



remembrance ni



Ballycastle WRNS had to resign on her marriage - she outranked her USN husband

Amongst our veterans remembered today is the WRNS officer from Ballycastle (photo above) who had to resign her commission as she outranked her new husband. Today is their wedding anniversary. See Veterans Roll - Joan Mary Templeton

On this Day – September 10

1912

The Young Citizen Volunteers of Ireland (Y.C.V.) were formed in Belfast City Hall.

1914

The Battle of the Marne ends with the Germans retreating.

1916

British line advanced a mile east of Guillemont, also 1,000 yards east of Ginchy. Five enemy advances on French line, Berny to region south of Chaulnes, defeated.

11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (108th Brigade). 36th (Ulster) Division. War Diary Entry Dated 10/9/16 - 10.15 P.M. - " Took over trenches from the 12th RIR. No Casualties. Night Quiet"

1918

Special Order of the Day issued. 75,000 prisoners and 750 guns taken by the British during the last four weeks.

1942

Photo next page

A British soldier holding his fighting knife between his teeth,



1942

A British soldier holding his fighting knife between his teeth,
1943

At Patti - 6 Innisks B & D Coys on btn exercise (beach landing). Rum ration issued to celebrate armistice with Italy. 2 LIR - 2nd i/c and Intelligence Officer on recce of training area. (World class moustaches the order of the day for some of the officers).

The Sinking of HMS Abdiel - 9th/10th Sept 1943

by Cliff Meredith

Then Platoon Sergeant of 12 Platoon, C Coy 6th (Royal Welch) Parachute Battalion

We left from Bizerta in Tunisia to invade Italy, the first objective was the important port of Taranto. C Coy, B Coy,

and elements of Sp Coy and Advance Bn HQ of the 6th Bn were on board HMS Abdiel, a fast mine-laying cruiser.

We arrived off Taranto late evening on 9th September 1943. We were due to land shortly after midnight. 12 Platoon was on deck waiting to go ashore. (We were scheduled to disembark first.)

Our Disembarkation station was on the Port side forward. Just before midnight there was a flash and explosion, followed by sparks shooting out of the funnel.

After the explosion, the ship broke in half, and the stern end disappeared. The forward half listed to port and within seconds the water was up to our waists. I moved along my Platoon telling them to get their equipment off, get overboard, and swim away from the ship to avoid being sucked under when she went down. I saw all the survivors of the explosion off, and then jumped overboard myself. The ship sank in four minutes.

The sea was covered with thick oil, some of which was ablaze. I still had my boots on, and ammunition plus grenades in my pockets. Swimming was made difficult by having to keep your head clear of the water to avoid swallowing oil.

I tried to get my K D jacket off, but then thought if I get this half way off and it gets stuck, I will be in trouble, so I pulled it back on. It was dark, I could not see other men in the water, but I could hear some of the injured calling to their mates. I remember thinking to myself: this is bloody silly, I am a Paratrooper, highly trained to parachute from aircraft and fight on land, here I am swimming for my life, all around me

in the dark members of my Bn are dying in the waters of the Med.

After about an hour in the water (we did not have life jackets) I was picked up by a tug and taken to HMS Howe. We were given a shower, a mug of cocoa, naval dungarees and a pair of pumps.

At about 5am on the 10th September, the survivors were told we would be going to Malta with HMS Howe. I glanced toward the shore; coming out was a launch with our Brigadier standing in it. I said to the bloke next to me, 'for Malta read Taranto'.

Within an hour we were on shore, dressed in all different sorts of clothing, some naval types, some Marines gear. We were issued with what weapons the Marines could spare, formed into small fighting units and by 0630hrs on the 11th we were ready, willing and able to fight.

The casualties from the Abdiel totalled 150 killed and 154 wounded. (40 Naval ratings were among the dead and 110 Paratroops.) The 6th Btn lost 58 killed and 84 were wounded. We lost our Commanding Officer, six other officers, the RSM (Mr T Langford), five WO2 and Sgts, 6 Cpls, 3 LCpls and 36 Fusiliers.

The Bn received reinforcements and advanced to Foggia, later we moved to the River Sangro, and fought as infantry for seven months in places such as Cassino.

Courtesy of the Journal of The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Roll of Honour – September 10

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+OLIVER, Ellis

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 16322. Died 10/09/1915. Age 26. Born Ballyclare 19/06/1891. He served in the Royal Navy from July to October 1909, and re-entered the service in January 1911 and was dismissed from service on 18/12/1911 whilst in HMS Commonwealth. He enlisted in the Fusiliers in Belfast. An obituary in the Belfast News Letter of 09/10/1915 stated that he was involved in sport especially running and walking. He had won the Andrew's Cup in a go-as-you-please walk from Belfast to Comber via Newtownards. He had also won the eight mile in the Comber sports. Son of Andrew Johnston Oliver and Mary Oliver, of Castle St., Comber. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. Ballyclare WM, Comber WM. First Comber Presbyterian Church RH

1916

+ACHESON, V A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Captain. Died 10/09/1916. Age 28. Born in 1888. Lurgan College in August 1899 - 31/10/1900. Enlisted 26/08/1914. His army service was all in the Middle East. Took part in the landing at Suvla Bay, 07/08/1915. Served in Serbia, Egypt and Macedonia.

Son of David and Sarah Acheson, of Castlecaulfield;
husband to Agnes Acheson, of Castlecaulfield,
Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone. Struma Military Cemetery,
Greece

+ALLISON, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 25251. Died
10/09/1916. Age 20. Son of James Allison, of 7, Skipton St.,
Belfast. Pond Park Cemetery, Belgium

+BEACH, John James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Private. 11417. Died
10/09/1916 during the Salonika Campaign. Age 30. Born at
Annagh, Belturbet, County Cavan. His parents, James and
Annie Beach, moved to 9 Stream Street, Newry and John
came to Cookstown to work at Orritor quarry. John had a
great deal of experience on active service having served
throughout the Boer war. At the outbreak of the First World
War he rejoined the army. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

+BEATTIE, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 9828. Died
10/09/1916. 15 Parkgate Ave., Belfast. Brother of Alice
Beattie, of 37, Coolbeg St., off Donegall Rd., Belfast.
Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

+EAKINS, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Private. 23767. Died
10/09/1916. Age 18 Son of James Eakins, of 8, Medway St.,
Dee St., Belfast. Doiran Memorial, Greece

+HOWE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 20534. Died 10/09/1916. Age 23. Native of Florencecourt. Son of John and Rose Howe, of Magheradunbar, Enniskillen. Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+KIRKPATRICK, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Corporal. 12698. Died 10/09/1916. Age 25. Born in 137 North St., Belfast, on 20/09/1891. Son of Jessie (nee Kilpatrick) Kirkpatrick, of 23, Main St., Greencastle, Co. Antrim, and the late James Kirkpatrick, a painter. Born at Belfast. Dorian Memorial, Greece

+McCUTCHEON, George Orr

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 5th Btn. C Coy. Serjeant. 11382. Died 10/09/1916. Age 22. Native of Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Son of Andrew and Rachel McCutcheon, of Bishop Street, Londonderry. Native of Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

+McLARNON, R

Royal Field Artillery, 149th Bty. Bombardier. 77073. Died 10/09/1916. Son of Robert McLarnon, of 7, Sidney Street West, Belfast. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

+MOONEY, T

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Private. 4682. Died 10/09/1916. Age 31. Husband to Mrs. B. Mooney, of 21, Fahan St., Londonderry. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

+SMYTH, Albert George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. B Coy. Private. 17427. Died 10/09/1916. Age 31. Son of Hugh and Elizabeth Smyth, of 13, Acton St., Belfast. Dorian Memorial, Greece

+STEWART-MOORE, Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 10/09/1916. Age 31. Served in Gallipoli. B.A., B.E., Trinity College, Dublin. Son of James Stewart-Moore, D.L., and Elizabeth F. Stewart-Moore, of Ballydivity House, Dervock, Co. Antrim. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

1917

+COLGAN, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 6907. Died 10/09/1917. Age 18. Son of William and Jane Colgan, of 11, Bute St., Belfast. Vlamertunghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium

+HANNA, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 14281. Died 10/09/1917 of wounds received at the Battle of Langemarck on 16/08/1917. Age 21. Son of Mary Hanna, of 56, Fountain St., Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, and the late William Henry Hanna. They had six sons and four daughters and were members of the Presbyterian Church. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

1915

+McFALL, Daniel

2nd Royal Irish Rifles. 10276, Rifleman. Died 10/09/1915. Aged 19. He enlisted towards the end of 1913 and was about nine months at the front when he was killed. His cousin, James McFall, who was in the same regiment, was also killed in action. He was the son of Thomas and Rosetta McFall, and he had kin at 3 or 16 Garfield Place, Ballymena. Ypres Memorial (Menin Gate). Cloughwater Presbyterian Church.

1916

+ALLISON, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 25251. Died 10/09/1916. Age 20. Son of James Allison, of 7, Skipton St., Belfast. Pond Park Cemetery, Belgium

+BEATTIE, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Private. 9828. Died 10/09/1916. 15 Parkgate Ave., Belfast. Brother of Alice Beattie, of 37, Coolbeg St., off Donegall Rd., Belfast. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

1941

+McILHINNEY, John

RNR. Engineman. LT/X3124U. Died 10/09/1941. Age 36. HM Examination Drifter Christine Rose. Son of James and Mary McIlhinney, Larne. Husband to Mary McIlhinney, Larne. Oban (Pennyfuir) Cemetery. Memorial Holy Table, Cairncastle Parish Church

+WILLIS, Joshua Stephen

Royal Air Force. Flying Officer. Died 10/09/1941. Age 34. He was the Pilot of Vickers Wellington R1767 with No.25 Operational Training Unit at Finningley, South Yorkshire, England. The Mark Ic bomber, part of B Flight, took off on a night-time, cross-country flight. At 2110hrs, a searchlight lit up the Wellington perhaps dazzling the pilot and causing disorientation. The plane dived into the ground from a low altitude at an area known as The Horseway, about 1 mile north-east of Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, England. Son of James Willis and Isabella Willis of Roslea, Co. Fermanagh, and the husband to Gladys Martha Willis. Holy Trinity C of I Churchyard, Clough Road, Rosslea, Co. Fermanagh. Joshua's brother Corporal Sam J. Willis served in 9th Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers, and his grave is in the same churchyard.

1943 HMS ABDIEL

HMS Abdiel was an Abdiel class minelayer. She served with the Mediterranean Fleet (1941), Eastern Fleet (1942), Home Fleet (1942-43), and the Mediterranean Fleet (1943). Although designed as a fast minelayer her speed and capacity made her suitable for employment as a fast transport. On 10/09/1943 Abdiel was in the Mare Grande at Taranto harbour in southern Italy where it had arrived as part of Force Z the previous day. Its task was to disembark soldiers of the British 1st Airborne Division but at 1215 hrs, a mine exploded under the ship. Such was the violence of the explosion that Abdiel broke its back and sank within two minutes. The dead included forty-eight of the crew and 120 soldiers.

+CROMIE, David

R.N. Stoker 1st Class. D/KX 152720. HMS Abdiel. Died 10/09/1943. Age 19. Born on 25/02/1924, he was the eldest son of Albert Cromie and Agnes "Aggie" Cromie (née Blair) of 36 Well Road, Ballywalter, Co. Down. David was a cousin of Lance Corporal Henry Cromie (1888355) and a second cousin of Gunner Robert Cromie (1476595). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 82. Headstone of the Cromie family plot at Whitechurch Cemetery, Ballywalter, Co. Down, memorial plaque of Ballywalter Presbyterian Church, Ballywalter WM

+HARRIS, Norman

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 17237. Date of Death: 10/09/1943. HMS Abdiel. Eight years' service. Son of James and Frances Harris, Melrose St., Belfast; husband to Audrey Harris. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/10/1943). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 79

+HUTCHINSON, Hugh

RN. Able Seaman. D/J 83090. Died 10/09/1943. Age: 42. HMS Abdiel. Son of William and Hannah Hutchinson, Belfast; husband to Gertrude Hutchinson, Belfast. Bari War Cemetery

1943

+EWART, Norman Sterling

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 158918. Died 10/09/1943. 154 Sqdn. Flying Mark V Supermarine Spitfires. Son of John W. and Ethel Ewart, of Finaghy, Co. Antrim. Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Family memorial Knockbreda Cemetery. RBAI WM

1944

+McCLUSKEY, Arthur

Durham Light Infantry. 6th Btn. Private. 5335018. Died 10/09/1944. Age 30. Son of James Edward McCluskey and Elizabeth McCluskey of Ballinacor, Portadown. Geel War Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium.

+McNABB, Samuel Lomond

London Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Royal Ulster Rifles. Rifleman. 4409823. Died 10/09/1944. Age 21. Son of Alexander McNabb and Margaret McNabb of Ballymoney. Gradara War Cemetery, Italy

VETERANS

BROWNE, Frederick William

RMLI. Private. 2488. Plymouth Division. Enlisted 10/09/1917. Discharged 10/03/1919. Enlisted RUR 01/02/1923. Draper's assistant. Born 29/08/1899. Kensington Road, Belfast. Ormiston - PCI RH. ADM 159/179/2488

COLES, Walter Herbert

RN. Petty Officer. 344217. Enrolled 10/09/1904 for 12 years. War service in Halcyon, Triton, Pembroke I, Undaunted and Coventry. Served to 28/12/1921. Born Kilkeel 19/09/1886. ADM 188/521/344217

CRAIG, James Young

RMLI. Private. 16004. Enlisted 13/01/1913. Discharged 09/09/1925. Joined RFR 10/09/1925. Born Belfast 10/09/1895. Potabello St., Belfast. ADM 159/158/16004

DAVIDSON, Alexander

RN. Stoker I. K19016. Enrolled 21/04/1913 for 12 years. War service in Lancaster, Pembroke II and Euryalus. Invalided 06/04/1921. Born Belfast 10/09/1894. ADM 188/905/19016

TEMPLETON, nee Casement, Joan Mary

WRNS. Stationed in London where she met Richard Aubrey Templeton, Blythe, Georgia, USA. Married 10/09/1942. She had to resign her commission as she outranked her new husband. Director of Religious Education in Good Shepherd Parish, Augusta. Served at VA Hospital, Augusta. (Augusta Chronicle 24/12/2008). Born 06/02/1917 Saharanpur, India. Daughter of Roger Hugh Casement and Mary Katherine Cowie Casement of Ballycastle.

WILSON, James Wilson Albert

IMS. Lieutenant. QCB MB 1903, BCh BAO MD 1912. Lieutenant IMS 1915. Served 1914 - 18. East Africa. Born 1880, Portaferry. Died 10/09/1946, aged 66

**Every day is a Remembrance
Day**

We will remember them

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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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