



remembrance ni



## Military Crosses awarded

**On July 28 1917 the Belfast Newsletter reported on the award of the Military Cross to two NI men.**

**Second-Lieutenant James McMechan**, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the advance on the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge, is a son of Mr. McMechan, Ballee, Downpatrick. He received his commission in the Reserve of the Ulster Division on 23rd April 1915, and left for the front on 9th May last. He

suffered from shell shock shortly after his arrived in the front line.

**Company Sergeant Major John Henry Kelly, 15/11687,** 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, who has been awarded the Military Cross, was in the employment of Messrs. Norman Macnaughton & Sons Ltd. Corporation Street, before he joined the colours. He is serving with a Belfast Volunteer Division. Note: CSM John Henry Kelly, 15/11687, A Coy, 15th Bn., Royal Irish Rifles, taken prisoner of war 27th March 1918, he was born 22nd May 1884 in Cork, Ireland and resided at 5 Jersey Street, Belfast. He would survive the war earning the MC, 1914-15 Star, British War & Victory Medal.

## On this day – July 28

### 1914

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. The outbreak of hostilities triggers a patchwork of military alliances across



Europe which leads to mass mobilizations. Within a week, the armies of Russia, Germany, France and Britain are on the march.



Royal Navy Fleets were ordered to their war bases as WW1 began. At the outbreak of war the British Fleet was by far the largest in the world and would be key in control of the sea in home waters. By 1918 the RN had lost over 200 ships and over 60,000 sailors.

## **1940**

All road and rail links between occupied France and Vichy cut by the Germans.

Slovak President and Premier meet Hitler and von Ribbentrop at Berchtesgarden.

Act of Havana is signed by the US and twenty Latin American countries, agreeing to help any country threatened by the Axis in the Americas.

## **1941**

Finland ends diplomatic relations with Great Britain.

German troops begin to clear Soviet forces trapped in the Smolensk pocket.

Forty thousand [Japanese troops land in southern French Indochina](#).

Japan freezes American assets.

## **1942**

The effect of the fall of Rostov spreads panic and terror in the Soviet Union, prompting harsh counter-measures by the Soviet High Command.

Stalin issues his infamous Order No. 227. The "Not a Step Back" directive makes retreat in the face of the Nazis a punishable offence.

Young Jews in Warsaw ghetto form Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB).

## **1943**

Operation Gomorrah: The second mass raid on Hamburg by 722 RAF bombers. Bombing causes a firestorm that kills 42,600 German civilians as nine square miles of city is set alight

The Japanese garrison of 6,000 troops are secretly evacuated from Kiska in the Aleutians.

President Roosevelt announces end of coffee rationing.

In Sicily, Palermo Harbour opens for Allied shipping.



## 1944

U.S. troops take Coutances, thereby meeting the objectives laid down for 'Operation Cobra'.



## Ypres Reservoir Cemetery

Brest-Litovsk, on the Polish frontier is taken by the Russians. More crossings over the Vistula are also made.

## 1945

A B-25 bomber crashes into the Empire State Building at 79th floor in fog, killing 14 people.

Japanese “choose to ignore” Potsdam Declaration requiring unconditional surrender.

The remnants of Japanese battle fleet are destroyed in three days of attacks over the Japanese Inland Sea, as the Americans deploy 2,000 carrier-planes and bombers in action.

Destroyer USS Callaghan is sunk, the last Allied ship to be sunk by kamikaze.

US Senate ratifies UN Charter.

## Roll of Honour – July 28

***Representing their comrades who died on this day***

**1915**

**+ALBIN, T**

West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).1st Btn. Private. 3/8658. Died 28/07/1915. Enlisted Sunderland. Disembarked France 29/09/1914. The Portadown Express on 27 August 1915 reported he had worked in McCullough's drapery establishment in Scotch St., Armagh. Born Rockmacreany, Richhill, Co.,Armagh. His effects were left to his mother Annie. Potijze Burial Ground, north of Ypres, Belgium

**1916**

**+CUNNINGHAM, Joseph**

Royal Army Medical Corps. 134th Field Ambulance. Private. 81534. Died 28/07/1916. Age 31. Enlisted Carrickfergus. Born on the Shane's Castle Estate. By 1911 he was living on the Isle of Man boarding with the Kelly family at Great Meadow near Castletown. He was working as coachman for Colonel George Moore, a Member of the House of Keys. Son of James and Rose (nee Graham) Cunningham, of Randalstown; husband to Ella Cunningham, who later moved from the Isle of Man to 40, Duncruin St., Maryhill, Glasgow. Two of her brothers died serving with the Royal Scots. Bethune Town Cemetery, France. Antrim Town WM. Isle of Man National WM, St John's.

**+GILMORE, McClelland**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 18633. Died 28/07/1916. Age 20. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore, of Ballylane, Mowhan, Co. Armagh. Cladymore Presbyterian Churchyard

**+McGOWAN, Thomas**

Seaforth Highlanders, 5th Btn. Private. 4218. Died 28/07/1916. Age 24. Son of Moses and Jane McGowan, of 37, New North Queen St., Belfast. St Sever Cemetery Cemetery, Rouen, France

**+POLLY, William Alexander**

Seaforth Highlanders, 1st/5th Btn. Private. 4321. Died 28/07/1916. Age 22 years old. Son of Richard Polly, of Belfast. Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, France

## **+WRIGHT, Thomas**

North Irish Horse, Private. No.1582. Died 28/07/1916. At the beginning of the war he was working at the Ballyrashane Creamery Company. On 24/05/1915 he travelled to Antrim and enlisted in the North Irish Horse . Just six months later he embarked for France with F Squadron. On 22 July, while working with his squadron clearing the Somme battlefield in Mash Valley, he was severely wounded in the back during a German artillery barrage. He was evacuated to the St John's Ambulance Brigade Hospital at Étaples, but died six days later. His brother, John Small Wright, had been killed in action just four weeks earlier and just a few miles away while attacking with his battalion, the 10th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Born in 1894 or 1895 at Pullans, near Coleraine, Thomas was the fourth of ten children of agricultural labourer William John Wright and his wife Mary (nee McCready) of Damhead Cottages, Coleraine. Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

**1918**

## **+CADD00, George**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Lance-Corporal. MM. 16874. Died 28/07/1918. Age 22. He was awarded the Military Medal for the single-handed capture of a German machine-gun, which he turned on the enemy, so enabling his section to advance with safety. George was born about 1897. Prior to enlisting he had been employed by Stevenson & Son of Moygashel, the linen manufacturers. George was a member of Derrygortreavy Company, Dungannon Battalion, U.V.F. He was also a member of Derrygortreavy Parish Church and Kilnacart L.O.L. 296. Born about 1897. Son of



David and Rebecca Caddoo, of Tyghan, Greystone,  
Dungannon. Arneke British Cemetery, Arneke, Nord, France

**+LYTTLE Samuel**

RN. ERA 2nd Class. M13779. HMS Fame. Hong Kong. Died  
28/07/1918. Age 35. Enrolled 25/05/1915 for hostilities. In  
Pembroke II, St. George (Ness), Wellington and Tamar.  
Born Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone 23/12/1882. Son of James and  
Mary Lyttle. Husband to Florence Lyttle, Willingham Street,  
Grimsby. St James, Grimsby RH. Hong Kong Cemetery.  
ADM 188/1045/13779

**+MARSHALL, Robert Douglas**

Cheshire Regiment, 15th Btn. Private. 57882. Died  
28/07/1918. Age 23. Born at Tobermore. Son of the Rev.  
George and Priscilla P. Marshall, of The Manse, Cotton End,  
Bedford. Cement House Cemetery, Belgium

**1940**

**+CABREY, James**

Royal Artillery. 3 Searchlight Regiment, 10 Battery.  
Gunner. 1489733. Died on 28/07/1940, at a Military Hospital  
in Lancashire while undergoing treatment for wounds  
received in the retreat to Dunkirk. Aged 22. Son of Samuel  
and Ellen Cabrey of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery,  
Glenalina

**1943**

**+CLARKE, George McFerran**

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 102 (Ceylon) Sqdn. 128546. Died  
28/07/1943. Age 25. Flying Halifax II JB864 DY-E. The crew

were on their third mission. Four crew died and three were taken prisoner. Born Co. Antrim. Hamburg Cemetery, Germany

**1944**

**+CRANE, Thomas**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1532034. Died 28/07/1944. Age 22. 101 Sqdn. He passed training as a Spitfire pilot but was later posted to Canada for training with Bomber Command. He served as a bomb aimer and front gunner with 101 Sqdn. On the night of 28/07/1944, while on a bombing raid to Stuttgart, Germany, the Lancaster bomber in which he was flying was shot down. Son of Thomas and Maud Crane, of Cookstown, and later of Belfast.. Rebrechien Communal Cemetery, Loiret, France. Cookstown WM

**+HARBINSON Hugh Patrick**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Lance Sergeant. 2719491. Died 28/07/1944. Aged 38. Son of James W. Harbinson and Emily Harbinson of Newry. Donaghmore (St. Bartholomew) Church of Ireland Churchyard

**VETERANS**

**GUILER, Eric Rowland**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Lieutenant. BSc 1946 QUB. Born 28/07/1922. Son of James R Guiler, North Road, Belfast. Postwar. Lecturer Tasmania University

**McKEE, Robert Kerr**

RNVR. Lieutenant (SP). Born 28/07/1916. Son of Rev Phineas McKee and Ellen Morton (nee Shaw) McKee, Downshire Rd Manse, Newry. He and two brothers were

educated at Campbell College. Scholar Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1935. Science Tripos, Part 1, Class 2, 1937; Part II, Class 2, 1938. MA (Cantab). PhD (Nottingham). Head of Dept of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, 1938-40. Post war - Senior Scientific Officer (Mycologist), Agriculture Research Council. On 26/01/1967 Robert Kerr McKee delivered an inaugural address before the Queen's University of Belfast on "Plant disease control in modern agriculture". Address: 70 Ashby Road, Kegworth, Derby.

### **O'FRIEL, Arthur James**

RNVR. Surg. Lt. MB, QUB 1938. MBE. He worked in a number of hospitals in England including Harlow Wood, where he met Phyllis Margaret Cowley, a pharmacist from the Isle of Man. They married in 1940. During the second world war he served on destroyers and did Atlantic and Arctic convoy work, ending up running naval hospitals on Merseyside. The purchase of a practice in Ellesmere Port in 1945 was the beginning of 40 years' service he gave to the town. He quickly built up a large thriving group practice. An innovator, he developed early links with the commercial and industrial firms in the town, at one time providing medical services to the Vauxhall car company. In the 1950s he was doctor and chairman of the town football club. He was a founder member of the Ellesmere Port Rotary Club. Died at his home in South Wirral 28/07/2002. Predeceased by his wife, he left a son and five grandchildren.

### **PARK, Richard**

Army Service Corps (Motor Transports), Private. Born Ballynure. Son of William Park and Sarah (nee) McWilliams.

# Every Day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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