



remembrance ni



Lavender blooms at this time of year at Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery this time of year

RAF WW2 veteran enabled The Ports to do the double

Jim Kerr was educated at the Model Primary School, Enniskillen and at Portora Royal. His first job was as an

accounts clerk with the local firm of T.P. Topping.

When war broke out, Jim and six of his friends didn't follow the deep-rooted Fermanagh tradition of joining the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers or the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards – they plumped instead for the RAF, where he served from 1940 until he was demobbed in 1947.

After training in England, Jim was posted to the Middle East and Africa. The ship convoy taking him to his posting in North Africa with the Germans in command of the Mediterranean, and an ever-present threat of U-boats, had to sail round South Africa to the Suez Canal.

As a leading aircraftman, he was stationed in Alexandria and Egypt, and they were involved in various battles, until the war ended.

His service continued back home in Aldergrove and dismantling the flying boats back in Killadeas, Fermanagh. He ended his RAF service in France.

Jim had sad memories of the war, losing many friends in action, and he vividly remembered the day when he witnessed an RAF transport plane crash at Lydda Airport, with the loss of 150 souls.

After the war, Jim Kerr took up employment as a clerical officer in the Fermanagh County Surveyor's Office in Enniskillen. With his typically caring attitude, he involved himself in voluntary welfare work in the area, with ex-service personnel. Then, in 1951, he married Cork-born Olive Kingston, a fashion buyer in George Wilson and Son of

Enniskillen - they met on a blind date.

Jim's other passions in Fermanagh were football and the Loyal Orders. He was an official with Enniskillen



Corinthians FC and they created history by winning the Junior Cup, beating Clooney Rovers, Londonderry, at Shamrock Park, where he was to make his mark later in life.

The Kerrs moved to County Armagh in the late 1960s. He initially worked with Armagh County Council and then with the Roads Division of Craigavon Development Commission, with the advent of the new city project. They set up home in Killicomaine Park. With the re-organisation of local councils in 1973, Jim transferred to the DoE Roads Division at Marlborough House and retired in April 1985.

Along with his father, he had followed a strong Orange-Black-Masonic tradition in Enniskillen and he continued this in Portadown. He joined ex-Service Lodges LOL 608 (Orange) and RBP 326 (Black), which had in their ranks a significant number - around 50 - of WW2 veterans in the 1960s. He served at officer level in lodge and district. He was a Trustee of Carleton Street Orange Hall. He was secretary for 25 years of the committee of the County Grand Lodge of Armagh, from 1983-2008 and then held the post of honorary assistant secretary.

After serving the Masons in Enniskillen, he transferred to Portadown in 1968, where he was a Past Master and Past Secretary of 231 from 1981-2007, as well as being in Portadown Preceptory Lodge and Armagh Provincial Grand Lodge.

On the football front, he was treasurer of Portadown Football for many years, significantly during the golden era of Ronnie McFall. The Ports were his pride and joy, lifting around 24 trophies during that time. His 'books' were meticulously kept. He acted with total integrity and was a personal friend of chairman Ted Clarke, whose contributions to those halcyon days was immeasurable.

Being a meticulous man, he kept detailed records – written and photographic – of achievements during his life, especially the 1991-92 season, when the Ports' four trophies included the League and Cup. That 'double' achievement had pride of place in his memoirs – as had the proud album of his distinguished war record.

Jim and Olive were also faithful members of Seagoe Parish, and with his financial skills and experience, he led the counting teams for the freewill offerings at the historic church where his funeral service was held. His last five years of life were hit by loss of sight.

Jim was born in Kesh, County Fermanagh, the son of James Henry Kerr snr., and Matilda Sarah Kerr, and had three sisters, Irene, Annie and Beatrice. The family later moved to Enniskillen.

On this day - June 26



1857

The first investiture of the Victoria Cross by Queen Victoria took place in Hyde Park, London, on Friday, 26th June 1857. It was estimated that over 100,000 people came to watch.

It was revolutionary at the time of introduction in that award made no distinction between officers and enlisted men.

Though the first Victoria Cross was won in the Crimean War the heroism that won it took place not in the Crimea but in the Baltic. Britain and France entered the war against Russia in March 1854.



Charles Lucas from Poyntzpass in NI was the first VC recipient, he was not however the first to receive his medal in the inaugural award ceremony in June 1857.

Queen Victoria pinned the crosses on the recipients in strict order of Service precedence and seniority. Lucas (right) was therefore fourth in line, following three more senior recipients, the first being Commander Henry Raby. This was held in London's Hyde Park and it was estimated that over 100,000 people came to



watch.

A powerful image of St Symphorien cemetery near Mons. The grave in the foreground is Lieut Dease, whose bravery at Nimy Rail Bridge in 1914

earned him the first Victoria Cross of WW1 and that in the background is George Price, who fell on 11th Nov 1918.

1917

First US troops arrive in France during World War I

1918

Northern Whig 26 June 1918 - Ulster Division Captain Killed.

Captain Maximilian Herbert Browne, M.C., attached to the 108th Trench Mortar Battery, formerly of the 11th/13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, whose death in France is reported, was the second son of George Burrowes and Margaret Browne, of "Lisnamaul," Ormeau Road., **Belfast**. The deceased officer had a very successful career in the service. He was in the Queen's University Officer Training Corps, prior to receiving his commission in Colonel Sharmen-Crawford's Battalion. Shortly after going overseas he was transferred to the General List on 22nd April, 1916, on appointment to the Trench Mortars. He rose to command his battery, and for his work and the honour of being twice mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross, the last-named distinction appearing in the recent birthday honours.

He was killed at 5.40pm, 21st June 1918, at the age of 22, during a training exercise at 22 Corps School. He was conducting an anti-aircraft practice on the range with live bomb ammunition. The ammunition had been examined and the fuses cut by Max, three rounds had been fired but the fourth exploded in the gun. As well as Max, who was killed instantaneously, two other men died of wounds sustained in the incident. Max is buried in Esquelbecq Military Cemetery (ref. III A 3), Nord, France

1940

French General de Gaulle (Photo next page) created the Free French Forces in the United Kingdom. The FFF fought



Axis troops on battlefronts everywhere from the Middle East to Indochina and North Africa. By the end of the war in Europe, they were 1,300,000 strong.

Roll of Honour

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+JOHNSTON, Edward

RNR. Trimmer. 1172ST. HMS Alert. Died 26/06/1916. Age 47. Son of Edward and Bridget Johnston, Belfast; husband

to Jane Johnston, Shiels St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23.

1917

+FAITH, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th Btn. Private. 19139. Died 26/06/1917. Age 45. Son of Robert and Sarah Faith, of Cah, Garvagh; husband of Mary Faith, of Mettican, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Belgium

+FINLAY, Thomas James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn.(The Derrys). Private. MM. 15517. Died 26/06/1917 at Estaverne, Belgium. He volunteered for active service in September 1914. Before enlisting he was a member of the Portstewart Company, Coleraine Battalion, North Derry Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force. The Derrys trained at Finner Camp, County Donegal, and Seaford, Sussex, and arrived at the Western Front in October 1915. Thomas served in France and Belgium and was awarded the Military Medal. Born on 08/11/1893. Son of Mr. John and Mrs. Rebecca Finlay, Burnside, Portstewart. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Wytschaete, Belgium. Portstewart WM, Agherton Parish Church's WM and RH IMR

+HAIRE, Alexander

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 13927. Died 26/06/1917. Age 22, Son of Wm. John and Margaret Anne Haire nee Edgar, of Sion Mills. Messines Ridge British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen. Belgium.

+HUGGARD, Lewis Dudley Richard

York and Lancaster Regiment, 13th Btn. Captain. Died 26/06/1917. Aged 23. Born at Dungannon about 1894. Son of the Rev. Richard Huggard and Frances Marion Huggard, of St. John's Vicarage, Barnsley. Born at Dungannon. Son of the Rev. Richard Huggard and Frances Marion Huggard, of St. John's Vicarage, Barnsley, Yorkshire. Lewis and his brother Hewitt both played for Barnsley Rugby Club. Albuera Cemetery, Bailleul-Dire-Berthoult, Pas de Calais, France. Dungannon WM

+McCREA, Alexander

Royal Garrison Artillery, 58th Siege Bty. Second Lieutenant. 17201. Died 27/06/1917. Aged 42. Alexander enlisted in Royal Horse Artillery which later became Royal Field Artillery. He is believed to have served in the Boer War. 24 / 09/1915 saw Alex as a Sergeant. in the 42 Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery, British Expeditionary Force, in the Mediterranean. He took part in the landings at Gallipoli. He was promoted to substantive 2nd Lieutenant. Son of Alexander McCrea and Maggie Ramsay Alex and Janey were married in England. They had a son Alexander and a girl Eileen. Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Dungannon WM

+YOUNG, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 28498. Died 26/06/1917. Aged 19. Samuel enlisted in Omagh with the 9th Btn. He had served with them for six to eight months and had survived the battle at the beginning of June. Son of Robert and Elizabeth Young, of Tamlaght, Lower Coagh, Co. Tyrone. Messines Ridge British Cemetery, West-

Vlaanderen, Belgium. Coagh WM, Cookstown War Dead Book

1918

+FERGUSON, Rachel

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 26/06/1918. Rachel was born on 29/12/1886. She was the daughter of John Stewart Ferguson and Annie Ferguson of Lanebrook House, Ballygoney, Coagh. Rachel was educated at Ballygoney National School and Lady's School, Cookstown. She trained at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast where she qualified as a Staff Nurse. Notified of acceptance for service on 10/09/1915, she joined QAIMNS. Rachel arrived in Salonica on 06/06/1916 where she was posted to No 28 General Hospital. While in service, she became unwell and was admitted to the Red Cross Convalescent Home on 15/06/1917 before being transferred to a hospital ship on 29/06/1917. She rejoined No 28 General Hospital on 08/07/1917. She was serving in Italy until May of 1918 when she was given leave for fourteen days. She re-joined No: 62 General Hospital on 25th May 1918 but on 26th June she was admitted there as a patient, suffering from bronco-pneumonia. She was by now dangerously ill and died later that day. Bordighera Cemetery, Italy. QA Memorial St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Coagh WM, Cookstown War Dead Book

+PELL, George

Royal Army Medical Corps. Corporal.120404. Died 26/06/1918. Downpatrick Cathedral New Cemetery

1921

+ATKINSON, George

Canadian Engineers. Sapper. 504128. Died 26/06/1921 of wounds sustained in battle. Aged 38. Born Carrickfergus. Son of James and Jane Atkinson of Market Place, Carrickfergus. His father was a salt packer. Prior to the war George like his brother Samuel had left Ireland on adventure to Canada to seek employment, it was here he joined the Canadian Engineers. Winnipeg (Brookside) Cemetery

1942

+McNAMEE, JOHN

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Bn. Lance Corporal. 6980426. Died 26/06/1942. Aged 18. Son of Frank and Sarah McNamee, of Strabane. Kirkee War Cemetery, India

+MURRAY, Robert

RN. Stoker 2nd Class Service. D/KX 134458. Died 21/06/1942. Aged 19. H.M. Submarine P. 514. Son of Robert and Sarah Murray, of Ballymena. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 71. Harryville Presbyterian Church, Ballymena, RH.

1943

+SINTON, Arthur Buckby

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 119279. Died 26/06/1943. Aged 28. 515 Sqdn. Arthur Sinton attended Rockport School and then

Shrewsbury School. He was a keen golfer. He played cricket for the local Laurelvale Club. After leaving school he joined his father in the Sinton linen business and, in 1938, he went with friends on a motoring trip across Europe.

At the outbreak of war, he joined 3rd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery as a Second Lieutenant. Arthur transferred to the RAFVR. From October 1942, 515 Squadron used Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) to jam enemy radar installations. Arthur Sinton was one of a two-man crew aboard a Boulton Paul Defiant Mark II aircraft (AA572) that took off from RAF Coltishall in Norfolk and was shot down over Zeeland in the Netherlands by a German night fighter. Flying Officer Sinton was the pilot and the other crew member who died that night was the air gunner, Pilot Officer Leonard Arthur Johnson (aged 31) from West Bergholt, Essex. Pilot Officer Johnson's body was recovered and buried in Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery. Arthur Sinton's body was not recovered. Born 03/08/1914.

Son of Frederick Buckby Sinton and Hannah Maria Sinton née Woods, Banford House, Knockagore, Gilford. Arthur Sinton and Vera Wilson Smyth of Brookfield, Banbridge, married on 02/05/1940 in Belfast. They had two children: David Frederick and Vera May, who was born four days before her father died. Flying Officer Arthur Buckby Sinton's father, Frederick Buckby Sinton, died on 25 June 1943 (aged 73), the day before Arthur was killed.

Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 129. RAF Hunsdon Memorial Plaque, Hertfordshire. Royal County Down Golf Club WM. Rockport School RH

1944

+HETHERINGTON, David

RAF. Sergeant Air Gunner.1880052. Died 28/06/1944. 106 Sqn. He was Rear Gunner aboard Avro Lancaster JB664, ZN-M which took off with fifteen other aircraft from R.A.F. Metherringham on the night of 27th June 1944. They joined with a total force of 103 Lancaster Bombers who were on a mission to attack enemy lines of communication at Vitry-le-Francois which lies southeast of Reims. In the early hours of 28th June two aircraft from the Group were hit by enemy fire with one of these being JB664.The aircraft crashed into a field in the Seine-et-Marne area east of Paris with the loss of all on board. His brother William James Hetherington also died serving in the RAF 16/10/1944. His grave is in Kirkee Cemetery, India. Sons of William James and Elizabeth Hetherington from Londonderry.William Snr had served during WW1 and joined the Ulster Home Guard during WW2.All the Crew - Bransles Communal Cemetery, west of Sens, Seine-et-Marne, France

+HUGHES, Andrew Donney

Cameronians, 9th Btn. (Scottish Rifles) Rifleman. 7021551. Died 26/06/1944. Aged 20. Transferred from RUR. Son of Edward and Elizabeth Hughes, of Belfast. St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France

+KIRK, Thomas

Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment), 2nd Btn.The Glasgow Highlanders. Private.14424782. Died 26/06/1944. Aged 19. The 2nd Battalion took part in the Normandy invasion in June 1944. The battalion sustained many casualties around the village of Cheux. Son of

Thomas and Elizabeth Kirk, of Dungannon. St Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France. Dungannon WM, St Ann's C of I WM

+MARTIN, David

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1489044. Died 26/06/1944. Aged 21.14 Sqd. Son of David and Mary Martin, Belfast. Cagliari (St. Michele) Communal Cemetery, Italy

+MOORE, William

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 9th Btn. Rifleman. 6981002. Died 26/06/1944. Aged 23. Son of Mary Jane Moore; grandson of Mary Jane Moore, of Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone. Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France

+MURPHY, Edward

Royal Scots, 8th Btn. Private. 6984702. Died 26/06/1944. Aged 24. Son of Edward and Ellen Murphy, of Newry. St Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France

+THOMPSON, Joseph

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant (Navigator).1513147. Died 26/06/1944. Aged 21.142 Sqdn. Son of Joseph and Una Thompson, of Armagh. Budapest War Cemetery, Hungary

1947

+JOHNSTON, John

RN. Ordinary Seaman. D/JX 619483. Died of tuberculosis 26/06/1947. Aged 20. Born in 1927. A son of James and Mary Jane Johnston (nee Brown) who were married on 12/11/1917 in Derry Church of Ireland Cathedral. James

Johnston (aged 33) was a soldier. James Johnston's father lived in Ballymagee Street, Bangor and James joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1904. He was demobilised in 1913, re-joined the Colours in 1914 and was demobilised in France in 1919. James and Mary Jane Johnston (nee Brown) lived in Newtownards at 34B South Street (later at 14 Pound Street) and they had four children. John Johnston attended Castle Gardens National School, Newtownards. During the First World War his uncle, Able Seaman Samuel Johnston (No. 192792), also served with the Royal Navy and Samuel was killed in action on 1 November 1914. Newtownards (Movilla) Cemetery, Newtownards WM

+TOPPING, Jocelyn

WAAF. Leading Aircraftwoman. 2165455. Died 26/06/1947. Aged 20. Daughter of David and Florence Topping, of Portadown. Knocknamuckley (St Matthias) C of I Churchyard. Portadown WM

VETERANS

FORSYTHE, Kirk

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Surgeon - Commander 1939 - 45. Surgeon - Captain 1953.VRD. Mentioned in despatches. In 1939, he was appointed as SMO to HMS Cairo (AA cruiser) in which ship he served throughout the Norwegian campaign of 1940 (mentioned in despatches). Relieved in 06/1941, after a month at RNB Portsmouth, appointed to HMS Attack 07/1941 and became SMO Motor Gun Boat Base at Portland. In 01/1943 appointed Staff Medical Officer to Flag Officer West Africa, HMS Eland. 09/1943 appointed to HMS Shrike as SMO, Air Station, Maydown,

Londonderry. 07 - 12/1945 appointed assistant to Medical Director General in the Admiralty, for duty in connection with the appointments of junior medical officers. Served in the Ulster Division post war. Hon. Physician to the Queen 1957. Born 26/06/1904. Son of John Forsythe, Lisadell, Cliftonville Road, Belfast. Died 15/05/1987. MB BCh BAO, QUB 1927. Campbell College 1485. President of QUB CSC 1958

TATE, William S RNVR. Lieut. Mine sweepers. King's Badge. Born 26/06/1886. Son of George Tate, Fortview, Antrim Rd., Belfast. Campbell College 468

Every Day is a Remembrance Day
We will remember them

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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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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