christ Church (Church of Ireland), Londonderry, WW1 Memorial. Diamond War Memorial.

+LYNCH, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 3287. Died 23/05/1915. Aged 21. Enlisted at Londonderry, and died at the Dardanelles. Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles, Turkey (including Gallipoli) Diamond War Memorial.

+McFLINN, Martin

Australian Army Service Corps. 1st Coy. Div. Train. Private. 409A. Died 23/05/1915 of wounds. Age 23 years old. Martin McFlynn was born about 1892 in Sydney, Australia. He was the son of Michael and Ellen McFlynn. His father was from Kildress. Martin attended Sydney Technical School and became an engineer. He enlisted in September 1914. Martin served with the Australian Expeditionary Force attached to the Army Medical Corps at Gallipoli. Son of Michael and Ellen McFlinn, of 58, Annandale St., Annandale, Sydney, New South Wales. Beach Cemetery, Anzac. Turkey (including Gallipoli). Cookstown War Dead Book WW1

+PATTERSON, Alexander Hanna

1st. Canadian Infantry Brigade, H/Q. Sergeant. 9351. Died 23/05/1915 in action in trenches east of Festubert in France. Aged 34. Second oldest son of William and Margaret Patterson, of Moyheeland, Draperstown, Co. Derry. Alexander emigrated to Canada. Prior to enlisting,

Alexander worked as a teamster. He had spent two and a half years in the Canadian Militia. Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Castledawson WM, Tobermore WM, Curran Masonic Lodge No 532 RH, Draperstown PCI RH

1916

+GRAY, T

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 14732. Died 23/05/1916. Age 23. Son of George and Agnes Gray, of Ballycoan, Purdysburn, Belfast. Holy Trinity C of I Churchyard, Drumbo

+MALONE, John

Royal Engineers, 121st Field Company, 36th Ulster Division. Sapper. 64005. Died 23/05/1916. Son of William Henry and Margaret Malone, of Church-street, Downpatrick. He was a member of Loyal Orange Lodge No. 1464. Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France

+McCALLISTER, W J

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. Rifleman. 873. Died 23/05/1916. Age 56. Husband to Agnes McCallister. Drumgath C of I Churchyard.

1917

ALLEN, Robert Henry

RASC. Training Depot. Private. DM2/221143. Died 23/05/1917 in hospital at Woolwich. Aged 26. Son of John T. and Sarah E. Allen of 47 Woodcot Avenue, Bloomfield, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

+BRITTON, William Kerr Magill

Royal Flying Corps. Second Lieutenant. Died 23/05/1917 in an aeroplane accident in England. Age 25 years old. Third son of Margaret H. Hill (formerly Britton), of Hazelwood, Strabane, and the late John Britton, M.D., F.R.C.S. (E.), grandson of Rev. Dr. Magill, Belfast, and a nephew of Mr. R. J. Porter, solicitor, Wellington Place, Belfast. Strabane Cemetery

+FORD, James

Private. 17811. Distinguished Conduct Medal. Died 23/05/1917. Age 31. Alias. True family name is Langtry from Tandragee. Sin of Annie Langtry. Albuera Cemetery, Bailleul-Sire-Berthoult, France

+REA, Sydney Victor

1st London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). Private. 202660. Died from wounds on 23/05/1917 at 49th Casualty Clearing Station, France. Youngest son of the late David Rea, His Majesty's Inland Revenue and Mrs. Rea. Nephew of Samuel Rea, late Asylum clerk, Downpatrick. Achiet - Le - Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France

+WARING, James Banks

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 19285. Died 23/05/1917. Age 20. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Waring, of 6, Church View, Dunmurry. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

1919

+WILSON, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 14803. transf. to (231631) 668th Employment Coy. Labour Corps. Died at home of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Meningitis 23/05/1919.. Age 44. Born 1876. He was a member of the UVF and Tullymacon Rising Sons Of William LOL 110. Enlisted September 1914, promoted to Lance Corporal January 1915 , to France October 1915 with the 36th Ulster Division. Had a problem and at court-martial was demoted back to Private 10/11/1915, took an illness and evacuated to hospital in England November 1916 . Posted to the 10th Reserve 15/11/1916 ,transferred to the Labour Corps 07/07/1917 renumbered 2341631. Discharged unfit for service 18/9/1918. He was discharged in January 1918. Husband to Hannah Wilson, of Mill St., Tanderagee. Tanderagee (Meeting House) Presbyterian Churchyard. Tandragee WM.

1940

+CRANGLE, Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6979409. Died 23/05/1940. Age 19. Son of Jane Crangle, of Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, France

+CRIGHTON, John Henry George Crighton, 5th Earl of Erne

Royal Horse Guards attached to 12th Royal lancers, Royal Armoured Corps. Major. Died 23/05/1940. Wormhoudt Cemetery, France. Kinawley Church of Ireland, Derrylin WM

+DOONAN, David

Pioneer Corps, 45 Coy., Aux. Mil. Corporal. 7008106. Died 23/05/1940. Aged 48. Son of Thomas and Ann Doonan; husband of Mary Doonan, of Dromore, Co. Down. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+DONAGHY, Edward

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980501. Died 23/05/1940. Aged 32. Son of Edward and Olive Donaghy; husband of Norah Donaghy, of Greencastle, Co. Antrim. Hamblain-Les-Pres Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

+EDGAR, Leonard

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1475599. Died in France 23/05/1940. 23 Battery, 8th (Belfast) HAA Regt. in the France and Belgium campaign of 1939 -1940. Son of Leonard Edgar and Sarah Ann Edgar, of Belfast. Husband to Norah Edgar of Belfast. Wimereux Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Named on the family grave, Belfast City Cemetery. Regimental WM and RH, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

+EATON, Westley

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1459542. Died between 23/05/1940 and 25/05/1940. Aged 21. 23 Battery, 8th (Belfast) HAA Regt. Son of James and Margaret Eaton, of Belfast. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Regimental WM and RH, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

+GARNETT, John Brooksbank

Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lieutenant. 71383. Died 23/05/1940 in action in the village of St Floirs. Aged 23. John Garnett was born on 11/09/1916. John Garnett attended Winchester College. In 1934 he went to Magdalen College in Oxford. B.A. In the summer of 1938 he joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Only son of Lt.-Col. W. B. Garnett, D.S.O., D.L., J.P., formerly of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, and of Eleanor Constance Garnett (nee Story), of Corick, Clogher, Co. Tyrone. St. Floris Churchyard, Pas de Calais, France. Clogher WM, St Macartan's Cathedral WM, Clogher

+HOUSTON, Stewart

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 2718618. Died between 23/05/1940 and 04/06/1940. Age 21. Outreau Communal Cemetery which is beside Boulogne-sur-Mer in Pas De Calais Region. It would appear that his body lay uncovered for a time. Any information about this would be very much appreciated. He is remembered in Randalstown.

+MICKLEY, Wilfred Lawson

Northamptonshire Regiment, 2nd Btn. Warrant Officer Class III (P.S.M.) 5879884. Died 23/05/1940. Aged 36. Son of Albert and Margaret Ellen Mickley; husband to Sarah Mickley, of Rostrevor. Avion Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

+NEWELL, John

RAF. Flight Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 633907. MiD. Died 23/05/1941. Aged 21. 37 Sqdn. On 23rd May 1941, his Wellington bomber (Serial No T2812) was commencing a test flight from Shallufa in Egypt. The aircraft

encountered technical problems after take-off and dived into ground whilst attempting a forced landing. Of the three crew on board, Flight Sergeant Newell was the only fatality. Son of Samuel and Elizabeth Newell, of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Ismailia War Cemetery, Egypt. Stewartstown WM, Stewartstown C of I RH

+SLAINE, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Bn. Fusilier. 7042852. Died 23/05/1940. Aged 35. Eldest son of William and Elizabeth Slaine. The family lived in Kildress. His father was a linen finisher and his mother was a seamstress. Husband to Annie Slaine, of Cookstown. They had two children, William and Elizabeth. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Cookstown WM

+SMILEY, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6979715. Died 23/05/1940. Aged 20. Son of Catherine M. Smiley, of Stranocum, Co. Antrim. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+TURISH, Alexander

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Guardsman. 2719308. Died 23/05/1940. Aged 25. Son of James C. and Elizabeth Turish, of Castlederg, Co. Tyrone. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+YOUNG, James Frederick

King's Royal Rifle Corps, 2nd Bn. Corporal. 6844553. Died Between 23/05/1940 and 26/05/1940. Aged 31. Son of James F. and Elizabeth Young; husband to Jane Young, of

Millisle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Dunkirk Memorial,
Nord, France

1941

+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

+McKEOWN, Howard Stephen

RAFVR. Aircraftman 1st Class. 994218. Died 23/05/1941.
Aged 19. 210 Sqdn. Son of William Thomas McKeown and
Annie McKeown, of Waringstown. Runnymede Memorial,
Panel 57

+NEWELL, John

RAF. Flight Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 633907.
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a test flight from Shallufa in Egypt. The aircraft encountered
technical problems after take-off and dived into ground
whilst attempting a forced landing. Of the three crew on
board, Flight Sergeant Newell was the only fatality. Son of
Samuel and Elizabeth Newell, of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.
Ismailia War Cemetery, Egypt

1943

+BUCHANAN, Thomas Alexander Stuart

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 166 Sqdn. Sergeant. 1123751. Died 05/05/1943. Age 24. Sergeant Buchanan's aircraft was shot down at approx 01.50 hrs on 05/05/1943, between Houten and Schalkwijk. All crew were killed. Son of Thomas Alexander Osborne Buchanan and Ellen Elizabeth Howe Buchanan, of Dungannon. Vlagtwedde General Cemetery, Netherlands. Dungannon WM, ST Anne's C of I Dungannon WM

+O'BRIEN, Daniel Cornelius

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st. Btn. Warrant Officer Class iii. Platoon Sergeant Major. 6975298. Died 23/05/1943 of wounds. Age 35. Served for 18 years in India and Palestine and was with the battalion during the retreat to Dunkirk. PSM O'Brien joined the Faughs in 1925. His father who served for 37 years had been regimental sergeant major, and two of his elder brothers were already in the Faughs. A brother was a Captain in the Royal Irish Fusiliers and a sister served in the WRVS. O'Brien was commander of the pioneer platoon when he was wounded. Son of Owen and Katherine O'Brien, of the Desart, Armagh. Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

1944

+BENSON, Williamson

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse. Lance Corporal. 7902796. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 28. Son of Joseph and Isabella Benson; husband of Margaret Benson, of Portrush. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+BEST, Walter John

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse."A" Sqn. Serjeant. 7904280. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 32. Son of David and Rebecca Jane Best, of Londonderry. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+CHAMBERS, Thomas Samuel

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse. Lance Corporal. 7903466. Died 23/05/1944. Eldest son of Sarah and William J Chambers.Cassino War Cemetery, Italy. Dungannon WM. Family headstone in the Brackaville Church of Ireland Cemetery.

+ELLIOTT, Albert George

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse."C" Sqn. Serjeant. 7903226. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 23. Son of William George and Margaret Anne Elliott, of Tullyhommon, Co. Fermanagh. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+GALLOWAY, John

Royal Armoured Corps. North Irish Horse. Trooper. 7902610. Died 23/05/1944. Age 24. Son of John and Susan Galloway, of Abbey Street, Armagh. His father served in WW1. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+LEWERS, Albert

48th Highlanders of Canada, R.C.I.C. Private. B/130554. Died 23/05/1944. Age 23. He lived in Armagh before emigrating to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Only son of Albert and Jennie (nee Ballentine) Lewers, of Callan St., Armagh. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+McCLURE, Robert Milligan

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Sergeant. 1573323. 101 Sqn. Died 23/05/1944. Age 20. Son of Samuel and Elizabeth McClure. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

+McILWAINE, William Ernest

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1796516. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 24. 50 Sqn. Son of Francis and Mary McIlwaine, Lurgan. Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery, Netherlands

+McLAUGHLIN, James

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse."C" Sqn. Serjeant. 7903208. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 32. Son of Ezeckiel and Elizabeth McLaughlin; husband of Mary McLaughlin, of Dervock, Co. Antrim. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+MILLIKEN, Robert

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse."A" Sqn. Lance Corporal. 7903287. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 24. Son of John and Annie Milliken, of Mosside, Co. Antrim; husband to Agnes Milliken, of Mosside. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+PRYDE, James Howard MooreA

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse."B" Sqn. Lance Corporal. 7903481. Died 23/05/1944. Aged 26. Son of Arthur R. M. and Lucie S. Pryde, of Ballymena. Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

+SMITH, Cecil James Frederick

Royal Armoured Corps. North Irish Horse. Trooper.
7902393. Died 23/05/1944. Age 24. Enlisted 1940 and
served in North Africa prior to Italy. One of five sons of John
Smith, and Martha Jane Smith, of Barrack Hill, Armagh. His
four brothers all served with the Royal Army Service Corps -
Major Robert, Captain Thomas, Captain David and
Sergeant Major John. Their father had served in WW1.
Cassino War Cemetery, Italy

1945

+LYONS, Patrick Joseph

Hampshire Regiment, 7th Btn. Private. 7047437. Died
23/04/1945. Aged 21. Son of James and Margaret Lyons, of
Banbridge. Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen,
Germany

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

**To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI
masthead.**

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

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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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