



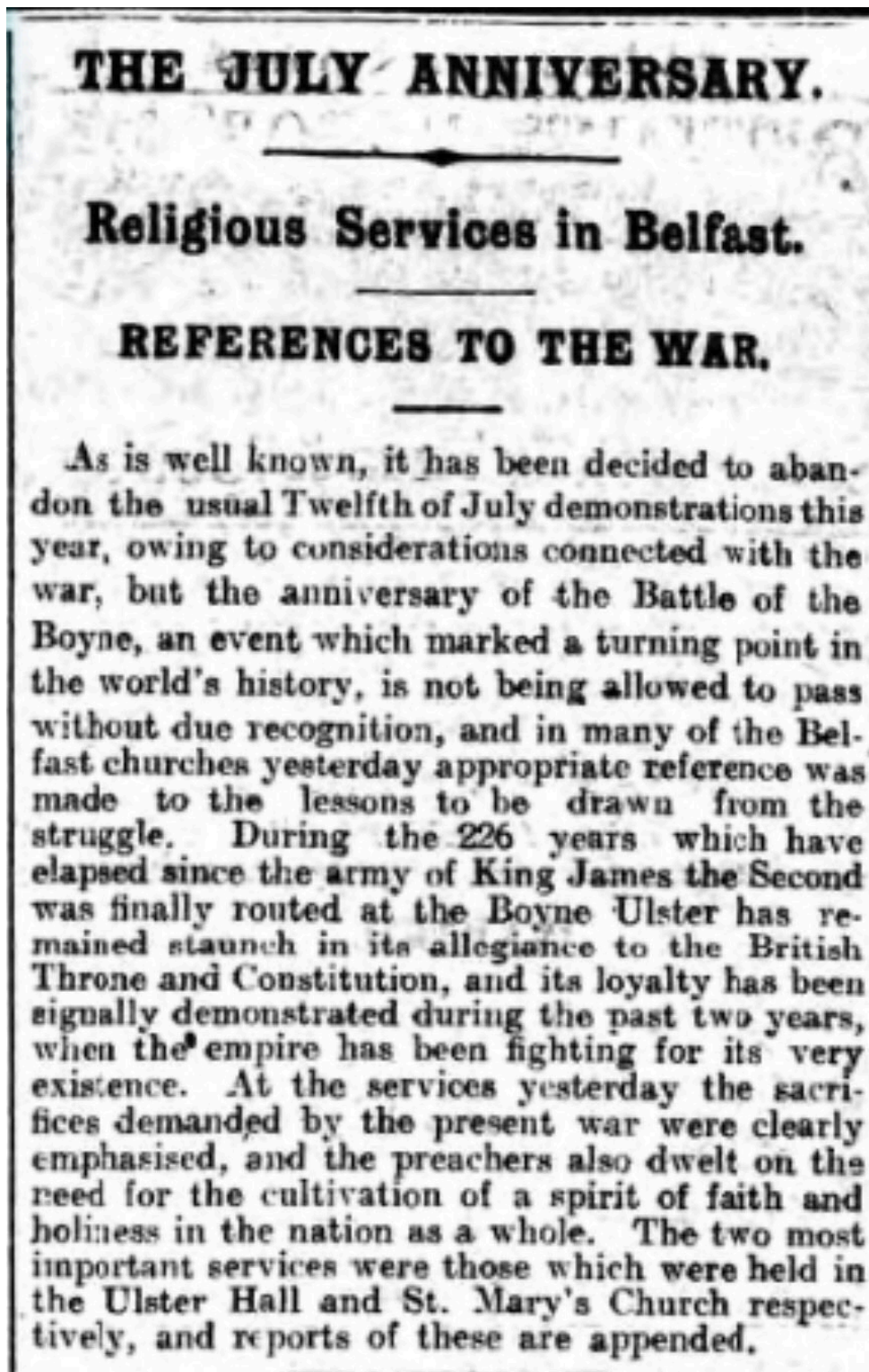
remembrance ni



The Central Antrim Regiment Ulster Volunteer Force 1st Battalion (Ballyclare) 2nd Battalion (Larne) & 3rd Battalion (Carrickfergus) at Drumalis, Larne 11th July 1914.

Belfast first with Remembrance silence

In 1916 a decision was made by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to cancel the annual 12th July celebrations.



Sir
Crawford
McCullagh
instead
requested
that all
businesses
be
suspended
for the
duration of
5 minutes
from noon
till 12.05pm.

He asked
that street
traffic be at a
complete
standstill for
5 minutes,
so that the
City's tribute
to the
heroes of
the Ulster
Division

would thus be

impressive and universal.

Trains stopped in their tracks, the city's trams came to a halt and the Police Courts were adjourned. As men and women

on factory floors, in hospitals, in shops and in homes all over Ulster bowed their heads in respect of the 36th Ulster Division who had lost their lives at the Battle of the Somme.

Silence echoed through the streets of Belfast as the city came to a complete standstill. This silence was the precursor of the 2 minute silence which is now recognized world wide.

It can be argued that Sir Crawford McCullagh was the first recorded person to publicly call for a period of silence to honour those who have fallen in battle.

We will remember them on the anniversary of the Armistice when we will again bow our heads on 11th November.

International sportsmen in WW1

William Victor Edwards, a former student of Coleraine Inst., and Campbell College, was gifted at rugby, swimming and water polo.

He played rugby for Ireland and was the first person to swim across Belfast Lough in 1913.

On the first day of 1912 Ireland played France at rugby in Paris. When Irish internationals **Alfred Squire Taylor**, **William Victor Edwards** and **William Beatty** sprinted on to the Parc des Princes turf, it was in front of one of the biggest crowds the French capital had seen with nearly 20,000 noisy, sports-mad Parisians. Regular games of international rugby were still a novelty, and the arrival of the Irish team had excited the city's population so much that thousands of tickets had been snapped up days in advance.



Captain William Victor Edwards

Even though France were relative newcomers to the recently formed Five Nations Championship, the expectation of a home victory was still high. The side had improved in recent years and had beaten Scotland in the previous season.

Ireland took to the field with five debutants, while the French selectors had chosen six new faces.

Edwards, from Strandtown, Belfast, who played in the pack for Ulster, was making his first appearance in Irish colours. He was strong and well-built with powerful shoulders, and after impressing selectors during club games in Belfast, he was chosen to be Ireland's new number eight.

Twenty-three-year-old Beatty, who had made his international debut at the same Paris ground two years earlier, was a prop and had been on the winning side in March 1910 when Ireland won by 8 points to 3.

Taylor, who had played school and university rugby and then for Ulster, was a speedy and talented centre.

The Irish and French teams included doctors, accountants and students, amateurs who played the game for fun. They were young men at the peak of physical fitness, the sporting heroes of their day, with much to look forward to.

At the start of 1912, the idea of a bloody European war beginning in 1914 was unimaginable.

But of the 30 players who took the field to cheers that January afternoon, 10 – seven French and three Irish – would die as a result of the forthcoming four-year conflict. The first World War affected the lives of hundreds of sporting stars.

Edwards was killed in December 1917 during the defence of the city of Jerusalem.

As well as rugby he was a gifted swimmer and regularly took part in championships. He became the Irish 200-yard swimming champion, in addition to being an accomplished water polo player. He was also fond of sea swimming and in August 1913 he made history by becoming the first man to swim across Belfast Lough.

Taylor became a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps. While treating a wounded comrade during the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917, he was hit and killed by a German shell.



Captain Alfred Squire Taylor

Beatty, who rose to the rank of major with the Royal Army Medical Corps, lived to see the end of the conflict but died in 1919 as a result of his experiences on the Western Front.

Robbie and Edmund Smyth were two brothers who played international sport for Ireland, saw service in the Western Front and died during the Great War.

Robbie was educated at Royal School Dungannon and played rugby for Ulster and Ireland. In 1903, he toured South Africa as a member of the British Isles team.

His younger brother was a talented hockey player with Banbridge and he helped the team become one of the best sides in Ireland.

Edmund made his Irish debut in 1911 and he played for his country on four occasions and went on to captain the side.

Robbie, who trained to be a surgeon, was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps and during the Great War he saw service in France. He rose to the rank of major and was mentioned in despatches for his “gallant and distinguished service in the field”. However, he became seriously ill in 1916 after he was gassed and he was sent to London to recover but he was in a very poor state. In April 1916 he died and his body was brought back to Banbridge for burial.

Today, his name appears on the war memorial in the town and it is also recorded at Sir Patrick Dun’s Hospital in Dublin where he worked.

His brother Edmund saw service as part of the Somme offensive in 1916 and he nearly lost his life when he was injured near Thiepval.

He was honoured for his exploits in battle being awarded the Military Cross. On 03/12/1917 he was with the Royal Irish Rifles near Cambria and he was killed by a German shell.

The news of his death reached Banbridge a number of days later and since he was a well-known sportsman it was reported in the local newspapers. One of his commanding officers wrote to his family and said Edmund was “one of the finest officers in the Brigade and is a great loss to us”.

SPORTSMEN - ROLL OF HONOUR

+EDWARDS, William Victor

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Captain. Died 29/12/1917. Age 30.

He was born on 16/10/1887 at Strandtown, Belfast . The son of Mary Edwards, of The Laurels, Strandtown, Belfast , and the late Alfred Edwards. His father had been a cabinet maker and upholsterer with Maguire & Edwards.

He was educated at Thanet College , Margate ; Coleraine Academical Institution, Campbell College and Queen's University, Belfast .

He played for Malone RFC and gained two caps for Ireland in 1912. He was also the Irish 200 yard swimming champion and a water polo champion. He is said to have been the first man to swim Belfast Lough.

He was an accountant, being a Company Officer in the 6th Battalion East Belfast Regiment of the Ulster Volunteer Force; gazetted Second Lieutenant 22/09/1914; promoted Lieut. December 1914, and Captain April 1915.

He served with the expeditionary force in France and Flanders from May 1915. He had been wounded on the right side of the head by a machine-gun bullet (which left a 4" scar) on 09/09/1916 at the capture of Ginchy. This resulted in him suffering from dizziness, headaches and insomnia.

He went to Egypt in September 1917, and took part in the Third Battle of Gaza between November 1 and 7, 1917, and took part in the capture of Jerusalem on December (and its defence for the rest of that month). He assumed command of 'D' Coy, 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers on 26/12/1917.

He was killed in action near Deir Izbzia, Palestine on 29/12/1917. He was initially buried 700 yards from the

south-east corner of the village of Deir Ibzia , ten yards left of the track leading down the hill to the trees. He was then reburied east of the village of Deis Ibsis , close to Mount Horeb at the Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel.

Amongst his returned possessions were a cigarette case, three devotional books, a (damaged) watch, his whistle and strap, and pipe and pipe lighter. Strandtown WM. On the base of a small war memorial near the old Gobbins cliff path on Islandmagee, was a reference to a soldier of the Black Watch – Capt. W V Edwards – Royal Dublin Fusiliers killed in action in Palestine 29/12/1917.

+SMYTH, Edmund

Royal Irish Rifles. Major. MC. Died 03/12/1917. Royal School Dungannon and played rugby for Ulster and Ireland. In 1903, he toured South Africa as a member of the British Isles team. Son of William and Jane R. Smyth, of Brookfield, Banbridge. Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, Villiers - Plouich, Nord, France. Banbridge WM

+SMYTH, Robbie

RAMC. Major. He was gassed in 1916 and brought back to UK. He died April 1916 and his body was brought back to Banbridge for burial. Banbridge WM, St Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin WM

+TAYLOR, Alfred Squire

Royal Army Medical Corps. Highland Light Infantry (attd. 10th/11th Battalion).

He was born on 06/07/1889 the son of the Rev. David Alexander Taylor, D.D., of " Eastbourne ," Windsor Avenue

North , Belfast . He was educated at Campbell College , Belfast , Belfast University and Edinburgh University where he graduated M.B., and Ch.B. in 1914.

At Edinburgh he was president of the University Union and captain of the University football fifteen (1911-12). He played four times for Ireland between 1910 and 1912.

He took a temporary commission as lieutenant in the RAMC on 12/10/1914, was promoted to captain after a year's service and on 11/01/1917, took a permanent commission in the RAMC as lieutenant and temporary captain. He had earlier been invalided home from Mesopotamia. He returned to France with the Highland Light. He was dressing a brother officer's wound in France, when both were killed instantly by the bursting of a shell. He was killed on the first day of 3rd Battle of Ypres, 31/07/1917. Buried at Ypres Town Cemetery. Comber WM

On this day – July 12

1913

150,000 Ulstermen gather and resolve to resist Irish Home Rule by force of arms; since the British Liberals have promised the Irish nationalists Home Rule, civil war appears imminent

1916

The British take Mametz Wood and make strong progress at Trones Wood. The Germans attack strongly at Verdun and

gain some ground at Chapelle St. Fine and the intersection of the Fleury-Vaux roads.



1917

A horrifying new chemical weapon debuts on the Western Front. A blistering agent known as bis (2-chloroethyl) sulfide, soldiers in the trenches soon call it by another name: Mustard Gas

1942

German 104th Infantry Regiment attacked Allied troops in the Tel el Eisa ridge region near El Alamein, Egypt; the German attack was driven off after it suffered 600 casualties.

1943

The Battle of Prokhorovka, one of the largest tank battles in military history, begins. Although the battle was a tactical success for the German side due to the high numbers of Soviet tanks destroyed, they failed to break through the Soviet lines.

1943

Axis command ordered a fighting withdrawal from the southeastern corner of Sicily on 12/07/1943. The British took Syracuse and dropped additional paratroopers twelve miles south of Catania. General Alfredo Guzzoni consolidated his forces in the hills outside Catania.

Guzzoni's troops held this position until British tanks broke through on 16 July. The Americans cut across the center of the island and took Palermo on 21 July. The Allies occupied Nicosia and Troina, pushed the Italians and Germans into the northeastern corner of Sicily, and cracked their last lines of defense at Etna and San Fratello on 6 and 8 August. Axis forces started evacuating from Messina to the Italian mainland on 3 August. An ad hoc fleet of civilian and naval auxiliary vessels under Rear Admiral Pietro Barone rescued seventy thousand soldiers before Messina fell on 17 August. The Italians sustained 145,000 casualties in the fight for Sicily, including the entire Twenty-Sixth, Twenty-Eighth, Fifty-fourth, 104th Semi-motorized, and 230th Coastal Defense divisions.



1944

The first allied jet fighter, the Gloster Meteor Mk 1, entered service with 616 Squadron at RAF Culmhead. Photo page above



1945

Twelfth procession Bradbury Place, Belfast, (Photo above taken by Bonar Holmes, 1912 - 1956)

On 12th July 1945, men of the Irish Brigade were able to vote and, for most, it was their first chance to vote in a General Election. They voted for a brighter future and most likely they also paused to remember their friends who didn't ever get the chance to vote.

1947

The association between the North Irish Horse (NIH) and the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade

Northern Whig – Saturday 12 July 1947

The association between the North Irish Horse (NIH) and the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade (which comprised the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Seaforth of Canadian) has finally been perpetuated by the War Office decision as to the wearing of the Maple Leaf by the Ulster regiment.

The Maple Leaf was awarded the North Irish Horse by the Canadians after the break-through the Adolf Hitler Line in Italy on 23 May 1944. NIH soldiers who took part in that action, will now wear the Maple Leaf together with their Italian Star, while other members of the regiment will wear one under each shoulder title.

At the moment NIH regimental headquarters at Dunmore Park, Belfast are busy preparing for the reception of the Daimler armoured cars with which the regiment is to be equipped. The present intention is have squadrons in Belfast, Londonderry and Lurgan together with outlying troops, so that all former members will have an opportunity of serving with the reconstituted regiment if they wish. Recruiting proper is scheduled commence in September, after which the re-formed NIH will be the only armoured car regiment in Northern Ireland. Commanding the regiment again is Lt Col A. W. A. Palmer DSO, MC, the adjutant Captain P. Courage and the Quartermaster Captain J. Billings.

Note - The Maple Leaf Battle Honour was issued to all units that served in 25th Tank Brigade.

North Irish Horse celebrate the 12th July in 1943

The Belfast Telegraph carried the following report on Wednesday 18th August 1943

Boys of the North Irish Horse didn't forget the 'Twelfth'

Although the 12th of July in Ulster was not celebrated in the customary out-of-doors fashion, several of the troops from the homeland, serving overseas at that time found time and methods to stage a demonstration which, if lacking in a few of the essentials of a real "Twelfth," could not be said to be deficient in the enthusiasm and fervour generally associated with this holiday. Under the heat of the sun, the boys of the North Irish Horse set themselves to the task of fittingly keeping the Ulster holiday, though far from their native home.

The following account of the proceedings far from Ulster comes from Corporal David Fallis, whose home is at Eden Street, Enniskillen (son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fallis). Prior to joining up shortly after the outbreak of war, Corporal Fallis was employed as compositor at the 'Belfast Telegraph's' branch office in Enniskillen. In a letter accompanying the story he asks to be remembered to all the boys. He states that three members of his family are serving with the 1st Army and three with the 8th, while his brother Dick is stationed in Malta. Although "Davy" has only been able so

far to contact his brother Walter, he expressed the hope that one day in the near future they will be able to keep a family appointment, in Berlin. Here, in Corporal Fallis's own words, is how the 12th was spent.

Arches: Lambegs

The "Twelfth" was celebrated in true Ulster fashion by the North Irish Horse in a remote camp somewhere overseas where "A" Squadron (which contains no fewer than 17 Fermanagh men) did everything possible to make it the traditional Ulster Day which we all enjoyed in former peaceful times.

The 10th night (Saturday) was set aside for the usual singing, and voices could be heard throughout the camp well on to midnight. The following day, being the Sabbath, was spent for the most part resting (we had our usual Regimental Church Service in the morning) and when darkness fell that night, we erected our arches (as is the custom at home on the 11th night) painted banners and made the final preparations for the 12th. We were determined to fill the air with music and song suitable for the celebration of the anniversary of the 'Battle of the Boyne'.

The stillness of the following morning was broken early by the familiar strains of "The Sash My Father Wore" and an occasional tune on the improvised "Lambegs" (large empty petrol containers) which were appropriately placed near the cookhouse. Very soon every man was on his feet, washed and shaved, and looking just as enthusiastic and happy as he would be on a normal 12th July in peacetime. It was a holiday for the regiment. However, unlike the peacetime

demonstration, the morning was set aside for sports on the regimental parade ground and here the boys found plenty of amusement at such sideshows as shooting competitions, tipping the bucket, etc.

The 'Walk'

To avoid the heat of the day, the 'Walk' took place in the cool of the evening and just before tea, each troop brought their banners (which they spent quite a time making and painting from tank and truck covers) across to the Cook's truck which was gaily decorated with flags and bunting and furnished with a table and chair (willingly loaned from the Sergeant's Mess) – in fact looking all the world like a real 'Twelfth Field' platform. Here it was that the unfurling ceremony took place, followed by the procession moving in column en route to the Regimental parade ground, where the resolutions were read by Br. Sgt Hubert Brown (Lisbellaw) who gave a detailed account of the events leading up to the 'Battle of the Boyne' and explained to our English friends the principles for which our great Order stood.

The procession was a treat to watch and to 'walk' once again on the Twelfth was a real thrill to the 'Sons of William' now serving with our own Ulster regiment. The beautifully decorated Cook's truck headed the procession and Br. Cpl Victor Irvine, Enniskillen) very ably led the contingent on foot, swinging in a professional manner a drum major's decorated stick. The Union Jack hoisted high upon a gun cleaning pole was followed by sword-bearers. Next came the 'Lambegs' which were fied to the field by a Lisburn man. The banners which followed were variously inscribed with such titles as 'Long Stop' Heroes, 'Stricklands Chosen Few'

(Major Strickland, a Kerry man, is our Squadron Leader) and other battle titles. They all bore symbols such as the Holy Bible and the Crown and the inscriptions, such as 'Fear God', 'Honour the King', 'Love the Brotherhood' brought back memories to the assembled brethren.

Englishmen Impressed

Our English comrades were very much impressed (or staggered) by the display, especially with the banners which flapped in the cool evening breeze and quite a few of these lads have promised to come over to Ulster when all this is finished and we return to our homes, there to see a real 'Twelfth' demonstration. Refreshments were very plentiful at the 'field' and a very enjoyable concert followed, following which the brethren re-formed ranks and marched back to our own Squadron lines. The National Anthem brought the evening to a close and everyone expressed the hope that next year will find us all at home once more to unfurl the banners of freedom and liberty and march again to the 'sound of the drum' in commemoration of the 'Battle of the Boyne'.

Roll of Honour – July 12

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+ANDISON, James Stewart

King's Own Scottish Borderers, 4th Btn. Private. 6902. Died 12/07/1915. Age 24. Native of Galashiels. Son of Thomas B. and Jane Andison, of 230, Cliftonville Road, Belfast.

Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli).
Duncairn Presbyterian Church, Belfast WM

+HART, William John

Highland Light Infantry. 8th Btn. Private. 1704. Died 12/07/1915. Age 19. Born at Derryloughan, Co. Armagh. Son of Mrs. Marjory Hart, of 26, Fraser St., Mile End, Bridgeton, Glasgow. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+McLAUGHLIN, Thomas

Highland Light Infantry, 7th Btn. C Coy. Private. 2466. Died 12/07/1915. Age 21. Born in Kilrea about 1894. Thomas enlisted in Glasgow. Son of Smyth and Annie McLaughlin, of 14, Wilton Drive, Glasgow. Book - Forgotten Heroes of Kilrea 1914 - 18. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+McMAHON, Richard

Highland Light Infantry. 8th Btn. (City of Glasgow Regt.) Private. 7179. Died 12/07/1915. Age 19. Enlisted at Carluke, Lanarkshire. Born in Ireland. Lived in Scotland. One of five children of Alexander and Elizabeth McMahon. The family later returned to Ireland and lived at Cremore, Poyntzpass. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+ROBINSON, Henry

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 7th Btn. Serjeant. 840. Died 12/07/1915. Aged 28. Son of Henry William and Martha Robinson (nee McLoughlin), of Caledon, Co. Tyrone; husband to Rachel Ellen Robinson (nee Cochrane), of 12,

Walmer Terrace, Ibrox, Glasgow. Redoubt Cemetery, Helles, Turkey

+ROSE, John Carson

King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1st/4th Btn. Private. 515. Died 12/07/1915. Age 23. Born Glengormley 25/11/1892. Enlisted Hawick. Son of the late Thomas and Margaret (nee Warwick) Rose, of Whitewell, Belfast. His parents died in 1894 and 1896. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Hawick Municipal RH

+THOMPSON, Harold Francis

Rifle Brigade. 9th Bn. att'd. 12th Bn. Captain. Died 12/07/1915. Age 38. Born Cushendall. Son of Rev. William Thompson, M.A., Rector of Layde Church, Cushendall and Sarah Margaret. Poperinghe Military Cemetery

+WYLIE, Hugh

Highland Light Infantry, 7th Btn. Private. 2335. Died 12/07/1915. Hugh Wylie was apparently born in Magherafelt. Hugh was the half-brother of James Wylie. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916

+GALLAGHER, A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 4562. Died 12/07/1916. Age 22. Son of Patrick and Elizabeth Gallagher, of 16, Eglinton Place, Londonderry. Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+GREER, Donald Alister

Connaught Rangers. 1st Btn. Lieutenant. Died 12/07/1916 of enteric at Amara. Aged 21.

Donald Alister Greer was the son of the late Henry Francis Greer, of Glenbarr, Palmerston Road, Dublin, and Bernagh House, Dungannon, and the only son of Mrs, H. F. Greer, 85, Upper Leeson Street, Dublin.

In August, 1914, he entered Sandhurst, and was gazetted to the Connaught Rangers on 16/12/1914. He joined his Battalion in France, 01/05/1915, and from that time till the following December they were in the fighting line with the Lahore Division, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Neuve Chapelle and Festubert on the Western Front.

On 28/09/1915, he was promoted Lieutenant. During December 1915, the Battalion was ordered to Mesopotamia with the Lahore Division, and Lieut. Greer became Adjutant on 01/19/1916. He was with the Relief Column during the subsequent severe fighting and, in a letter expressing his great interest in a copy of "The Tonbridgon" that he had just received, he told of his experience in a big attack on January 21st.

" I was in advance," he wrote, "with the Colonel, and we were getting badly knocked about by the Turkish rifle and machine-gun fire, which is magnificent. We made a rush for the next bit of trench, and as I flung myself into the miserable little trench, some one yelled out, 'Hallo, Greer!' and turning round I saw Roger Le Fleming (1918, P.H., 2nd Lt. Ind. Army, 102nd K.E.O. Grenadiers) next to me. He had

just been grazed in the head by a bullet, but was all right. I had no idea he was in the country, and I am sure he had no idea I was even in the service." He went on to tell that the Colonel was badly wounded before reaching the trench, and in telling of his own loss of his haversack revealed that he went back into the open to attend to his Colonel.

On May 8th he wrote: " As you know, Kut has fallen, which is of course a great blow to us . . . but it is no use worrying about it. We had some very fierce fighting the week before it fell, and this Regiment and Brigade did some glorious work, and the Turks own up to 10,000 casualties for their counter-attack. I shall never forget that night, as from 7.30 p.m. till 4.00 a.m. they were never further than 50 yards from us and all round us, and we were about 1,000 yards from the rest of the force; but thanks to our machine guns they never captured us or our position." In his last letter, dated June 2nd, he wrote: " We are only four miles from Kut now, and we can make out the buildings with the naked eye. How I wish we could have got there a month ago instead of now! "

When he fell ill in June with enteric and complications, he was the last officer still with the Battalion of those who originally landed with the Relief Force, and he had never been away from the Regiment for a day. After showing the greatest patience and courage he became unconscious about July 1st and passed away on the 12th in the Hospital at Amara.

He was mentioned in the Despatch from Lt.-Gen. Sir Percy Lake, dated 24/08/1916, and his CO. wrote : " The honour was never more fully and worthily earned." All letters testify to his great value and popularity in the Regiment, and his

first Colonel wrote of him:— " I feel like a father for Donald. If he had survived and kept his health, all the prizes of the Service lay at his feet. Consummate pluck, excellent, well-informed natural abilities; a poise and judgment unparalleled in my experience of newly-joined subalterns; unselfish devotion to his Battalion, sound military instincts and an irresistible charm of manner: all these were his. I just loved that boy." The Quartermaster, too, wrote of him:— " He knew no fear. He was such a man, a hero and a Connaught Ranger out and out, a fact of which he was very proud. He lived for the Regiment."

Lieutenant Greer's remains are buried in Amara War Cemetery in Iraq and commemorated locally on Dungannon War Memorial and the family headstone in Killyman St Andrew's Church of Ireland in Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

+GRAY, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 12841. Died 12/07/1916. Age 25. Son of the late William and Mary Gray, of Belfast. East Cemetery, Bournemouth

+GREER, Donald Alister

Connaught Rangers, 1st Btn. Lieutenant. Died 12/07/1916. Age 21. TCD. Joined regiment from Sandhurst 17/12/1914. Born on 20/10/1894 in County Kildare. Son of Henry Francis Greer, of "Glenbarr", Palmerston Road, Dublin and of Mrs. M.E. Greer, later of 152 Chorley New Road, Rolton-le-Moors, Lancashire. TCD. Amara War Cemetery, Basra. Dungannon WM

+JESS, William George

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 1019. Died 12/07/1916. Age 25. Born at Belfast. Son of Robert and Agnes Jess. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

+KIRKPATRICK, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Serjeant. 12000. Died 12/07/1916 of wounds. Age 23. Born Coleraine. Lived in Larne. Enlisted Belfast. Son of William John and Margaret Kirkpatrick, of North Row, Millbrook, Kilwaughter, Larne. Brother of William John. Manchester Southern Cemetery

+MARKS, Herbert

South African Infantry, 4th Regt. Lance Corporal. 1073. Died 12/07/1916. Age 38. The fourth son of Rose Anna Marks, of 2, Abbey St., Armagh, and the late Dr. Thomas Osborne Marks. Herbert was one of eleven children. Theipval Memorial, France

+MAXWELL, Nicholas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 9550. Died 12/07/1916 in North Eventon War Hospital, Leicester, from wounds received on 01/07/1916. Aged 26. Born Stranorlar. One of three soldier sons of Mary Ann and Robert Maxwell, 4, Wapping Lane, Londonderry. An eight years' service man, he fought in many engagements, both in Flanders and the Dardanelles. He was wounded in the latter campaign in May 1915, and again severely wounded during heavy fighting in July 1916 on the British front in France. His mother was on

the way from Derry to see her wounded son when the word came that he had died. His funeral took place in Londonderry on Saturday, 15/07/1916, and was attended by the pipe and brass band of the 3rd Inniskillings, a firing party, and a number of the soldier's comrades. Londonderry City Cemetery. St Columb's Cathedral (Church of Ireland) WM. City of Londonderry (Diamond) WM.

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+O'BOYLE, Francis Alexander

Leinster Regiment. 7th Btn. B Coy. Private. 2053. Died 12/07/1916. Age 24. Son of Alexander and Mary O'Boyle, of 35, Fort St., Springfields, Belfast. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

1917

+BANKHEAD, Samuel

Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, 1st Btn. Private. S/40153. Initially served with the 4th Btn Cameron Highlanders. Died 12/07/1917. Enlisted Belfast. Born in Monkstown, Co. Antrim. Son of Robert and Ellen (nee Doherty) Bankhead. Samuel gave Dargle St., Belfast as his address. His brother William was wounded but survived the war. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

+RANKIN, WILLIAM

Durham Light Infantry, 12th Btn. Private. 39304. Died 12/07/1917. Age 40. Born Muckamore 01/07/1876. Husband of Minnie (nee Todd) Rankin, of 19, Pilot St., West Hartlepool. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West - Vlaanderen, Belgium

1918

+DONALDSON, D

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 3rd Btn. Private. 9455. Died 12/07/1918. Age 26. Son of David Donaldson, of 133, Main St., Claremont, New Hampshire, U.S.A. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

+SULLIVAN, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. A Coy. Lance Corporal. 19870. Died 12/07/1918. Age 21. Son of William and Jane Sullivan, of Frederick St., Killyleagh. Hautmont Communal Cemetery, France

1940

+IRELAND, Sydney

RAFVR. Sergeant (Pilot).745103. Died 12/07/1940. 610 Sqdn. Born in Newtownbreda, Belfast on 29/07/1918, he was educated at RBAI. In November 1938, he joined the RAFVR in Belfast on the same day as Noel Corry and learned to fly as a member of No 24 E&RFTS. Called up in September 1939, he was sent to England in November to continue his training and was eventually posted to No 610 Squadron as a Sergeant (Pilot). On 12/07/1940, when taking part in dog-fighting practice and flying from RAF Biggin Hill, his Spitfire P9502 dived into the ground at Titsey Park and he was killed. It is thought he might have lost control when diving through cloud. He was the first of eighteen pilots from Northern Ireland killed during the Battle of Britain. Despite losing his life after the official start of the Battle of Britain, Sergeant Ireland is not listed as one of “The Few”. He had not yet flown an operational sortie as part of the battle at his time of death. The hub assembly and propeller blades from Sydney Ireland’s Spitfire make up a Battle of Britain Memorial Exhibition at the Shoreham Aircraft Museum. Knockbreda Church of Ireland Churchyard, Belfast. RBAI WM.

1943

+THOMPSON, William Alexander

RAF. Corporal. 542694. Died 12/07/1943. Age 27. POW in Japanese Prison Camp. Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia. Memorial Clare Presbyterian Church, Armagh. Erected by Gerald and Mildred Thompson and family.

1944

+McLOUGHIN, Daniel Gwynfor

Welch Regiment, 4th Btn. Private. 3963453. Died 12/07/1944 during the Battle of Normandy. Age 24. Son of Henry Barlow McLoughlin and Magretta McLoughlin of Llanelli, Wales, and husband to Eileen G. McLoughlin of Banbridge, Co. Down. Daniel enlisted in 1939 and came to Banbridge in December 1939 with 4th Battalion Welch Regiment as part of 53rd (Welsh) Division. The Battalion remained in Co. Down until November 1941. During this time, Daniel met Eileen, married, and had a child. Private McLoughlin died on 12th July 1944 aged 24 years old during the Battle of Normandy. Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery, Normandy, France. Llanelli WM, Wales. Seaprick Parish Church WM Banbridge, Co. Down.

1945

+CUTLER, Robert Henry

King's African Rifles. Major. Died 12/07/1945 as a result of an aircraft accident. Aged 41.

Robert Henry Cutler, known as Tabby, was born at 7 Shandon Park, Belfast on 21/06/1904. Only son of Henry Albert Cutler and Julia Frances Mabel Cutler (née Atkinson). Both of his parents were born in England. His father was a civil engineer. They were married on 22/06/1903 in Marmullane C of I Parish Church, Co Cork. The Cutler family moved to Belfast where Henry Albert Cutler held the position of City Surveyor.

The Cutler family lived in Groomsport during the summer months and in 1913 Robert Henry Cutler attended Rockport as a day boy. He was a keen yachtsman. Later he obtained an MA degree from Cambridge University and lived in London until 1928 when he moved to Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in East Africa to take up the post of Superintendent of Education. In 1930, he and Ruth Wyckham Hewlet-Cooper were married in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika and they had two children.

At the outbreak of WW2 Robert Henry Cutler joined the army and served with the King's African Rifles in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) before assuming special training duties with the askari (local soldiers). When Major Robert Henry Cutler was demobilised in January 1944 he received a letter from General Sir Bernard Paget who was 'General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, East Africa Command'. The letter included the paragraph, *'It having been found necessary in the general interest of the War Effort that you should return to civil life and duty, I wish to tell you how much I regret the severance of your connection with the troops of the East Africa Command and, at the same time, thank you very sincerely for your valuable services with the Army'*.

[It may be of passing interest to note that Sir Bernard Paget's younger son, Lieutenant Tony Paget, died on 05/03/1945 from wounds received while serving with the 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (the 43rd) during the Battle of Reichswald.]

After he was demobilised in January 1944, Major Robert Henry Cutler was appointed Director of Training in Tanganyika's demobilisation scheme and he was 41 when

he died in Nairobi, Kenya on 12/07/1945. His remains were buried in Nairobi City Park Cemetery.

In the 13/07/1945 edition of the *Tanganyika Standard* it was reported that there were no survivors when an aeroplane crashed the previous day while attempting to take off from Eastleigh Aerodrome, Nairobi. *'Amongst the eleven people who died was Mr R.H. Cutler, Director of Training in Tanganyika's demobilisation scheme and formerly Education Officer'*.

In January 1946, Major Cutler's colleagues presented eight Provincial Challenge Shields as a tribute to his memory to encourage developments in the schools in each Province.

City Park Cemetery, Nairobi, Kenya. Groomsport and District WM; Groomsport C of I Parish Church, Rockport School.

+MITCHELL, Edward Alexander

Royal Artillery. 4 Maritime Anti Aircraft Battery. Sergeant. 7007893. Died on 12/07/1945. Aged 43. Son of William James Mitchell and Agnes Mitchell of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina

VETERANS

DARLING, John Singleton

RAMC Lt Colonel MB 1934 QUB. FRCS. OBE. Born Lurgan 1911. Died 12/07/2002. In the second world war Jack worked in the Emergency Medical Service before joining the army with the 6th Airborne Division. He parachuted into Normandy on D Day, but was captured. He escaped once

but was recaptured and spent the rest of the war working in prisoner of war hospitals. In 1947 he went to Tanganyika as surgeon to the ill-fated Groundnut Scheme and later transferred to government service. He completed a 16 year career in East Africa in Uganda as consultant surgeon at Mulago Hospital. He worked at Huntingdon County Hospital until his retirement. Husband to Beryl; father of four children; and eight grandchildren.

GILPIN, John

RAF. John joined up in 1939, initially as a trainee aircraft engineer, before transferring to serve as an air gunner in 214 squadron

John, who was affectionately known as Paddy during his many years of service, was born in East Belfast on July 12, 1922. His father worked on the Titanic as an apprentice carpenter at Harland and Wolff, whilst John began his career working as a car mechanic.

Whilst serving with the RAF in Suffolk he met his future wife Gwen and after returning from war John became a successful businessman, starting his own Motor Factors shop in Belfast. He and Gwen then moved their family to Doncaster where John set up another successful business, with a number of branches in Great Britain, supplying steelworks and coal mines.

John returned to Northern Ireland more than 20 years ago and is now looked after by his daughter in his home in Conlig following Gwen's sad passing six months ago. Based on a report in the County Down Spectator 29/03/2024 when John was 101 years-old.

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 houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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