



remembrance ni



Two lost in a three-masted topsail schooner, a WW1 secret Q ship. RAF losses in both wars.

On this day – August 14

14th August 1916 - Y.C.V. Officer Prisoner of War - Lieutenant Robert Victor Gracey.

A postcard was received on Saturday from Lieutenant R. V. Gracey, of A' Company 14th (Service) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Young Citizen Volunteers), stating that he is wounded and prisoner on Saxony. Lieutenant Gracey, who was reported missing on 1st July, is a son a of Mr. James Gracey, B.A., Ben Amada, Helen's Bay, and nephew of Sir William Whitla, M.D., J.P., Lennoxvale, Belfast. Later in 1918 Lieut. Gracey was transferred to Switzerland, where he will be interned until the end of the war.

14th August 1917 Belfast Newsletter

The cost of the Somme on 1st July, 1916, is still being communicated six weeks later. Details of cemeteries and monuments have been added

Ulster Division Rank and File Fatalities

Rifleman John Bourke, 3863, 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 23, Husband of Annie Bourke nee McMaster, of 39 Stonyford Street, **Belfast**, met his death on or since 2nd July, 1916, deceased is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval France.

Rifleman Robert Edward Gregory, 14748, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 25, Son of Robert and Lizzie Gregory, of 55 Great Northern Street, **Belfast**, previously reported missing, now reported killed on 1st July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Riflemen James 14999, and Scott 15008, Johnston, both 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, sons of Maria Johnston, of 18 Rainey Street, **Belfast**, both men were reported missing on 1st July, 1916,

are now officially presumed to have been killed on that date. Both were members of the South Belfast Regiment U.V.F., and both men are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman James Ritchie Jones, 15025, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 22, Son of George and Hester Jones nee Davidson, of 55 River Terrace, **Belfast**, must be regarded as killed on 1st July, 1916, since which date he had been missing. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman William McElroy, 15400, 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 26, Son of James and Sarah McElroy nee Smith, of 313 Albertbridge Road, **Belfast**, is now officially reported as killed in action 2nd July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman Henry Gilliland, 14704, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 23, Son Of Mrs. Martha Gilliland Of 8 Milner Street, **Belfast**, Co. Antrim. Killed in action 1st July, 1916, Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

The War Office has just intimated to Mr. Harry Hanna that his son, **Archibald McMullan Hanna**, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, must be presumed to have been killed on 1st July, 1916, on which date he had been posted missing. Deceased was 19 years of age, was a member of the North Belfast U.V.F., (Cliftonville Special Service Corps), and joined the Ulster Division at its formation. He was a sergeant in 25th (St. Enoch's) Boys Brigade, and prior to enlistment was employed by Messrs. A Millar & Co., Clifton Street. His parents now resided at 7 Hologate Road, Nottingham, formerly of 27 Court Street, **Belfast**. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman George Albert Hawthorne, 10/14863, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 21, Son of George and Josephine Hawthorne nee Grimsby, of 19 Mulhouse Street, **Belfast**, previously reported missing, now reported killed on 1st July, 1916.

Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman Samuel Hill, 242, C' Company 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 21, Son of Mrs. L. Hill, of McCleans Entry. North End. **Ballyclare**. Co. Antrim. Succumbed to an illness contracted while on active service, passed away at Edmonton Military Hospital, England, deceased is buried in Ballycor Old Graveyard, Co Antrim.

Rifleman Joseph Jackson, 14977, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 21, Son of Peter and Sarah Jane Jackson nee Smith, of **Templepatrick**, Co Antrim, has been missing since 1st July, 1916, now reported as killed on that date. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.



**“Between the
crosses, row on
row”**

**Track X
Cemetery, Ypres**

Lance-Corporal Edward Stewart Lockington, 6681, C' Company 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 25, Son of John and Mary Lockington of 10 Kinallen Street, Ormeau Road, **Belfast**. who is officially reported killed on 1st July, 1916, is the second brother to make the supreme sacrifice. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman Thomas McCormick, 13132, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Husband of Sarah McCormick nee Breen, of 87 Glenwood Street **Belfast**, is now officially reported killed on 1st July 1916, Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Private Henry Sharkey, 17737, 108th Brigade Machine Gun Corps, formerly 18751, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 22, Son of Andrew and Jane Sharkey, of **Carnmoney**, Co. Antrim. Died of wounds received in action, at No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, 5th of August 1917, deceased is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Rifleman Thomas Watson, 16083, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 19, Son of James Mary Jane Watson nee Galbraith, of 17 Houston Street, Ballyhackamore, **Belfast**, is now officially reported killed on 1st July, 1916. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Rifleman William Wilson, 13872, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Age 23, Son of Mrs. Rebecca Wilson of 12 Apsley St., later 27 Dever Street, **Belfast**, who had been missing since 1st July 1916, is now officially reported killed on that date. Deceased is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Roll of Honour – August 14

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+BEERS, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 11250. Died 14/08/1915. Age 20. Enlisted at Belfast. Son of Isabella Beers, Ballylesson,

Belfast and the late William Beers and husband to Martha Beers of Rushy Hill, Stoneyford, Lisburn. Their son (also Samuel) was born while his father was serving overseas and Samuel snr. never saw him before his death. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

+KING, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4444. Died 14/08/1915. Age 23. Son of John and Mary King, of Blackhill, Cookstown. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Cookstown WM

+LEWIS, Thomas David

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Corporal. 3603. Died 14/08/1915. Age 21. Son of Thomas David and Rebecca Lewis, of 6, Matchet St., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+McREYNOLDS, Robert

Highland Light Infantry. 1st/6th Btn. Private. 1134. Died 14/08/1915. Aged 29. He enlisted at Glasgow in the 6 (City of Glasgow Territorial) Battalion HLI. Born Lisburn. Son of John and Margaret McReynolds, of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Husband to Mary Murray (formerly McReynolds), of 12, Parker St., Whiteinch, Glasgow. Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey. Dungannon WM, St Anne's C of I WM

+NELIS, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 8160. Died 14/08/1915. Age 28. He was the youngest son of Robert and Minnie Nelis, 16, George's Street, Londonderry. At the

time of the 1901 Census he was working as a barber's apprentice, and joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers three years later. He then served with the 1st Battalion in Crete, Malta, North China, and India, where he was transferred to the Army Reserve on completion of nine years' service with the colours, and emigrated from there to Australia. On the outbreak of hostilities in August 1914, he rejoined the colours from the Reserve, and came as far as Egypt with the first Contingent of the Australians. He rejoined his unit at Omagh in January 1915, and was posted to the 3rd Battalion at Londonderry, and joined the 1st Battalion in Rugby, in February 1915, before they departed for the Dardanelles.

In his book, *The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the World War*, Sir Frank Fox described the actions of the 1st Inniskillings on the day of Private Nelis's death: 'The 1st Inniskillings – fated soon to leave the Helles sector of Gallipoli for Suvla Bay – made a glorious finish to their stay there on Aug. 14, when the enemy, after exploding a mine which had been tunnelled towards our trench, made a resolute attack. Until far into the night his troops came in successive waves to our line, always to be beaten back with bullet and bomb and bayonet...'

Private Robert Nelis's father, Robert (senior), was born around 1851/52 in the city of Derry, and, in the 1901 Census, was listed as an unemployed commercial clerk and bookkeeper. Private Robert Nelis's mother, Minnie (who later appears to have emigrated to Melbourne, Australia), was born circa 1854/55 in County Donegal.

Robert (senior) and Minnie produced a number of children. Ellen was born around 1874/75 in the city of Londonderry, and circa 1901 was employed as a seamstress in a shirt factory.

Laura was born around 1876/77 in County Donegal, and circa 1901 was also working as a seamstress in a shirt factory. William was born around 1878/79 in County Donegal, and circa 1901 was employed in the grocery trade. Minnie was born around 1884/85 in the city of Derry, and circa 1901 was working as a seamstress in a shirt factory, and Matilda Nelis was born around 1893/94.

Being from a Unionist background, Minnie, Laura and Matilda (Tillie) Nelis all signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant (September 1912) resisting Home Rule for Ireland.

Private Robert Nelis belonged to the congregation of Londonderry City Mission, Clooney Hall Methodist Church, and the Hamilton Fife and Drum Band.

On the first anniversary of the death of Private Robert Nelis, his mother and sisters had the following poignant 'in memoriam' lines inserted in a Londonderry newspaper:

'No chilling winds, no storms of earth
Shall e'er disturb his rest;
He sleeps with all the ransomed now
Upon his Saviour's breast,
Where the wicked cease from troubling
And the weary are at rest.

Son of Robert and Minnie Nelis, of 75, Bent St., Moonee Ponds, Melbourne, Australia. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli), Diamond War Memorial, Londonderry, St Columb's Cathedral (Church of Ireland) Memorial to the men connected to that cathedral who died during the 1914-18 War

+TYNDALL, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 3603. Died 14/08/1915. Age 18. Son of James Tyndall, of 30, Connswater St., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916

+FAULKNER, Stewart

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 49th Btn. Private. 3347. Died 14/08/1916. Age 23. It seems the family name was Falconer until they moved to Australia. After which it became Faulkner. Stewart Falconer was born on 11/11/1892 in Kilrea, County Londonderry. The family lived at Killygullib Glebe, Hervey Hill, Upperlands, County Londonderry. They were a farming family. Stewart was employed for about four years on the clerical staff of William Clarke and Sons Ltd, Upperlands. The family emigrated to Australia around 1911-12. Stewart Faulkner was a farmer living at Yorklea, Casino, New South Wales when he enlisted in August 1915. He joined the 49th Battalion in Egypt in February 1916. In June, they arrived in Marseille and proceed to the front in France. Oldest son of Adam John and Annie Faulkner, of "Yorklea", Casino, New South Wales. Native of Kilrea, Co. Londonderry. Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La-Boisselle, France

+REA, William

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 58th Btn. Private. 4915. Died 14/08/1916. Age 47. He was born in Tullygarley. He had been in Australia for 30 years. When he signed up he declared he was 41 years and seven months old. Son of William and Joyce Rea (Sometimes spelled Rae). Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, France. First Ballymena Presbyterian Church RH

1917

HMS PRIZE

HMS Prize, a three-masted topsail schooner of 200 tons, was one of the then highly secret 'Q' or 'mystery' ships. These ships were disguised as harmless merchant vessels, with concealed armament, and they acted as decoys to trap and destroy German U-boats. On 30/4/1917 HMS Prize successfully deceived and severely damaged U93. As a result of this action her captain, Lieutenant Sanders, a New Zealander, was awarded the Victoria Cross. However, HMS Prize's luck ran out in the early morning of Tuesday 14 / 08/1917 when she engaged U48 in the Atlantic, north-west of Ireland, and was torpedoed and sunk with the loss of her captain and all hands.

+JARRETT, George James

Petty Officer. 222863. DSM & Bar. HMS Prize (Q21). Died 14/08/1917. Aged 31. Boy service from 23/10/1902. Enrolled 18/01/1905 for 12 years. War service in Centurion, Vivid I, Sabrina, Idaho and Prize (01/05/1917 - 14/08/1917). Born Ballintoy 18/01/1887. Son of John and Annie Jarrett,

Ballintoy. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 20. Ballycastle
WM. ADM 188/392/222863

+WILLIAMSON, Alexander

RNR. Deck Hand. 4819DA. HMS Prize (Q21). Died
14/08/1917. Age 21. Enlisted 1914. Son of Mr. Alexander
and Mrs. Susan Williamson, Harmony Row, Govan,
Glasgow, Scotland; his grandfather, Mr. Andrew Logan
(senior), lived at Coleraine Road, Portstewart. Portsmouth
Naval Memorial, Panel 28. Portstewart WM

1917

+FENNING, Richard

Canadian Infantry. 87th. Btn. Private. 784325. Died
14/08/1917. Age 25. Eldest son of Thomas Fenning of
Whitemountain, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, and brother of James
Fenning who also served. Vimy Memorial, France.

+LEMON, John Frazer

Royal Engineers, 150th Field Coy. Corporal. 64420. Died
14/08/1915. Age 36. Eldest son of Sarah and the late Hugh
Lemon, 53, Cheviot Avenue, Strandtown. Belfast.
Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Belgium

+McGARRITY, John

Connaught Rangers, 1st Btn. Private. 3/7816. Died
14/08/1917. Aged 27. John was born in Dungannon about
1890. John McGarrity was for a time with the Royal Horse
and Royal Field Artillery (No 134002). Son of John and
Elizabeth McGarrity, of 6, Waverley Terrace, Dennistoun,
Glasgow. Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq.

+McNEVISON, Fred

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. C Coy. Private. 9944. Died 14/08/1917. Age 26. Brother of Edward McNevison who died in service 30/09/1916. Son of John and Ellen McNevison, of 4, Green Haw Terrace, Shantallow, Londonderry. Adinkerke Military Cemetery, Belgium. Londonderry Diamond WM

+MORROW, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 2958. Died 14/08/1917. Age 38. Served in the South African Campaign. Native of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. Son of Robert and Margaret Morrow, of 3, James St., Newry, Co. Down. Served in the South African Campaign. Native of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

+PEOPLES, Matthew

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. A Coy. Serjeant. 10052. Died 14/08/1917. Age 23. Son of William Peoples, of 26, Moore St., Waterside, Londonderry. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

1918

+CATHCART, John

The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 6th Btn. Private. 67377. Died 14/08/1918. Age 18. Son of Mrs. Margaret Cathcart, of 111, Ardilea St., Old Park Rd., Belfast. Morlancourt British Cemetery No.2, France

+DICKSON, John Hetherington

RAF. 2nd Lieutenant. Died. 14/08/1918. Age 22. 27 Squadron. Promoted from Cadet, RFC, to temporary 2nd Lieutenant (on probation), 20/12/1917. 27 Squadron flew Martinsyde Elephant bombers. Died with Sergeant Stephen Bernard Percival, when their Beauvois Airco DH9, D1702 collided in mid-air with another DH9, E634, while returning from a raid. Second Lt Arthur Frederick Millar and Second Lt John Varley Lee, flying E634, also from the 27 Squadron died in the collision. John is recorded as signing the Ulster Covenant at Mountpottinger Orange Hall, September 1912, giving his address as 'Leawood', Knock. Only son of Martha Elizabeth and the late John Dickson, of "Clifton", Shandon Park, Knock, Belfast. Wanquetin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. The remains of the other three victims of the collision are also interred there. St Andrew's College, Booterstown, County Dublin WM, RBAI WM

+McMULLAN, THOMAS,

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn., Rifleman. 340. Died at 62 Casualty Clearing Station, France, on 18/08/1918, from wounds received on 14/08/1918. Second son of Thomas and Sarah McMullan; Husband to Letitia McMullan, of Pikestone, Downpatrick, Co. Down, and second brother of Mrs. Tate, Cotterhill, Inch, Downpatrick.

1920

+BARNETT, John

Connaught Rangers. Corporal. 3941. Died 14/08/1920. Age 34. (Served as HASSON). Son of John and Mary Barnett; husband of Elizabeth Barnett, of 13, Brennan St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1940

+MONTGOMERY, Cecil Robert

Pilot Officer (Pilot).
42421. Died
14/08/1940. Aged 26.
615 Sqdn. He saw
action with RAF 615
Squadron during the
early stages on the
Battle of Britain. In June
1939, Montgomery
joined the Royal Air
Force on a short service
commission. He began
pilot training on
12/06/1939 at No. 22
Elementary and
Reservice Flying



Training School in Cambridge. On 05/08/1939, he became an Acting Pilot Officer. He moved to No. 2 Flying Training School at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire on 21/08/1939. He completed training on 17/02/1940. His name featured in the London Gazette on 26/03/1940, having received his wings on 24/02/1940. He joined the Group Pool at Aston Down, Gloucestershire and converted to Hawker Hurricanes. On

14/05/1940, he joined RAF 615 Squadron. They were in France at the time but returned to RAF Kenley, Surrey by 21/05/1940. On 14/08/1940, RAF 615 Squadron flew to RAF Hawkinge, Kent. Twelve Hawker Hurricanes were to intercept a Luftwaffe raid over Dover. Flying Officer Peter Collard led Red Section with Montgomery and Pilot Officer SJ Madle. Madle detached to fly beneath cloud cover due to an oxygen failure. He was the only survivor as both Collard and Montgomery's planes went down. Born in 1914. Son of John and Mary Eleanor Montgomery (née Beatty), of Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. Oye-Plage Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Fivemiletown WM. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

1941

+CONN, William Alford

RAFVR. Sergeant. 971904. Died 14/08/1941. Aged 27.15 Sqdn. Son of George and Adeline Gertrude Conn, Belfast. Wyton (St. Margaret and All Saints) Churchyard,

1943

+PATTON, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6979408. Died 14/08/1943. Aged 25. His burial in Malta may indicate that he was injured during the invasion of Italy and evacuated to Malta. Son of George and Mary Patton, of Killylea, Co. Armagh. Pembroke Military Cemetery, Malta. Armagh WM

1944

+HAMILTON, George Desmond

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 150802. Died 14/08/1944. Aged 24. He was the pilot of Airspeed Oxford ED223 with RAF No. 11 (Pilots) Advanced Flying Unit. Son of George and Florence Hamilton of Belfast; Husband to Patricia Marie Hamilton. Dundonald Cemetery

+RANKIN, Denis Henderson

RAFVR. 20 OTU. Pilot Officer. Wireless Operator. 175934. Died 14/08/1944. Age 24. Vickers Wellington III. HF816 crashed in a cross country exercise, diving into the ground and exploding near Grantown-on-Spey. There were at least five other crew who died. He was a Pharmaceutical Chemist and a member of The British Ornithological Union. Son of William James Rankin and Winifred Mabel Rankin of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery East.

VETERANS

JOHNSTON, James M West

RN. BAI 1932, TCD. MCB. Born 14/08/1910. Son of James Johnston, Brookeborough. County Surveyor, Co. Armagh. Died 1967

MATTHEWS, Thomas Allan

RAF. DFM. MCB. Born 14/08/1920. Son of Joseph J Matthews, Ormeau Rd., Belfast.

McWHIRTER, William Henry Walker

RAMC. Captain. Collegiate and Intermediate School, Ballymena. QCB MB 1898. Post - war SMO Ministry of Pensions, Birmingham,

Blackpool and Liverpool 1919 - 37. Born 1870. Son of John P McWhirter, Mill St., Ballymena. Died 14/08/1950, at home in Belfast

Every Day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI masthead.

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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