



remembrance ni



**WW1
Battle of
Messines
had
biggest
bomb
before
the
atom
bomb**

Today is the anniversary of one of the most apocalyptic Allied attacks on the German lines during WWI - the Battle of Messines Ridge in West Flanders, Belgium. The 16th (Irish) Division and the 36th (Ulster) Division

took part. Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and Nationalist fought side by side.

It is one of the few successful stand-alone battles of the Great War and it was a vital preparation for the major advance planned to commence on 31/07/1917.

The 16th (Irish) Division and the 36th (Ulster) Division were both part of IX Corps in General Plumer's Second Army - the 16th Division held the centre, with the 36th Division on its right flank and the 19th (Western) Division on its left flank. The 25th Division held the ground on the Ulster Division's right flank.

The following statistics are based on CWGC records, supplemented with information from other databases, e.g. Soldier Died in the Great War and Register of Soldiers' Effects.

383 men from Irish infantry regiments died during the period of the battle and are buried or memorialised in Belgium (others died in the weeks that followed and some men wounded during the battle died of wounds in France) and 37% were born outside Ireland.

This figure of 383 fatalities is broken down as follows:

144 fatalities with 16th (Irish) Division - 39% born outside Ireland

186 fatalities with 36th (Ulster) Division - 45% born outside Ulster

53 fatalities with 24th and 25th divisions - 30% born outside Ireland

On the 7th June 1917, the 16th (Irish) Division suffered 141 fatalities (five being buried in France).

On the 7th June 1917, the 36th (Ulster) Division suffered 194 fatalities (18 being buried in France)

On the 7th June 1917, Irish infantry regiments suffered 344 fatalities (22 being buried in France)

16th Division - 132 fatalities

36th Division - 191 fatalities

24th and 25th divisions - 21 fatalities



Spanbroekmolen Crater is the site of the largest Messines mine explosion. Now filled with water, it is preserved as a memorial called the 'Pool of Peace'. The site has been owned by Toc H in Poperinge since the 1920s

Synchronised detonation of 19 unprecedentedly huge mines

The synchronised detonation of 19 unprecedentedly huge mines buried by the Allies deep under enemy trenches brought instant death to many thousands of German

soldiers, and the ensuing week-long battle bestowed a relentlessly burgeoning tally of casualties on both sides.

The battle has immense historic and symbolic significance for the UK and Ireland as it was the first time that the 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) Divisions fought alongside each other during WWI.

On the centenary of the battle in **The Island of Ireland Peace Park** at Messines (photo on front page) there was a special memorial event where vast mine-craters still punctuate the landscape, one of them the serene, water-filled Spanbroekmolen crater known as **The Pool of Peace** or the **Lone Tree Crater**, the site of the largest of the mines detonated at the start of the battle.

The centenary commemorations were jointly led by the Governments of Ireland and the UK, in partnership with the Mayor of Messines.

The Peace Park proceedings took place in the shadow of a traditional Irish Round Tower and a large standing-stone gilded with a peace pledge appealing for the people of Ireland to build a peaceful and tolerant society and to remember “the solidarity and trust that developed between Protestant and Catholic soldiers when they served together in these trenches.”

The Allies started tunnelling towards the German lines at Messines Ridge early in 1916.

In the face of German counter-mining, thousands of feet of deep tunnels were constructed.

Sometimes the British tunnellers encountered their German counterparts resulting in fierce, underground, hand-to-hand

fighting. Above ground, for weeks before 7 June 1917, thousands of heavy Allied guns and howitzers bombarded the German trenches with countless pounds of explosives. On the morning of the fateful first day at 3.10 am 19 underground Allied mines were detonated in an unprecedented collective blast that peaked on far-away seismographs and was heard in London and Dublin.

Estimates of the number of Germans killed during and after the eruption have been as high as 25,000, with up to 10,000 dying instantly. Hundreds of the Allied soldiers waiting to go over the top were severely shocked, deafened and concussed. Private Jack Christie from the Shankill area of Belfast, who had been a member of the UVF, was a stretcher bearer with the Ulster Division.

Referring to his comrades in the 16th Division Private Christie said later “we should not allow politics to blind us to the truth about things - bravery and loyalty is not all on one side. We had the greatest respect for the 16th.”

Another stretcher-bearer from the Ulster Division demonstrated that political allegiance had no place on the battlefield. Private John Meeke of the 11th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was awarded the Military Medal for rescuing Major Willie Redmond of the 16th Division. Redmond was the Nationalist MP for East Clare, a member of the Irish Volunteers and the brother of John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

Private Meeke, who enlisted in March 1916, was searching the battlefield for wounded comrades when he happened to see Major Redmond fall. Despite heavy machine-gun and artillery fire, Meeke made his way to Redmond's position to



Messines British Cemetery, with the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing, surmounted by the Cross of Sacrifice

render assistance, taking shelter in shell holes and any other meagre cover he could find in the desolate, pock-marked landscape. He arrived at the Major without injury and found him seriously wounded in the left knee and right arm at the elbow and weak from loss of blood. Meeke dressed one of the wounds and was working on another when shrapnel struck him on the left side, inflicting serious wounds. He was hit a second time but this did not deter him from his work, which he completed despite his injury.

Meeke disobeyed a direct order from Major Redmond to abandon him and struggled across the battlefield with his charge until he met up with Lieutenant Charles Paul and a party from the 11th Royal Irish Rifles who were escorting

German prisoners to the rear. Together they got Major Redmond to the casualty clearing station located in the Catholic Hospice at Locre. Major Redmond died later that afternoon.

Many hundreds of soldiers from Ireland perished side by side at Messines Ridge, protestant and catholic, unionist and nationalist, and they're commemorated on standing stones in the Island of Ireland Peace Park along with the WWI total of 32,186 killed, wounded or missing from the 36th (Ulster) Division; 9,363 from the 10th and 28,398 from the 16th Irish Divisions respectively.

Island of Ireland Peace Park

Mesen (Messines) is a small town with a touch of Irish charm. On the hills surrounding Mesen, soldiers from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, protestants and catholic alike, died during the First World War. The Peace Park was created by young people from both sides of the border.

The Peace Park houses a round tower. This monument to honour all the fallen from the entire island of Ireland transcends religious and political differences. The tower was built as a symbol of reconciliation for the past, the present and the future. Commemoration ceremonies are held on 7 June and 11 November.

The Tower houses bronze cubicles containing record books listing the known dead, which are publicly accessible copies of the originals belonging to the National War Memorial, Islandbridge, Dublin.



The project was initiated by a member of the Irish Parliament (Dail Eireann), Paddy Harte TD, who, together with a community activist, Glen Barr from Northern Ireland, established 'A Journey of Reconciliation Trust'. The Trust was a broad-based, cross-border, organisation with offices in Dublin. The Trust was made up of representatives of the main churches in Ireland and professional political and representatives and community leaders from both parts of Ireland under the leadership of Paddy Harte and Glenn Barr.

The Irish government became involved in part funding the project together with the Northern Ireland Office. Statutory and private bodies rolled in behind the project and within two years of the initiation of the JRT the Island of Ireland Peace Park and Celtic Round tower was complete.



It was formally opened by the Irish President Mary McAleese who in the presence of Queen Elizabeth and King Albert of Belgium led the wreath laying ceremony in the afternoon of 11th of November 1998. It was the first time an Irish State officially acknowledged the soldiers from Ireland who died in WW1. This was also a seminal moment in Irish history when an Irish Head of State and a British Monarch met publicly in a joint ceremony.

The Park is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on behalf of the Office of Public Works in Ireland. Prior to the Island of Ireland Peace Park, no Irish government dignitary had ever attended any WW1 Remembrance Service either in Ireland or at the Menin Gate. At an official ceremony on 11th November 1998 the Irish President apologised on behalf of the Republic of

Ireland to the families of the fallen for what she called the 'national amnesia' in remembering the soldiers of WW1 from the Island of Ireland.

Roll of Honour – June 7

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+McARTHUR, A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 9652. Died 07/06/1915. Age 25 years old. Son of Robert McArthur, of 53, Boness St., Belfast. Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+PARK, R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. C Coy. Private. 10453. Died 07/06/1915. Age 20. Son of William and Maggie Park, of Park St., Coleraine. Fosse & Military Cemetery (Quality Street) Mazingarbe, France

1916

+GOUDY, Robert Connor

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 11949. Died 07/06/1916. Age 20. Son of Henry and Martha Goudy, of 100, Tennent St., Belfast. Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France

1917

+ADDISON, Robert

Royal Army Medical Corps, 108th Field Amb. Private. 50842. Died 07/06/1917. Age 23. Son of William and Ellen Addison, of 87, Grove St. East, Belfast. Enlisted Jan., 1915. Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Belgium

+ANDERSON, Stanley Orme

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14/41679. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. Born Larne. Son of Charles and Agnes Anderson, of 5, Baronet's Grove, Tottenham, London. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+ARMSTRONG, William John

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14/16176. Died 07/06/1917. Age 27. Son of Thomas and Margaret Armstrong, of Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+BEST, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 652. Died 07/06/1917. Age 28. Husband of Margaret Best, of 33, Ghent St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+BLAKE, Charles

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Young Citizen Volunteer Battalion. Rifleman. 14/6397. Died 07/06/1917. Panbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+BOYD, Brian

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Second Lieutenant. MM. Died 07/06/1917. Age 19. Son of William A. and Lizzie M. Boyd, of 10, Cyprus Gardens, Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+BRIDGETT, William T H

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. D Coy. Serjeant. 1213. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. Son of William and Annie Bridgett, of 98, Great Victoria St., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+BROWN, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. A Coy. Lance Serjeant. 9/17316. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Son of John and Jane Brown of 43, Bellevue St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+BRUCE, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 10/4397. Died 07/06/1917. Age 31. Husband to Isabella Bruce, of 54, Hunter St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+CAMPBELL, J

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Rifleman, 6712. Died 07/06/1917. Age 28. Husband of Norah Lilian Campbell, of 331, William St., Newtownards. Dundonald cemetery

+CATHCART, H

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7106. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. Son of John Cathcart, of 51, Ivan St.,

York Rd., Belfast. Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium

+CORBETT, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 17811. Died 07/06/1917. Age 23. Son of Elizabeth Corbett, of Killymoon St., Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, and the late John Corbett. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+COSTELLO, Manus Alexander

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 28450. Died 07/06/1917. Age 28. Son of Patrick and Jane Costello (nee Scullion), of Bellaghy, Co. Londonderry. La Laiterie Military Cemetery, West - Vlaanderen, Belgium. Castledawson WM

+COULTER, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Corporal. 3768. Died 07/06/1917. Age 35. A yarn dresser. Whiteabbey LOL 1868 had his name inscribed on a banner which was unfurled in June 1921. Born 03/10/1881 in Annaghanoon, Waringstown. Son of John and Isabella (nee Houston) Coulter; husband to Annie (nee Braithwaite) Coulter, of 16, Abbey Gardens, Whiteabbey, Belfast. Married in Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium. Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church RH

+CRAIG, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14/3970. Died 07/06/1917. Age 23. Son of Thomas and Hannah Kennedy. Native of Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+DAWSON, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 19/533. Died 07/06/1917. Aged 32. Frederick worked as a dairy manager. Son of James and Mary Dawson, of Caledon, Co. Tyrone; husband to Anna Helen Dawson (nee Hughey), of 93, Cavehill Rd., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+DEMPESTER, Robert James

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 18/910. Died 07/06/1917. Age 23. Also known as Robert James Demptser. Son of Mrs. Dempester, of Camasure, Comber. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+DIXON, Richard

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. Rifleman. 19/837. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Son of John and Eliza Dixon, of 49, Kendal St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+DOWNEY, Sydney James Livingstone

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Educated at the Methodist College, Belfast. Member of the Training Corps 1915 - 16. He was commissioned in January 1916. The 14th (Young Citizens) Battalion, RIR, was raised in Belfast in September 1914 from the Belfast Volunteers. They moved to Bundoran in December 1914, and to Randalstown in January 1915 and joined 108 Brigade, the 36th (Ulster) Division. He was an employee of The Northern Assurance Company Ltd in Belfast, a company now owned by Aviva and his name appears in the Roll of Honour on the company website. He

was the second son of James Livingston Downey JP and his wife Marion Louisa Downey, Hampden Terrace, Rugby St., Belfast. He was the grandson of the Rev George Cron. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+EWING, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 19138. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. William was born in the Shankill in Belfast about 1893. He enlisted in Belfast. Private Ewing is believed to have some connection with Portglenone. Son of Robert and Martha Ann Ewing, of Conchillas, Colonia, Uruguay, South America. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

+FERRIS, William Small

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 07/06/1917. Age 29. Son of Elizabeth Ferris, of 4, Sandown Park, Knock, Co. Down, and the late Rev. J. C. Ferris. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+FINN, William John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9997. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. Son of Henry and Margaret A. Finn, of 11, Paris St., Shankill Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+FLEMING, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Lance Corporal. 19489. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Robert was a member of the UVF. Born Railway Street, Antrim on 10/05/1895. Enlisted Antrim. Son

of Jane (nee Greer) Fleming, of 64, Townparks, Antrim, and the late Arthur Fleming, a butcher. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium. Antrim Town WM. All Saints Parish Church RH.

+FORSYTHE, James McMullan

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 12787. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20 years old. Son of Stanfield and Elizabeth Forsythe, of 55, Belvoir St., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+FRAZER, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 14589. Died 07/06/1917. Age 35. Husband of Alice Frazer, of 101, Northumberland St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+GILLILAND, J

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 17/1471. Died 07/06/1917. Husband of Mrs. Gilliland, of 7, Crossland St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+GLASS, David

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23206. Died 07/06/1917. Aged 19. Brother of Wilson Glass, of Park Rd., Dungannon. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Dungannon WM, St Anne's Church, C of I, Dungannon WM

+GREER, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18/960, Died 07/06/1917. Aged 19. James was one of 8 children born in Dromore, Co Down. He was the brother of Lance Corporal John Greer 4805. Both served in the Royal Irish Rifles. Son of James and Elizabeth Greer, of 206, Blythe St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+HAGGERTY, Matthew

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Private. 22162. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Born on 11/09/1896 in the Caledon/Tynan area. By 1911 Matthew was a 15 year old mill worker. His father was a railway worker. Son of Samuel Haggerty, of Enagh Row, Caledon. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Dungannon WM

+HARVEY, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 19/497. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mr. R. Haney, of 64, Gertrude St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+HILL, William George

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Corporal. 14/14884. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. Enlisted Belfast. Born in Cookstown on 20/03/1893. He was one of nine children. The family lived at Donaghey, Stewartstown, and Downs, The Sandholes. His father was a stone mason and farmer. Son of Alexander and Ellen Hill, of The Downs, Tullyhogue, Co. Tyrone. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium. Cookstown WM

+HOY, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. Rifleman. 40211. Died 07/06/1917. Age 19. Son of Samuel and Letitia Hoy, of Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+JUNK, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 17495. Died 07/06/1917. Age 43. Samuel Junk was born at Ardboe, County Tyrone and was living in Stewartstown at the outbreak of war. He enlisted in Cookstown and had served for two years before his death. Irish House Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen. Coagh WM. Kingsmills Orange Hall RH

+KENNEDY, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14/16657. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. An old Instonian, he joined the Northern Bank on 04/01/1910 at Head Office in Belfast. He worked in the Shaftsbury Square branch of the Northern Bank. He enlisted in the Y.C.V. At the outbreak of war he enlisted in Belfast along with his younger brother. He was awarded a divisional certificate for gallantry on 1st July, when, although wounded and in the German lines, he refused to leave his post until the evening. On the way back to the dressing station he assisted a wounded man to safety under heavy fire. He refused a commission. Two brothers were officers in the Division. William's brother Second-Lieutenant James Kennedy, 8th (Service) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, fell on the opening day of "Operation Michael" 21/03/1918, while attached to the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He was only nineteen years of age. His remains were

interred in Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, France. A third brother Private Josiah Alexander Chancellor Kennedy was wounded while serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Born Wishaw, Lanark, Scotland. Eldest son of The Rev. Professor Samuel Guiler Kennedy, LL.D., and Christina Lang Kennedy nee Dobbie, Cromwell House, Cromwell Road, Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. RBAI WM

+KERR, William John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Lance Corporal. 27370. Died 07/06/1917. Age 18. Son of James Henry and Matilda J. Kerr, of Lettin, Tempo, Co. Fermanagh. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+KYLE, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 726. Died 07/06/1917. Age 38. Son of the late Samuel and Jane Kyle; husband of Eveleen Kyle, of 27, Mountcashel St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+LAIRD, Robert John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18064. Died 07/06/1917. Age 39. An iron turner. A member of the UVF. Enlisted Ballyclare. Son of Mrs. Agnes Laird, of Ballyboley, Ballynure. Lone Tree Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ballyclare WM. Ballynure Presbytertarian Church WM

+LAUGHLIN, Archibald

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23643. Died 07/06/1917. Born on 26/03/1887 in the Kilrea area. The

family lived in Lislea, Tamlaght, County Londonderry. Lislea lies midway between Portglenone and Kilrea. Archie and his father were both labourers. Son of Robert and Mary Laughlin, of Lislea, Portglenone. Irish House Cemetery, Belgium. Kilrea WM

+LAVERTY, Francis

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Corporal. 19/491. Died 07/06/1917. Husband to Mrs. Lavery, of 206, Blythe St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+LINDSAY, Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 2210. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21 years old. Son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lindsay, of Main St., Crumlin. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium.

+LYNESS, J

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. Rifleman. 17/1167. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mr. Lyness, of 34, Ghent St., Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+MACAULAY, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Corporal. 14/16726. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. Son of Susan Macaulay, of 14, Mount Collyer Avenue, York Rd., Belfast, and the late Samuel Macaulay. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+MAGUIRE, Samuel John

Royal Field Artillery, 106th Bde. A Bty. Gunner. 77062. Died 07/06/1917. Age 19. Son of Mrs. Maria Maguire, of 44, Weir St., Belfast. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

+MASSEY, William Albert

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14/7491. Died 07/06/1917. Husband of Sarah Massey, of 19, City St., Belfast. Three of Sarah's brother also served with the forces during the war and they resided at 99 Roden Street, Belfast, their father worked as an engine driver with the Great Northern Railway. Apart from William's wife's brothers who served in the war, several other young men from Roden Street, Belfast, joined the ranks, including Private Ashley Milne who was taken prisoner in March 1918 and died 19/07/1918, buried Berlin South-Western Cemetery. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+MATIER, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 9/15567. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Son of James and Sarah Matier, of 171, Ainsworth Avenue, Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+MAYNE, David

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 23981. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Son of Margaret Cain (formerly Mayne), of 13, Hanna St., Belfast; stepson of the late Charles Cain. La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Belgium

+McALLISTER, George

Royal Ulster Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7009594. Died 07/06/1917. Aged 37. Son of George and Elizabeth

McAllister and husband to Mary McAllister. La Delivrande War Cemetery in Douvres. Fitzwilliam PCI

+McBRIDE, Arthur King

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Captain. Died 07/06/1917. Age 36. Born Glenalina 17/03/1881. Educated at Campbell College. Son of Henry James McBride, of Hydepark, Mallusk; husband to Ruby (nee Taggart) McBride, of Mervue, Waterloo, Larne. They married in Connor Presbyterian Church on 04/09/1907. His father was the owner of the Glenalina Bleach Green and later owned the Hydepark Bleach Works, Mallusk. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Royal British Legion Hydepark Branch RH, Campbell College WM, Templepatrick Presbyterian Church RH.

+McBRIDE, Moses

New Zealand Expeditionary Force, 2nd Otago Infantry Regiment. Private.29802. Died 07/06/1917. He had embarked on the vessel *Willochra* on 16/10/1916 with the 18th Reinforcement Otago Infantry Battalion, D Company. He was the labourer son of John McBride and Sarah Paul, later of Coreen, Broughshane, Co. Antrim. John from Connor and Sarah from Lisbreen, had married in West Church, Ballymena on the 22/01/1883. Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium. 1st Broughshane PCI RH.

+McCLELLAND, J R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 14416. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mrs. M. McClelland, of Kingstown,

Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+McCLELLAND, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 29313. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Enlisted in Partick, Scotland. He had been living in Scotstown. Born in the Bellaghy area on 30/05/1896. The family lived in Bellaghy and his father was a farm labourer. Son of William and Sarah McClelland, of Edenreagh, Castledawson. Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium. Diamond WM, Londonderry; Castledawson WM, Bellaghy Presbyterian Church RH

+McCRACKEN, W J

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 2784. Died 07/06/1917. Husband of Mrs. M. McCracken, of 63, Matchett St., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+McCULLAGH, Edwin Samuel

Cheshire Regiment, 14th Btn. attd. 13th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 07/06/1917. Age 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. McCullagh, of "Roselands," Rosetta Park, Belfast. Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium

+McCULLOUGH, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. B Coy. Private. 354. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Son of Sarah McCullough, of 19, Agincourt Avenue, Ormeau Rd., Belfast, and the late Edward McCullough. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+McFEETERS, John Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 25706.
Died 07/06/1917. Age 19. Son of Alexander and Margaret McFeeters. of Lisbuoy, Beragh, Co. Tyrone. La Brique Military Cemetery No.2, Belgium

+McINTOSH, JOHN

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 2849. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. Son of Harriett McIntosh, of 67, Meadow St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+McKEE, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1542. Died 07/06/1917. Age 29. Son of Mrs. M. A. McKee, of 77, Greenwell St., Newtownards. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+McKEE, J

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 19/351. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mrs. A. McKee, of 46, Solway St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+McKEE, Thomas

New Zealand Rifle Brigade 3rd, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 23/2247. Died 07/06/1917. Age 34. Born on 03/03/1883 in Drumlamph, just west of Bellaghy. They were a farming family. Thomas emigrated to New Zealand. Prior to enlisting Thomas McKee was working as a labourer. He was living in Tokomaru Bay, East Coast. He enlisted at Trentham Military Camp. He gave his next of kin as his brother Hugh, who was also living in New Zealand. Son of Hughie and Mary McKee. Messines Ridge NZ Memorial, West-Vlaanderen,

Belgium. Castledawson WM, Bellaghy Presbyterian Church
RH

+McKNIGHT, A

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 15441. Died
07/06/1917. Age 20. Husband of Alice Crawford (formerly
McKnight), of 30, Barrington St., Belfast. Lijssenthoek
Military Cemetery, Belgium

+McLAUGHLIN, Daniel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 28704. Died
07/06/1917. Age 19. Brother of Miss M. McLaughlin, of
Ballyleighery, Ballarena, Co. Londonderry. Bailleul
Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+McLAURIN, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th (Service) Btn. D Coy. (South Belfast
Volunteers). Lieutenant. Died 07/06/1917. Age 32. He had
just reached the final objective of his battalion when he was
hit in the ear. He went back to get the wound dressed, but,
returning soon afterwards, he was hit in the abdomen, and
died in a few minutes. He left a letter to be sent home in
case he was killed, and this was received by his sister, Miss
Charlotte McLaurin, Belfast. Writing on the eve of the battle,
he says in the course of the communication— " Have no
regrets for me if I fall. I am only doing my duty and making
the same sacrifice for my King and country that thousands
have already made. I am into action in high spirits, in the
sure and steadfast faith of Him who has promised never to
leave or forsake us. With love to all at home." He was in
business with his brother in the fruit business at 5, Oxford
Street. Son of James and Margaret McLaurin nee Hardy, of

Tullynafoyle, Eskra, Omagh. An organ was installed at St Philip's Parish Church (Drew Memorial), Belfast as a memorial for Lieutenant Robert McLaurin, but for reasons unknown, it was eventually moved to More (St. Peters) Church, Shropshire. The McLaurin family had seen it dedicated in May 1919 to the memory of Lieutenant Robert McLaurin. A brass plaque on the organ still says this and also that the organ in its new location was rebuilt by Nicholson & Co (Worcester) Ltd. with funds provided by Lady More of Linley Hall (b. 1912 - d. 1994). Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Belgium. Drew Memorial (St. Philip's Parish) Church or Ireland memorial plaque, No. 5 L.O.L. District (Sandy Row) Orange Hall, memorial chair to orange brethren fallen in the Great War. Lieutenant Robert McLaurin adorned the orange banner of McLaurin Memorial LOL 1050, until Lord Carson's death, the lodge soon after became Lord Carson Memorial LOL 1050.

+McLOUGHLIN, Patrick

Leinster Regiment, 7th Btn. Private.1659. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. Son of James and Margaret McLoughlin, of 137, McDonnell St., Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+McNALLY, Francis

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Rifleman. 5/5604. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mrs Rose McNally, of Belfast. Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium

+MILLAR, T

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 17/409. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mr. Millar, of 61, Thorndyke St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+MILLIGAN, William

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 122nd Coy. Corporal. 18618. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. William Milligan originally enlisted with the 9th Btn of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He was wounded at the Somme. It seems Private Milligan re-enlisted with the 1st Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Born on 01/03/1897 in Donagherry, Stewartstown. He was one of eight children, seven surviving, all born in the Stewartstown area. By 1911 the family were living in Milltown, Dungannon and William had left school and was working as a telegram boy. Son of Thomas and Sarah Ann Milligan, of 9, Brooke St., Dungannon. Voormezeele Enclosure No 3, Belgium. Dungannon WM. St Anne's C of I Dungannon WM

+MITCHELL, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 20815. Died 07/06/1917. Joseph was born in Tamlaght, Co. Tyrone on 18/06/1892. Like his father, Joseph was a general labourer. Joseph Mitchell enlisted in Randalstown. Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium. Coagh WM

+MONTGOMERY, R

Royal Engineers, 122nd Field Coy. Serjeant. 57586. Died 07/06/1917. Age 35. Son of Robert and Margaret

Montgomery, of 47, Castlereagh Place, Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+MURPHY, H

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 15/12099. Died 07/06/1917. Age 29. Son of James and Elizabeth Murphy, of Belfast; husband to Ellen Murphy, of 24, Nile St., Belfast. Lindenhoeek Chalet Military Cemetery, Belgium

+NEELY, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. G/17550. Died 07/06/1917. Enlisted at Finner Camp. He was residing in Murchossy at the time. Born in Slatmore, Augher. Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium. Clogher WM, St Macartan's Cathedral WM

+O'DONOHUE, Patrick Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7505. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. Nephew of Eliza Monaghan, of 16, Waterford St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+RAINEY, Robert Boyd

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Corporal. 12/23295. Died 07/06/1917, the first day of the Battle of Messines. Age 38. Born 18/09/1879 in Little Francis Street, Newtownards. Enlisted in Belfast. Son of William and Agnes Rainey, of Newtownards. Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium

+ROBINSON, C W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. 4th Coy. Corporal. 18084. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Son of Capt. Thomas and Mrs. Agnes Robinson, of "Ivy Dean," Wandsworth Rd., Knock, Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+ROBINSON, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 1036. Died 07/06/1917. Born Kilbride, Co. Antrim. Enlisted Newtownards. Son of William Robinson. Husband to Matioda (nee McVicker) Robinson, Cogry Mills, Doagh. They married 10/04/1908 in Carrickfergus Independent Church. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Ballyclare WM, Second Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church RH, Kilbride Parish Church RH

+ROONEY, Edmund

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Btn. Rifleman. 17/325. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Son of Henry and Margaret Rooney, of Aghnahoory, Kilkeel. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+ROSS, Robert Campbell

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 14/15878. Died 07/06/1917. Aged 19. Son of Robert John and Caroline Ross, of 6, Cameron St., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+RUSH, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Corporal. 17354. Died 07/06/1917 at the Battle of Messines. Age 22. John was one of 15 children. By 1911, only 8 were still living. His father,

Frank Rush, worked on the railway. The family lived in Killymoon Demesne, Cookstown. John Rush aged 19 enlisted at Cookstown, joining the Inniskillings on 20/11/1914. By June 1917, he had attained the rank of Corporal. Son of Frank and Mary Rush, of Clare Bridge, Cookstown. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Cookstown WM

+SCOTT, Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Btn. Rifleman. 7235. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Son of John and M. J. Scott, of Blackbridge, Hillsborough. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

+SHANNON, James

Leinster Regiment, 7th Btn. Serjeant. 2518. Died 07/06/1917. Age 28. Son of John and Margaret Shannon, of 142, Old Park Rd., Belfast. La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SHARPE, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 878. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Son of Robert J. and Ellen (nee Brown) Sharpe, of Knockagh, Monkstown, Co. Antrim. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium. Jordanstown Parish Church RH

+SIMPSON, Johnston Hill

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman. 19/448. Died 07/06/1917. Age 27. Son of Robert H. and Sarah Simpson, of Creeveytenant, Ballynahinch; husband to Isabella

Simpson, of 62, Battenberg St., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen
British Cemetery, Belgium

+SLOAN, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 10972. Died
07/06/1917. Age 20. Worked as a flax doffer. Enlisted
Carrickfergus. His brothers also served. One brother,
Charles, in the same battalion, was taken prisoner of war,
possibly at Chapelle in October 1914. Son of Robert and
Mary (nee Crawford) Sloan, of 35, Mill St., Whiteabbey.
Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium.
Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church RH

+SMALL, William Charles

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. Lance Corporal. 755. Died
07/06/1917. Age 25. Son of Charles William and Jane
Small, of Seafin, Ballyroney, Banbridge. Lindenhoek Chalet
Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SMITH, Charles

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 1708. Died 07/06/1917.
Age 19. Son of Jack and Sarah Smith, of 69, Crimea St.,
Belfast. Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SPENCE, Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Bn. Corporal. 6849. Died
07/06/1917. Prior to joining the colours Hugh Spence was a
member of the Ballycastle Company of the 2nd Battalion,
North Antrim Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force. Writing to
Hugh's father Captain S. J. Lyle M.C. stated – "He took part
in the attack which was made by his battalion on that
morning (Thursday) and was hit by a piece of shrapnel and

killed instantaneously. On behalf of the company and myself I wish to express most sincere sympathy with you and his other relations in your great loss. I hope it may be some consolation to you to know that he lost his life while playing a manly part in a great British victory. He was a good soldier, and was held in high esteem by all his comrades. His officers speak most highly of the good character he bore and of the assistance he rendered them as a non-commissioned officer. We are deeply sorry to lose him. He was buried on the ground taken from the Germans that morning and his grave has been properly marked and registered. Again assuring you of the sincerest sympathy of all ranks of the company with which your son has done such faithful service." Son of Hugh and Eliza Spence, Culkenny, Ballycastle. Lone Tree Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ballycastle Presbyterian Church RH. Ballycastle WM

+SPENCE, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. D Coy.(YCV) Rifleman. 17010. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. The second son of the late Samuel Spence, a well known city missionary. Son of Anna Spence, of 203, Albert Bridge Rd., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium. First Ballymacarrett Presbyterian Church RH

+STEVENSON, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23157. Died 07/06/1917. Age 21. Enlisted Dungannon. Born 19/10/1895 in Brantry between Aughnacloy and Benburb. Eldest son of Robert and Maggie Stevenson, of Carricklongfield, Carnteel, Aughnacloy. Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Dungannon WM. Brantry C of I RH, St Anne's C of I,
Dungannon WM

+STEWART, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 1488. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. He was born on 04/06/1895 in Portglenone. The family lived in Lisnagarran, just north of Portglenone. They were a farming family. Son of James and the late Agnes Nancy Stewart. Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium. Kilrea WM

+SWAIN, William George

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Btn. Rifleman. 1576. Died 07/06/1917. Age 20. Son of George and Sarah Swain, of Megaberry, Moira. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+TALBOT, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Fusilier. 40667. Previously North Irish Horse. 2208. Died 07/06/1917. Battle of Messines. Born (named William James) on 27 March 1894 at Drumgarkin, Cootehill, Monaghan, son of farmer William Talbot and his wife Ellen nee Coulson. He grew up at his family's farm at Corbeagh, Ashfield, County Cavan. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Armagh in June or July 1916. At the end of December 1916 he was one of forty North Irish Horsemen who transferred to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. They embarked for France on 09/01/1917 and were posted to the 10th Battalion, joining it at Ploegsteert Wood on the Ypres front. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+TATE, H

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 12443. Died 07/06/1917. Age 30. Husband of Sarah J. Tate, of 9, Mersey St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+TODD, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 4888. Died 07/06/1917. Born Ballyclare 05/03/1884. Worked in the paper mill. Enlisted Ballyclare. Son of James and Sarah (nee McCrea) Todd. He and Minnie Atkinson of Park Street, Ballyclare, married in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 06/09/1905. They had five sons. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium. Ballyclare WM. St John's C of I Ballyclare RH

+TORRANS, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 40229. Died 07/06/1917. Age 22. Son of Thomas Torrans, of 17, Schomberg St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+WATSON, T W

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Serjeant. 19/140. Died 07/06/1917. Age 33. Son of Samuel John and Isabella Watson, of 4 and 6, Maxwell St., Sandy Row, Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+WEST, Isaac

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 17/961. Died 07/06/1917. Son of Mr. West, of 65, Fartingale St., Belfast. Lone Tree Cemetery, Belgium

+WHYTE, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 19318. Died 07/06/1917. Born Cogry. Worked as a labourer in a spinning mill. Enlisted Ballyclare. Husband to Agnes (nee Fleming) Whyte, of 47, Cogry Square, Doagh. They married in St Bride's C of I on 08/11/1914. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+WILSON, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 13878. Died 07/06/1917. Age 24. Son of William and Jane Wilson, of 9, Linwood St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+WINTON, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 28045. Died 07/06/1917. Age 19. Born on 03/04/1898 in Tobermore. He was one of six children. His father was a farm labourer. Thomas' mother, Mary Winton, died three weeks after the birth of their sixth child, when Thomas was 10 years old. By 1911 Thomas was a servant for the Kelly family in Tobermore. Son of John and Mary Winton (nee Martin), of Main St., Tobermore. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Tobermore WM, Tobermore Presbyterian Church RH

+WORTLEY, Thomas George

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. D Coy. Serjeant. 14/17063. Died 07/06/1917. Age 33. Son of John and Isabella Wortley, of Belfast; husband to Hannah Wortley, of 2, Fleet St., Belfast. Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+BLACKMORE, Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Bn. Corporal. MM. Died 07/06/1918. Son of George and Ina Blackmore, Ballymacarrett. Lived at Chatham, Armoy. Haringhe Military Cemetery, Poperinghe. Ballycastle WM

+COURTNEY, W

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment). Private. 769901. Died 07/06/1918. Age 41. Son of William and Jane Courtney, of Dundonald, Belfast; husband to Elizabeth Courtney, of 189, Rhodes Avenue, Toronto. Dundonald cemetery

1940

+LEWIS, Cecil Thomas

RAF. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 550668. Died 07/06/1940. Aged 21. 88 Sqdn. Son of Samuel and Margaret J. Lewis, of Larne, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. Moisy Communal Cemetery, Loir-et-Cher, France

1941

+KNOX, Francis Samuel Burnside

RAFVR. Sergeant. 948920. Died 07/06/1941. Aged 20. 107 Sqdn. Son of William Macafee Knox and Anna Pinkerton Knox, of Ballymoney. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 46. QUB WM

1942

+LENNON, Dermot Henry

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1138701. Died 07/06/1942. Aged 20. Son of Michael and Margaret Lennon, Belfast. Truro

(Immaculate Conception) Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Canada



1944

ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES FIRST (AIRBORNE) BATTALION

+COYLE, John,

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Sergeant. 7010276. Died
07/06/1944. Aged 34. Served in A Company and landed on

DZ N at Ranville at 2100 hrs on 06/06/1944. Believed killed at Ste Honorine the following morning. From Ballyscullion, County Londonderry. Husband to Greta, Belfast. Ranville Cemetery, France

+DEMPSTER, Edward

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. D Coy. 19 Platoon. Rifleman. Corporal. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 19. Born in Belfast, he was the son of James and Byers Dempster and husband to Betty of Westfields, Hereford. Remembered as a fine footballer. Hermanville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+GLASS, Samuel

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 70200302. Died 07/06/1944. A former member of the Young Soldiers Battalion (Devonport). Served in A Company and landed on DZ N at Ranville at 2100 hrs on 06/06/1944. Killed in action, shot by a sniper, the following day. Son of John and Agnes Glass of 66 Penrith Street, Belfast; husband to Sarah of Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Ranville Cemetery

+HALVEY, Joseph Patrick

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 14409065. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 19. Foster-son of James and Margaret O'Connor, of Kentish Town, London. Ayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+JEFFERSON, Norman

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st Btn. Corporal. 7013019. Died 07/06/1944. Age 26. Born 15/06/1917. Son of Thomas and Sarah Jefferson, nee Patton of Longstone Street Lisburn. Ranville War Cemetery, France

+McCAYNA, George

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Corporal. 7015140. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 24. Son of Martin Joseph and Elizabeth McCayna, of Bethnal Green, London. Bayeux Memorial, Calvados, France

+McFARLAND, Norman

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 6983599. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 21. Son of Robert and Letitia McFarland of Culvahullion, Gortin, County Tyrone; husband to Doreen Edith McFarland of Ilfracombe, Devon. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+McQUILLAN, Robert Harper

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 6985348. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 21. Born in County Antrim. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+MORGAN, Reginald Norman 'Reggie'

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Captain. 176458. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 31. Commissioned 01/03/1941, War Substantive Lieutenant 01/09/ 1942, Temporary Captain 15/03/1943, Listed as missing in action as of 07/06/1944. He was last seen leaving Ste Honorine with his platoon after the withdrawal had been ordered. Body found on 11 July

when the Battalion re-entered the town. Son of Richard and Emily Morgan of Belfast, brother of Harry R. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+NELSON, John Henry

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 6985185. Aged 22. Died 07/06/1944. Born in Londonderry. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+O'BRIEN, Charles,

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal, No. 5125850 Born in Eire and resided in Belfast, he was initially listed in the local press as missing in action in Normandy in June 1944. Died on 7 June 1944 and has no known grave. Listed on the Bayeux Memorial, panel 17, column 3.

+O'CONNOR, Patrick Joseph

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 6409738. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 24. Son of John Joseph and Pruedentia Mary O'Connor, of Drimnagh, Dublin, Irish Republic. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+O'REILLY, Michael

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7047510. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 21. Son of John and Mary O'Reilly, of Dublin, Irish Republic. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+OLIVER, John Chapman

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7012565. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 38. He had served for almost twelve years in the regiment, seeing duty in India and China. His father had served for twenty one years in the Royal Navy. Son of Henry and Sarah Oliver of Church Street, Bangor,

County Down; husband to Francis Nest Oliver, of Abergwili, Carmarthenshire. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+REILLY, James Joseph Victor

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7012816. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 27. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+STEVENSON, Robert James

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7019933. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 23. He had four years' service. Before the War he had worked for W.A. Ross & Sons, mineral water manufacturers. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stevenson, of Church Road, Carnmoney. Bayeux Memorial, Calvados, France

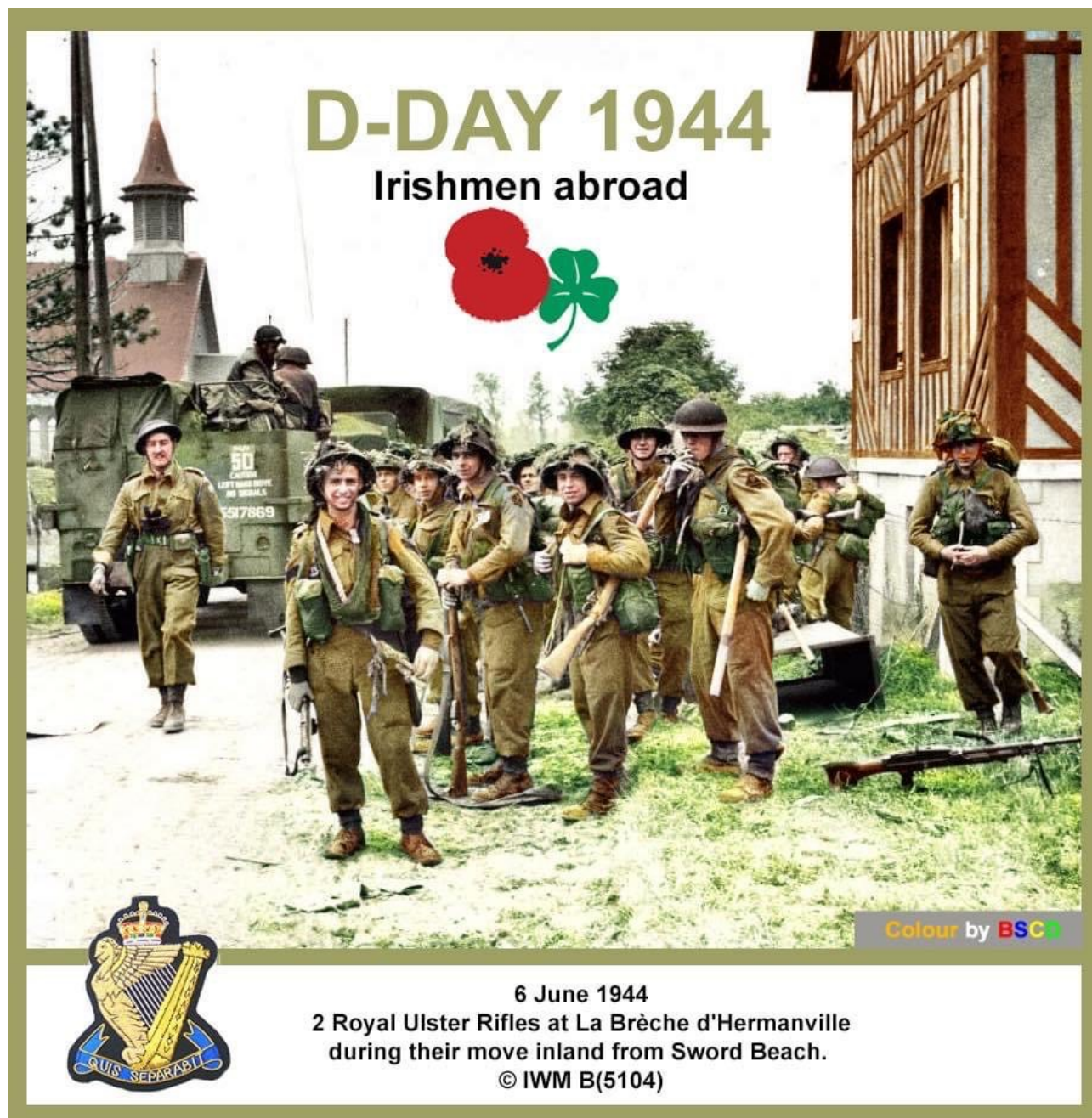
+TESTRO, Leslie George

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Bn. Rifleman. 14672347. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 18. Son of William Testro, and of Lily Testro, of Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

**ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES
SECOND BATTALION**

+KANE, William Henry

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7018769. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 22. Son of Alexander and Isabella Kane,



of Belfast. Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+KANE, Thomas

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. D Coy. Lance Corporal.
7011474. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 29. Son of Mr. and Mrs.
James Kane of Belfast; husband to Olive Hope Kane, of
Newport, Isle of Wight. La Deliverande War Cemetery,
Douvres, Calvados, France

+McALLISTER, George

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 7009594. Died 07/06/1944 in Cambes Wood. Aged 37. Son of George and Elizabeth McAllister, of 61 Berlin Street, Belfast,; husband to Mary McAllister, of Donegall Pass, Belfast. George Senior died as a result of wounds sustained in World War One in August 1916. La Deliverande War Cemetery, Douvres, Calvados, France. Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Belfast, WM

+McALLISTER, Ronald

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 7015463. Died 07/06/1944. Two brothers were killed and two severely wounded in the war. His father was disabled in WW1. Husband to Mrs. B. McAllister, Strathroy Pk., Belfast. Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+MILLAR, Hugh Henry

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Corporal. 7014297. Died 07/06/1944 with a fatal gunshot to the head at "Wood Gazelle", Cambes Wood, Normandy. Aged 23. Son of John and Isabella Millar, of 6 Abetta Parade, Belfast. Hugh's father John served with the Royal Irish Rifles in WW1. Hugh's brothers Robert Millar and Thomas Millar also served in the Royal Ulster Rifles. Robert was wounded during WW2. La Deliverande War Cemetery, Douvres, Calvados, France

+O'BRIEN Charles

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 5125850. Died 07/06/1944. Born in Eire and resided in Belfast, he was initially listed in the local press as missing in action in

Normandy in June 1944.No known grave. Bayeux Memorial, panel 17, column 3.

+ROONEY, Henry

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Serjeant. 7013785. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 23. Born Belfast, resided Armagh. La Deliverande War Cemetery, Douvres, Calvados, France

+ROWLEY, Owen

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. D Coy. Lance Corporal. 7021446. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 40. Born in Belfast. Son of Owen and Hannah Rowley of Sussex; husband to Sarah Rowley. Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+SMITH, Herbert Corville

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman.14203182. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 20. Son of Tom and Eva Smith. Ambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery, Son of Tom and Eva Smith. Cambes-en-Plaine, Calvados, France

+WILLIAMSON, James Campbell

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7018176. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 23. Son of William J. and Annie Williamson, of Belfast, Northern Ireland; husband to Ruth Williamson, of Belfast. La Deliverande War Cemetery, Douvres, Calvados, France

1944

+BLACK, Robert

Royal Armoured Corps.Reconnaissance Corps, 61st Regt. B Sqn., Corporal. 500623. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 26. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Black; husband of Mary Jeannie Black, of Coleraine. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+CRAWFORD, George

RAFVR. Squadron Leader. 72986. DFC, AFC. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 29. 53 Sqdn. Husband to Leslie Crawford, of Marino, Co. Down. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 200

+HANNA, James

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1796357. Died 07/06/1944. Aged 21. 630 Sqdn. Son of William John and Elizabeth Hanna, of Larne. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

+KENNEDY, George

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Fusilier. 7047367. Died 07/07/1944. Age 25. Son of James and Ellen Kennedy, of Lisnaskea. Co. Fermanagh. Naples War Cemetery, Italy

1946

+GALLAGHER, Patrick Joseph

Royal Artillery. Gunner.1427296. Died 01/06/1946. Aged 23. 332 Battery, 106 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment. Son of Nellie Gallagher of Strabane. Strabane Cemetery

1947

+GORDON, David Shaw

Royal Army Medical Corps. Lieutenant Colonel. 246219. Died 07/06/1947. Aged 46. M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Queen's University). Son of Robert David and Jeanette Gordon; husband to Margaret Catherine Gordon, of Bootham, York. Fulford Cemetery, Yorkshire. QUB WM

VETERAN

CAMPBELL, Joseph McFall

Royal Signals Linesman Joseph McFall Campbell was originally from the Cregagh area. He was born on 27/11/1919, joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1935 approx and served during the Second World War. Having been captured in Singapore Joseph became a P.O.W. under the Japanese. He survived the war and having married set up a family home in Dundonald. Joseph passed away on 07/06/1982.

MACARTNEY, Betsy Gray

WAAF. Included serving as ground staff at Aldergrove Airport. MCB. Born 07/06/1920. Daughter of Hans McCartney, Rossmore Ave., Belfast.



On this Day – June 7

1916

At the Battle of Verdun the Germans take Vaux Fort.

1917

The Battle of Messines commences in Flanders. Allied forces detonate 19 enormous mines beneath the German lines at Messines, Belgium killing thousands. The sound of the blasts can reportedly be heard in London, while seismologists as far away as Dublin record the tremors. A front of nine miles stormed. The British capture 6,400 German prisoners.

The men of the 16th Irish Division & 36th Ulster Division fight side by side at the Battle of Messines. They took their objective: the village of Wytschaete. In 1914, these two groups of men were poised to fight each other over Home Rule.

1929

Vatican City becomes a sovereign state

1940

Allied troops fall back on Bresles front, 60 miles north of

Paris.

French bomb Berlin.

King Haakon of Norway, his family and government, evacuate from Norway to Britain as Germans advance.

1941

The first of five heavy night raids by the RAF begins on Brest as Prinz Eugen shelters there.

First US Lend-Lease planes flown to Maine and shoved over border into Canada, because neutrality laws forbid landing in Canada.

1942

General Erich von Manstein hurls his troops in the grand assault on the besieged port of Sevastopol in a two-pronged assault. The Soviets resist fanatically in excellent fortifications. The Germans gain ground but take heavy casualties, and have to bring in reinforcements to take the city. However, the continuous German attacks wear down the defenders ammunition supplies, which must be brought in by sea through a tight German blockade maintained by the Luftwaffe, E-boats, and Italian midget submarines.

All Jews over six are forced to wear the 'Star of David' in Occupied France.

The Japanese make landings on Attu and Kiska Islands in the Aleutian Islands.

In the Battle of Midway, carrier USS Yorktown sinks due to damage by Japanese submarine I-168 the previous day, but the US is victorious in the major turning point of the Pacific War; from now on, the Japanese will be on the defensive.

Maj. Gen. Clarence Tinker, commander of US Seventh Air Force, is killed when his plane is lost off Midway, the first

Native American to reach rank of major general and the first US general killed in WWII.

1944

D Day insight -

Around 20.30hrs the skies over Sword Beach darkened with 500 planes and gliders and the battle below all but stopped, either in shock or awe. 250 gliders landed almost unmolested... carrying the 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles.

A soldier of the sister 2nd Battalion RUR, who had landed by sea that morning, was famously heard to remark, "I suppose that's what the 1st Bn regard as an Effin route march!".

D Day +1

British troops liberate Bayeux, five miles inland from the Normandy coast. Bayeux was the first major French town to be liberated after D-Day (on the morning of June 7). Each year OTD the cathedral flies the flags of the allied nations from its spire.

All beachheads are reported as established.

The British 2nd Division is now only 55 miles from Imphal.

Mokmer airfield on Biak is captured by U.S. troops.

The Americans take Civitavecchia on the western coast of Italy.

1945

King Haakon VII returns to Norway, on the fifth anniversary of his leaving the country.

The first allied cargo ship for three years enters Wewak Harbour, in New Guinea.

US Marines cut off Oroku Peninsula on Okinawa.

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

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.
