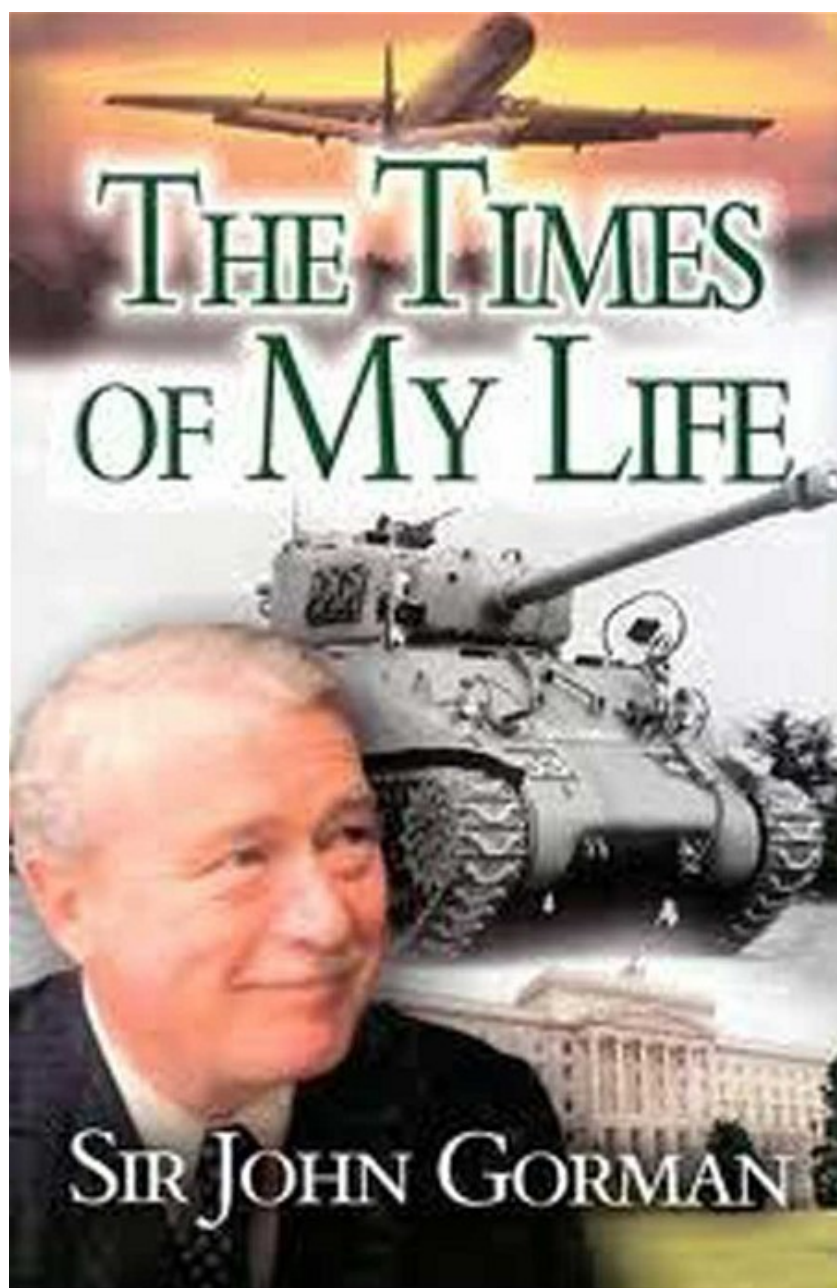




remembrance ni



Military Cross on his first day in action in Normandy

**On July 18, 1944,
on his first day in
action in
Normandy, Sir
John Gorman
earned the
Military Cross.**

At Cagny, five miles from Caen, Gorman's troop was confronted by four enemy tanks, among them a King Tiger whose gun was aimed at



Two M4 Sherman tanks, a Sherman Firefly, and a Sherman Crab on July 18, 1944, preparing to launch Operation Good wood

one of Gorman's tanks. He had previously told his driver, Corporal James Baron, that if they were to encounter any of the feared Tigers, "The only thing we can do is to use naval tactics — if the 88mm gun is pointing away from us, we shall have to use the speed of the Sherman and ram it."

The Sherman duly crashed through a hedge and careered down the slope at 40mph towards the King Tiger. With 75 yards to go before impact, the Sherman's gunner, Guardsman Scholes, fired a high-explosive shell at the King Tiger, but it failed to penetrate the armour.

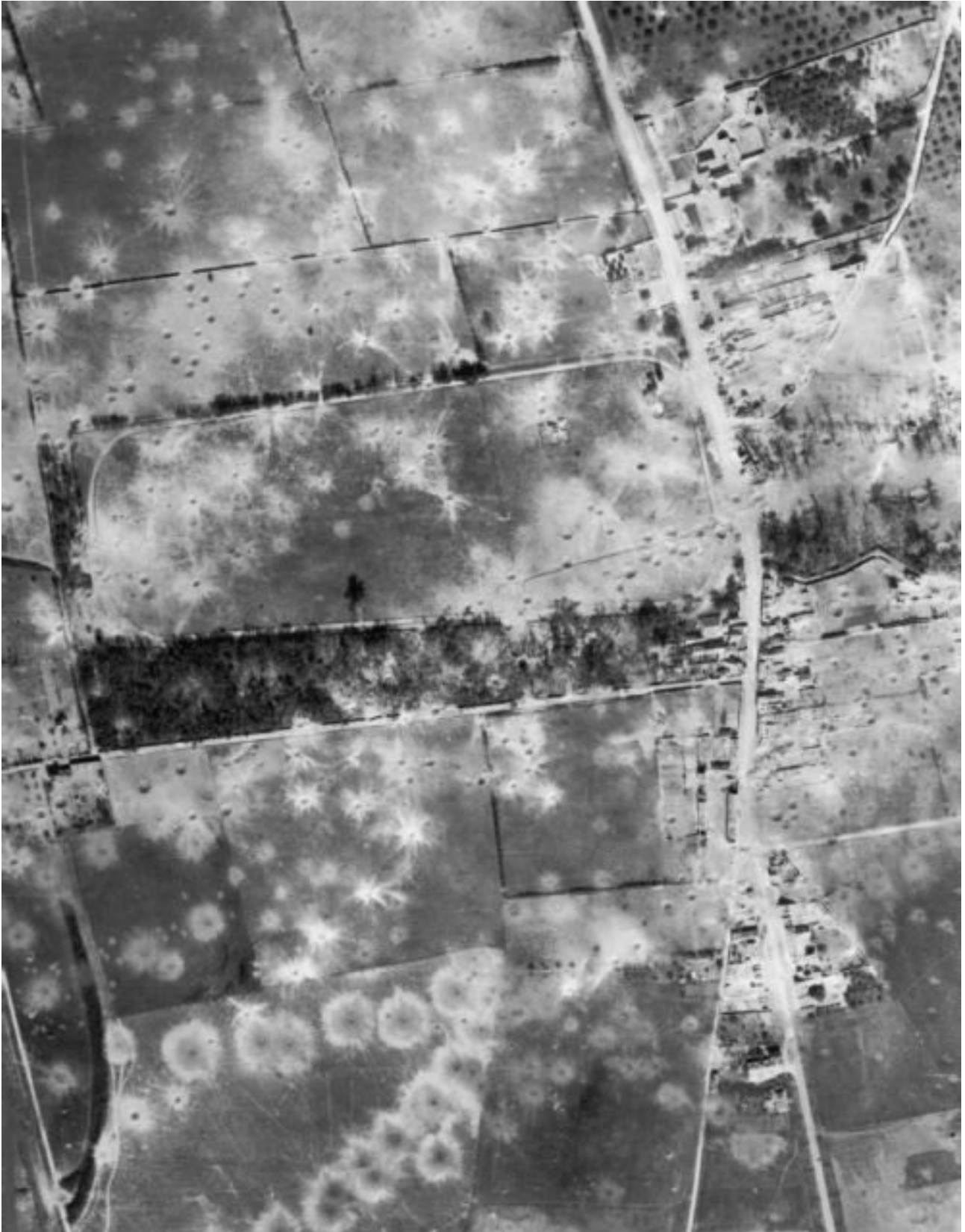
The British tank struck the King Tiger hard on its right track, and both crews bailed out. The Sherman's front gunner, Guardsman Agnew, mistakenly took refuge in a ditch with the German crew; on realising his error, he saluted smartly and disappeared into a cornfield to rejoin his comrades.



German Panzerkampfwagen Tiger Ausf. B (Tiger II) at the Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset

Having led his men to safety behind a hedge, Gorman raced 400 yards to leap into a lone Firefly tank, where one crew member had been decapitated and two others were in shock. The vehicle was still workable so, after removing the body and wiping the blood from the gun sights, Gorman fired its gun to disable the Tiger and his own tank, before driving behind three more Tigers to score two hits. He then carried three burning men from another Sherman to an aid post.

For this action, Gorman was recommended for an Immediate MC and Baron for a Military Medal. Both men were presented with their medals in the field by General Montgomery.



**Aerial view of Cagny on July 18, 1944,
after being bombed by the Allies**

Outside Brussels the regiment was greeted by jubilant crowds, and an elderly woman presented Gorman with a copy of *Some Experiences of an Irish RM*, which had been left at her parents' house by another Irish Guardsman in 1914. But the war was not yet over, and Gorman, by now a captain, attended the briefing on the impending Arnhem campaign given by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks,



King Tigers of the 503rd Heavy Tank Battalion just outside Cagny hiding under trees to avoid being spotted by air.

the Corps Commander. When Horrocks announced that the “honour of leading this great dash which may end the war” would be given to the Irish Guards, Gorman expostulated: “Oh, my God, not again!” Gorman and his troop crossed the Nijmegen bridge before the advance was called off.

John Reginald Gorman was born on February 1, 1923, at Mullaghmore House near Omagh. He was the son of Major

JK Gorman MC. He was educated at Haileybury and then after war broke out, due to difficulties travelling between N Ireland and GB, at Portora RS 1939 - 41.

He tried to join the RAF and where he was found to be underage. After basic training with the Royal Artillery he went to Glasgow University. Following an interview with the



Sir John Gorman playing a fife

Irish Guards (his father's regiment) he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1942 and posted to 2nd. IG which was converting to an armoured role in the newly formed Guards Armoured Division.

Having left the Army in the rank of captain in 1946, Gorman joined the RUC and became a district inspector in Antrim.

During the IRA's border campaign in the 1950s Gorman acted as a liaison officer with MI5 and MI6, and in 1960 his security contacts put his name forward for the position of

chief of security at BOAC. One of his first duties was to supervise the security arrangements for the royal tour of Pakistan, Nepal and Iran in 1961, at the end of which he was appointed CVO. He was later promoted the airline's head of personnel, with a seat on the board. In 1968 he moved to become the airline's manager in Canada, and, from 1975, in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

In 1979 Gorman returned to his native province to become deputy chairman and chief executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the country's largest owner of public housing. He succeeded in cleaning up corruption and selling off council houses, and in 1986 became part-time director of the Institute of Directors in Northern Ireland, an office he held until 1995.

In 1990 he aroused controversy when he invited the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, to address an IoD meeting in Belfast, in Haughey's capacity as President of the European Union. Prominent among opponents of the visit was the Unionist politician David Trimble. None the less, after Trimble's election as Ulster Unionist leader in 1995, Gorman joined the UUP, and in 1996 was nominated by his party as a member of the Northern Ireland Forum for Political Dialogue, a body which had been set up in parallel with inter-party talks. He was subsequently chairman of the Forum, a position which he held until its last session in April 1998.

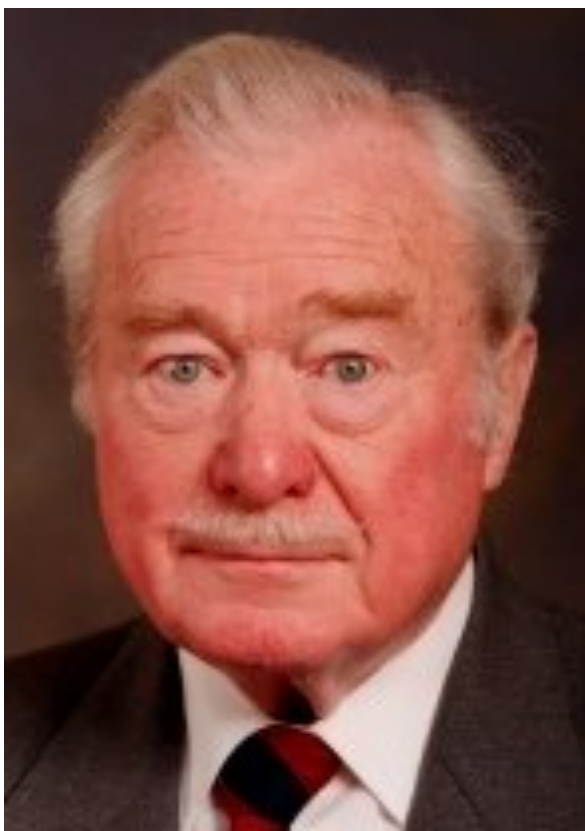
Following the Belfast Agreement of the same year, Gorman was elected as member for North Down in the new Northern Ireland Assembly, and served as a Deputy Speaker of the assembly from 2000 until its suspension in 2002. As the lone Catholic in the Unionist camp, Gorman, with his neat

military moustache, cut a somewhat idiosyncratic figure (his opponents called him “Captain Mainwaring”). On one occasion television viewers in the Province were entertained by the astonishing spectacle of him urging the bemused Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to blow up IRA arms in “one big bang”.

In 2002 Gorman published an autobiography, *The Times of My Life*.

John Gorman was appointed MBE in 1959, CBE in 1974 and was knighted in 1998. In 2005 he was appointed a Chevalier of the Légion d’honneur. He served as High Sheriff of Belfast in 1987-88.

He married, in 1948, Heather Caruth, who survived him with two daughters and a son. Another son predeceased him.



Sir John Gorman, born February 1 1923, died May 26 2014 He received the Military Cross. He was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre, but that is another story.

Photo - Sir John Reginald Gorman as Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly for North Down



Memorial in France to Guards Division and John Gorman.
Photo by fellow Ulsterman, Padre Jim Caldwell CF formerly
of Larne Parish.

On this day – July 18

1925

Adolf Hitler publishes the first volume of 'Mein Kampf.' In it, the future Führer tells his life story, deals in toxic racial hatreds and lays out his plans for what will become the Third Reich. Eventually, more than 10 million copies will be printed. (Original title was the catchy "Four and a Half Years (of Struggle) Against Lies, Stupidity and Cowardice")

1936

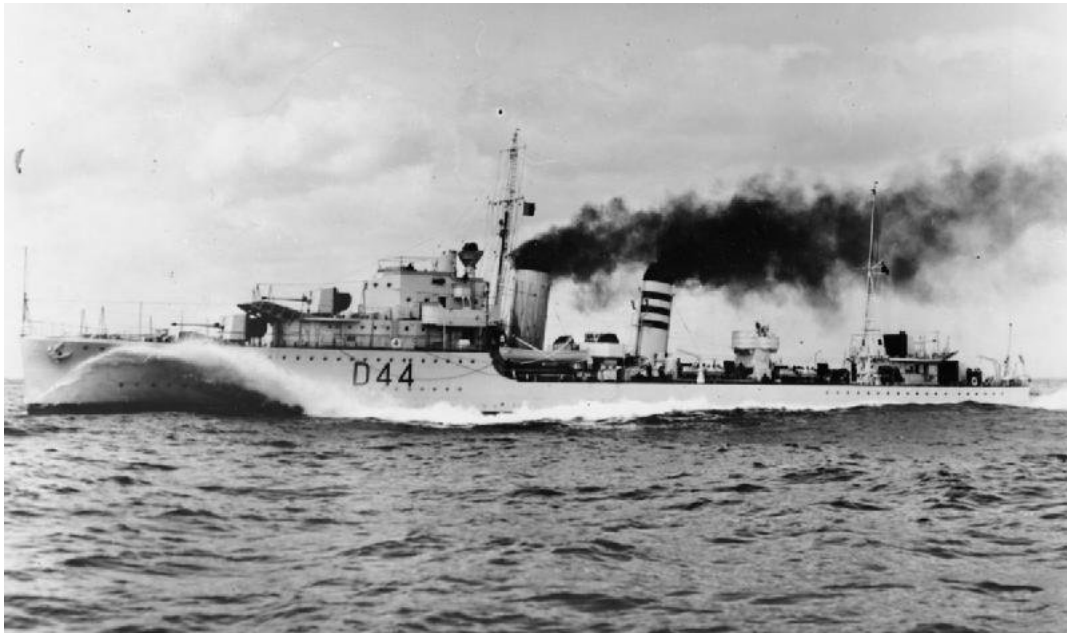
Spanish Civil War: General Francisco Franco issues manifesto and leads an uprising in the Spanish army stationed in Morocco

1940



Adolf Hitler orders his generals to begin planning for an amphibious invasion of Great Britain. Operation Sea Lion is scheduled to begin in September, once the RAF has been

eliminated and Germany controls the skies over southern England.



Destroyer HMS Imogen collided with HMS Glasgow in thick fog off Duncansby Head, Scotland, and was badly damaged and caught fire. She was abandoned and later sank. 19 of Imogen's crew lost their lives. (Image copyright @I_W_M: FL 22343)

1941

US Army Air Force opens bases in Iceland to patrol convoy routes in North Atlantic.

US Secretary of Navy Frank Knox approves plan to build 100 destroyer escorts for Britain.

1942

The German Me-262, the first jet-propelled aircraft to fly in combat, makes its first flight.

Hitler changes his mind and orders Army Group B to resume its offensive towards Stalingrad. However, as almost all the

German Army had be transferred to Army Group A, the advance was left to Paulus's 6th Army which had been reinforced by a panzer and an infantry Corps. The remaining panzers with Army Group A were ordered to thrust south over the lower Don on a broad front.

1943

The U.S. Navy airship K-74 is shot down by anti-aircraft fire from a German U-boat.

The Germans say Cologne is in a state of chaos after allied raids.

1944

4,500 Allied aircraft pound the German positions with 7,000 tons of bombs.

The U.S. XIX Corps capture St. Lo, but has suffered 6,000 casualties since the 11th July. Montgomery launches Operation 'Goodwood' 40 miles east of Caen. However, VIII Corps is stopped with loss of 200 tanks and 1,500 men after the 'death ride of the armored divisions', which also destroys 109 Panzer's.

The Polish II Corps takes Antona in Italy.

U.S. troops capture Saint-Lo, France, ending the battle of the hedgerows.

The First Belorussian front attacks, with six armies and 1,600 aircraft from Kovel across the Bug towards Lublin.



1944

The British and Canadian Army group launched Op Goodwood to capture the remains of Caen and a ridge beyond. In Britain's biggest tank battle, the city was cleared, drawing Germany's best troops in France into battle, paving the way for the US Army breakout.

Buffeted by more than two years of military and naval defeats, Gen. Hideki Tojo is forced to resign his offices of prime minister, war minister and chief of the Imperial General Staff. While Tojo's removal strengthens somewhat the elements of the Japanese government inclined to seek

peace, Tokyo's official policy of fighting to the end remains unchanged.

The CWGC database lists 446 British deaths in Normandy on 18 July 1944.

1945

Honda's attempt to break out in Burma begins in earnest.

Allied carrier planes hit Japanese naval forces in Tokyo Bay, sinking 12 ships and damaging nine, including the battleship Nagato.



Roll of Honour – July 18

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+MILLAR, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 5729. Died 18/07/1915. Age 26. Son of Annie Millar, of 19, Fifth St., Belfast, and the late William Millar. Y Farm Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, France

1916

+ANDERSON, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th Btn. Lance Corporal. 15284. Died 18/07/1916. Age 27. Son of Joseph and Jane Anderson, of 12, Barrack St., Londonderry. Monreagh Presbyterian Churchyard, County Donegal

+CORR, Patrick Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 20932. Died 18/07/1916. Age 21. Son of Patrick and Martha Corr, of 24, Slate St., Belfast. St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France

+KEYS, Albert Edward

South African Infantry, 1st Regt. Private. 3999. Died 18/07/1916. Age 22. He was reported missing for some months. Local press reports said he joined the forces in South Africa at the beginning of the war and took part in the German South-West Africa campaign and served afterwards in Egypt and France. His brother Private Fred Keys, SAI, did likewise and was in hospital wounded at the time of Albert's death. In 1911 Albert was living with his brother Joseph George and his wife Emily at Aghavilly House, Milfort, Armagh. Son of Mr and Mrs Robert Keys, Aghavilly House. Theipval Memorial, France

+LYONS, William Thomas

King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment). 8th Btn. Captain. MC. Died 18/07/1916. Age 24. QUB OTC. Commissioned as a lieutenant in July 1915 in the regiment one of his brothers was also serving. MC awarded March 1916 for "conspicuous gallantry during operations when leading his

company after the commander was wounded and in consolidating the position won". A month later he was promoted to captain. Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Lyons, of Valere, Rosetta Park, Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

+McBRIDE, Neal

9th Bn. Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Private. 11785. Died 18/07/1916. Age 21. Son of John and Sarah McBride, Ramoan Cottages, Ballycastle. Thiepval Memorial, Panel 4d. Ballycastle WM

+McNALLY, Charles

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 4609. Died 18/07/1916. Age 38. Son of Hugh and Sarah McNally, of Randalstown. Bethune Town Cemetery, France

+MORRISON, Walter Robert

South African Infantry, 1st Regiment, D Coy. Private. 4147. Died 18/07/1916. Age 23. On 14th/07/1916, at the Somme, the 1st South African Infantry Brigade, including Private Morison, were near Delville Wood, near Longueval. After a week of intense fighting, Private Walter Morrison, was shot in the throat and died later. Robert Walter Morrison was the son of Robert Brown Morrison and Ruth Morrison. He was born on 11/11/1892. Walter was educated at Royal School Dungannon between 1905 and 1907. Walter returned to South Africa, where he was in business in Capetown. He enlisted in the South African Infantry. Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, Corbie, Somme, France. Royal School, Dungannon, Book



+WILLIAMSON, J

Army Service Corps, 648th M.T. Coy. Private. M/320090. Died 18/07/1918. Age 19. Son of Mrs. A. Williamson, of 30, Cumbermere St., Belfast. Lumbo British Cemetery, Mozambique

1919

VANCE, J

Royal Engineers. Corporal. 57950. Died 18/07/1919. Age 43. Husband of Margaret Vance, of 147, Gargoyle Terrace, York Rd., Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

1941

+BAILEY, William Robert

RAF. Aircraftman 1st Class. 547179. Died 18/07/1941. Aged 21. Son of Thomas and Mary Jane Bailey of Enniskillen. Druminiskill Church of Ireland Churchyard

1942

+BOYD, Matthew McKelvey

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6983749. Died 18/07/1942. Aged 22. Son of Richard and Jennie Boyd, of



Templepatrick. Named after his mother's brother, Matthew McKelvey, who served in WW1. Kirkee War Cemetery, India. Cousin of the compiler of Remembrance NI

1943

+BRESLIN, Daniel

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1561437. Distinguished Flying Medal. Died aged 20 on 18/07/1943 when a Wellington of 1485 Flight crashed. The aircraft, based at RAF Fulbeck, was taking part in a gunnery and fighter affiliation exercise, as part of a senior officers' assessment course. The outer mainplane became detached, resulting in the Wellington partially breaking up and hitting the ground at an estimated speed of 200 mph about one mile south of Appleby, Lincolnshire. Group Captain Reginald Vere Massey Odbert,

was killed in the Wellington. He was a former Irish Rugby player. Shortly after joining the RAF, 'Oddy' won his first cap with Ireland in their 1928 game against France winning 12-8. He also captained the RAF Rugby XV in 1928 & 32. He is buried in Newark-upon-Trent cemetery, Nottinghamshire. He was the son of Herbert Massey Odbert and Annie Emily Odbert, of Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Also killed were the pilot, WO JW Heard, W/Cdr. AWS Matheson RAAF, G/Capt. BE Lowe and S/Ldr. P Brandon -Trye. Daniel Breslin was the son of Daniel and Bridget Breslin of Strabane. Strabane Cemetery

+EVERITT, Charles Alexander

Royal Canadian Regiment. Private. A/4347. Died 18/07/1943. Aged 30. Son of Thomas and Mary Everitt, of Belfast. Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy

+FRAZER, William Thomas

Wiltshire Regiment, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 874028. Died 18/07/1943. Age 27. Son of Thomas and Annie Frazer; husband to Mary Jane Frazer, of Belfast. Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy

+MEHAFFEY, Eliza Jane

Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. Nursing Sister. Died 18/07/1943. Age 36. HMS Cormorant. HMS Cormorant II was the Royal Naval Air Station at Gibraltar between 1943 and 1944. On 18/07/1943 Eliza was a passenger on Short Sunderland JM687 flying between the UK and Gibraltar. Oberleutnant Gustav Christner and Leutnant Lothar Wolff of 15/KG40 shot the RAF 204 Squadron plane down at 1314hrs. Daughter of John and



Margaret Mehaffey, Strabane.
Plymouth Naval Memorial,
Panel 83. North Staffordshire
Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent
WM. Family memorial in Urney
Graveyard, Co. Tyrone.

1944

**+MAGINNIS, George
Alexander**

Royal Ulster Rifles. 1st Btn. B
Coy. Lieutenant. 203952. Died
18/07/1944. Age 33. Whilst
standing at door of B Coy H.Q.
at Les Mesnil, Breville,

Normandy, an enemy mortar bomb landed in the yard of the
farm. He was hit by shrapnel and died almost immediately.
The battalion had landed on D-Day, 06/06/1944. A student
of Royal School, Armagh, he played rugby for the school
and went on to represent Ulster. He was commissioned in
the Royal Ulster Rifles on 06/09/1941. Son of Edward
Maginnis and Matilda Maginnis (née Orr) of Aughnacloy.
Ranville War Cemetery, Ranville, Normandy, France.

1945

+BUDD, Eric Henry

Royal Artillery. 58 Lt. A.A. Regt. Gunner. 1833433. Died
18/07/1945. Son of Alfred Edmund and Lucy Georgina
Budd; husband to Doris Muriel Budd, of Glengormley. Kiel
War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

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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