



remembrance ni



Tyne Cot Cemetery



Sec.-Lt. J. S. DUNVILLE, V.C.,
Late Dragoons. For heroism in charge of wire-
demolishing, when he was mortally wounded.

Hollywood officer awarded Victoria Cross

For most conspicuous bravery near Epehy, France, on 24th and 25th June, 1917, Second-Lieutenant John Spencer Dunville, 1st Royal Dragoons, was awarded the VC.

The citation reads - "For most conspicuous bravery near Epehy, France, on 24th and 25th June, 1917. When in charge of a party consisting of scouts and Royal Engineers engaged in the demolition of the enemy's wire, this officer displayed great gallantry and disregard of

all personal danger. In order to ensure the absolute success of the work entrusted to him, Second-Lieutenant Dunville placed himself between an N.C.O. of the Royal Engineers and the enemy's fire, and, thus protected, this N.C.O. was enabled to complete a work of great importance. Second-Lieutenant Dunville, although severely wounded, continued to direct his men in the wire cutting and general operations until the raid was successfully completed, thereby setting a magnificent example of courage, determination, and devotion to duty to all ranks under his command. The gallant officer has since succumbed to his wounds.”

Second Lieutenant John Spencer Dunville VC (1896-1917), had been a member of the Officer Training Corps at Eton from May 1912 to July 1914.

He passed matriculation for Trinity College, Cambridge, but joined the army instead, initially serving as a Second Lieutenant in the 5th Cavalry Reserve Regiment. In April 1915 he applied to join the Royal Flying Corps and was accepted, but his course of instruction in aviation was cancelled a few days before he was due to start.

He transferred to the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons and went to France in June 1915. There he took part in the Battle of Loos in September 1915. On 26/27 September he led a party detailed to cover the withdrawal of a howitzer battery that had been temporarily abandoned. He transferred to the 1st (Royal) Dragoons in January 1916. In April he contracted trench fever and was invalided to England. He returned to France in December 1916.

In June 1917, while he was serving in the 1st (Royal) Dragoons, he died from wounds he received at Epehy in France. He was protecting an NCO of the Royal Engineers who was cutting wire which had been laid by the enemy. Although he was wounded by the enemy's fire, he continued to direct his men until the wire-cutting operation had been successfully completed. He remained conscious but died from his wounds the next day.

The Victoria Cross which he was posthumously awarded was received by his father John Dunville from King George V at Buckingham Palace in August 1917. He was also awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal 1914-20 and the Victory Medal 1914-19.

Father joined Royal Naval Air Service

John Dunville whose family owned the well-known Belfast distillery, was an early pioneer of competitive hot-air ballooning. He twice crossed the Channel. He took leave of absence from the family company of which he was chairman to join the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). He joined the Royal Naval Air Service as a Flight Lieutenant in March 1915. He was promoted to Flight Commander in January 1916 and Squadron Commander in June 1917.

When he was promoted to Wing Commander he had four hundred and fifty officers and two thousand men under his command at the No. 1 Balloon Training Wing, Roehampton. He transferred as a Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel, Kite Balloon Officer, to the Royal Air Force in April 1918 and was demobilised in 1919. He was made a Commander of the British Empire for his services during the war. He used the title 'Colonel' from his earlier service in the Leinster Regiment.

John Spencer Dunville VC - Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Eton College WM, Hollywood and district WM, Hollywood Parish Church Memorial and Churchyard family memorial. His VC is held by the Household Cavalry Museum.

On this Day – June 24

1915

The Germans are repulsed in an attack on the heights of the Meuse.

1916

At the Battle of Verdun French counter attacks regain some ground but the Germans occupy part of Fleury, their farthest point of advance.

1918



With influenza bearing heavily on the **36th (Ulster) Division** the Commanding Officers & Quartermasters of the Field Ambulances have a conference of the reduction of equipment of a Field Ambulance

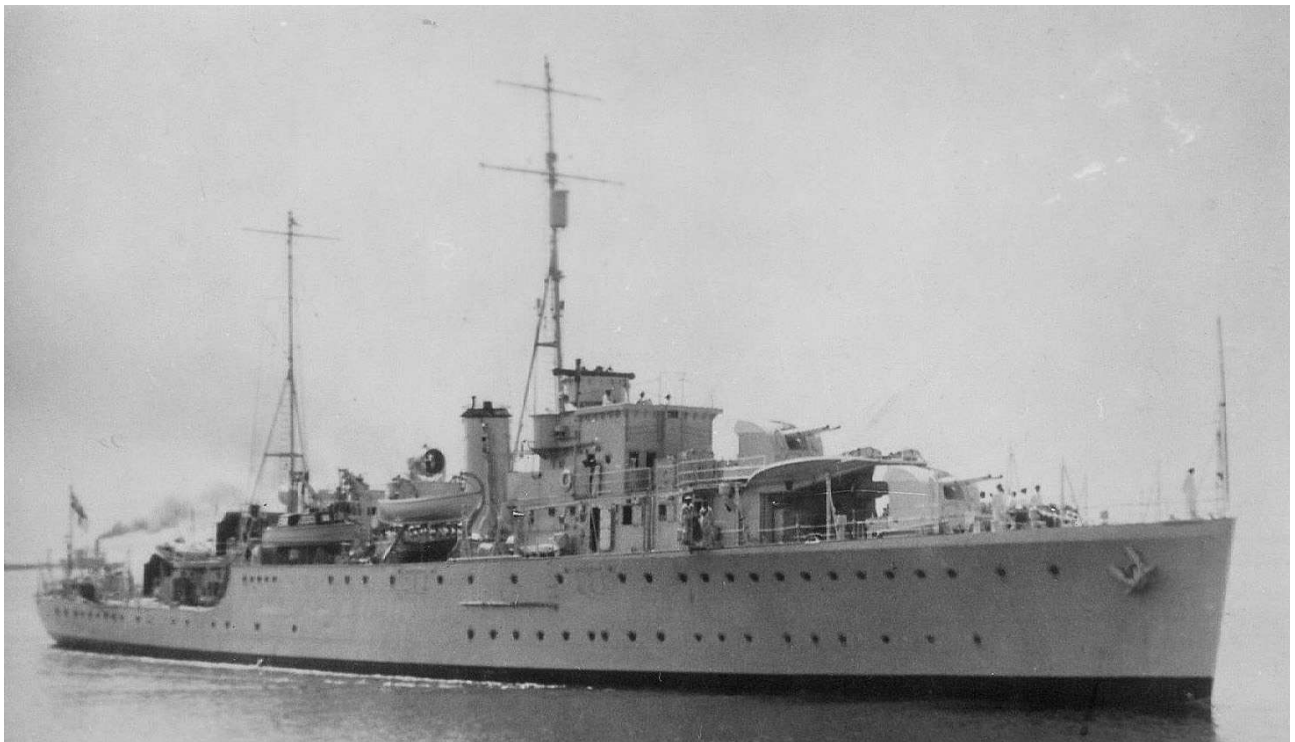
1940

An armistice is signed between France and Italy at Villa Indusa near Rome.

China protests to France over closure of Indo-Chinese border; Japanese request closure of Burma Road controlled by Britain and used to supply Chinese forces.

British government sends gold bullion and securities to Canada for safekeeping.

1941



Sloop HMS Auckland was sunk by German aircraft off Tobruk while on convoy escort duty. She had her stern blown off by bombs and shortly afterwards exploded

and sank. 37 crew died, 162 survivors were rescued by HMAS Parramatta.

1941

House of Commons votes for £1,000 million war credit as war expenditure now exceeds £10,250,000 per day.

Germans sweep west into Lithuania and White Russia, taking Vilna and Kaunas. Hungary breaks off diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

President Franklin Roosevelt pledges all possible support to the Soviet Union.

1942

On 24th June 1942, the cruiser HMS Phoebe docked in Belfast. On board were King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on a 3-day visit to Ulster. Plans for the royal visit were top secret, however, once the people of Northern Ireland heard the King and Queen were in town, crowds lined the streets.

Major General Eisenhower arrives in Britain to assume command of US European Theater of Operations (ETOUSA), including North Africa.

The German, Italian and Croatian forces in Yugoslavia, begin another offensive against Tito's partisan army.

The RAF launches its third 1,000 bomber raid, this time on Bremen. The Luftwaffe launches the first in a series of night raids against Birmingham.

The Germans advance into Egypt as the British retreat continues. Sollum and Sidi Barrani are evacuated by the

Eighth Army.

Allied POWs begin work on 294-mile extension of Burma-Thailand Railway under brutal conditions.

1943

The RAF conducts a heavy raid on Elberfeld in the Ruhr. LTC WR Lovelace makes record parachute jump from 42,200 feet.

From Japan, Subhas Chandra Bose, leader of Indian National Army, implores Indians to turn against British.

1944 - 38 (Irish) Brigade - 2 LIR at Trasimene



"A Fusilier of the Skins was bringing back a German officer prisoner, who found out his captor was from Dublin. The German asked why he was fighting at all and the reply was: 'Ah, we're not particular who we fight for' and 'we didn't want to see the English beat'..."

23rd/24th June 1944, 2 LIR near Lake Trasimene:

"Major Colin Gibbs & F Coy was a mile in front of the rest of the Irish Rifles and said: 'Sir, you must begin with the barrage on this place, but we would like to stay. It has good cellars and we will go in to them at zero.'...."

...Gibbs took a decision which no senior officer would have ordered & so it came about that an Irish Rifles' Coy Commander, with a subaltern, a handful of NCOs and 30 riflemen, elected to stay in their posts when the whole of the division's artillery put down their wrath upon them."

"The Faughs launched their attack on Ranciano at 0530. The barrage was perfect and the Hun DF came down on 2 LIR rather than on the Faughs, who were doing the attack. F Company 2 LIR had seven direct hits and one carrier and portee went up..

By 3pm the Faughs had taken both Ranciano and Pescia after a hard struggle. They were to bear the main brunt of the day's battle and fought extremely well. All things considered they had very few casualties - a total of 40, and no officers killed. In PoW alone, they counted 85."

The Russians report major advances against Army Group Centre. Hitler orders all but one of the five German divisions

of the 53rd Corps that are encircled at Vitebsk to fight their way out.

French Resistance blows up hydroelectric plant near Limoges. French forces begin to leave Italy to prepare for Operation Anvil, the invasion of Southern France.

1945

A Great Victory Parade in Moscow's Red Square, sees Zhukov takes the salute in Stalin's presence.

In a bombing raid, British destroy the infamous bridge over the River Kwai in Thailand, built at great cost by slaves and prisoners of the Japanese.

Roll of Honour – June 24

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+GROUND, Alfred William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 8616. Died 24/06/1915. Age 32. Son of the late Q.M.S. Ground (Royal Irish Fusiliers), of Armagh; husband to Elizabeth Ground, of 50, Newry St., Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+LAPPIN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5377. Died 24/06/1915. Age 20. Brother of Daniel Lappin, Royal Irish Rifles, died 16/06/1915. Son of William and Jane Lappin, of 12, Millview, Lisburn. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

+McCREA, Alexander

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 8534. Died 24/06/1915. Age 47. Son of Alexander McCrea, of 5, Little Patrick St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

1916

+CURRAN, P

Leinster Regiment, 7th Btn. D Coy. Private. 1523. Died 24/06/1916. Age 24. Son of John and Martha Curran, of 8, Saul St., Belfast. St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France

+DOYLE, A

Leinster Regiment, 7th Btn. Serjeant. 1377. Died 24/06/1916. Age 32. Husband to Margaret Doyle, of 297, Crumlin Rd., Belfast. St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France

+LAVERY, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn, (South Antrim Volunteers). Serjeant. 18048. Died 24/06/1916. Sergeant William Lavery resided at Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn. He served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the South African War, for which he held both the King's and Queen's medals. After leaving the army he became a postman in the Lisburn Post Office. He was an ardent Unionist, and was one of the original eight who founded the 1st Lisburn Battalion of the Ulster Volunteer Force. His military experience stood him in good stead in raising and drilling that battalion, in which he held the rank of sergeant instructor. On the formation of the South Antrim Volunteers he was one of the first to enrol. He was a member of L.O.L. 141, Lisburn. Three other brothers

also responded to the call of King and country. Corporal Dick Lavery, Royal Inniskillings, was severely wounded on the retreat from Mons, and on recovery was sent out to and took part in the fighting at the Dardanelles. Riflemen Jack and James Lavery joined the South Antrim Volunteers and went to the front in October 1915, and were both in the platoon of which their deceased brother was sergeant. Brother-in-Law of Wesley Graham, Melrose Street, Belfast. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

+LEATHEN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman.18077. Died 24/06/1916 two days before his 22nd birthday. He was the eldest son of Barbara and William Henry Leathem, 22 Young Street, Lisburn, a prominent Unionist in the district. He served his apprenticeship to the plastering trade with David M'Henry of Lisburn, and for a time worked in the Queen's Island, Belfast. He was a member of the 1st Lisburn Battalion U.V.F., and was one of the 900 of that battalion who joined en masse the South Antrim Volunteers. He was a member of Lisburn Mechanics LOL. 557, and was a candidate for admission to the Royal Black Preceptory when he went to the front in October 1915.Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

+REILLY, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th.Btn, B Coy. Private.17693. Died 24/06/1916. Son of Mrs. Annabella Reilly, Urney Rd., Strabane. Cerisy-Gailly French National Cemetery, Somme, France

+TATE, David

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Corporal. 19954. Died 24/06/1916. Age 26. Local news paper reported - "Corporal David Tate, whose death we briefly reported last week, prior to volunteering resided with his parents in Young Street. A pathetic circumstance is that he was married a few days before the South Antrim Volunteers left England for the front. His young wife, with whom much sympathy is felt, resides at 97 Ballynahinch Road". Son of David and Charlotte Tate, of Lisburn. Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, France

1917

+McCLURE, Samuel John Paisley

Royal Field Artillery, 108th Bde. D Bty. Gunner. 35693. Died 24/06/1917. Age 20. Born 2 Fortview Terrace 10/10/1896. Eldest son of Samuel and Mary J. (Nee Paisley) McClure, of Whiteabbey. Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium. Castleton Presbyterian Church RH. Now Alexandra Presbyterian Church

+WILSON, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 23248 Died 24/06/1917. Aged 30. Enlisted Enniskillen. Born Coleraine. Son of James Wilson. Husband to Sarah, Upper Main St., Bushmills. Father of one child. Messines Ridge Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+BOYD, J

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1st/5th Btn. Private. 201336. Died 24/06/1918. Age 29 years old. Son of Mary and the late John Boyd, of 35, Maryville Avenue, Belfast. Ligny-St Flochel British Cemetery, Averdoingt, France

1940

+THOMPSON, John

RN. Boy 1st Class. D/SSX 29413. Died 24/06/1940. Age 17. HMS Khartoum. Following an action off Aden, an explosion occurred and the magazine exploded. John was killed and three others injured. Nephew and ward of John and Jane Gillies, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39

1941

+BURKE, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 7043204. Died 24/06/1941. Aged 21. Son of William John and Mary Burke, of Castlederg, Co. Tyrone. Pembroke Military Cemetery, Malta

1943

+MOORE, William Craig

Royal Artillery. 126 H.A.A. Regt. Second Lieutenant. 267047. Died 24/09/1943. Son of William and Jean Houston Moore, of Dunmurry. Belfast City Cemetery, Lisburn WM

1944

+McMULLAN, Thomas

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 7046094.
Died 24/06/1944. Aged 33. Son of Mathew and Elizabeth
McMullan, of Saintfield, Co. Down; husband to Alice
McMullan, of Saintfield. Orvieto War Cemetery, Italy

+WEEKS, Arthur

Reconnaissance Corps, R.A.C. 43rd (2/5th Bn.
Gloucestershire Regt.) Regt. Trooper. 3908184. Died
24/06/1944. Aged 30. Son of William and Alice Weeks;
husband of Elizabeth Weeks, of Waterside, Londonderry.
Bayeux Memorial, Calvados, France

VETERANS

EKIN, John Thompson

RNVR. 1939-45. Born 24/06/1915. Campbell College 2328.
Brother of 1884. Belfast Bank Official 1933 - 39. Son of T A
Ekin, Belfast Bank House, Cookstown. To U.S.A., 1952.
Address: c/o. 12 Cadogan Park, Belfast. D 29/05/1983.

MURRAY, James Desmond

RN. 1942 - 46. HMS Kenya, Arakan Coastal Forces, Burma.
Born 24/06/1923. Son of WL Murray, Ulster Bank House,
Newtownards. Killinchy, Newtownards. Campbell College
2760

RAMSEY, Thomas

RN. Radio operator. Served in HMS Witherington and HMS

Anguilla. HMS Collingwood - 16/04/1941 - 24/06/1941 and
23/06/1944 - 30/07/1944.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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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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