



**remembrance ni**



**Boris Johnson with D-Day veteran Rifleman James Kelly, Royal Ulster Rifles, on February 6, 2020, at 10 Downing Street, for the presentation of the Sun Heroes at Home award to RAF Odiham.**

## **Broughshane RAF veteran's radio role in jungle campaign**

Nathaniel Thompson from Broughshane was a Sgt Wireless Operator with 367 Signals Unit during service from 1941-1946 intercepting at first German radio traffic and later, in the Far East, the Japanese radio traffic.

His Unit, 367 Signals, began life in late 1942 as 367 Wireless Unit based at Newbold Revell near Rugby.

The trained operators left the U.K. in January 1943 bound for Cape Town as part of a large convoy and after a couple of months there, headed to Bombay and then on to Calcutta.

**Operations commenced as 367 Wireless Unit based in tents on the Chindwin River and later at Rangoon in Burma.**

367 WU was joined by 368 WU in May 1943 and together with 355 WU formed the valuable WU Link monitoring Japanese military activity in the Kohima and Imphal regions of north east India prior to the sieges of those two towns.

There were probably three mobile D/F Units operating in Burma supporting the main intercept station in Ceylon and 367 WU combined with 368 Wireless Unit at some point, becoming 367 Signals Unit in 1946.

The units were part of the UK's military signals intelligence set-up and in 1945, 367 and 368 Wireless Units moved to Hong Kong, merging in 1946 to become 367 Signals Unit with operations moving to Tai Po Tsai in late 1948.

In 2015 when the veteran was 94 years old he called into the War Exhibition in Bushmills Parish Hall with his daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Nat Rodgers.



## On this day – August 23

### 1914

The Battle of Mons begins with a general German attack on the French from Charleroi to Dinant. Remember the heroic French efforts on the Western Front in 1914. On 22 August they had some 27,000 killed.

The Battle of Mons was the first major action of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in the First World War. It was a subsidiary action of the Battle of the Frontiers, in which the Allies clashed with Germany on the French borders. At Mons, the British Army attempted to hold the line of the Mons–Condé Canal against the advancing German 1st Army. Although the British fought well and inflicted disproportionate casualties on the numerically superior Germans, they were eventually forced to retreat due both to the greater strength of the Germans and the sudden retreat of the French Fifth Army, which exposed the British right flank. Though initially planned as a simple tactical withdrawal and executed in good order, the British retreat from Mons lasted for two weeks and took the BEF to the outskirts of Paris before it counter-attacked in concert with the French, at the Battle of the Marne.

**On this day, 23rd August 1914, The Irish Guards gained their first Battle Honour; taking part heroically in the Retreat from Mons.**

As part of the 4th Guards Brigade, the Irish Guards fought valiantly as part of the rearguard action to slow the German advance as the British Expeditionary Force withdrew. This saw soldiers fighting an ongoing action for many days with little sleep, food or transport.

Rudyard Kipling gives a fantastic account of the action carried out by the 'Micks' and can be read here: 1914 - Mons To La Bassee - The Irish Guards in the Great War - Rudyard Kipling, Book, etext <https://ecs.page.link/3ASWJ>

Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 and on 9 August, the BEF began embarking for France. Unlike Continental European armies, the BEF in 1914 was exceedingly small. At the beginning of the war, the German and French armies numbered well over a million men each, divided into eight and five field armies respectively; the BEF had c. 80,000 soldiers in two corps of entirely professional soldiers made up of long-service volunteer soldiers and reservists. The BEF was probably the best trained and most experienced of the European armies of 1914. British training emphasised rapid-fire marksmanship and the average British soldier was able to hit a man-sized target fifteen times a minute, at a range of 300 yards (270 m) with his Lee–Enfield rifle. This ability to generate a high volume of accurate rifle-fire played an important role in the BEF's battles of 1914.

### **Belfast News-Letter, 23 August 1916 - OFFICER CASUALTIES.**

Secind Lieutenant EG Matthews, Inniskilling Dragoons, wounded, has arrived at his house, 3, Cyrene Villas, Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast, on sick leave. He joined the North Irish Horse in August, 1914, and obtained his

commission in December, 1914, in the Inniskilling Dragoons. He served his apprenticeship with Messrs. William Ewart & Son, Ltd., as an apprentice mill manager.

## 1939



Berlin and Moscow surprise the world by announcing a treaty of non-aggression. A secret protocol hidden within the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact clears the way for a joint German and Soviet invasion of Poland. Now the day is marked as the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes.

## 1941

After only 5 months in commission the Flower Class Corvette, HMS Zinnia was torpedoed and sank with the loss of all but 17 of her crew. She was escorting Convoy OG-71 from Liverpool to Gibraltar which had lost the SS Aquila a few days earlier





## 1942

Elements of the German 6th Army reached the outskirts of Stalingrad, the beginning of the battle for the city. 600 Luftwaffe planes bomb Stalingrad (40,000 die). In the end, the battle became one of the bloodiest in history with approximately 2 million casualties and losses.

A Polish soldier Józef Sopotnicki perished in the German Auschwitz camp. He was a colonel of the Polish army,



awarded with Poland's highest military decoration - War Order of Virtuti Militari. In the camp from 19 August 1942.



**Tyne Cot Cemetery**

## Roll of Honour – August 23

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1914**

**+McCREA, John Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7115. Died 23/08/1914. Age 32. Brother of Miss Martha Amelia McCrea, of Drumacranver, Madden, Keady, Co. Armagh. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, France

## 1915

### **+GREER, James**

Royal Engineers. Postal Sect. Sapper. 59804. Died 23/08/1915. Son of Mrs Mary Greer of Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

### **+LAW, James**

Royal Scots, 12th Btn. Private. 13050. Died 23/08/1915. Age 32 years old. Son of James and Ellen Law, of Dunmurry, Belfast. Cambrin Churchyard Extension, France

### **+McGARVEY, Samuel**

West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). 9th Btn. Private. 10880. Died 23/08/1915. Age 42. Son of the late Frederick McGarvey, of Ardground, Killaloo, Co. Londonderry. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Londonderry WM

### **+TILLIE, Charles Gordon**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Captain. Mentioned in Despatches. Died 23/08/1915. Age 21. Educated at Foyle College; Mourne Park School, Rostrevor, Charterhouse and Sandhurst Military Academy. Son of C. R. Tillie (Solicitor), and Sarah Tillie, of Londonderry; husband to Violet (nee Morrogh-Shannon) Tillie. He was a nephew of Mr. Marshall Tillie, formerly Mayor of Londonderry, and grandson of Mr William Tillie, H.M.L. for Derry. His name was also among a list of Great War dead, associated with Foyle College, Londonderry, read aloud during that College's annual prize giving ceremony, held on Thursday, 19/12/1918.



Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. Londonderry WM. Christ Church C of I Parish Church WM, Londonderry. Foyle College, Londonderry WM & RH. Charterhouse School Memorial Chapel, Goldaming, Surrey.

## 1916

### **+JONES, Henry**

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th (Service) Btn. B Coy. (West Belfast Volunteers). Rifleman. 9/12957. Died 23/08/1916 of wounds. Age 36. Son of Henry Jones ; Husband to Margaret Jane Jones nee Megaw, of 21 Urney Street, Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. St. Luke's (Lower Falls Parish) Church of Ireland RH

### **+MULGREW, George**

Royal Engineers. 12th Labour Coy. Pioneer.163583. Died 23/08/1916. From N Ireland. Doiran Memorial, Greece

### **+RAMSEY, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12<sup>th</sup> Btn. Serjeant.18672. Died 23/08/1916. Age 21. Born in Kilrea. Robert worked as a telegraph messenger and then as a linen lapper at W Clarke's in Upperlands. He was a member of Ballymaconnelly L.O.L. 360. Son of Daniel and Ellen Ramsey, of Culmore, Rasharkin. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium. Ballymoney WM, William Clark & Sons WW1 WM. Rasharkin Parish Church (Church of Ireland) RH

## **+STRATTON, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7173. Died 23/08/1916. Age 19. Son of Henry and Sarah Stratton, of 66, East St., Newtownards. Vermelles British Cemetery, France

**1917**

## **+CANAVAN, Patrick**

Royal Field Artillery, 28th Bde. 124th Bty. Driver. 32083. Died 23/08/1917. Son of Patrick and Jane Canavan, of Derryadd, Lurgan. Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord, France

## **+GORDON-KIDD, Arthur Lionel**

Royal Flying Corps, 19th Squadron. (4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards). Captain. DSO. Died 27/08/1917. He was in England training to join the Indian police when the war broke out. He enlisted and was wounded while serving with an Indian regiment in France. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and won a DSO for a bombing attack on a German ammunition train. He dived his aircraft from 7,500 feet and, just 900 feet above the ground, he released a bomb that devastated both train and track. His plane was rocked by the upwards force of the explosion. Major-General Trenchard wanted a VC for him and Haig in a letter of 07/07/1916 agreed, though he wanted 'corroborative evidence'. This was not provided and the DSO was awarded.

Gordon-Kidd while flying B3528, a Spad VII of 19th Squadron, RFC was shot down by Werner Voss, Germany's 4th ranked ace, on 23/08/1917 at 1010 hrs. He managed to crash land his aircraft at 23 Squadron's airfield south west of

Diksmuide but died of his wounds. He had become the 38th victim in Voss's 48 kill career. Son of the late Captain James Gordon-Kidd, Broughshane Street, Ballymena, who had served in the Indian Army. His cousin was the Reverend T J Forsythe of Randalstown. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**+HESKETH, Henry**

Connaught Rangers, 1st Btn. Private. 6/2325. Died 23/08/1917. Age 36. Son of John and Susan Hesketh; husband of Mary E. Hesketh, of 50, Malcomson St., Springfield Rd., Belfast. Born at Belfast. Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

**+McATEER, James Kennedy**

Royal Naval Reserve, Deck Hand. 10093DA. Died 23/08/1917. Age 23. HM Trawler Rose II. Son of John and Lizzie McAteer, of 26, Fleet St., Larne Harbour. Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Larne WM. Gardenmore Presbyterian Church RH

**+McCRACKEN, Benjamin Brayshaw Victor**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 23/08/1917. Age 20. Son of the late George McCracken, Ulster Bank, Dromore, Co. Tyrone, and Emma Frances Waddell (formerly McCracken). Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

**1918**

**+LEES, J L**

Tank Corps. 6th Btn. Captain. Military Cross. Died 23/08/1918 near Ervillers, between Baupaume and Arras, France, while attempting to rescue the driver of his Whippet tank following a direct shell hit. Age 24. Earlier in August 1918 he had been awarded the MC for gallantry in the field. Educated at RBAI. Son of Mr. J. Lees, of Drumadoon, Old Cave Hill Rd., Belfast. Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France. RBAI WM

### **+ROSS, Arthur**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 20/309. Died 23/08/1918 as a prisoner of war. Age 21. Brother of Mrs. Emily Taggart, of Ballyhemlyn, Bushmills. Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany

### **+SCOTT, Herbert**

Royal Air Force, 8th Sqdn. Second Lieutenant. Died 23/08/1918. Age 29. Before joining up he was employed at a Labour Exchange office in Blackpool. After completing his training, he went to the front on 01/08/1918 and served in 8 Squadron RAF. Reported missing from the 23/08/1918, three weeks after he arrived in France, he was subsequently confirmed as having died that day. He was the eldest son of the late Joseph Scott of Bolton, who died in 1916 and Catherine Scott who died in March 1918. He was also the grandson of Charles Scott and nephew of Miss Clara Scott both of Strawberry Hill, Lisburn. She had received a letter the day before he was posted missing appointing her as his next of kin. His brother Fred Scott had served in the Royal Garrison Artillery before transferring to the RAF in which he was serving as an officer at the time of Herbert Scott's

death. He appears to have survived the war. Boyelles Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

## 1940

### **+McCONNELL, Robert Hay Stewart**

RAF. 269 Sqdn. Squadron Leader (Pilot). 34023. D F C. Died 23/08/1940 along with P/O S J Herring in a Hudson crash at Wick during pilot conversion training. Both share a joint grave. Robert (known as Rory) was the son of Rev. William James McConnell and Mrs Margaret Stewart (nee Small) McConnell, The Manse, Markethill. Rev. William James McConnell served as a chaplain in WW1 with the 16th Irish Division and subsequently at General Headquarters, where among those who attended his services was Earl Haig. Mr. McConnell was twice mentioned in dispatches. Rory was a brother of the Rev. Brian McConnell M.A., D.D., minister of Donore, Dublin, who died 12/02/2005. Wick Cemetery, Caithnessshire, Scotland. Memorial lectern donated by his parents to Stormont Presbyterian Church

## 1942

### **+GRAEME-COOK, Arthur Stanley**

RAFVR. Flying Sergeant. 1062351. Died 23/08/1942. Aged 21. 108 Sqdn. Kitchener Scholar Of Queens University, Belfast. Son Of Major Hubert Graeme-Cook And Harriette Augusta Graeme-Cook, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Column 249, QUB WM, RH

### **+SMYTH, Andrew**

RAFVR. Aircraftman 1st Class (Wireless Operator). 1078277. Died 23/08/1942. Youngest son of Mr. and Mrs.





Andrew Smyth, Linenhall Street, Limavady. Llanbelig Public Cemetery, Caernarfon, Caernarvonshire

**1943**

**+GREEN, John**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Flight Engineer). Died 23/08/1943. Age 24.106 Squadron. Son of Frederick Green and Ellen Green of Harryville, Ballymena. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

**+MOORE, Robert Angus**

RAFVR. 297 Sqdn. Flight Sergeant. 1074933. Died 23/08/1943 when an Armstrong Whitworth Albemarle aircraft of 297 Squadron was shot down and crashed into the sea off the north-east coast of Spain with the loss of four lives. Age 23. Son of Hugh and Rose Moore, of Bangor, Co. Down. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Family memorial, Bangor Cemetery

**+WILLIAMS, Newton Hunter Middleton**

RAFVR. Sgt. 1490507. Died 23/08/1943. QUB. Watford North Cemetery, Hertfordshire

**1944**

**+LYNN, Thomas Alexander**

Gordon Highlanders, 1st Btn. Corporal. 3856376. Died 23/08/1944. Age 25. Born in 1918 at Tattyknuckle, Fivemiletown. The family moved to Newtownards in 1940, but Alex had already moved to England in 1938 to seek work. After the outbreak of war Alex was serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France and was evacuated from the beaches in Dunkirk in 1940. He was then posted to North Africa and served at Tobruk. He went on to serve in the invasion of Normandy. Son of Samuel and Isabella Lynn, of Dundonald, Co. Down. St Desir War Cemetery, Lisieux, Calvados, France. Fivemiletown WM

**+SOUTHAM, Ernest**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Corporal. 7012844. Died 23/08/1944. Age 24. Son of Mr and Mrs R. Southam of Northern Bank House, Belfast. Husband to Amelia Elizabeth

Southam, of Brithdir, New Tredegar, Monmouthshire. Three brothers also served and their father had previously served in the First World War. Tourgeville Military Cemetery, Calvados, France

**1946**

**+WALLACE, John**

RAFVR. Corporal. 1504000. Died 23/08/1946. Age 47. 241 Squadron. Husband to Jean Wallace. Son of William and Elizabeth Wallace. Randalstown Presbyterian Old Congregation Church Yard.

**VETERANS**

**GIBSON, R**

RMLI. Private. Ply.18374. Born Waringstown 23/08/1898. A weaver by trade. Enlisted RM, Belfast, 31/08/1915. Discharged on the termination of his second period of engagement in August 1937, he was re-mobilised in September 1939. He served throughout the Second World War. British War and Victory medals, Coronation 1937, RN LS & GC, GVR. Died January 1963.

**MARTIN, Samuel Small**

Canadian Forces.135th Overseas Battalion. Lance-Corporal. 802801. Samuel enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 24/01/1916 in London, Ontario. Born on 23/08/1895 in Coleraine. As a young man he emigrated to Canada. Prior to joining up he was a farmer in the Broughdale area, near London, Ontario. His parents, Mr. Arthur (farmer) and Mrs. Annie Martin, lived at

Drumslade, Portstewart, and his uncle, Mr. Thomas Martin, was a solicitor in Coleraine.

**TURTLE, Maybin**

RM. Private. 20780. Chatham Division. Enrolled 20/07/1916. Served in Marmara 21/09/1917 - 23/07/1918. Left 23/08/1918. Born Cullybackey 09/05/1898. Son of Adam Turtle, Main St., Cullybackey. Cunningham Memorial, Cullybackey - PCI RH. ADM 159/134/20780

**Every Day is a Remembrance Day**

***We will remember them***

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The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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