



remembrance ni

SAS men from Northern Ireland executed by the Gestapo

While the battle for Normandy was underway the 1st and 2nd SAS Regiments were operating behind German lines in France, carrying out acts of sabotage, disrupting communications and transport.

As part of "Operation Gain", on July 4th a group of 12 men led by Capt Pat Garstin MC left RAF Keevil in Wiltshire aboard a Stirling bomber to fly to France.

The Unit had been divided into two groups with all of the Northern Ireland soldiers being with Captain Garstin and Lance Corporal Vaculik who was Free French.

On the previous night of 3rd /



William Pearson Young from Randalstown was one of the five men from Northern Ireland executed. They parachuted behind enemy lines after the Normandy invasion



4th July a coded BBC radio message had been received by the French Resistance Fighters telling them of a parachute drop however on that occasion the flight was cancelled with insufficient time to inform the French.

The following night the Resistance again went to the same location having received another coded message via BBC Radio however on this occasion the first two Frenchmen to arrive were fired on and killed by Germans and all of the others, except one, returned home not knowing that the Germans knew the recognition letter for the drop which was "B for Bertie"

The Drop Zone was in the Fontainebleau area behind enemy lines near La Ferte-Alais to the south of Paris. At 01.53 the S.A.S. parachuted from the aircraft with most landing on the Drop Zone,

which was a field of wheat, whilst the final five to jump had landed in a Wood. At the edge of the D.Z. was a group of men wearing civilian clothes who greeted Captain Garstin with the words “Vive la France”, immediately after which the soldiers came under fire from automatic weapons.

There was a brief exchange of fire however it soon became obvious that the S.A.S. were surrounded and subsequently Vaculik was captured at 06.00 and Corporal Jones an hour later.

They soon learned that Captain Garstin, Lieutenant Wiehe, Trooper Thomas James “Tot” Barker (Previously of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and from Cookstown) and Lance Corporal Howard Lutton (Who had been Army Air Corps and from County Armagh) had also been captured after being wounded.

The nine were taken to Gestapo HQ in Paris. Here Lutton and Weihe were taken to hospital where Lutton died of his wounds. Weihe was operated on for spinal injuries three weeks later. Garstin and Barker had their wounds bandaged.

The other men were initially taken to a converted hotel near Champs de Mars in central Paris and then a Gestapo headquarters where they were kept and interrogated for three days before being returned to the converted hotel. A day or two later Garstin and Barker were reunited with the other soldiers however Garstin was very weak.

On August 8th the 7 remaining captives were given civilian clothes and were told they were to be taken to Switzerland the following morning to be exchanged for German prisoners of the British.

At 01.00 the following morning



Thomas Barker from Cookstown, one of the group executed. He is named on Cookstown War Memorial



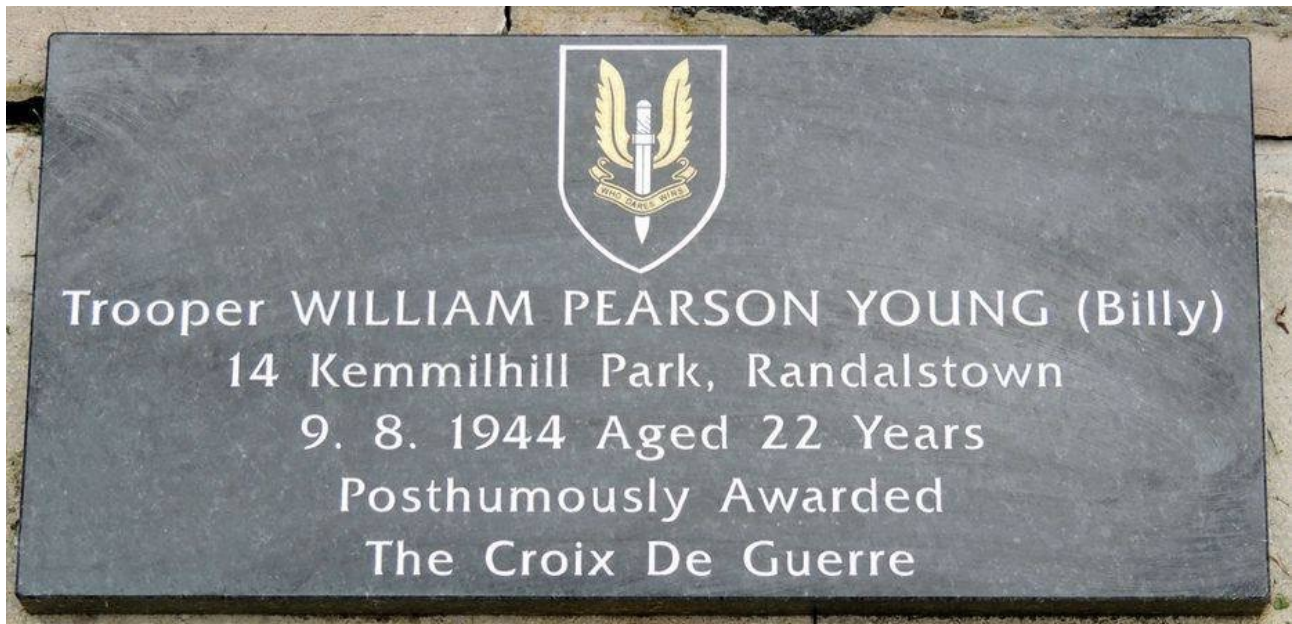
From left to right are the headstones of Patrick Garstin, Thomas Barker, Thomas Varey, Joseph Walker and William Young.

(9th August) they were put on a truck and driven out of Paris, not to the Swiss border but to a wooded area near Beauvais, north of the city.

At Beauvais the prisoners got off the truck and were marched into the forest, where they were lined up. Corporal Vaculik asked if they were to be shot and received a reply to that effect. He was informed that they were to be executed under the Commando *Befehl* issued by Hitler.

Facing the men were a number of Gestapo. Two Officers who were armed with Sten guns at the ready whilst another read out the Sentence. A Sergeant of the Gestapo who translated and a Gestapo Agent in civilian clothes were also present.

The Sentence was as follows :- “For having wished to work in collaboration with the French Terrorists and thus to endanger the



Memorial plaque in Randalstown

German Army, you are condemned to the Penalty of Death and will be Shot”

On hearing the word “Shot”, Garstin shouted to everyone to make a dash for it as the Germans opened fire. all of the men tried to escape into the woods.

Corporal Vaculik managed to get away while Corporal Jones tripped and fell. The Gestapo men ran past him thinking he was dead and when he got up again he saw four bodies lying where they had been shot but could not identify them before he tried to escape.

Two men escaped and the remaining five died. A grave had been dug in a wooded area about two miles from where the shooting had taken place and near a large chateau that is approximately one mile to the east of Noailles. They were buried there three days later by the Germans.

A Resistance fighter said that the Germans had a two day curfew in place following the shooting and were searching for the bodies of Jones and Vacluik.

This Incident was investigated by Captain Sadler and Major Poat of the S.A.S. who visited Noailles around 20th September and on

speaking with the local Resistance Leader he showed them where he believed the murders had taken place and also where the bodies of the S.A.S. soldiers were buried.

A grave had been dug in a wooded area about two miles from where the shooting had taken place and near a large chateau that is approximately one mile to the east of Noailles.

The Resistance fighter said that the Germans had a two day Curfew in place following the shooting and were searching for the bodies of Soldiers Jones and Vaculik.

The bodies of 5 murdered S.A.S. men lay at the scene for three days before finally being buried by a German Army Unit consisting of one Officer and approximately nine men who had been in the Chateau.

During the Investigation it was necessary to open the grave and on doing so a total of five bodies were found. All of them were dressed in civilian clothing and showed signs of having been handcuffed.

One of the bodies was identified as that of Captain Garstin.

After the war the bodies were re-interred in Marissel French National Cemetery in Beauvais. The Gestapo had tried to conceal their actions so the Investigation looked into the Germans who had occupied the Chateau who had buried the bodies.

A woman Collaborator, who had worked for the Germans in the Chateau and believed that they had been a Luftwaffe Signal Section, identified a number of the soldiers including Captain Hans Garling, Officer Hans Zool and Oberfeldwebel Gall.

Of the six the men who died five were Irish

Capt Pat Garstin MC, Royal Ulster Rifles, from Dublin.

Thomas Barker, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Cookstown

L/Cpl Lutton, Royal Ulster Rifles, Northern Ireland. DOW earlier

Billy Young, Royal Ulster Rifles, Randalstown

Sgt Thomas Varey the sixth man, was from York

Tpr Joe Walker, Royal Ulster Rifles, Moira

Acknowledgment - Photos by Andy Glenfield

On this day – August 9

1915



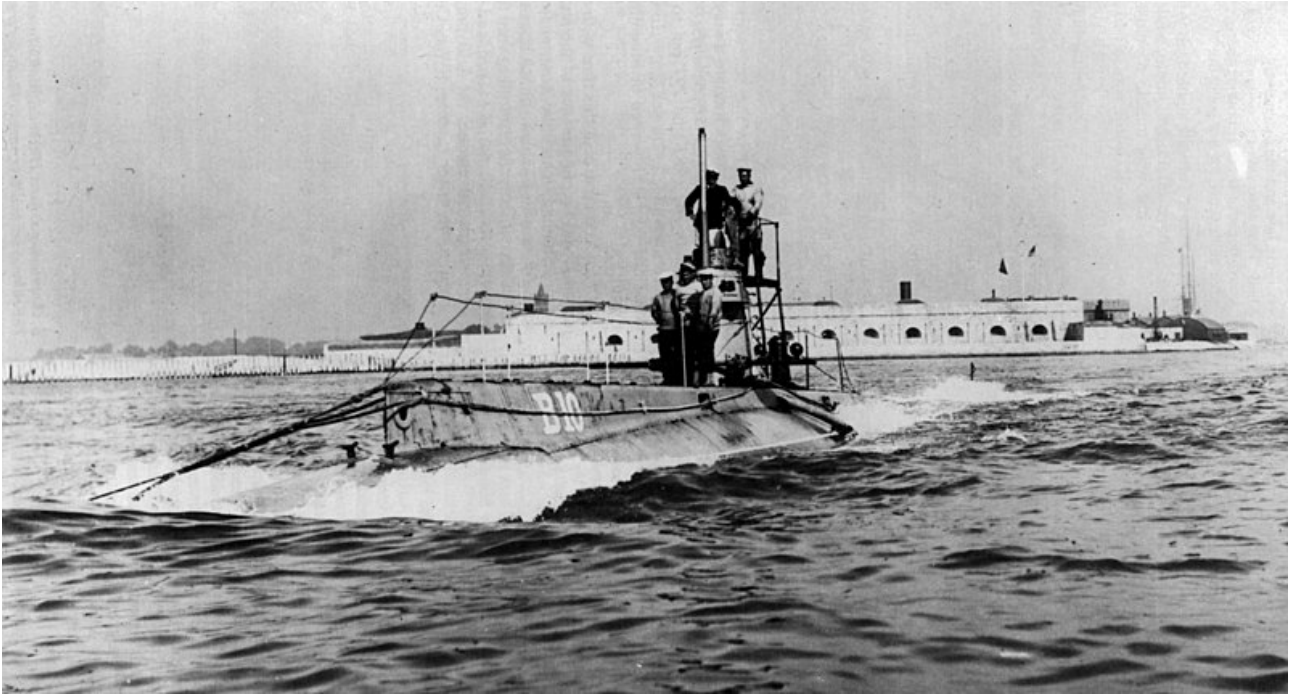
Destroyer HMS Lynx sank after striking a German mine off Wick in northern Scotland. 70 officers and men were lost and 26 were rescued.

1916

ULSTER AND THE WAR.

... CAPTAIN [A. HULSE](#), reported wounded, is in the Service Squadron of the Inniskilling Dragoons, which was raised in connection with the Ulster Division. He first served in the Pioneer Battalion at Lurgan, and subsequently transferred to the Dragoons at Enniskillen, where he served before going to the front. Captain Hulse is a son of Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Sydenham, London.

(Belfast News-Letter, 9 August 1916)



HM Submarine B10 was bombed and sunk by Austrian aircraft while alongside for repair at Venice. There were no casualties. An attempt to salvage her failed and she was sold for breaking up. HMS B10 was the first submarine to be sunk by air attack.

1917



Destroyer HMS Recruit was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine UB-16 in the North Sea, just north of the North Hinder lightship. 54 of her complement of 82 lost their lives.

1926

Submarine HMS H29 sank during trials following refitting at Devonport: water entered through a hatch that was obstructed by a pipe and could not be closed. Five civilians and one RN crewman died. H29 was salvaged and sold for scrap in October 1927.

1939

Germany sent a message to Poland noting that its uncooperativeness to work with Germany, ie. its refusal of German demands to annex Danzig, might lead to war, and Germany would not hold the responsibility for starting an armed conflict.

1940

Hermann Göring believed Luftwaffe had control of the air having successfully attacked many convoys and excluded Royal Navy ships from the English Channel during daylight. Overestimated downed RAF planes and underestimated Luftwaffe losses further convinced him the RAF was almost beaten; in reality, RAF was stronger than a month ago, with losses (84 fighters) less than half the Luftwaffe's (227 aircraft). Göring ordered new tactics to destroy RAF's fighting capacity by attacking their airfields, control centers and radar. These tactics could not be put into effect, however, as cloudy weather allowed only reconnaissance patrols; 1 He 111 aircraft was shot down.

1941

Battle of Britain ace Wing Commander Douglas Bader was involved in a mid-air collision with a German Bf 109 fighter

over northern France. He parachuted from his crippled aircraft by releasing and leaving behind in his Spitfire fighter one of his two artificial legs.

1942

192 British bombers (91 Wellington, 42 Lancaster, 40 Stirling, and 19 Halifax) attacked Osnabrück, Germany, destroying 206 houses, killing 62, and wounding 107; 6 bombers were lost on this mission.

1943

Winston Churchill arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada aboard the passenger liner Queen Mary.

1944

Dwight Eisenhower moved his headquarters to France.

A V-1 flying bomb exploded in the air above the town of Lamberhurst, Kent, after being shot at by a fighter, the bomb scattered 1-kilogram incendiary bombs.

1945

38 (Irish) Brigade - Edmund O'Sullivan was mentioned in 2 LIR's war diaries for the first time to confirm the award of an MiD (actually listed in the LG on 19th July 1945). It had been a long journey from Algiers to Villach.



CQMS O'Sullivan: "I returned to Austria in August 1945 & now responsible, as duty officer, for mounting the company guard. One day, I had to rebuke Nick Mosley for being untidily dressed while inspecting it. He was not a smart soldier & I probably exceeded my authority...."

Russia invades Manchuria.

US drops the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

Canadian Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray won the last Victoria Cross of the war (posthumously) when his Corsair fighter-bomber was shot down in flames off the Japanese mainland during an attack on the destroyer, Amakusa, which he sank.

Roll of Honour – August 9

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+ADAMS, Albert

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 13030. Died 09/08/1915. From Lurgan. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

+BURTON, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Private. 12489. Died 09/08/1915. Wounded at Gallipoli, he died at sea. Born in and enlisted at Lisburn. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

+CAMPBELL, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. D Coy. Private, Died 09/08/1915. Age 26. Son of Hugh and Maggie Campbell, of 14, Ewart's Row, Belfast; husband of Mary Campbell (nee McConnell), of Mullaghmore, Omagh. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+COSGROVE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. D Coy. Private. 23920. Died 09/08/1915. Age 26. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+COSTELLO, Patrick

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 21987. Died 09/08/1915. Age 24. Son of Robert and Mary Costello, of 12, Lady St., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+GILPIN, Isaac

Durham Light Infantry, 2nd Btn. Private. 20795. Died 09/08/1915. Age 38. Son of Frederick and Margaret Gilpin, the brother of William, James, Ann Amelia and Margaret of Florence Court, Edenderry, Portadown. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+GORMAN, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 5th Btn. Private. 13213. Died 09/08/1915, two days after disembarking. Age 27. From Bandon, Cork. Lived with his wife Elizabeth Gorman (nee Brown) at her parents home at 9 Church St., Keady. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

+HARPER, Ernest Magowan

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 7th Battalion. Lieutenant. MiD. Died 09/08/1915. B Sc 1913. Ernest began his education at Union Place National School, Dungannon, before entering the Royal School Dungannon in 1903 where he would continue his studies until 1909. Ernest was a member of the RSD 1st XV that won the Schools' Cup in 1906 and was captain of the side in 1908. In 1907 he was placed second in Ireland for Chemistry and a year later he received a medal for finishing in first place in that subject. In 1909 Ernest M Harper won a scholarship to the Royal University of Ireland, and the 1911 census confirms Ernest as an

undergraduate at QUB. He was 20 years old. Ernest Harper was awarded the Andrews Studentship in June 1913 before completing his B.Sc. (Hons) in 1914. His aptitude for science led to his being appointed as Demonstrator in Chemistry at QUB. At university Ernest continued to enjoy playing rugby, turning out for Queen's 1st XV and, on occasion, Dungannon. On the news of war, Ernest volunteered in August 1914. He was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant with 7th Battalion of the Munster Fusiliers on 01/09/1914. The battalion underwent training at the Curragh, where Ernest was promoted to Lieutenant on 05/05/1915. He was with the 7th Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers when he was killed at the Dardanelles. Youngest son of Henry and Jane Harper of Northland Place, Dungannon. Helles Memorial, Turkey including Gallipoli, Panel 186, Dungannon WM

+HASSAN, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 10451. Died 09/08/1915. Age 35. Son of Alexander and Liza Hassan, of 1, Brunswick Rd., Bangor, Co. Down. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+HIGHFIELD, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 6th Btn. C Coy. Corporal. 11540. Died 09/08/1915. Age 32. Son of the late John and Sarah Ann Highfield, of Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent. House steward for the late Lord Antrim, Glenarm Castle, Co. Antrim. Helles Memorial, Turkey including Gallipoli

+KENNEDY, William Edward

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Company Serjeant Major. 9301. Died 09/08/1915. Age 26. Age 26 years old. Son of the late William and Elizabeth Kennedy, of 10, Derlett St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+LEATHEN, George

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. D Coy. Private. 5245. Died 09/08/1915. Age 24. Husband to Margaret Jane Leathem, of 80, John St., Lurgan. Sucreie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France

+MENARY, Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 15832. Died 09/08/1915. Son of Elizabeth Menary, of 23, Wesley Place, Lurgan. Helles Memorial, Turkey including Gallipoli

+MORGAN, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Private. 16997. Died 09/08/1915, two days after disembarking. Aged 27. Son of John and Mary Jane Morgan, of Madden Row, Keady, Co. Armagh. Helles Memorial, Turkey including Gallipoli,

+MURRAY, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4/3630. Died 09/08/1915. Age 17. Age 17 years old. Son of Patrick Murray, of 28, Wallace's Row, Ravenhill Rd., Belfast. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

+PRENTER, Joseph

King's Shropshire Light Infantry, 1st Btn. Private. 6693. Died 09/08/1915. Age 25. Son of Samuel Prenter, of Snugville

St., Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+PURVIS, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 12500. Died 09/08/1915. Age 24. Son of James and Rachel Purvis, of 64, Wilton St., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+SKEATS, Alexander

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 5266. Died 09/08/1915. Age 24. Son of Archibald and Mary Skeats, of 63, Tower St., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+WALKER, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 16175. Died 09/08/1915. Age 24. Son of Thomas Walker, of 28, Ballycastle St., Belfast, and the late Mary Ellen Walker; husband to Margaret Walker, of 42, Ballarat St., Belfast. Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916 - 18

There are 21 Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers amongst the 365 war graves at Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery (above), West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Their names are recorded here.

+ANDERSON, William Charles

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 17237. Died 09/08/1916. Aged 19. Son of James and Elizabeth

Anderson, of Clabby, Fivemiletown, Co. Fermanagh. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+BARRETT, D

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 8244. Died 09/08/1916. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+BRADLEY, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn."B" Coy. Private. Age: 26 Died 09/08/1916. 3214. Son of James and Margaret Bradley, of Meeting House Lane, Garvagh. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+CAMPBELL, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. D Coy. Private. 24829. Died 09/08/1916. Age 26. Son of Hugh and Maggie Campbell, of 14, Ewart's Row, Belfast; husband of Mary Campbell (nee McConnell), of Mullaghmore, Omagh. Ypress (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+COLE, Millar

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn."C" Coy. Serjeant .Age: 31. Died 08/08/1916. 7422. Son of James Cole, of Portadown, Co. Armagh; husband of Mary Ann Cole, of Ann St., Gilford, Co. Down. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+DEVLIN, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Age: 39. Died 09/08/1916 29009. Son of George and Mary Devlin, of Abington, Massachusetts, U.S.A.; husband of Mary Devlin, of 50, Wareham Avenue, Onset, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium



Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery (above), West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+DONNELLY J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. Died 09/08/1916. 26335. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+DOONAN J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Died 09/08/1916. 25724. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+ELLIOTT R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers "C" Coy. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. Age: 23 Died 08/08/1916. 17748. Son of Thomas and Hannah Davidson Elliott; husband of Annie Elliott, of 4, Cobden St., Townhead, Glasgow. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+FENWICK George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Age: 19. Private. Died 09/08/1916. 23929. Native of Ryehope, Co. Durham. Son of Ralph and M. A. Fenwick, of 41, South View, Shiney Row, Fence Houses, Co. Durham. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+HARIDAY T

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Died 09/08/1916. 24150. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+HAYDEN H

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Died 09/08/1916. 7791. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+HENDERSON, Duncan Frank

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Captain. Age: 23. Died 09/08/1916. Son of Arthur and Gertrude Marion Henderson, formerly of Fairmile, Cobham, Surrey. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+KENNY, Francis Jospeh Leo

Connaught Rangers, 5th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Secondary Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Secondary attd. 1st

Bn. Age: 23. Died 09/08/1916. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+McCLEARY, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 3482. Died 09/08/1916. Aged 22. Born in Broomhedge, he enlisted at Belfast. Son of Mrs. A. McCleery of 23 City Street, Belfast. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

+McMANUS, Bernard

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Corporal. Age: 25. Died 09/08/1916. Service No: 10386 F.2 Son of Bernard and Catherine McManus, of Strand St., Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+MOONEY P

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Age: 21. Died 19/08/1916 17755. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+PATTERSON W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Died 09/08/1916. 28464. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+SHANNON E

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1st Btn. Private. Age: 22. Died 09/08/1916. 24968. Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Shannon, of 42, Hillview St., Belfast.. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+SHIELDS W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers "B" Coy. 2nd Btn. Private. Age:

26. Died 13/05/1918. 15996. Son of Ross and Isabella Shields, of 6, Moat St., Londonderry. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+STACEY, Cyril Robert William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 3rd Btn. Lieutenant. Age: 22. Died 09/08/1916 E.3. Son of Harold William and Jessie Margaret Stacey, of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+WILLIAMSON J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers A Coy. 2nd Btn. Private. Age: 24. Died 13/05/1918 Service No: 28889 G.1. Son of John and Mary Jane Williamson, of Londonderry; husband of C. Lee (formerly Williamson), of 22, Emerson St., Londonderry. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

**"No Inniskillings can forget
The way you fought and how your voices rang
And as our rolling drums play out your soul,
Proudly we add your honours to our scroll."**

1916

+ANDERSON, William Charles

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn.. Private 17237. Died 09/08/1916 near Ypres. Age 19. Son of James and Elizabeth Anderson. Born in Clabby, County Fermanagh, about 1897. The 1911 census records that Charles Anderson was living

in Fivemiletown when he enlisted in Tempo, Co. Fermanagh. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+BRADLEY, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. B Coy. Private. 3214. Died 09/08/1916. Age 26. Son of James and Margaret Bradley, of Meeting House Lane, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Belgium

+COSGROVE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 23920. Died 09/08/1916. Age 33. Son of John and Mary Cosgrove, of Millfield, Belfast; husband to Mary Cosgrove, of 9, Whifflet St., Coatbridge, Lanarkshire. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+CROCKETT, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 15436. Died 09 /08/1916. Age 40. Son of James and Eliza Jane Crockett, of Drumlougher, Newtown, Cunningham, Co. Donegal; husband to the late Mrs. Crockett, of 31, Orchard Row, Londonderry. Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium

+GILL, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 3006. Died 09/08/1916. Born in Dromore, the son of Joseph and Mrs. E. Gill. He lived at Ballyskeagh, Lambeg, where, before the war, he had been a damask weaver. He enlisted at Lisburn. He embarked with 11th Btn. for France from Bordon in

October 1915. The Rev. J.G. Paton a Presbyterian chaplain wrote to his wife informing her that he, “was killed by a trench mortar bomb which burst close beside him and that death was instantaneous. I conducted a burial service yesterday [and] he is buried in a perfect little cemetery on the hillside. As you know he did his duty well in the big battle of the 1st July, and he always bore himself as a soldier and a man, earning the goodwill of all who knew him. He has now made the great sacrifice, and you have every reason to be proud of him”. He and his wife had five young children. He had three brothers all living at Ballyskeagh and all serving as Riflemen in the RIR. They too had enlisted at the start of the war, David and Robert (along with William) in the 11th Battalion (South Antrim Volunteers), and they embarked with him for France from Bordon in October 1915. James served in the “regulars”. David, who had been promoted to Lance Corporal in B Company, and James, were both wounded on 01/07/1916. Robert was also involved in the fighting that day but was unhurt. All three appear to have survived the war. Ration Farm (La Plus Douvre) Cemetery, Belgium.

+KENNEDY, Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 12398. Died 09/08/1916. Age 35. Son of James and Jane Kennedy, of Belfast. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

+KENNEDY, William Edward

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Company Serjeant Major. 9301. Died 09/08/1915. Age 26. Age 26 years old. Son of the late William and Elizabeth Kennedy, of 10, Derlett St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+LEONARD, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 19062. Died 09/08/1916. Age 22. Son of Arthur Henry Leonard, of 68, Foyle Rd., Londonderry. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

+LYNN, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4471. Died 09/08/1916. Aged 26. Son of James and Elizabeth Lynn, of Mousetown, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. One of four brothers who died on service during the First World War; two of whom are buried in Belgium, one in France and the fourth in Israel. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+McCOY, James Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. C Coy. Private. 11/14094. Died 09/08/1916. Age 21. Son of John and Charlotte McCoy, of Rosslea, Co. Fermanagh. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

+McCURDY, John

Hampshire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/08/1916. Age 36. Born Waterside. Survived the South African war. Son of Samuel and Marion McCurdy, of Waterside, Londonderry. Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium. Londonderry Diamond WM

+McFADDEN, H

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 9588. Died 09/08/1916. Age 32. Son of Jane McFadden, of 45, Long

Tower St., Londonderry. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Londonderry

+McKENZIE, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Corporal. 17233. Died 09/08/1916. Age 20. Son of James and Alicia Margaret McKenzie, of Killymitten, Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

+McLAUGHLIN, A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 6844. Died 09/08/1916. Brother in law, 45 Carlisle Road, Londonderry. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Belgium. Londonderry
Diamond WM

+McLAUGHLIN, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 9589. Died 09/08/1916. Bedford House Cem, Belgium. Londonderry
Diamond WM.

+McMANUS, Bernard

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Corporal. 10386. Died 09/08/1916. Aged 25. Son of Bernard and Catherine McManus, of Strand St., Enniskillen. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

+NOBLE, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 17213. Died 09/08/1916. Age 30. Son of Mrs. Margaret Noble, of Drumshane, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+SHANNON, E

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 24968

Died 09/08/1916. Age 22. Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Shannon, of 42, Hillview St., Belfast. Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Belgium

+SMITH, J

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18/690. Died 09 / 08/1916. Husband to Mrs. Smith, of Scrabo, Newtonwards. Ration Farm (La Plus Douvre) Annexe, Belgium

1917

+ANDERSON, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 9/3562. Died 09/08/1917. Age 26. Son of William and Mary Anderson, of 45, Connswater St., Belfast. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

+ALLISON, Hazlett Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, D Coy. 7th Btn. Major. MiD. Died 09/08/1917. Aged 23. Son of Lt. Col Hazlett Allison and Mary Allison, of The Shola, Portrush, Co. Antrim. A graduate of Cambridge University. B.A. (Honours) in 1914. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+CAMPBELL, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Sergeant-Major. 4842. Died 09/08/1917. Victoria Street, Carrickfergus. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+CASSIDY, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. Died 09/08/1917. He was born on 16th June 1888 in Kilrea, son of William and Margaret Cassidy. The family moved from Kilrea to Upperlands in 1893. James was part of a large family and had nine sisters and two brothers. James was a labourer. James Cassidy enlisted in Coleraine. In May 1917 he was awarded a parchment certificate for gallantry in battle. It was about this same time that he was wounded, and was home on ten days leave. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Wm Clarke & Sons, Upperlands WM

+CAMPBELL, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn.CSM. 4842. Died 09/08/1917. Born in Blaris, Co. Antrim, he lived at Portadown. He enlisted in Belfast.Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium, panel 40.

+DILWORTH, George

RN. J35063. Seaman. HMS Recruit. Died 09/08/1917. Boy service from 19/02/1915. Enrolled 20/06/1916 for hostilities. Impregnable, Illustrious, Vivid I, Vengeance, Suffolk and Dido (Recruit 02/07/1917 - 09/08/1917). Born Belfast 20/06/1898. ADM 188/717/35063

+HARRIS, Hugh

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 720. Died of wounds 09/08/1917. Hugh was the only son of Robert and Margaret Harris of Craigs. Hugh was born on 13/11/1895 in Ahoghill. He was the youngest of three children. His mother died when he was very young. By 1911 he was living with his

grandparents near Portglenone. Hugh enlisted in Ballymena in 1915. Prior to enlisting, he was in the employment of Mr Hugh Coulter, Ballyconnelly, Cullybackey. Wieltje Farm Cem. Ypres. Cullybackey UF Church.

+KELLY, Andrew

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 26497.

Died 09/08/1917. Age 20. Son of John and Mary Jane Kelly, of 2, Charlotte Place, Londonderry. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+ROBINSON, Samuel C

North Irish Horse. 1st. Private. 850. Died 09/08/1917. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Portadown between 26 April and 20 May 1913 (No.850). He embarked for France with D Squadron on 01/05/1915. In the following May, D Squadron joined with A and E Squadrons to become the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment, serving as corps cavalry to VII, XIX, then V Corps. Born on 10 /08/1887 at Lisnamentry, Seagoe, Portadown, County Armagh, the fifth of seven children of farmer William Robinson and his wife Jane (nee Johnston). In 1901 he was working as an assistant to draper John Douglas in Wexford Street, Dublin. By 1911 he was living at home again, working as a boot buyer. On 13/06/1914 he and Jane Parr married Jane Parr at the Church of Ireland Parish Church, Seagoe. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+ROSBOTHAM, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Corporal. 3390. Died 09/08/1917. Age 19. Son of Stewart and Sarah Rosbotham,

of 32, Woodvale Avenue, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

+SEYMOUR, Samuel Herbert

17th Machine Gun Corps, (Infantry). Private 19466, formerly 13582 Royal Irish Rifles. Died 09/08/1917. Aged 24. Son of John Hill and Jane Seymour of 3, Blackwood Street, Belfast, Ireland. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. St Jude's C of I Church, Belfast WM

+THOMPSON, Charles Wesley

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 7549. Died 09/08/1917. Age 22. Son of Mrs. Martha J. Thompson, of 5, Inn Gardens, Gallows St., Dromore, Co. Down. Ypres (Menin Road) Memorial, Belgium

1918

+CAMPBELL, William

Royal Field Artillery. Bombardier. 65619. Died 09/08/1918. Aged 25. 119th Bty. Son of Nathaniel and Emily Campbell, of 53, Farnham St. Belfast. Was a Prisoner of War for three years. Dundonald cemetery

+CARSON, James Arthur Balfour

Royal Army Medical Corps, Captain, Died 09/08/1918. Age 26. James enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps and later was attached to the RAF. He was a great sportsman, playing rugby football for Cardiff and Blackheath but also enjoyed cricket and lawn tennis. In July 1916 he was stationed with the Infantry depot at Beaumarais in France

until he returned to England in June 1917. While in England he requested an overseas posting which was granted and he was attached to the RAF in Alexandria in Egypt. On his tour of duty in Egypt he fell victim to an illness from which he died.

He played 27 games for Cardiff 1911-12 and was awarded a club cap. Played for Cardiff against Blackheath at the Rectory Field in November 1911 (result 3-3) (recorded as J.B. Carson). ... Played for Blackheath 1912-13 against Harlequins, Richmond, Bristol & Cambridge University. ... In February 1914 he played for The Middlesex Hospital v The London Hospital in the semi-final of the Hospitals Cup (London won 10-0) (recorded as J.B. Carson) The Times dated 27/02/1914 reported "and J.B. Carson also played well, but was apt to overdo his kicking to touch" Western Mail 17/08/1918. Played for Cardiff RFC, Blackheath and London Irish. ... From Cardiff Rugby Football Club: History and Statistics 1876-1975, D.E. Davies. Carson, J.A.B. 27 appearances 1911-12 (page 214) "1911-12 ... Ewan Davies joined the club, as did an Irishman J.B. Carson and both were to serve well as three-quarters" (page 66) ... "First XV caps were awarded to ... J.A.B. Carson (and others)"; "the Ulster man got five" tries. (page 67). Remembered in the publication "The Last Past: The Death Roll of Sport" Football ... Carson J.C. August 1918, Lt. R.A.M.C. Played rugby for Cardiff and Blackheath ... (Courtesy of Wesley Wright, Larne).

James's elder brother Herbert was educated at Larne Grammar School, Queen's, the Richmond Hospital, Dublin and the Royal University of Ireland, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch and B.A.O. in 1905. Herbert joined the RAMC soon afterwards seeing service in India prior to being posted

to Egypt and given overall command of a Field Hospital with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine. On the 22/11/1917 he was severely injured at Nebi Samevil, and survived his injuries. Later he contracted malaria from which he developed pneumonia and died on the 12/10/1918, not long after his brother's death. During his career he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded the DSO and mentioned in dispatches, although the CWGC lists him as a major. His remains were buried in Damascus Commonwealth War Cemetery, Syria.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Carson, The Knowe, Larne, and brother of Mrs. Martin Richards, 1 Westbourne Crescent, Cardiff. The Carson family endowed scholarships at Larne Grammar in memory of their sons.

James' remains rest at Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Larne WM. Larne Grammar School WM. The family headstone in Larne's McGarel Cemetery records the death of the two brothers.

+CRAIG, John

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 14th Btn. Lance Corporal. 5999. Died 09/08/1918. Aged 28. Born County Antrim. Enlisted 23/03/1916 in Prahan, Victoria. A Nurseryman. Son of George and Jane Fulton Craig, of Cromagh, Armoy. Vignacourt British Cemetery, France. Australian WM, Panel 72

+O'HARE, Joseph

Hampshire Regiment, 15th Btn. Private. 17552. Died 09/08/1918. His real name was Brady. He was born in Armagh about 1890. In 1911 he was living with his mother

Bridget McKee. She had been widowed and remarried. He enlisted with the Royal Scots but was discharged after 15 days as he was unlikely to become an efficient soldier. He then changed his name and enlisted with the Hampshire Regiment. His effects were left to his widow Mrs Sarah O'Hare, 23 Primrose St., Armagh. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

+REID, John Felix

Canadian Infantry, 3rd Btn. Private. 201475. Died 09/08/1918 while taking part in an advance at Beaucourt east of Amiens. Aged 28. He was an apprentice in the drapery business before he emigrated to Canada and was working as an elevator man before enlisting with the C.E.F. in August 1915. His brother David was serving with the Royal Engineers. Son of Mrs. Sarah Reid, of Balleer, Tassagh, Armagh. Warvillers Churchyard Extension, France

1940

+SANDERSON, Samuel

RAFVR. Sergeant (Observer). 746826. Died 09/08/1940. Aged 29. He was an Observer with RAF No 13 Operational Training Unit on Bristol Blenheim L1191 on a day time training exercise. The crew took off from R.A.F. Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, crashing on their return to the same airfield. The plane came down near the airfield and burst into flames killing all 3 crew members. Samuel was one of many airmen from Northern Ireland to sign the guitar of Sydney Ireland as a large group of trainees departed from Larne. Samuel was a keen sportsman and singer. He played football for amateur sides Cliftonville Olympic and Cliftonville

Strollers. He also turned out to play cricket for Woodvale. As a child, he was a choirboy at St. George's Church, High Street, Belfast. Before the outbreak of WW2 he worked in the Tramways Office of the Belfast Corporation. He was the son of Alexander Sanderson and Mary Sanderson (née Ramsey) of Wyncroft, 41 Madison Avenue, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1942

+LONEY, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 30th Btn. Fusilier. 1522941. Died 09/08/1942 on Home Defence duties near Larne. Returning from manoeuvres to a camp in Larne, he was involved in an accident while traveling in a convoy of military lorries. At a civic inquest Corporal Walter James Acton gave evidence. He was one of a group of soldiers traveling in a military lorry with canopied sides. Loney had complained of feeling unwell and put his head through the side of the canopy to throw up. Fusilier James Magill agreed with the evidence given. On entering the town where their base was, the lorry gave a jolt and Loney fell back onto the floor of the lorry with blood on his face and clothes. The driver stopped and immediately brought the Fusilier to a doctor's surgery and onwards to the local hospital. He had sustained fractures to the skull, jaw, and left arm and lost a lot of blood. Records suggest he may have struck his head on a tin military sign attached to an electrical pole by the roadside. Son of Thomas Loney and Elizabeth Loney (née Burrows) of 61 Brussels Street, Belfast; husband to Norah Loney (née

McWha) and father of Albert of 9 Lemberg Street, Belfast.
Glenalina Extension, Belfast City Cemetery

1943

+HAIRE, Robert Henry

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1002842. Died 09/08/1943.
Aged 23. Taken Prisoner on 08/03/1942 when Java fell.
Died of malaria in a POW Camp at Hintok while working on
the Burma Railway in Thailand. Son of Robert and Susan
Haire, of 15 Canal Street, Lisburn. Chungkai War Cemetery,
Thailand. Lisburn WM. Lisburn Cathedral RH

1944

+BARKER, Thomas James

Special Air Service Regiment, A.A.C. 1st Btn. Private.
6986237. Died 09/08/1944. Aged 20. Born in 1924. Prior to
enlistment Tot worked with Messrs David Anderson & Son
Grocers, Cookstown. At the age of 17 he joined the Royal
Inniskilling Fusiliers. A month before his 18th birthday he
transferred to the Royal Ulster Rifles. He later became a
paratrooper with the 6th Airborne Division and finally joined
the Special Air Service. On the night of 4th July 1944 a unit
of paratroopers was taken prisoner and executed on the 8th.
Son of John and Florence Barker, of Cookstown. Marissel
French National Cemetery, Oise, France. Cookstown WM

+BROWNE, John Cassells

Durham Light Infantry, 6th Btn, D Coy. Major. 89229. Died
09/08/1944. Age 28. Before the outbreak of WW2, Browne,
known to family and friends as Jack, was a member of the
Officer Training Corps. He then became a 2nd Lieutenant in

9th Btn Durham Light Infantry on 17/06/1939. By 08/01/1940, Jack was in France with the British Expeditionary Force. He travelled with Sergeant Green ahead of the Battalion to ready billets. In May 1940, Browne was "on leave". War diaries do not indicate if he was in France during the retreat to Dunkirk. After Dunkirk, the Durham Light Infantry reorganised. Jack joined 16th Battalion on 01/07/1940, 14th Btn in October 1941, and 11th Btn on 05/12/1943. On the disbanding on 11th Btn, he joined 6th Btn, part of 50th Infantry Division. He landed with 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry on D-Day and fought through Normandy, rising through the ranks. He became a Major on 27/06/1944. By August 1944, Browne was an acting Captain in command of D Company as they advanced on La Cannardiere. German infantry retaliated with a machine-gun barrage. By then a Major, Browne died on 09/08/1944. He was one of many Durham Light Infantry soldiers killed before they could dig into defensive positions. He was the son of Robert John Browne and Eliza J. Browne of Glengormley, and husband to Agnes Nesbitt Browne. Bayeux War Cemetery, Bayeux, Normandy, France.

+O'FEE, James Edward

RAFVR. 18 Sqdn. Sergeant. 1544258. Died 09/08/1944. Age 24. He was part of a crew of four which had taken off in a Boston aircraft from Cesena in Italy at 2230 on the night of 08/08/1944. It was on a night reconnaissance sortie. The aircraft was shot down in the early hours of the following morning by the flak near Savignano sul Rubicone. The four

man crew were lost. Son of James and Jenny O'Fee, of Kilrea. Cesena War Cemetery, Italy. Kilrea WM

+SMYTH, Ernest

King's Own Scottish Borderers, 6th Btn. Private. 6983727. Died 09/08/1944. Aged 22. Ernest joined up in August 1940, serving first with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, then the Royal Irish Fusiliers before finally joining the King's Own Scottish Borderers. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smyth of 57 Montague Street, Portadown. Bayeux War Cemetery, France. Portadown WM

+WALKER, JOSEPH

Special Air Service Regiment, A.A.C., 1st. Private. 7019954. Died 09/08/1944. Age 21. Marissel National Cemetery. St. John's Church of Ireland WM, Moira

+WOLSEY, William Henry

Royal Scots Fusiliers, 11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 7047419. Died 09/08/1944. Age 21. Enlisted in 1941. Pre-war he studied at Portadown College. While at school, he played rugby and cricket. He also turned out for Portadown Cricket Club. Younger son of William Henry Wolsey J.P. and Elsie Wolsey of Carleton House, Carleton Street, Portadown. William Senior was the owner and editor of the Portadown Times newspaper. An uncle, George Wolsey, was a journalist with the Belfast Newsletter. Ranville War Cemetery, Ranville, Normandy, France. Portadown WM

+YOUNG, William Pearson

Special Air Service Regiment, AAC. Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. D Squadron. Trooper. 7018947. Died 09/08/1944. Aged 22. Croix de Guerre (posthumous). POW 4.7.1944 - executed in a wood near Beauvais, France 06/07/1944. A brother was serving in the RAF and five cousins were also serving. His father and four uncles served in WW1. Eldest of five sons of William and Elizabeth Young (both died 1959), Kemmill Hill, Randalstown. Marissel French National Cemetery, Oise, France

VETERANS

BECK, William Alexander

RNVR. Surgeon Sub Lieutenant 29/07/1918. Served as a Surgeon Probationer. Appointed to Haslar RNH along with Allison and Lyttle from QUB. Later served in HMS Rifleman, a destroyer. BRA. Matriculated QUB 1916. Graduated QUB MB 1921, BCh, DPH 1923, and went into general practice in the city. He conducted medical examinations of recruits to RN and RM. Born 09/08/1898. Son of WA Beck, Bannville, Knutsford Drive, Belfast. Agnes Street - PCI RH

MacMILLAN, David A C

RAF. MCB. Born 09/08/1915. Son of David MacMillan, Castlereagh Rd., Belfast. Postwar Civil Service (NI)

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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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