



## remembrance ni



### **The First Ulsterman to win VC in WW1**

**He was 34419, Sergeant (afterwards Major) David Nelson, L. Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.**

His award was for helping to bring the guns into action under heavy fire at Nery, on 01/09/1914, and while severely wounded remaining with them until all the ammunition was

expended, although he had been ordered to retire to cover. He went to France as an N.C.O., and died of wounds there in April, 1918, having risen to the rank of major.

David Nelson was the first Ulster soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War and one of the first in the entire armed forces during that conflict (the first of all was an Irishman from Westmeath, which is however not in Ulster).

Nelson was born in Stradnooden, County Monaghan on 03/04/1886. He originally enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in 1904 but later transferred to L Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery where he was promoted bombardier (equivalent to corporal) in 1910 and also obtained a first class certificate in gunnery from the School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness, the Ministry of Defence establishment for testing guns and training gunners founded in 1849 and located east of London, near Southend.

The United Kingdom declared war on 4 August 1914 and the following day Nelson was promoted Sergeant in L Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.

The British army, which was very small compared to the millions of troops of the German army which stormed through Belgium and northern France, was though a highly-trained, experienced professional force which attempted to stop the German advance at the town of Mons in Belgium.

However, on 23 August the French army – like the German army millions strong but composed mostly of inexperienced conscripts. The British had little choice but to retreat as well. During the retreat there would be engagements in which the retreating troops would try to hold up their pursuers.

One such action took place on 1 September at a place called N  ry, about 35 miles north-east of Paris. For a whole morning Nelson's unit, L Battery, held up a considerably larger force, the German 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry division. Though of short duration, fighting was bitter and highly destructive. It began early, before morning mist had cleared, and L Battery lost three of its six guns before they Battery deployed to fire back, and it soon lost two more guns. L Battery manned the

last gun as best it could, and was able under heavy bombardment to keep its own fire until the last shell had been used. One of those working the gun to the last was Nelson, whose precise job was range-finder; he stuck to his position even though seriously wounded and ignoring orders to retire. This required hospitalisation, and two days later was taken prisoner, though he managed to escape soon after.

Nelson's VC was gazetted (published in the relevant official journal on 16/11/1914, the day after he was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Nelson was promoted first lieutenant in June 1915 and spent a period as a Captain-Instructor at the School of Gunnery. On 01/03/1918 he was promoted major and given command of D Battery, 59<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and sent back to France, where an enormous German attack was pushing the British and French armies back far behind their positions, a serious crisis. In April he was severely wounded in action and died on 08/04/1918 in a casualty clearing station at Lillers, where he is buried. The gun used at Néry survived and is on display at the Imperial War Museum in London.

There continues to be a Battery in the Royal Regiment of Artillery which bears the title of L Nery Battery.

Major General Harry Tuzo (formerley Royal Artillery) who served as GOC Northern Ireland had close links with L Nery Battery.

Acknowledgment - Richard Froggatt, Dictionary of Ulster Biography.



*Above - Photogravure after Fortunino Matania. Published by Henry Graves and Company Limited, London, 10 September 1915. National Army Museum, London*

**During the Battle of Nery on September 1, 1914  
Sergeant David Nelson, RHA, won Ulster's first VC of  
the war.**

The Battle of Nery was an engagement fought by mounted elements of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) during the Retreat from Mons. Surprised by a German cavalry division, 1st Cavalry Brigade and 'LBattery', Royal Horse Artillery, fought off the enemy until relieved by British infantry reinforcements.

The latter battery was all but destroyed apart from one gun which was kept in action by Captain Edward Bradbury,



Sergeant David Nelson and Battery Sergeant-Major George Dorrell. All three were awarded the Victoria Cross for their brave stand, Bradbury's being posthumous.

L (Nery) Battery served with distinction during WW2 in North Africa and Italy. During the Cold War it deployed to Palestine, Malaya, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. It served in the Falklands, Kosovo, Persian Gulf and Iraq. The gun used at Néry survived and is on display at the Imperial War Museum in London.

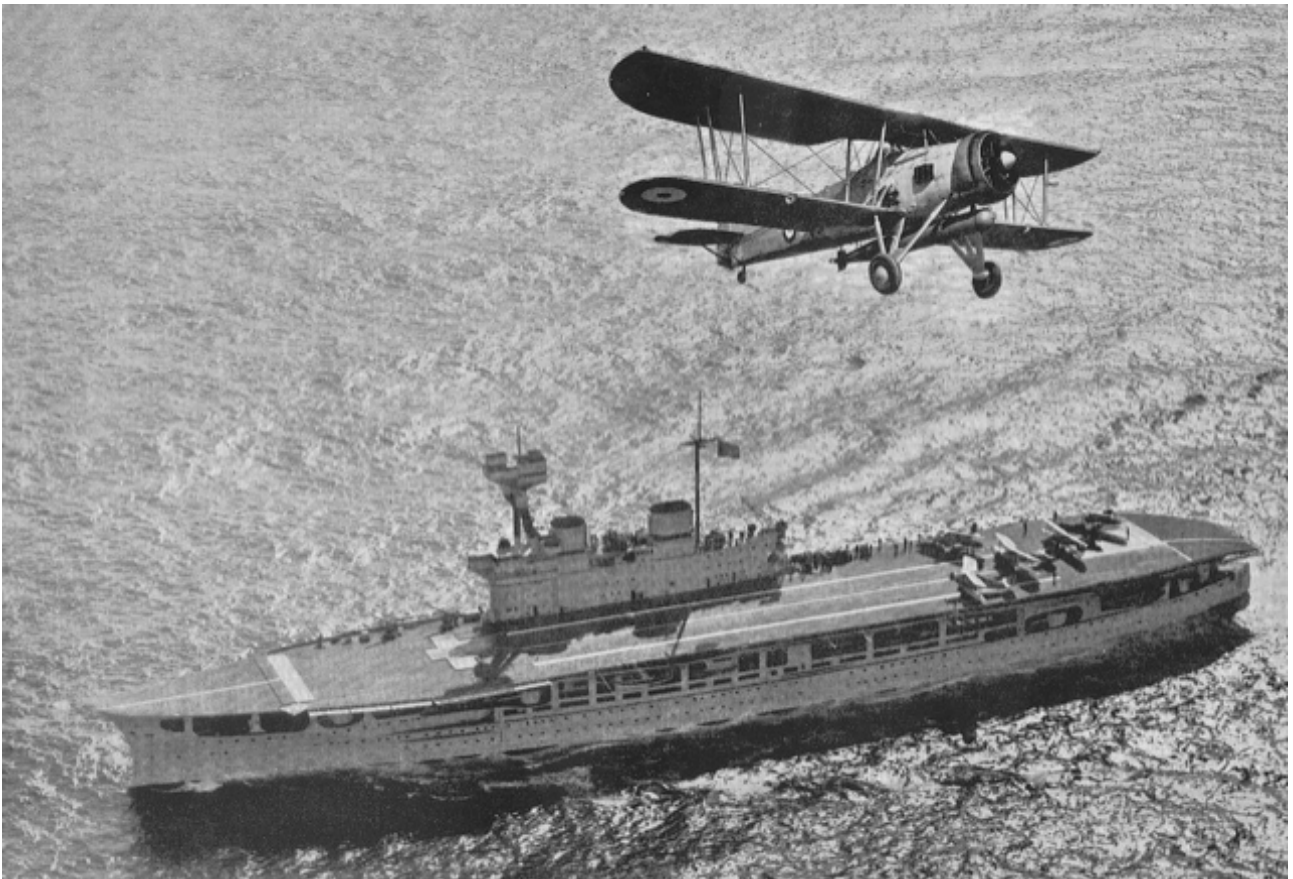
## On this Day – September 30

**1939**

Nazi Germany invades Poland, the beginning of the Second World War in Europe.



Royal Marines Active Strength before mobilisation: Officers and men 12,390: Royal Marines Pensioners under 55 years age 2,406: Royal Fleet Reserve (Royal Marines) 1,082



## **1940**

Captain Oliver Patch RM flew in a flight of 3 Swordfish to sink 4 Italian ships with 3 torpedoes in Bomba Bay.

'At 12.30 they turned inshore into Bomba Bay and opened out to about 200 yards apart. Four miles from shore a submarine was sighted on the surface

## **1941**

Jews living in Germany are required to wear a yellow star of David

## **1944**

Sherman tanks from Guards Armoured Division passing Villers-Bretonneux Memorial and Cemetery See next page.





# Roll of Honour – September 1

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

1914

## **+BELL, John Arthur**

Irish Guards. Private. 3568. Died 01/09/1914. Aged 23. John Arthur Bell joined the Army before the outbreak of the Great War. He enlisted in Antrim, served with the Irish Guards and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on 13/08/1914. Son of John Arthur Bell, a carpenter, and his wife Elizabeth, nee Millar, a teacher from Dervock, near Ballymoney. John Arthur was born at Shane's Castle, Randalstown on 10/12/1890. The parents later address was 'Gwenville', Comber, Belfast. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France. Comber St Mary's C of I Parish Church WM

## **+CALLANAN, Matthew**

North Irish Horse. Driver. Died 01/09/1914. Driver Callanan was the North Irish Horse's first casualty of the war. Callanan was born at Knightsbridge, London in 1878. On 03/01/1903 he enlisted in the Army Service Corps at Aldershot (No. T/20248). His time in the army was not the happiest, being marked by a number of disciplinary



breaches, and at the expiration of his three years he left, being placed on the 1st Class Reserve list for nine years.

Perhaps Callanan had Irish connections, because when war broke out in August 1914 he was living in Dublin. When the call went out for reservists to mobilise, Callanan went to the nearest Army Service Corps depot and joined the 19th Company. Three days later he was attached to A Squadron of the North Irish Horse and in a week was sailing with them on the *SS Architect* for Le Havre.

Driver Callanan's role was most likely to help manage the squadron's baggage train.

In France they travelled by train to Le Cateau, where two troops of A Squadron under Captain Herdman (including Callanan) were attached to General French's GHQ. From 22 to 28 August they accompanied GHQ as they withdrew from Le Cateau to St Quentin to Noyon to Compiègne.

While at Compiègne, Callanan was involved in an accident that broke his spine. He died there on 01/09/1914. His comrades passed his body and personal effects to the care of GHQ's Field Ambulance. He was quickly buried and the location of his grave forgotten.

After the war his medals were returned unclaimed - no trace could be found on his next of kin, his brother John. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France.

### **+DEERY, William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. A Coy. Private. 7044. Died 01/09/1914. Age 33. Son of the late Michael and Bridget Deery, of Londonderry. Verberie Communal Cemetery, France

## 1915

### **+ANDERSON, Leigh Maxwell**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 01/09/1915. Age 36. Known as Max, he was born in Armagh in 1878 to Joseph and Mary (nee Simpson) Anderson. He was one of seven children and was unmarried. He lived in the family home in Victoria St., Armagh. He never served overseas and died at home. St Mark's C of I graveyard, Armagh

### **+HAMILL, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 3494. Died 01/09/1915. Age 18. From Magherafelt. Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

## 1916

### **+AICKEN, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1040. Died 01/09/1916. Age 21. Son of Maggie Aicken, of 8, Agnew St., Larne. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium

### **+BROOKS, William John**

Canadian Infantry, 15th Btn. Private. 799032. MM. Died 01/09/1918. Age 26. It is believed Private William John Brooks won his Military Medal for his actions on the day he died. He enlisted on 11/01/1916 in Toronto. William had been living at 29 Wyndham Street, Toronto. He had been working as a driver. Son of James and Margaret Brooks, of Derrynoid, Draperstown, Co. Londonderry. Dominion Cemetery, Hendecourt-Les-Cagincourt, France. Tobermore WM, Draperstown Presbyterian Church RH

## **+BURNS, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman.1209. Died 01/09/1916. From Larne. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

## **+CATHCART, David.**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Sergeant.17424.Died 01/09/1916. Age 24. Enlisted at Lisburn, possibly embarking with them from Bordon Camp for France as a corporal in October 1915. Before his death he had just returned to the front having been in Lisburn a few weeks previously with a recruiting party. Born in Belfast, possibly at Ballysillan, he lived with his parents James and Sarah Cathcart of 87 Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn. He was a spinning master at the Island Mill, Lisburn, a member of Lisburn Conservative Flute Band and Lisburn Mechanics LOL 557. David was the six member of the Conservative Flute Band to be killed in the war. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

## **+CONNOLLY, John Henry**

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 6<sup>th</sup> Btn, attached 11<sup>th</sup> Btn. Royal Irish Rifles. Second Lieutenant. Died 01/09/1916 after being gassed. Age 19. Born Coleraine 04/11/1896. Coleraine Academical Institution. In 1913, Conolly joined the Belfast Banking Company and served in Central branch. Member of the QU Training Corps 1915. Agincourt Avenue, Bangor, Down. Son of John M. and E. J. Conolly, of Cranagh Hill, Coleraine.They had married at Castlerock on 04/09/1895. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France



## **+DOUGLAS, R**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18/767. Died 01/09/1916. Age 20. Son of John and Agnes Douglas, of 13, Eversleigh St., Belfast. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium

## **+DRENNAN, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18/4. Died 01/09/1916. Age 37. Born Whiteabbey 20/06/1877. Enlisted Belfast. He was a well known footballer. He played 13 times in goal for Linfield FC and had periods with four other top teams. Enlisted Belfast. Son of James and Eliza (nee Hayden) Drennan of Belfast. Husband to Hester Cooke (nee Burrowes) Drennan of 42 Vernon street Belfast. They married on 05/10/1899 in Ballysillan Presbyterian Church. They had four sons. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium. Linfield Football Club WM, Distillery Football Club Memorial plaque

## **+ELLIS, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Corporal. 4612. Died 01/09/1916. Age 36. Enlisted in Clandeboye, Co. Down. He and his wife were living in Toome at the time. Born about 1881 in Grangetown, Yorkshire. By 1901, William was living with his aunt, Esther Ellis in Castledawson. William was a labourer. Son of Richard and Hannah Ellis, of Yorkshire. They were originally from Magherafelt but they went to live in Scotland and then on to the north of England. Husband to Alice Mary (nee Evans) Ellis, They married on 20/08/1914 in the Registrar's Office in Magherafelt. and later resided at 24,

St. Kilda St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Castledawson WM. Castledawson LOL 97 RH

### **+LAMONT, William**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 11/18047. Died 01/09/1916. Age 25. Son of Robert and Lizzie Lamont, of 42, Gregg St., Lisburn; husband to Sarah McKearney (formerly Purdy, Lamont), of 23, Canal St., Lisburn. Father of Margaret Purdy Lamont born 1915. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium

### **+MARTIN, Edward**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 3894. Died 01/09/1916. Husband to Mrs. S. Martin, of 26, Sloan St., Lisburn. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+MARTIN, William Samuel**

Highland Light Infantry. 12th Btn. (City of Glasgow Regiment). Corporal. 18950. Died 01/09/1916. Age 38. Born at Markethill. Son of Samuel James and Abigail Martin; husband to Catherine Martin. St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. St John's C of I, Kilcluney WM

### **+McCLURE, Thomas James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 11/16701. Died 01/09/1916. Age 23. Son of Sarah and the late Elias McClure, of Lisburn; husband of Margaret McClure, of 25, Ballynahinch Rd., Lisburn. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium.

**+MURDOCK, James Stanley**

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Rifleman 18351. Died 01/09/1916. He was born in the Shankill area of Belfast. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. St Jude's C of I Church, Belfast WM

**+PYPER, D**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18/1121. Died 01/09/1916. Age 20. Son of Maggie Pyper, of Glastry, Kircubbin, Co. Down. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium.

**+ROBINSON, J A**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 719. Died 01/09/1916. Age 24. Born in Ahoghill. Son of Robert and Martha Robinson, of 49, James Street, Harryville, Ballymena; nephew of Ellen Robinson, 21, Alfred Street, Harryville, Ballymena; husband to Jane Robinson and father of two young children, of 2, James St., Harryville, Ballymena. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Ploegsteert, Belgium

**+ROSBOROUGH, Henry**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 15981. Died 01/09/1916. Age 30. Brother of Miss J. Rosborough, of Banagher Rectory, Derrychrier, Co. Londonderry. Berks Cemetery Extension, Belgium

**+SHERIDAN, William Nicholas**

Royal Irish Rifles. 13th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 01/09/1916. Age 25. Born at Enniskillen. Son of Robert and



Mary Sheridan, of Mourne View, Banbridge. Born at Enniskillen. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium.

### **+SIMPSON, Joseph**

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th Btn. Rifleman. 18764. Died 01/09/1916. Age 22. Son of John and Mary Simpson, of Hilden, Lisburn. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

### **+WARD, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 19292. Died 01/09/1916. Age 19. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium. United Co-operative Baking Society RH

### **+WILLIAMSON, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Rifleman. 19804. Died 01/09/1916 from the effects of gas poisoning. Born in Killead 06/08/1882. Enlisted Antrim. Samuel was a member of Glenavy LOL. His brother Robert served with Canadian Infantry. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1921. Son of James, a fisherman, and Isabella (nee Campbell) Williamson. Samuel and Margaret McMullen were married in St Aidan's Church of Ireland, Glenavy, on 10/08/1906. They had three children. The family lived at Main Street, Crumlin. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

## **1917**

### **+MALLOY, Alfred**

Army Service Corps. 953rd Mechanical Transport Coy. Private. M/301132. Died 01/09/1917 of heatstroke having been admitted to No 3 General Hospital, Basra with sandfly

fever. Age 23. Born Belfast 15/04/1896. Enlisted Belfast 13/03/1917. At this time he was resident with his family in Riverside, Antrim. Son of Alfred and Maggie Malloy, of 4, Seaview Terrace, Greencastle, Belfast; husband to Rose McAllister (formerly Malloy), of Church St., Antrim. Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Whitehouse Presbyterian Church RH

**1918**

### **+BARR, James Hamilton**

Royal Irish Rifles 11th Btn, attached 7th/8th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Lieutenant. Died 01/09/1918. Age 21. Foyle College. Matriculated in the Faculty of Arts, 1915. He won the Irish Society's Entrance Scholarship to QUB in 1915. On joining the colours, in October 1915, he was attached to the 18th Royal Irish Rifles as a cadet at Clondeboye, where he was stationed for three months. He then went to the Curragh, where he remained for five months. At the end of August 1916, it was reported in the Londonderry Press that Cadet James Hamilton Barr had been given a commission in the Royal Irish Rifles. On receiving his commission he was again transferred to Clondeboye. His death was touchingly referred to on Sunday, 15/09/1918, at morning service in Carlisle Road Presbyterian Church by Reverend John Huey, who recalled the deceased's valuable services as a Sabbath School teacher, and spoke of his brilliancy as a scholar at Foyle College and student at Queen's University. With the support of the Irish Society, a memorial prize in classics was created at Foyle College. Foyle College's memorial was made of old battleship teakwood from H.M.S. Britannia. Son of William

and Henrietta Barr, Aubrey St., Londonderry. Diamond WM. Wulverghem - Lindenhoeek Road Military Cemetery.

### **+BROOKS, William John**

Canadian Infantry. 15th Btn. (Central Ontario Regiment). Private. 799032. Military Medal. Died 01/09/1918. Age 26. Enlisted Toronto, 11/01/1916. Military Medal, Supplement to London Gazette dated 24/01/1919. Son of James and Margaret Brooks, of Derrynoid, Draperstown, Co. Londonderry. Dominion Cemetery, Hendecourt-Les-Cagnicourt, France. Canada First World War Book of Remembrance

### **+CLOKEY, James**

Canadian Machine Gun Corps 4th. Btn. Private 40670. Died. 01/09/1918. Age 24. Son of Mrs. Jane Clokey, of Ballykine, Ballynahinch. Vimy Memorial. Ballynahinch WM

### **+EMERSON, Jim**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 10896. Died 01/09/1918. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Emerson, of 6, Mill St., Enniskillen. Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France

### **+MARSHALL, Edward Leslie**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Captain. Military Cross and Bar. Died 01/09/1918. Age 36. Edward Leslie Marshall was born on 13 March 1892 at 17 College Street, Belfast and he was a son of Andrew Chambers Marshall and Annie Maria Marshall (nee Martin). The Marshall family lived in Bryansburn Road, Bangor (1901), in Windsor Avenue, Belfast (1911) and in Redholme, Craigavad. Andrew



Marshall was a wholesale flour merchant (William Marshall & Company Ltd, Victoria Street, Belfast).

Edward Leslie Marshall attended Bangor Grammar School from 1911 until 1913 and then Methodist College Belfast. He was well-known in golfing circles. Prior to the outbreak of the First World War Edward worked in his father's business and he joined the Army in September 1914.

He trained at Clondeboye and in October 1914, he received a commission in the 36th (Ulster) Division. Leslie Marshall was gazetted Second Lieutenant with the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers on 13/10/1914. He took up duties in Finner Camp and went to the Front.

He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at the capture of the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge in June 1917. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in September 1917 and was wounded at the Battle of Cambrai in December 1917. He was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross in January 1918. Meteren Military Cemetery, France.  
Holywood and District WM, Bangor Grammar School,  
Methodist College Belfast, Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club  
Memorial Plaque

### **+McILVEEN, William**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance-Corporal. 6140. Died 01/09/1918 while a prisoner of war in Germany. Husband to Jane, and father of three children, 135 Crimea Street, Belfast. Cologne Southern Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

## **+NEELY, Allston**

New Zealand Rifle Brigade. 1st Btn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. Rifleman. 49102. Died 01/09/1918 east of Bapaume in France. Age 23. Born in Kilrea on 15/04/1895. He was a member of Lislea L.O.L. and of Tamlaght O'Crilly C of I Parish Church. He was the second member of the church to die in the war. Allston emigrated to New Zealand in 1914. Prior to enlisting he had worked as a carrier for W Guest. His last address states simply c/o W Guest, Pukekohe. He enlisted in Pukekohe on 18/12/1916. He initially attempted to enlist in June 1915 but had been rejected due to bad hearing. He had served with the 16th Waiuku Infantry. Waiuku and Pukekohe are country towns in the Auckland Region in the North Island of New Zealand. They are located at the southern end of the Waiuku River. He left New Zealand with his unit on 09/06/1917. In August he met an old school friend, Private John 'Jack' McCay Torrens. The two served in the same machine gun team and died together. Son of William James and Margret Ann Neely, of Moyagney, Upperlands, Co. Londonderry. Bancourt British Cemetery, France

## **+SCULLION, Patrick**

New Zealand Rifle Brigade. 1st Btn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. Rifleman. 69381. Died 01/09/1918. Age 40. Born on 08/05/1878 in Bellaghy to a farming family. Patrick emigrated to New Zealand about 1900. Prior to enlisting, Patrick worked as a labourer in Egmont Box Company, Taranaki. This area is on the western side of the north island. Son of John and Ann Scullion, of Drumanee, Bellaghy, Co. Londonderry. Bancourt British Cemetery, France. Castledawson WM

## **+TORRENS, John McCay**

New Zealand Rifle Brigade. 1st Btn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. Rifleman. 39124. Died 01/09/1918 in action east of Bapaume. Age 23. Private Torrens was seriously wounded in November 1917. He received a severe gunshot wound to the elbow. He was removed to hospital. On 12/07/1918, John 'Jack' Torrens returned to the front. Born on 25/08/1895 in Moneydig, near Garvagh. John was raised by his grandparents, James and Jane Torrens. They lived in Culnahan, Bovagh, County Londonderry. They were a farming family. Around 1913, John emigrated to New Zealand. Nephew of William K. Torrens, of Lincoln Rd., Christchurch, New Zealand. Bancourt British Cemetery, France. Kilrea WM

## **+WILSON, T**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 26796. Died 01/09/1918. Age 19. Son of John and M. Jane Wilson, of 30, Fountain Hill, Waterside, Londonderry. Wulvergehem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium

## **+WILSON, W**

Royal Engineers, Signal Sub. Sect. att'd. 155th Army Field Artillery Bde. Formerly served in the 10th Royal Inniskillings (Derry Regt.). Serjeant. 255087. Died 01/09/1918. Age 42. Son of James and Martha Wilson, of Londonderry; husband of Hissie Ross Wilson, of 43, Wapping Lane, Londonderry. Bac-du-Sud British Cemetery, Bailleuval, France

**1941**

## **+STEAVENSON, Alexander Arthur Fenwich Towry**

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 85756. Died 01/09/1941 at Noble's Hospital, Maughold, Isle of Man. Aged 55. years old. Born on 17/09/1885 in Madras, India, he was the only son of the late Joseph Steavenson and the late Jeannie Steavenson (née Weir), and husband to Violet Carmen Tighe Steavenson (née Rea) of Highgate, Middlesex, England.

In civilian life, Steavenson attended school in Malew, Isle of Man. In 1901, he joined 6th Btn, Royal Irish Rifles as a Second Lieutenant, receiving promotion to Lieutenant in 1905. He moved on first to 3rd Btn, Royal Irish Rifles, then to 4th Btn, Royal Irish Rifles, and then to 1st Btn, Royal Irish Fusiliers. In Dublin, Ireland, he completed a course in musketry and on 02/05/1915, entered service in France during The Great War.

By 13/10/1915, Steavenson was promoted to Captain and attached to 1st Btn, Royal Irish Rifles with whom he served until taken off the battalion strength due to illness on 23/04/1916. He later served in 3rd Echelon, General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force. Following The Great War, Steavenson and his wife moved to India where he worked on a tea plantation. A daughter, Joy E.

Steavenson was born there in 1926 and the family went on to split their time between India and the United Kingdom with addresses at 69 Marlborough Park South, Belfast; 76 Clifton Road, Bangor, Co. Down; 128 Seacliff Road, Bangor, Co. Down; and 15 Ballymaconnell Road, Bangor, Co. Down.

In India, Steavenson continued his military career, serving with the Surma Valley Light Horse Auxiliary Force where he received the Volunteer Forces Long Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal in 1924. With the outbreak of the



Second World War, he returned to Northern Ireland and joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Violet and daughter Joy continued to live in Bangor, Co. Down. His grave is in St. Maughold Churchyard, Kirk Maughold, Isle of Man. His name is on the Groomsport WM and the Groomsport Parish Church WM, Groomsport, Co. Down as A.F.T. Stevenson.

**1942**

**+BOLT, Henry Marcus**

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 553553. Died 01/09/1941. Age 18. At the time, he was a Wireless Operator with RAF No. 66 Air School training at Youngsfield, Cape Town, South Africa. Harry received his education at Limavady Central School and Limavady Technical School, Limavady. He enlisted in the RAF at 16 years old and left for training in South Africa aged 18 years old in 1941. Known as Harry, he was the only son of the late JW Bolt and Sarah Bolt of Bellarena, Co. Londonderry. Harry's death came only 2 months after that of his father. Maitland Cemetery, Cape Town, South Africa.

**+ROGERS, John Kane**

RAF. Wing Commander. 208 Squadron. 39761. Died 01/09/1942. Aged 28. He had gained promotion to Wing Commander on 23/06/1942, while based in Egypt. During WW2 Rogers and 208 Squadron were in Palestine. He was the pilot on Hawker Hurricane IIB HL566 when it came down in North Africa. Son of John Sydney and Patricia R. Rogers, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Newcastle Parish Church, Co. Down, RH

**1943**

## **+MACAULEY, Cecil Hill**

Royal Air Force. Sergeant. 656568. Died 01/09/1943. Age 27. 158 Sqdn. He was on board Handley Page Halifax HR738 NP-Z. The plane – nicknamed Zombie's Zephyr was on a night-time raid over Berlin. The crew took off from RAF Lissett, Yorkshire on 31/08/1943.

This was one of the first times, the Luftwaffe used fighter flare to mark the flight path of the main Allied force. This, along with cloud cover, poor equipment, and a well-defended city meant the raid was not a success. Of 622 planes taking part in the raid, 47 failed to return. On the ground in Berlin, 68 people died with 85 homes destroyed.

On the return leg, Macaulay's plane went down over Durnberg, east-north-east of Paderborn, Germany. Oberleutnant Werner Baake 3/NJG 1 flying from Venlo Aerodrome in the Netherlands claimed the victory.

Soldiers manning a German flak battery found the injured survivor Flight Engineer Sergeant RJH Price 2 days after the crash.

As a young man, Cecil attended Coleraine Academical Institution and later became an articled accountant in Belfast. He was a keen rugby player at schoolboy level and also for Larne Rugby Club. He was also a member of Larne Sailing Club and enjoyed sailing wherever he was in the world. Cecil was also a member of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 162 of Islandmagee, Co. Antrim.

After the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in a Searchlight Regiment of the Royal Artillery. He served as a despatch rider during the Dunkirk withdrawal in June 1940. After Dunkirk, he transferred to the RAF and undertook training in Canada.

Born on 11/05/1916, he was a twin son of the late Captain Robert Macaulay and Margaret Jane Macaulay (née Matier) of Thornhill, Islandmagee. Robert Macaulay died at sea on 05/01/1918 when his ship came under torpedo attack. Cecil's twin brother James Macaulay, was a solicitor in Larne, Co. Antrim. Hanover War Cemetery, Hanover, Niedersachsen, Germany.

### **+McADAM, Henry James**

RAF. Air Gunner. Sergeant. 547995. Died 01/09/1943. Age 23. 77 Sqdn. He was an Air Gunner on Handley Page Halifax DT643 damaged by flak on 10/07/1943. His crew took off at 2314hrs from RAF Elvington, Yorkshire on a bombing raid to Gelsenkirchen, Germany. They hit their targets from around 19,000 feet, suffered slight flak damaged but returned to base at 0512hrs.

Henry had another escape on 26/07/1943. He was the only member of the above crew not on board Handley Page Halifax JB838 when it was shot down over Essen, Germany. All on board died.

Eventually, after a number of raids over Germany, Sergeant McAdam's luck ran out. Handley page Halifax JD418 KN-A of RAF 77 Squadron failed to return from an operation over Berlin. The plane took off at 2028hrs on 31st August 1943 from RAF Elvington, Yorkshire piloted by Flight Sergeant Ralph Owen Chester.

Four other members of the crew died alongside Chester and McAdam. The remaining two aircrew became prisoners of war. He was the son of Thomas McAdam and Margaret McAdam of Belfast. 1939 - 45 War Cemetery, Charlottenburg, Berlin, Germany

**+McCORMICK, William Henry**

RAFVR. Corporal. 972834. Died 01/09/1943 as a result of injuries sustained in an accident.. Aged 22. He was attached to No. 31 Mobile Field Hospital during the Second World War. Son of Charles and Bridget Gertrude McCormick, of 17 Lawrence Hill, Londonderry. Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

**+WRIGHT, Edward John**

RAFVR. Sergeant. Wireless operator/Air gunner. 1044677. Died 01/09/1943. Age 19. 15 (Bomber) Sqdn. He died in a mission over Germany. His squadron flew from RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, England. He was in Short Stirling III EE912 LS-U, which took off from R.A.F. Mildenhall on 31/08/1943. The mission did not go well. The Luftwaffe made use of fighter flare to mark the path of the main Allied force. This, along with cloud cover, poor equipment, and a well defended target, led to critical failures in the raid. Of 622 planes, 47 failed to return. EE912 crashed at Roskow, northeast of Brandenburg, Germany. Born in Belfast, he was the son of James Wright and Mabel Wright. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Charlottenburg, Berlin, Germany.

**1944**

**+BERRY, Francis**

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1<sup>st</sup> Btn. Private. 7013410. Died 01/09/1944. Age 25. Before the outbreak of WW2 he served in 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles for a short while after working at Hamilton and Robb Ltd. in Portadown. During wartime, he served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, seeing action in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

On Saturday 05/06/1943, the Portadown News received a letter from Private Berry from his base in North Africa, stating -

“I have pleasure in thanking the people of Portadown for their kind generosity in sending the parcel, which I received when at home. I would like to let you know how some of the Portadown boys here are doing. First on the list is Edmund McAdam of John Street. He is in the same Division as myself, as is also Bertie McAteer of Fowler’s Entry. We are all doing fine and hope to be able to go out to Shamrock Park again and cheer the Ports to victory. There are a few more lads from the town in the Eighth Army with us and they all send their best wishes to you all. Hoping you will convey this message on behalf of all the lads of the town serving in the Eighth Army through your news columns.”

He was the son of Francis Berry and Sarah Berry of Portadown, Co. Armagh. He lived with his wife Sarah Berry and 3 young sons at 50 John Street, Portadown. Florence War Cemetery, Florence, Italy. Portadown WM

### **+CAULFIED, Frederick**

Royal Naval Patrol Service. RNPS. Leading Seaman. LT/JX 183819. HM Motor Minesweeper 117. Died 01/09/1944. Age: 28. When the Royal Naval Reserves were mobilised in



August 1939, Lowestoft became the Central Depot for the Royal Naval Patrol Service and the RNPS Depot became known as HMS Europa. The importance of small ships for minesweeping had first been recognised during the First World War. Built in 1942 by J.S. Doig Ltd., Grimsby, HMMM 117 was sunk by a mine off Civitavecchia, Italy on 01/09/1944. Leading Seaman Caulfield was one of 17 men who were killed. Frederick's death was reported in the 21/10/1944 edition of the County Down Spectator under the headline Bangor Seaman Presumed Killed. Born 14/10/1915 at 26 Charlotte Street, Stranraer, Wigtownshire. Son of Frederick and Agnes Caulfield. Husband to Mary Caulfield, 17 Clandeboye Place, Bangor. The couple married on 10/11/1936 at St. Patrick's Church, Lisburn, Co. Antrim. After Frederick died, his wife Mary moved to Scarborough in Ontario, Canada and she died there in 1980. Lowestoft Naval Memorial, Panel 14 (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/09/1944).

## **1945**

### **+McCABE, William Allen**

Intelligence Corps, 761st Field Security Section. Corporal. 14442975. Died 01/09/1945. Age 22. Son of Samuel Orr McCabe and Elizabeth McCabe of Belfast. Kirkee War Cemetery, India.

## **VETERANS**

### **BINGHAM, Edward W**

RN. Surgeon Captain. He was one of the most experienced arctic explorers. Seconded to the Ministry of Supply, he drew on his experiences to forge through improvements in the gear issued to those on the arctic convoys. Edward W

Bingham was born 02/01/1901 in Dungannon, the son of a well-respected headmaster of the Royal School. He graduated in medicine at TCD in 1926.

He wanted to travel and explore, and soon after joining the Royal Navy he volunteered to go as a medical officer in the British Arctic Air Route Expedition 1930 - 31. He spent almost a third of his professional career in the polar regions, participating in three important expeditions. In 1932 he was appointed to HMS Challenger, which was to carry out hydrographic surveys off the coast of Labrador. When Challenger returned at the end of the summer of 1933, Bingham stayed for the winter to help Captain Baker with the coast-line survey. This involved in getting to know Labrador huskies and a different method of sledging.

Whilst in north Labrador, Bingham received an offer to join John Rymill, who had been in Greenland with Watkiin's expedition, on an Antarctic expedition. The Admiralty having approved his appointment, he sledged from Nain to south Labrador, from where he reached Britain in time to join the British Graham Land Expedition (BGL) which sailed for Port Stanley in the autumn of 1934. Bingham became an expert in the training and welfare of dogs, and became a very experienced dog driver, a skill which was invaluable to him when he was appointed to command the newly created Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in 1945. He was the only one within extensive polar experience. His new companions were former commissioned ranks used to exercising leadership. However, in 18 months, Bingham completed his task admirably, and in 1947 was appointed OBE and given a third clasp to his Polar Medal. He also was awarded the Murchiston Grant of the Royal Geographical Society.

During the war he served in HMS Duke of York in the Home Fleet, on Russian convoys, and in the Ministry of Supply where he met manufacturers and enabled the development of better clothing for convoys. The cold weather clothing produced were simple, strangely reminiscent of the garments used by the Inuit of East Greenland, with peaked hoods and simple drawstrings. One tribute said “For those of us who served in the far north, and who offered thanks to the person who thought up these strange garments, Ted Bingham’s work was a miracle that only took three months...”

From 1948 - 52 he was principal medical officer at RNAS Eglinton, and promoted Captain in 1951. He then served as fleet medical officer in HMS Vanguard, Mountbatten’s flag ship in the Mediterranean command. His final appointment was as principal medical officer at RNAS Lee-on-Solent. He retired from the Navy in 1957. He died aged 92 on 01/09/1993. At the time of his death he was the last surviving holder of the Polar Medal with three clasps.

A book “Of Dogs and Men - Fifty Years in the Antarctic” with a foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales (now King Charles) was published as, “a tribute to the late Ted Bingham whose skill and enthusiasm for dog driving became a tradition and feature of the British Antarctic Survey for 50 years...”

## **MATSON, Alexander**

AB. Leading torpedo man. Ulster Gazette - 01/09/1944, reported he was “on leave after being in France since D Day. He had been a member of the Church Lads’ Brigade and Despatch Corps prior to enrolling. Was one of 10 men

on leave hosted by the local RBL Women's Branch. Son of Mr. And Mrs. F. Matson, Post Office House, Armagh. St Mark's C of I Armagh

### **MATSON, Norman Leslie**

RN. Petty Officer. DASRI 189504. DSM. Served in Merchant and Royal Navy. Was in Carnarvon Castle on 05/12/1940, while off the coast of Brazil, she encountered the German auxiliary cruiser Thor. In a five-hour running battle with her the Carnarvon Castle suffered heavy damage, sustaining 27 hits causing 4 dead and 27 wounded. She put into Montevideo for repairs, and was repaired with steel plate reportedly salvaged from the German cruiser Admiral Graf Spee. For his part in the action, Norman was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. born in Belfast on the 17th November 1903. He was the son of Charles Matson, a constable in the RIC, and his wife Jean Matson (nee McIlwrath). The family then living in Ulsterville Gardens moved to Madrid Street where they are recorded in the 1911 census. Norman's father, now a sergeant, later attained the rank of Head Constable. After school Norman joined the Belfast and County Down Railway working for 14 years in the office of the general manager. On the outbreak of the Second World War, Norman joined the Merchant Navy and later volunteered for the Royal Navy. Norman was a keen bellringer and was a member of St. Thomas's Bell-Ringers Society. On the morning of Sunday, 15th November 1940, across the United Kingdom a "firing peal" of bells was rung in honour of the first offensive victory by the Allied forces. Norman who was home on leave at the time, was given the honour of the Society by being assigned the biggest bell, the tenor. He died 01/09/1950, "at Hospital (as result of war

services, patiently borne), Petty Officer Norman Leslie Matson, D.S.M., loved son of Jeannie and the late Charles Matson. Funeral from his residence, 24, Camden Street, on Monday, to Bangor New Cemetery. Very deeply regretted. Thy will be done." Belfast Newsletter, 02/09/1950

### **NICHOLL, Robert Martin**

RM. 2nd. Lieut. "Robbie" joined the Marines in 1944. He was appointed Probationary Second Lieutenant 01/09/1944 (London Gazette 13/10/1940). Demobbed in 1946, to read medicine at QUB. In August 1952 he was houseman in the Royal Victoria Hospital and then senior house officer in anaesthetics.

### **PERCY, Samuel**

Samuel Percy, an apprentice engineer, was born on 13/02/1898, son of Hugh and Elizabeth Percy of Ebrington Gardens, Bloomfield, Belfast.

He enlisted in the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons Service Squadron on 9 November 1914 at Belfast (No.121), stating his age as 19 years (he was in fact just 16). He went to France with the squadron on 06/10/ 1915. Three days later he was disciplined for "neglecting to obey an order", losing a day's pay. Despite this he was appointed Lance Corporal 16/11/1915.

Hospitalised with boils on 19/06/1916, he was returned to England for convalescence and posted to the reserve squadron at Enniskillen.

On 21/06/1917 he returned to France to rejoin his squadron, which was by then part of the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment. Soon after, that regiment was dismounted and



absorbed into the 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers. Percy was transferred to the battalion on 20th September, received a new number (41150), and was posted to B Company. However in October 1917 he applied for a commission and left the squadron for home. The following February he was posted to No.7 Officer Cadet Battalion at Fermoy. Percy was commissioned on 31/07/1918 and posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers. He was released from Army service on 08/04/1919 and relinquished his commission on 01/09/1921.

### **WITHEROW, Thomas Hastings**

Captain. Ulster Division and Indian Army. Campbell College 1902, RBAI 1909, graduated QUB 1912, Magee College 1914, and became a student for the ministry under the care of the Belfast Presbytery. On outbreak of War in 1914, he received a Commission in The Ulster Division, and until May 1918 served with that Division during the hard fighting. Before Armistice in 1918, he was given a permanent Commission in the Indian Army and took part, with his regiment, in the fighting against the Bolsheviks in Russian Turkestan in 1919. In 1920 he was engaged on active service in connection with the Afghan War and received the Afghanistan Medal in 1920, he also served in Persia and on the North-West Frontier of India. In January 1923, he resigned his Commission and was placed on the retired list, being permitted to retain his rank of Captain. Having resumed his studies, he was licensed by Belfast Presbytery on 16/05/1923 and became assistant minister in First Derry the same year. He was ordained as a minister of the congregation on 03/02/1926. Son of the Rev. William and Mrs. Witherow. His father was successively minister of First Donaghadee, First Killyleagh, and Westbourne Belfast. In

1948 he married Miss Olive Wilson B.A., in St. John's, Malone, Belfast. In 1963, he was Moderator of the Synod of Armagh and Down. He retired from active ministry on 30/05/1963 and went to reside in Bangor and later in Newcastle. Died 01/09/1989, in his 99th year.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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**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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