



remembrance ni



CWGC Poperinge New Military Cemetery

Belfast airman who stayed at large in Belgium after being shot down

Flight Sergeant Walter Berry, DFM, MiD, survived a couple of plane crashes and numerous attacks during his service with bomber command. After his last crash he survived on the run in occupied Belgium.

Known as "Pat / Pad / Paddy", he served with bomber command in 76 Squadron. On 21/06/1943 a crew comprising, Elder, Wood, Clarke and Berry were flying together in Halifax DK188 on Ops to Krefeld when the aircraft suffered from one of the engines failing outbound. The pilot, Wilfred Elder



Walter Berry and Anne Brusselmans of the Belgian underground in the streets of Brussels.

was later awarded the DFM for his actions on this night.

Gazetted on 16/07/1943, the citation reads.."This airman was the captain and pilot of an aircraft which was detailed to attack Krefeld one night in June 1943. On the outward flight, one engine of the bomber became unserviceable but, despite this, Flight Sergeant Elder continued to the target and pressed home a determined attack, afterwards flying the aircraft back to base. This airman displayed great skill and tenacity throughout, setting an inspiring example."



Berry in Brussels in 1944

On 27- 28/07/1943 Elder, Berry, Wood and Clarke were again flying together in Halifax DK188 on an operational flight to bomb Hamburg when the aircraft was damaged by night-fighters, on their return to England they force landed in Norfolk. One member of their crew died after an attack by the enemy aircraft after being struck by cannon fire in the mid upper turret. The flight engineer, Sgt Berry, then went to occupy the turret and returned fire during another

attack but was himself wounded. The regular mid upper gunner Sgt Arthur Smith RAFVR (1694468) was buried by his family in Drighlington Cemetery, Leeds.

On the night of 23 - 24/08/1943 his Handley Page Halifax aircraft had been used for an operational flight to attack Berlin and had taken off at 20.11hrs. On their return to base the aircraft crashed at 03.20hrs. Two of the crew sustained injuries.

On the night of 12 - 13/05/1944 his Handley Page Halifax III B No. LK883 series (OW-E), during a mission in Leuven was downed (credited to Oblt Heinz-W. Schnauffer of IV./NJG1) and crashed near Londerzeel, Flemish Brabant, Belgium. Four men perished in the crash - the radio / gunner W / OFF1 Robert Joseph Fitzpatrick, RCAF, the central gunner



A Handley Page Halifax

Sgt James Howard Jones, RCAF, the upper gunner Sgt Kenneth Wesley Drumm, RCAF, and the rear gunner Sgt Christopher Albert Jones. All four are buried in the cemetery of Brussels in Evere. The pilot, Fl / Off J. Howard Black was captured and three other men also managed to escape - Fl / Off John "Bill" Van Maarion, RCAF, the Navigator Ross Doubt and Walter Berry.

It is not known how Walter Berry came in contact with the Belgian underground. Records show that with their support he stayed in a number of locations and remained at large until Belgium was freed. On 03/09/2000 a plaque in memory of all the crew of Halifax LK883 was unveiled at the entrance to the Bergkapel in Berg district, Mechelsetraat in Londerzeel. (See photo next page).



Sgt Walter Berry, 1080826, was from Belfast. He was awarded the DFM for service with 76 Squadron, Gazetted on 16/11/1943 and was later Mentioned in Despatches, Gazetted on 14/01/1944.

On this Day – June 19

1815

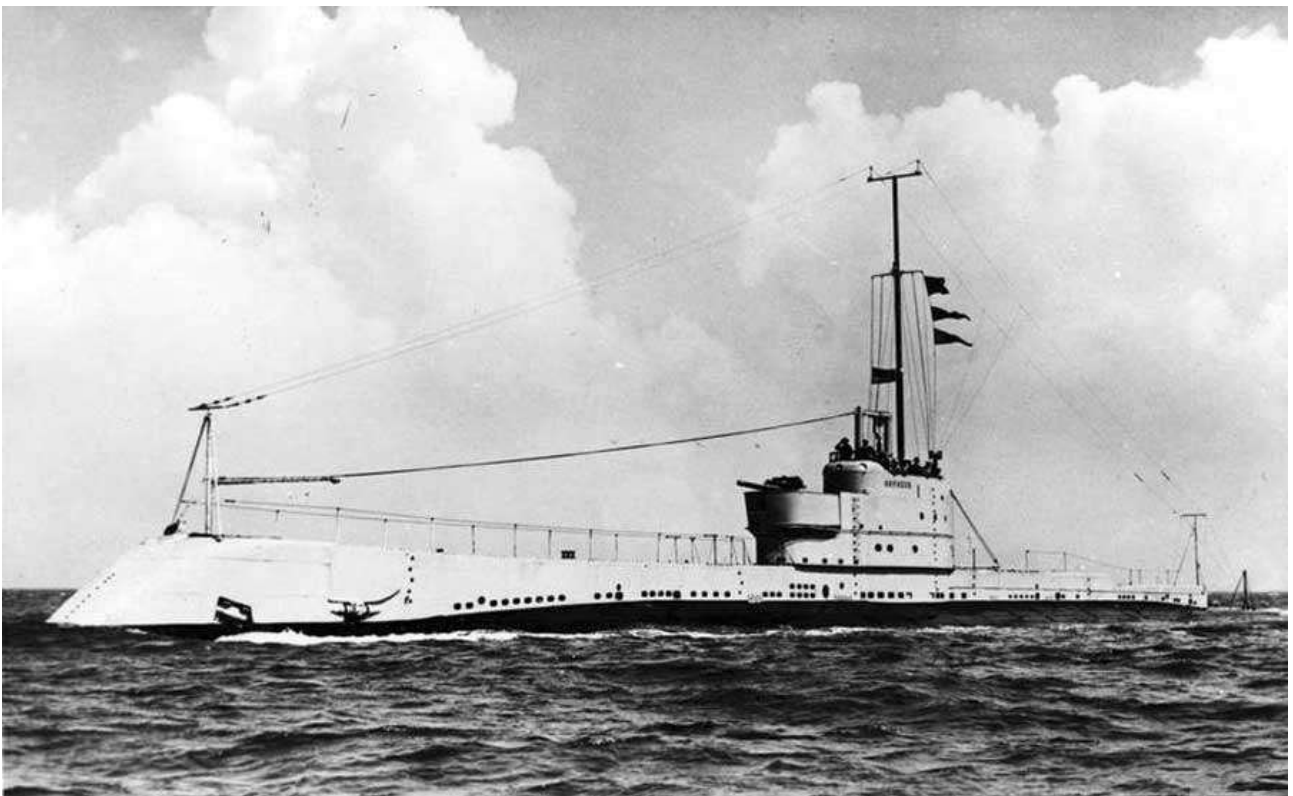
The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons were part of the Union Brigade at Waterloo. Colonel Sir William Ponsonby, was killed in the charge. Wellington praised the Regiment and an Inniskilling Dragoon is on the Wellington Memorial as a

result. This cavalry Regiment was raised in Ireland in 1689. It continued in British Army service until 1922, when it was merged into the 5th/6th Dragoons.

1917

Britain's royal family changes its name from the Germanic "Saxe-Coburg-Gotha" to "Windsor."

1940



HM Submarine Orpheus was last heard from on this date while on patrol in the Mediterranean.

She sent a signal from a position NW of Benghazi and then disappeared, possibly mined, or sunk by Italian warships. All 55 crew lost.

If invaders come leaflet is issued by Ministry of Information to all households. The British Jockey Club announces no more racing until further notice.

The Germans invite the French to send a representative to discuss armistice terms as their troops reach River Loire, advance on Lyons, capture Strasbourg, Brest and Tours.

Rommel takes Cherbourg.

More than 100 German bombers make raids over Britain. French ships seek refuge in British ports.

1941

Germany and Italy expel United States consular officials in retaliation for American moves.

The Russians order a black-out of all major cities and towns near the border. However, they still do not allow their troops to take up battle positions, in spite of information given by two German deserters of an imminent attack.

Churchill and Roosevelt meet to discuss the number of conflicting offensive plans which might be launched against Germany in 1942. The main ones were 'Rutter', a 24-hour cross Channel raid on Dieppe. 'Sledgehammer' using six division to establish a lodgment on the French coast at Cherbourg and 'Jupiter' which called for a lodgement in northern Norway. Discussion were also had on the up and coming operation 'Gymnast', which was the proposed Anglo-American landing in French North Africa later in the year.

Plans for the offensive in to the Caucasus are captured by the Russians when a staff officer from the 23rd Panzer Division is shot down. Against all order, he was carrying the

plans on his person. 40th Panzer Corps commander, General Stumme and his chief of staff are immediately sacked and imprisoned on Hitler's express orders. No changes were made to the plan as although the Russians considered them authentic, they believed that it was only a subsidiary thrust and that the main objective was still Moscow, which suited the Germans.

Rommel launches a surprise attack from the southeast against Tobruk. This throws the garrison into confusion which allows German troops to breach the outer defenses.

1942

United States Vice Admiral Robert Ghormley assumes command of South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force in Auckland, New Zealand.

United States pharmacies are urged to turn in quinine supplies over 10 oz..

1943

RAF carries out a raid on the Schneider armaments works at Le Creusot.

Goebbels declares Berlin to be Judenfrei (cleansed of Jews).

19th June 1944 - A dark day for 59 Squadron, Ballykelly

On this day in 1944 three Consolidated Liberator Aircraft from 59 Squadron at Ballykelly, County Londonderry, crashed during bad weather.

FL989 L went down at Glengad Head with FL990 A crashing at Shrove Hill and FL977 on Benevenagh.

Warrant Officer Class I (Wireless Op./Air Gunner) **Vaughan Albert McLellan**, Service Number R/73406, was aboard Consolidated Liberator GR.V FL989 of 59 Squadron, Royal Air Force, which had taken off from Ballykelly at approximately 2pm on 19th June 1944. Within a short time of doing so the aircraft crashed in heavy fog at Glengad Head in Eire.

Vaughan was 22 years old and serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

He was the Son of Vaughan Bertram and Eleanor Woods McLellan, of **Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada**.

Within a few hours of the crash above there was a second.

This one involved Consolidated Liberator GR.V FL990 OH-A . This had also taken off from R.A.F. Ballykelly and crashed at Carrowtrasna Hill on the Inishowen Peninsula.

This aircraft also had a Crew of 8 and all were lost as was the case with FL989.

These men were among those who perished.

Flight Sergeant **Kenneth John Nielsen Apitz**, Service Number 422370, who was serving with Royal Australian Air Force and 20 years old. He was the Foster-son of Anders Nielsen and Evelyn Ruth Apitz, of **Hamilton, New South Wales, Australia**.

Flight Sergeant **Norman Athol Cooper**, Service Number 421978, Royal Australian Air Force, 25 years old who was

the Son of Alfred Ernest and Rhoda May Cooper, of **Tingha, New South Wales, Australia.**

Flight Sergeant (Navigator) **John Haines**, Service Number 931471, 24 years old, 59 Squadron, Royal Air Force. John was the Son of Edward and Jane Haines, of **Deptford, London.**

Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) **Rowland Paine Wade**, Service Number 88398, 30 years old, 59 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Rowland was the Son of John Francis and Maud Mary Wade and Husband of Zelig Nienes Cockburn Wade, of **Pewsey, Wiltshire.**

1944

A violent storm in the English Channel wrecks the U.S. Mulberry Harbour at St. Laurent (Omaha Beach). 20 allied divisions now oppose 16 German in Normandy.

The Air Ministry release the first official details of the V1s (range 150 miles, speed 300-350 mph, 2,000lb bomb) as AA gunners start calling them Doodlebugs.

Lt. Vraciu signals six “Judy” kills, which he accomplished in less than eight minutes during the now famed “Great Marianas Turkey Shoot”

U.S. Navy carrier-based planes shatter the remaining Japanese carrier forces in the “Battle of the Marianas”. Also known as the “Great Marianas Turkey Shoot,” Americans shoot down 402 Japanese planes while only losing 20.

1945

The Australians are now in control of both sides of the Brunei Bay entrance.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower receives a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

Roll of Honour – June 19

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+ARNOLD, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4598. Died 19/06/1915. Age 21. Son of William and Agnes Arnold, of 25, Wilton St., Belfast. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+DALTON, T

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9033. Died 19/06/1915. Age 21 years old. Son of Thomas and Martha Dalton, of 48, Hopeton St., Shankill Rd., Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+EDWARDS, William Alexander

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. A Coy. Private. 9698. Died 19/06/1915. Aged 23, he was the eldest son of Harbour Constable William Henry (Harry) and Catherine

Edwards, 40, Bond's Street, Waterside, Londonderry. Private Edwards was called home from India – where he had seen three years' service – early in 1915, and was home on short leave before going to the Dardanelles on 16/03/1915. Gunner H. J. Edwards, R.G.A., a brother of Private Edwards, was wounded and gassed, in 1918, and spent time in hospital in England recovering. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey. Diamond WM, Londonderry.

+GREER, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 4197. Died 19/06/1915. Age 19. Enlisted Coleraine. Son of John Greer, of Priestland, Co. Antrim. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Helles, Gallipoli, Plot Special Memorial Row C, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Dunluce Parish Church RH

+McFARLAND, James Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 2878. Died 19/06/1915. Age 19. Son of the late Francis and Mary Ann McFarland, of Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+MULLIGAN, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 3632. Died 19/06/1915. Age 41. Son of John Mulligan; husband of Mary Mulligan, of 2, Head St., Enniskillen. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+MURPHY, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. D Coy. Private. 2107. Died 19/06/1915. Age 19. Son of James and Margaret

Murphy, of Enniskillen. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery,
Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916

+ERWIN, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. att'd. 96th Bde. Machine
Gun Corps. Private. 10621. Died 19/06/1916. Age 20. Son
of John and Maggie Erwin, of Ballygarvey, Ballymena.
Puchevillers British Cemetery, France

+HUNTER, Duncan

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. Rifleman. 14802. Died
19/06/1916. Age 38. Son of John and Agnes Hunter;
husband of Mary Hunter, of 27, Bryson St., Belfast. Hamel
Military Cemetery, Beaumont - Hamel, France

+JEFFERSON, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 192. Died
19/06/1916. Age 35. Before enlisting in the Ulster Division
he was employed in the gas stove department of the Belfast
Corporation at the Ormeau Road works. He was a
prominent Orangeman and Unionist in Derriaghy district,
and a member of Derriaghy Flute Band. Son of William and
Jane Jefferson, of Dunmurry; husband to Jane Jefferson, of
5, Reformatory Avenue, Lisburn Rd., Balmoral, Belfast.
Father of four children. Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont
- Hamel, France

+McKAY, Alexander

Royal Field Artillery, 32nd Bde. Gunner.10611. Died 19/06/1916. Age 35. Son of John and Elizabeth McKay, of 34, Spamount St., Belfast. Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 1. France

1917

+SPROTT, Hugh Forsythe

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 16972. Died 19/06/1917. Enlisted Belfast 19/09/1914. Discharged 05/08/1915 as he was no longer physically fit for war service due to tuberculosis. He died at his home in Riverside Antrim from phthisis. Pre-war he worked as a power loom tender. Son of Robert, a weaver, and Hanna (nee Forsythe) Sprott. Husband to Sarah Jane (nee Nesbitt). They had four children. Family headstone, Carnmoney C of I Graveyard

1918

+BURT, Alfred John

RNVR. AB. R/2786. Anson Battalion RND. Died of wounds in 2nd Canadian General Hospital Le Treport 19/06/1918. Aged 22. Ex-70948 Private 2/1st Berks. Yeomanry, enlisted 30/05/1916, transferred to RND 16/06/1917 ; Draft for BEF 09/07/1917, joined Anson Battalion 30/08/1917-09/11/1917 sick, rejoined Anson Battalion 18/12/17-05/01/18. ICT Feet, Invalided to UK 15/01/1918 ; Draft for BEF 01/04/1918, joined Anson Battalion 08/04/1918-01/06/1918 wounded. Anson Battalion War Diary states 01/06/1918:- "Slight enemy barrage on our front line - one man wounded."Born Bessbrook 06/12/1897. Son of Alfred B and Eleanor M Burt,

Wrensbury, Nantwich. Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, France. Bessbrook WM. ADM339

+McCAUGHAN, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 12/18205.

Died 19/06/1918. Age 24. Son of Mrs. Sarah McCaughan, of Railway St., Armoy, Co. Antrim. Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany

+McCOSH, Samuel Osborne

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 12/18145. Died 19/06/1918. Born Millbrook Lisburn 30/04/1887. Enlisted Whiteabbey. Son of James and Eliza (nee Osborne) McCosh. Samuel and Margaret McCormick married in Malone Presbyterian Church, Belfast on 03/05/1911. He was a gardener living in Knock. He later lived in Whiteabbey and was a member of the Canon Maguire Memorial LOL 899. Samuel's name was inscribed on a banner unfurled in June 1921, for Whiteabbey LOL 1868. Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany

+TAYLOR, David

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn . Rifleman 520, Died as POW 19/06/1918. Aged 23. Prior to enlistment David Taylor was employed a draper's assistant with Messrs Lindsay and Co, Ulster Arcade, Belfast. He was also a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force. He enlisted in the 12th Battalion (C.A.V.) Royal Irish Rifles in 1915, deploying with the 36th Ulster Division to France in October 1915. He was wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme and was captured on the 21/03/1918 during the German Spring Offensive. Son of

James and Annie Taylor (nee McCartney), Galgorm Parks, Ballymena. Plaine National Cemetery, Bas Rhin, France. Ballymena WM. Wellington Street Presbyterian Church RH, Family headstone in Kirkinriola Burial Ground.

1940

+CARROTHERS, Thomas

Royal Artillery. Gunner.1458599. Died 19/06/1940. Aged 34. Son of Thomas and Annie Carrothers and husband to Elizabeth Carrothers of Unity Street, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

+McCAUL, James Charles

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7011358. Died 19/06/1940. Aged 28. Son of James Charles and Mary McCaul, Ballyblack, Newtownards; husband to Gwendolyn McCaul, of Ash Vale, Surrey. Shorne (SS Peter and Paul) Churchyard, Kent

1941

+DAVEY, James Patrick

RN. AB. D/JX192737. HMS President III. Died 19/07/1941. Age 26. Son of John and T Davey, Belfast. Husband to Kathleen Davey, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46

1944

+BOVAIRD, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Lance Sergeant. 6978669. Died 19/06/1944. Age 27. Son of William John and Mary Bovaird, of Belfast; husband of Margaret Mary Bovaird, of Belfast. Orvieto War Cemetery, Italy

+HILL, William John

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse. Lance Corporal. 7903005. Died 19/06/1944. Aged 36. Son of George and Catherine Hill; husband to Mary Samuelina Hill, of Portrush. Assisi War Cemetery, Italy

+JACKSON, Archibald

Royal Armoured Corps, North Irish Horse, A Sqn. Lance Corporal. 7897752. Died 19/06/1944. Aged 35. Husband to Rebecca Jackson, of Waterside, Londonderry. Assisi War Cemetery, Italy

+JOHNSTON, William

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 7018189. Died 19/06/1944 at Breville. Aged 22. Known as Curley, he had four years' previous service and had worked as a printer in Belfast before the War. He landed by glider on Landing Zone N at Ranville on 06/06/1944. His father served in the RIR in WW1, his brother in North Africa and a cousin, an Irish Guardsman, was a prisoner in Germany. Husband to Jane D. Johnston, of Circular Road, Newtownards. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+KEOGH, Patrick Francis Bartle

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 7014137. Died 19/06/1944. Son of Bartle Bernard and Anne Joyce Keogh; stepson and nephew of Bernice Keogh, of Tangasseri, Quilon, India. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+McBRIDE, James Adair

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Sergeant. 7012157.

Died 19/06/1944. Aged 30. Born 09/06/1914. Known as Jimmy, he was the son of John McBride and Sarah McBride (née Adair) of 6 Lomond Street, Belfast. At his time of death, Jimmy had 11 years' service. Major JW Hyde wrote to John McBride on 3rd August 1944 -

I presume that by now you will have received official notification of the death of your son on active service. His platoon was holding a position in an orchard north of Troarn, which was being heavily shelled by the enemy.

His trench received an almost direct hit, which killed him instantly and wounded several of his comrades, including his Platoon Officer. I know that no words of mine can ever make up for this grievous loss, but I am writing to offer you the heartfelt sympathies of myself and of all ranks in my Company.

Your son was one of the outstanding personalities of the Battalion – extremely popular with his men and a very good NCO indeed. I feel that I have lost not only an invaluable commander, but also a personal friend, and so long as I am commanding his comrades in action, I shall miss his cheerful personality and unflinching courage.

He was a grand soldier, and he died fighting in a magnificent cause. We shall never forget him, and feel very proud to have had him with us.

Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery, Normandy, France.

+McGUIRE, Nicholas

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 7014413. Died 19/06/1944. Aged 34. Son of Nicholas McGuire and of Mary McGuire (nee Winters), of Grange, Co. Waterford, Irish Republic; husband to Julia McGuire. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+STEWART, Andrew Robert

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Btn. Intelligence section. Lance Serjeant. 7012091. Died 19/06/1944. Aged 30. On D-Day came ashore from a LCI(L) on Queen White. Born in Co. Down. Hermanville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

1946

+FERGUSON, John

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1145119. Died 19/06/1946. Aged 26. Coleraine Cemetery

**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

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