



remembrance ni



## **Submariner Magennis wins NI's only Victoria Cross in WW2**

**Leading Seaman James Magennis and Lieutenant Ian Fraser outside Buckingham Palace having been invested with the Victoria Cross by King George VI at Buckingham Palace on the 11th December 1945**

James Joseph Magennis was born on 27 October 1919 at 4 Majorca Street, Belfast. He attended St Finian's School, Falls Road, Belfast until 1935, when he enlisted in the Royal Navy. He served on several warships before being posted to HMS Kandahar in October 1939. In May 1940 he saw action in the North Sea and later served in the Mediterranean. In December 1941, when his ship was sunk by a mine off Tripoli, he had to swim to safety.

In December 1942 Magennis entered the Submarine Service and volunteered for special service in X-class 'midget' submarines, training as a diver. In September 1943 he took part in the first major use of the X-craft when two submarines penetrated Kaafjord, north Norway, and disabled the German battleship Tirpitz. For his part Magennis was mentioned in dispatches. In 1944 Magennis was promoted to leading seaman and trained on a new class of XE submarines designed for use in tropical waters. Early in 1945 his unit was sent out to Australia. In July 1945 they attacked two Japanese cruisers, Myoko and Takao, moored in the Johore Strait. Magennis's submarine, XE3, was given the Takao as target.

For their part in the operation Magennis and the commander of the submarine, Lieutenant Ian Fraser, were each awarded the Victoria Cross.

### **The formal citation reads -**

"The King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross for valour to Temporary Acting Leading Seaman James Joseph Magennis, D/KX144907. Leading Seaman Magennis served as diver in His Majesty's Midget Submarine XE3 for her attack on 31 July 1945 on a

Japanese cruiser of the Atago class. Because XE3 was tightly jammed under the target the diver's hatch could not be fully opened, and Magennis had to squeeze himself through the narrow space available. He experienced great difficulty in placing the limpets on the bottom of the cruiser owing both to the foul state of the cruisers bottom and to the prominent slope upon which the limpets would not hold. Before a limpet could be placed therefore Magennis had thoroughly to scrape the area clean of barnacles, and in



**Leading Seaman James Magennis VC being presented with a cheque for £3,600 in 1946 by the Rt Hon Sir Crawford McCullagh Bt, Rt Hon Lord Mayor of Belfast.**

order to secure the limpets he had to tie them in pairs by a line passing under the cruisers keel. This was very tiring work for a diver, and he was moreover handicapped by a steady leakage of oxygen which was ascending in bubbles to the surface. A lesser man would have been content to place a few limpets and then to return to the craft.

Magennis, however, persisted until he had placed his full outfit before returning to the craft in an exhausted condition. Shortly after withdrawing Lt. Fraser endeavoured to jettison his limpet carriers, but one of these would not release itself and fall clear of the craft. Despite his exhaustion, his oxygen leak and the fact that there was every probability of his being sighted, Magennis at once volunteered to leave the craft and free the carrier rather than allow a less experienced diver to undertake the job. After seven minutes of nerve racking work he succeeded in releasing the mine carrier. Magennis displayed very great courage and devotion to duty and complete disregard for his own safety."

Magennis's award led to a period of great celebrity just after the war. He was given a civic reception in December 1945 and the £3000 proceeds of a public subscription. However, the Belfast city fathers refused to grant him the freedom of the city.

In 1946 Magennis married Edna Skidmore. He left the navy in 1949 and returned to Belfast, where he found it hard to make a living and in 1952 sold his medal for £100.

Magennis left Belfast after his son David, six, was killed by a trolley bus, settling in his wife Edna's home town, Bradford, west Yorkshire in 1955. He died of cancer on February 12, 1986, aged 66.

James Magennis is commemorated by a memorial in his adopted home of Bradford. In October 1999, following a lengthy local campaign, a 6 foot-high Portland stone and bronze memorial to him was unveiled in the grounds of Belfast city hall. There is also a mural to him in Tullycarnet Estate in East Belfast.

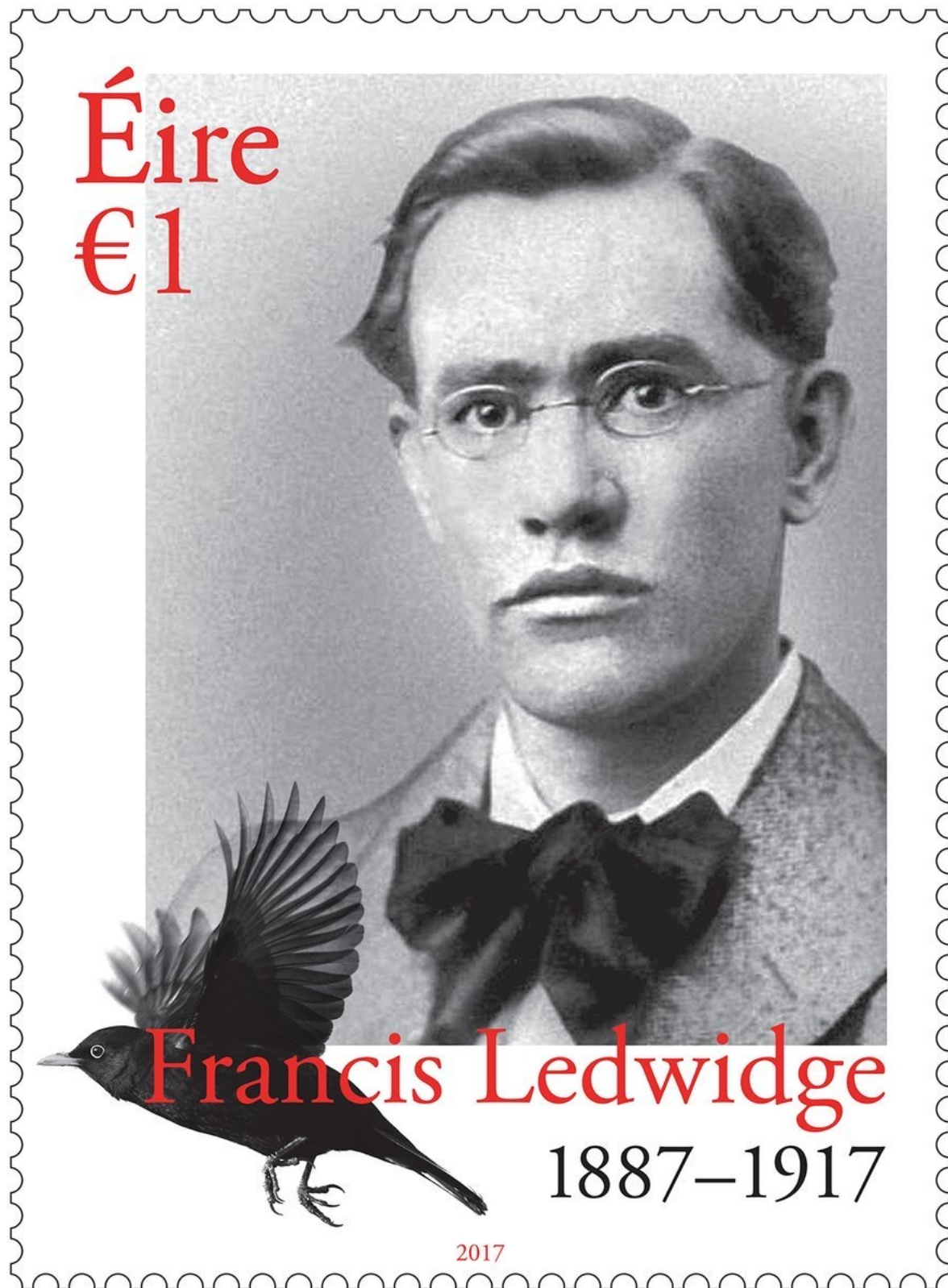
The VC awarded to James Magennis was the first purchased by Lord Ashcroft for the collection which he has donated to the Imperial War Museum. There is a portrait of James Magennis commissioned by the Northern Ireland War Memorial museum and displayed there.

## Death of a poet

**On 31 July 1917 - poet Francis Ledwidge was killed in the Third Battle of Ypres. Born in Slane, Co. Meath, he has links with Londonderry where he was stationed.**

He wrote, "I joined the British Army because she stood between Ireland and an enemy common to our civilisation, and I would not have her say that she defended us while we did nothing..."

Ledwidge was a keen Irish patriot and nationalist. His efforts to found a branch of the Gaelic League in Slane were thwarted by members of the local council. The area organiser encouraged him to continue his struggle, but Francis gave up. He did manage to act as a founding member with his brother Joseph of the Slane Branch of the Irish Volunteers (1914), a paramilitary force created in response to the founding of the Ulster Volunteers, who had sworn to resist Home Rule for Ireland even if it meant civil



war. The Irish Volunteers were set up to fight the Unionists if necessary and to ensure that Home Rule would come to pass.

On the outbreak of WW1 in August 1914, and on account of Ireland's involvement in the war, the Irish Volunteers split into two factions, the National Volunteers who supported John Redmond's appeal to join Irish Regiments in support of the Allied cause and those who did not. Francis was originally of the latter party. Nevertheless, having defended this position strongly at a local council meeting, he enlisted (24 October 1914) in Lord Dunsany's regiment, joining 5th battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, part of the 10th (Irish) Division. He served in the Sulva Bay landings in Gallipoli before serving in France.

## A Poet's Grave

by Francis Ledwidge

When I leave down this pipe my friend And sleep with  
flowers I loved, apart, My songs shall rise in wilding things  
Whose roots are in my heart.

And here where that sweet poet sleeps I hear the songs he  
left unsung,  
When winds are fluttering the flowers And summer-bells are  
rung.

## Dundrum aircrew honoured in Reichswald Forest

**Sergeant John Herbert O'Farrell, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, was from Dundrum, County Down.**

He was serving with 75 (New Zealand) Squadron, Royal Air Force and on the night of 30/31 July 1943 he was aboard Short Stirling Mk III BF458, JN-A.

The target was Remscheid which is Northeast of Cologne in Germany and it was intended that thirteen aircraft would drop Incendiary Bombs however the number was reduced to 12 when one aircraft returned to base with an unserviceable rear turret.

The raid was a success with a large concentrated fires and some explosions being seen in the Target Area.

Anti-Aircraft Fire and Searchlight belts were encountered as well as an attack by an enemy aircraft. With good weather it was hoped that all aircraft would return to base safely. Unfortunately this was not to be the case.

Two Stirling Aircraft were reported missing - One of these being BF458 which was subsequently found to have been shot down Southwest of Duisburg to the North of Krefeld.

The Navigator, Sergeant Hector Alisdair 'Paddy' Stewart and Wireless Operator Sergeant R.H. Boxell both survived the crash and became Prisoners of War.

Pilot Sergeant Alfred John Thomas, Flight Engineer, Sergeant John William Gale and Mid-Upper Gunner John Hubert O'Farrell were buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

Pilot, Sergeant Alfred John Thomas, Air Bomber Flight Sergeant Frederick William Raukawa Cumpsty and Rear Gunner Sergeant Ernest Frank Henry are all commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

**Alfred Taylor, an Irish international rugby player, who was killed on the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres is named on Comber and District War Memorial, Co. Down. See photo next page and Roll of Honour.**



**Comber and District War Memorial**

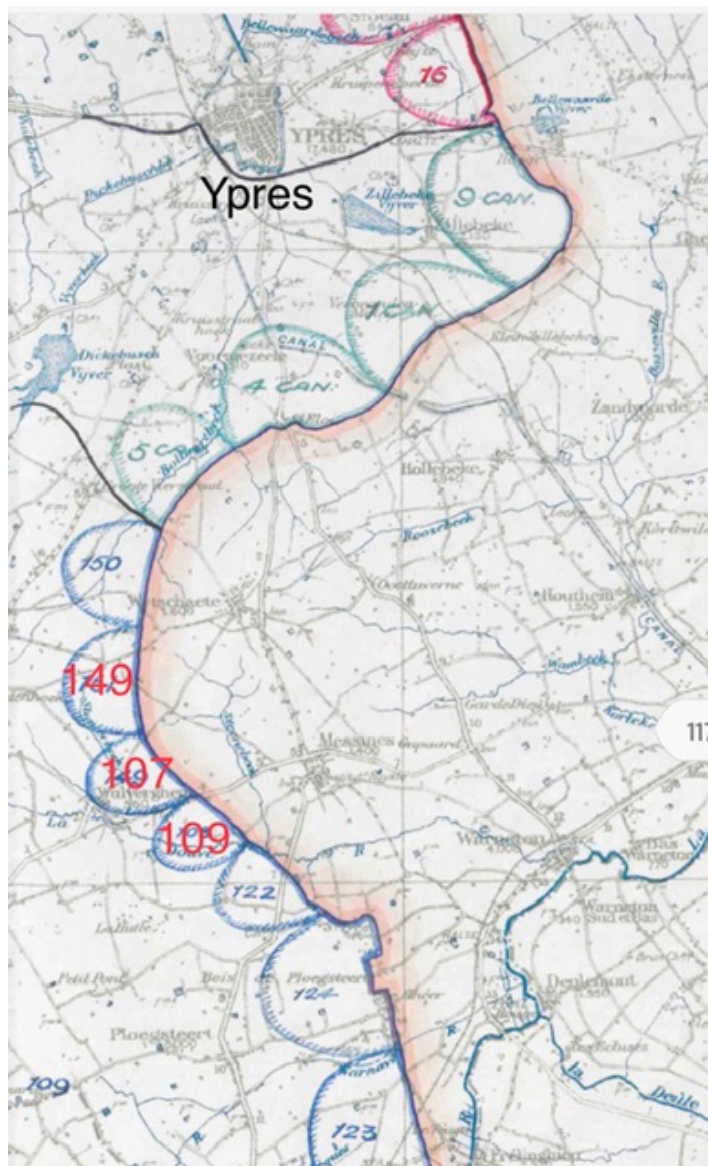
# On this Day – July 31

**1914**

- Belgian Government order Mobilisation
- Russian Government order General Mobilisation
- Austro-Hungarian Government order General Mobilisation

- German Government send ultimatum to Russia (presented at midnight, 31st-1st)
- State of "Kriegsgefahr" proclaimed in Germany
- Turkish Government order Mobilisation (to commence August 3rd).
- London Stock Exchange closed

## 1916



36th (Ulster) Division - The 107th Brigade relieves the 108th Brigade in the front line trenches facing Messines. Map shows the new position of the Brigades



At 1430 hours 2nd Lt Hugh Henderson, 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers, aged 26 is killed. He is the first soldier from the Division killed in Action since the Battle of the Somme. His remains were buried in Ration Farm (La Plus Douve)

### 31st July 1916 Northern Whig

**One of many acts of bravery on the 1st July 1916 was recorded in the Northern Whig.**

"Private W Brown, Royal Irish Rifles, Ulster Division killed belonging to Culnafay, Newferry, Toomebridge. Deceased lost his life in rescuing a wounded man. Hearing a cry he climbed on the parapet and gallantly went out. He succeeded in carrying his wounded comrade to the trench and was just getting in himself when he fell a victim to a German sniper. Death was instantaneous."

William Brown was serving with the 16th (Pioneer) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles and is buried with honour in Hamel Cemetery, Somme. William Brown is commemorated in Grange Church of Ireland, Toomebridge.

## 1917

The Third Battle of Ypres begins with the British and French attacking on a 15 mile front, initially taking 12 villages and 5,000 German prisoners.

### 31st July 1917 Belfast Newsletter

#### A Patriotic Village

The Military Medal for bravery in the field has been awarded to **Private David John Forsythe**, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, (Ulster Division) who prior to the war was employed in the Braidwater Spinning Company, Braidwater, Ballymoney. The medal was awarded for an act of gallantry the 8th July inst. for which he was congratulated by the Colonel of his regiment. He was formerly a member of the local battalion of the Ulster Volunteer Force, and was the first married man from Balnamore to join the Ulster Division. It may be mentioned that Balnamore, a village about two mile from Ballymoney, has a record of loyalty to be proud of. Out of a population of 330, every eligible single man is serving in either the Navy or the Army. At present there are 60 men serving with the colours. Almost all the inhabitants are employed by the Braidwater Spinning Company. Another of its employees, **Sergeant George Mulholland**, brother of Mr. William Mulholland, manager of the mill, has also been awarded the Military Medal

## 1916

**Northern Whig on the 31st July 1916.**

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## 1941

German forces crushed a huge pocket at Smolensk, capturing about 300,000 Soviet soldiers. Nonetheless, precious time was lost for the advance to Moscow.



A Japanese sub sinks the cruiser USS Indianapolis. Of the 900 crewmen who abandon ship, 600 will die of thirst, hunger and shark attacks over the next three days



# Roll of Honour – July 31

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+GILLEN James**

1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 6480. Died 31/07/1915. Aged 33. Formerly instructor to Dunloy Irish National Volunteers. His next of kin was his aunt, Mary Killen, Glenbuck, Dunloy. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli.

**+McANANNEY, Mark**

Royal Garrison Artillery. 12th Siege Bty. Gunner. 14212. Died 31/07/1915. Age 33. Husband to Teresa McAnanney, of 31, Sloane's Terrace, Londonderry. Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium. Londonderry WM

**+SMITH, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4766. Died 31/07/1915. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Sarah Andrews, of 21, Coolbeg St., Donegall Rd., Belfast. Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire

**+WARD, Stephen Henry**

RN. Petty Officer. 199275. HMS London. Died 31/08/1915. Age 36. Born Belfast. Husband to Caroline E. Ward, Old Lodge Rd., Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery. Belfast, Townsend Street - PCI RH

**1916****+DUNWOODY, Hugh Henderson**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 10th Btn. attd. 9th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 31/08/1916. Age 26. First member of 36th (Ulster) Division to be killed since the battle of Albert (Somme). He received his commission in the reserve of the Ulster Division, and had only been a short time at the front. Youngest son of Robert and Eliza Ann Dunwoody (nee Todd), of 92, Holywood Rd., Strandtown, Belfast. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe. Belgium. Strandtown WM, Belmont Presbyterian Church WM, Larne Grammar School RH

**+ FORBES, Archibald**

2nd Bn. King's Own Scottish Borderers. Private. 23293. Died 31/07/1916. Aged 40. Born John Street, Ballymoney. Son of James and Elizabeth Forbes. Lived, Greenock, Renfrewshire. Thiepval Memorial, Pier 4a and 4d. Ballymoney WM

**+GREENAN, Thomas Joseph**

Australian Field Artillery, 22nd Bde. Gunner.6950. Died 31/08/1916. Age 25. Son of Peter and Ellen Greenan, of 12, Loretto Terrace, Springfield Rd., Belfast. Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, Picardie, France. Australian War Memorial

**+HYNDMAN, W**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, Depot. Private.12849. Died 31/08/1916. Age 25. Son of William and Sarah Hyndman, of 143, Crimea St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

**+JACKSON, Balfour**

Royal Fusiliers. 24th Btn. Private. SPTS/2102. Died 31/07/1916. Age 24 .Son of William and Jane Jackson, of 28, South Parade, Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France. Knock RFC Memorial Pavilion

**+KILPATRICK, William**

Royal Field Artillery,76th Bty. Driver. 53433. Died 31/08/1916. Age 27. Enlisted Newcastle on Tyne. Son of William and Jane Kilpatrick, of Tullynahinion, Portglenone. Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. First Portglenone Presbyterian Church RH

**+LYLE, William**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Garrison Btn. Sergeant. G/49. Died 31/08/1916. Husband to Mary Jane Lyle, of 1, Brachan St., Belfast. Ahmednagar Government Cemetery, India

**+ROGAN, Herbert John**

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 6th Btn. Private. 2609. Died 31/07/1916. Age 23. Member of a Lewis Gun section. He had just completed an apprenticeship in the linen business with Bedford Street Weaving Company when the war started. Son of John, a former RIC Sergeant, and Catherine Rogan, of 4, Victoria Terrace, Cregagh, Belfast; husband to Catherine Rogan (nee McCord), of Willow House, Trummery, Co. Down. Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France.

**1917****+BARKER, George**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 6722. Died 31/07/1917. Age 23. Son of Maria Barker, of 8, Roundhill St., Mount Pottinger, Belfast, and the late George Barker. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+BARNETT, Henry**

Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment), 1st Btn. Private. 55926. Died 31/07/1917. Age 27. Son of Honora

Barnett, of Drogheda St., Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+BROWNE, Albert Victor**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7439. Died 31/07/1917. Age 20. Son of Alice Jane Browne, of 70, Argyle St., Belfast, and the late James Browne. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+CAMPBELL, Colin**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 1076. Died 31/07/1917. Age 23. Son of John and Isobel Campbell, of 63, Surrey St., Lisburn Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+CARSON, Thomas Long**

Royal Flying Corps and General List. Second Lieutenant. Died 31/07/1917. Aged 22. 4th Sqdn. Born America. Son of Daniel Long Carson, of Colorado Cottage, Bellisle, Dervock, Co. Antrim. Arras Flying Services Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Carnaff Reformed Presbyterian Church. Ballymoney WM

**+FAUSSET, Stuart Simon**

The King's (Liverpool Regiment), 9th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 31/07/1917. Age 26. An Architect. Joined 1914, from Queen's University O.T.C., Belfast. Son of Charles Simon Fausset and Isabella Fausset, of 16, Chichester Avenue, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. QUB WM

**+FURNISS, James**

Royal Irish Rifles.4th.Btn attached to1st Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 31/07/1917. Age 29. Educated at Skerry's College, 143 Royal Avenue, Belfast. The school is described as one that prepares candidates for the Civil Service. On 10/04/1905, he joined the Northern Bank, firstly going to Head Office, Victoria Street, Belfast, and later to Dublin.

Whilst working in Dublin, James joined the Clontarf Cricket and Football Club. There is a newspaper report of James taking part in a cricket match in 1913. This appears to have been the only match he played in that year. There were to be no further matches in the period 1914 to 1919. During the war the club was closed, as most members had gone to war and the land was cultivated as part of the national food security, the war-time food economy.

On 'Ulster Day', Saturday, 28/09/1912, George, Herbert and John Furniss signed the Ulster Covenant at Straid and Ballyboley (Herbert). Ellen signed the Women's Ulster Declaration at Ballyclare. In 1916 James volunteered for military service. Although working in Grafton Street, Dublin, James travelled to London to enlist into the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps (OTC).

He enlisted for war service on 09/02/1916 into the Inns of Court OTC at Stone's Building, London. He was accepted for service at the Inns of Court Officer OTC as a private with Service Number 9404. Private James Furniss, Inns of Court OTC was ordered to appear for service on 03/09/1916 at No. 7 Officer Cadet Battalion in Moore Park, Fermoy. He trained there until 28/02/1917 when he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and posted to the Royal Irish Rifles. A document

from the Ministry of War (War Office) dated 02/04/1917 appointed James Furniss to 2nd Lieutenant in the Special Reserve of Officers (4th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles). It is signed by Colonel M D Graham, Assistant Military Secretary, with a copy to be sent to the responsible officer at the 4th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles, Sunny Lands, Carrickfergus. As is usual with officer's promotions, the appointment was also announced in the London Gazette.

Furniss served in this regiment until the spring of 1917 when he was posted to the 1st Bn. Royal Irish Rifles, which then belonged to the 8th Division.

Born in Cheshire on 13/11/1888 to John E Furniss, Mine Manager, and Ellen Furniss. In 1901, James was living in house 6, Staid, Ballynure, Co. Antrim with his parents and 3 siblings; John (10), George (8) and Herbert (4).

His brother, George married Miss Elizabeth Mary Chapman in 1923. She was the daughter of William Chapman from the Magheralave area in Lisburn. George ministered at Christ Church, Derriaghy; St. Paul's, Belfast; Drumgooland and St. Patrick's, Newry before retiring in 1936. He died the following year, 1937. Herbert also worked for the Belfast Banking Company. The other brother, Captain John Edward Furniss MC served with the 12th Btn. and the 4th Btn. Royal Irish Rifles. He was a recipient of the Military Cross and survived the war although badly wounded. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Clontarf Cricket and Football Clubs RH - During the Great War, 129 members of the club served with 24 paying the supreme sacrifice.

**+GRAHAM, Robert Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 13551. Died 31/07/1917. Aged 20. Son of Richard and Mary Graham, of 11, Lisburn Avenue, Lisburn Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**+GREENWOOD, William**

Highland Light Infantry. 12th Btn. Private. 19426. Died 31/07/1917. Aged 27. Born Ballymena. Son of John and Isabella Greenwood, of Cullybackey. Enlisted Coatbridge, lived Airdrie. Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium . Cullybackey UF Church.

**+GREER Eric Beresford**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Lieutenant Colonel. MiD, MC. Died 31/07/1917. Age 25. Lieutenant Colonel Eric Beresford Greer was commanding the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards when he was killed in action. Eric Beresford Greer was the son of Sir Joseph Henry Greer and Olivia Mary Beresford. He was born in April 1892 at the Curragh in County Kildare. Eric and his brother Francis were raised by their grandmother, Agnes Isabella Greer, in Moy, County Tyrone. He went to Eton and then Sandhurst. He joined the Irish Guards in 1911. He was a fine athlete. Eric was mentioned three times in despatches. He won the Military Cross. He rose from lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. In 1917, his brother was killed. Eric was married within days. His wife died in 1918 at the age of 22, leaving behind an orphaned baby daughter. Canada Farm Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), West-Vlaanderen

**+HAMILTON, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 16/5. Died 31/07/1917. Son of John Hamilton, resided Dollingstown, Lurgan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.(Belfast Newsletter 08/08/1917)

**+HAYS, Archibald**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 8204. Died 31/07/1917. Age 19. Son of Archie and Mary Hays of 80 Beechmont Parade, Belfast. Artillery Wood Cemetery, Belgium

**+HULL, J**

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. No. 3 Coy. Rifleman. 541. Died 31/07/1917. Age 21. Son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hull, of 49, Harfield St., Belfast. Divisional Cemetery, Belgium

**+LINDEN, Samuel McCullagh**

Royal Garrison Artillery, 90th Heavy Artillery. Died 31/07/1917 at Vlamertinghe on the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres. The war diary of the 90th Brigade for that day states: Attack by 5th Army on the Salient front. Commenced 3.50 am. Group fired 1564 rounds. 2 (?) (Capt Strain of 214S. & Lt Linden group (?) officer) killed: also 2 telephonists & 3 wounded. He was mentioned in Field Marshal Haig's despatch of 7 November 1917. (Captain Strain was also mentioned.)

Linden studied theology at Trinity College, Dublin, and from 1910 to 1913 served in the university's Officer Training Corps. On 14/04/1915 he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the 10th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment. However he had to declined it owing to the ill-

health of his parents. In November 1915 he was awarded a testimonial on vellum by the Royal Humane Society for having, "on 19th July last rescued two girls from 12 feet of water at Castlerock, County Derry." (*Belfast News-Letter* 25 September 1915)

Linden enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Dublin on 25/02/1916 (No.2123), joining the regiment at Antrim on 4 March, where he was posted to H Squadron. On 24/04/1916 he married Florence Elizabeth Neill at Templemore, Londonderry. Their son Robert Desmond was born on 28/01/1917.

Linden applied for a commission in the artillery or infantry on 01/08/1916. He was posted as a cadet gunner to B Reserve Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery at St John's Wood, London, on 9 November, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 20 January the following year. On 28/04/1917 he embarked for France as part of 323 Siege Battery. The following month he was posted to the 90th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery (90th Heavy Artillery Group), which had arrived in France at the beginning of April and was on the Ypres front.

Samuel McCullagh Linden was born on 30/09/1891 at Hackballs Cross, County Louth, the only child of RIC constable Robert Linden and his wife Elizabeth (nee Baird). Husband to Florence Elizabeth Neill. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Magee College WM, Londonderry. There is also a memorial to his mother and him in Clonallan Church of Ireland Churchyard, County Down.

**+LOVE, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 5213. Died 31/07/1917. Born in Armagh. Later lived in Newry. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+MAGILL, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 9131. Died 31/07/1917. Age 19. Son of Robert John and Margaret Magill, of 38, Hill St., Lurgan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+McCABE, Daniel James Bernard**

The King's (Liverpool Regiment). 8th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 31/07/1917. Nephew of A E Fraser, Buncrana. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Londonderry Diamond WM

### **+McGUGAN, Patrick**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 9272. Died 31/07/1917. Age 20. (Served as McFadden, James), Son of Mrs. Mary McEvoy (formerly McGugan, nee Small), of Ballyran, Silent Valley, Co. Down, and the late James McGugan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+McKEE, Walter**

Seaforth Highlanders, 5th Btn. Private. 241071. Died 31/07/1917. Age 19. Son of Samuel and Mary McKee, of 153, Avoniel Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+McREYNOLDS, Patrick**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7865. Died 31/07/1917. Age 21. Son of John Mc Reynolds, of Killylane, Glenwherry,

Co. Antrim, and the late Jane McReynolds. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+O'SULLIVAN, James Eugene**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 118th Coy. Private. 62946. Died 31/07/1917. Age 34. B.A. (Queen's College, Belfast). Son of Mrs. Kate O'sullivan, of Waterford, and the late P. J. O'Sullivan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+POLLIN, Robert Kelly**

Royal Irish Rifles, 4th Btn. attd. 1st Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 31/07/1917. Age 20. Articled to a solicitor. Son of James Moore Pollin and Martha Pollin (nee Corbitt), of "Westhoek," Taunton Avenue, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+RICHARDSON, Thomas John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 17067. Died of wounds 31/07/1917. Age 23. Thomas enlisted in Glasgow. He was the youngest son of James and Mariah Richardson. He was born 24/06/1894. He was one of three children. They were a farming family that lived in Ballynagarve, Ballyronan. Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France. Castledawson WM. Woodschapel Parish Church  
RH

### **+ROSS, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 10418. Died 31/07/1917. Age 26. Enlisted Sept., 1914, in the 16th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps. Son of Samuel and Mary Ross, of

14, Bazaar St., Portrush. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+RUSSELL, John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. Corporal. 13322. Died 31/07/1917. Age 28. Born on 16/12/1888 in Greenwell Street, Newtownards. A son of John and Jane (Jinnie) Russell (nee Miller, sometimes Millar) who were married on 17/04/1876 in Newtownards C of I Parish Church (St Mark's). John Russell (Senior) worked as a woollen weaver and he and Jane had at least ten children. Alexander (born 06/06/1896 in Queen Street, Newtownards) was the first of the two Russell brothers to be killed in action. Prior to the outbreak of the Great War John Russell worked as a painter. He and Jane Quinn were married on 10/05/1915 in First Newtownards Presbyterian Church. Jane Quinn, a servant from Killearn, was a daughter of Robert Quinn, a labourer.

John Russell enlisted in Newtownards, joined the Royal Irish Rifles 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn and was then transferred to either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Corporal John Russell went to France on 17/06/1915 and was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division. He was killed by enemy artillery fire on 31/07/1917 while at his post in a trench taken that day from the Germans. On 03/08/1917 Corporal John Russell was buried on the battlefield. John (Junior) was husband to Jane Russell. Jane and their daughter Mary lived in the townland of Killearn, Newtownards. Jane Russell placed a *For King and Country* notice in the 25/08/1917 edition of the *Newtownards Chronicle* – just two weeks after she had placed a similar notice for her brother Rifleman Tommy Quinn (13411). Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial,

Belgium. John and his brother Rifleman Alexander Russell are commemorated at Newtownards WM and St Mark's Parish Church, Newtownards WM

### **+SILKSTONE, John William**

North Staffordshire Regiment. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 40133. Died 31/07/1917. John Silkstone served for a time with the Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment, No.76568 before serving with the North Staffordshire. John was the son of Joseph and Mary Silkstone. He was born in Nottingham about 1884. He was one of at least four children, all of whom were born in Derbyshire, England. They were a family of cotton weavers who moved to Sherrygroom, Stewartstown. John was a manufacturer's clerk. He married in 1913 and moved back to Derbyshire. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Cookstown War Dead Book

### **+SMYTH, Joseph**

Leinster Regiment, 2nd Btn. Private.1773. Died 31/07/1917. Age 33. Husband of Maggie Smyth, of 26, Benares St., Belfast. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

### **+TAYLOR, Alfred Squire**

Royal Army Medical Corps. Attached 10th/11th Bn. Highland Light Infantry. Captain. Died 31/07/1917. Age 29. Campbell College. QUB Faculty of Medicine 1906-1909. QUB Rugby Blue 1907 - 08. 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 rugby 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. Served in Mesopotamia from 1915 and in France from 1916. Killed in action at Ypres. Son of the Rev. David A. Taylor, D.D., of "Eastbourne," Windsor Avenue North, Belfast. Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. QUB WM, Comber WM

### **+TURLEY, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 3932. Died 31/07/1917. Age 34. Husband of Annie Turley, of 107, Cyprus St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+WALSH, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9141. Died 31/07/1917. Husband of Georgina Walsh, of 6, Gilbert St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+WARD, T**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 10683. Died 31/07/1917. Age 19. Son of Samuel and Annie Ward, of 2, Cameron Court, Anderston, Glasgow. Born at Belfast. Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium

### **+WEIR, J**

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Btn. Corporal. 234. Died 31/07/1917. Age 23. Son of William Weir, of Gargory, Ballyward, Banbridge. Divisional Cemetery, Belgium

### **+WHITTLE, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7521. Died 31/07/1917. Age 29. An employee of the Lambeg Damask Linen Co. Enlisted at the outbreak of war. Son of Richard Whittle, of Lambeg; husband to Elizabeth Whittle, of Kilmachugh, Mohan, Markethill. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Kilcluney C of I

## **1918**

### **+HAYES, Alexander**

Royal Irish Regiment. 2nd (Garrison) Btn. Private. 714. Died 31/07/1918. Enlisted Finner Camp, Co. Donegal. Two of his brothers, John and William, were also killed in the war. Born at Kilmore, Co. Armagh. Believed to be the same Alexander Hayes who in 1911 was living with his parents Thomas and Mary and family at Sarah St., Portadown. Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France

### **+LUCAS, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Corporal. 9/290. Died 31/07/1918. Robert Lucas was born in Killyman. He enlisted in Belfast. Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre, Hazebrouck, Nord, France

**1919****+PROCTOR, John William**

Royal Garrison Artillery, 164th Siege Bty. Gunner. 169823. Died 31/07/1919. Age 30. Husband to Lily Proctor, of "Rea Anna," Marlborough Park, Belfast. Drumbo Presbyterian Churchyard

**1940****+MORGAN, Samuel**

RAF. Sergeant. 539583. Died 31/07/1940. Age 21. 233 Sqdn. Three years' service. Samuel was an Air Gunner on Lockheed Hudson N7224 when the Mark I Bomber failed to return from a sortie over Norway. Their mission took them to the harbour of Kristiansand, Norway. In 'The Other Few: The Contribution Made by Bomber and Coastal Aircrew to the Battle of Britain' by Larry Donnelly, the author states, "It is believed that it fell victim to either Unteroffizier Otto Niemayer of 4./JG77 or Oberfeldwebel Georg Bergmann of 9./JG77, both flying Bf109s and claiming "Blenheims". Son of Thomas Morgan and Rebecca Morgan of 30 Milfort Avenue, Dunmurry. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Lisburn WM

**+THOMPSON, Joseph Beckett**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 566058. Died 31/07/1940. Aged 24. 25 Sqdn. He attended Lisburn Junior Technical High School before joining the RAF as an Aircraft Apprentice in September 1932. By August 1935, he passed out as a qualified fitter. In the following years, he undertook pilot training and gained his wings. At the outbreak of war in

September 1939, Thompson served with RAF 25 Squadron at Northolt. He was one of “The Few” who perished during the Battle of Britain. He was the pilot of Bristol Blenheim Bomber L1408 and had taken off to test the Airborne Interception radar system. During the mission, his plane collided with Blenheim L6722 of RAF 29 Squadron over the Bristol Channel. Aircraftman EJ Toy and Mr DM Gordon, a civilian radar engineer from No 32 Maintenance Unit died on board Thompson’s craft. The occupants of the other plane; Sergeant E Waite, Sergeant CJ Richardson and Leading Aircraftman T Ward of No 32 Maintenance Unit were also lost. Born in Magheragall, Co. Antrim, he was the son of Thomas Thompson and Sarah Thompson. Magheragall Church of Ireland Churchyard, Co. Antrim. Lisburn WM. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, Magheragall Parish Church WM

## 1943

### **+O’FARRELL, John Hubert**

RAF. Sergeant Air Gunner.1796043. Died 31/07/1943. 75 Sqdn. On 30/07/1943 he was in Stirling Mk III BF458 JN-P taking off from RAF Mepal to join 273 aircraft on a raid to Remscheid in the Southern Rhur area of Germany. Sergeant O’Farrell was Mid-Upper Gunner when the aircraft was brought down North of Krefeld near Bockum with the loss of 5 of the 7 Crew. Son of John and Margaret O'Farrell, of Dundrum. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

## 1944

### **+WHELAN, James**

RAF. Corporal. 527885. Died 31/07/1944. Age 36. Son of Charlotte Whelan, of Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Column 281. Egypt

## **VETERAN**

**DICKSON, Thomas Alexander** - Died on 31/07/2019 at his residence, Milltown House, Dungannon. He was 97 years old and had been Captain of the 9th Duke of Wellington's Regiment and 146 Regiment Royal Armoured Corps. Husband of the late Rosemary and father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His funeral was on 6th August at Dungannon Presbyterian Church.

**RITCHIE, Desmond Thomas Crozier**

RNVR. Surg. Lt. Cdr. MB, QUB 1939. Born 16/09/1912 in Fintona, Co. Tyrone. Son of Rev James Ritchie and Mrs Edith (Edie) Ann Georgina Ritchie. Died 31/07/1983

**Every day is a  
Remembrance Day**

***We will remember them***

# remembrance ni

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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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