



remembrance ni



Delville Wood Cemetery

Delville Wood was a tract of woodland, nearly 1 kilometre square, the western edge of which touched the village of Longueval in the Somme. On 14 July 1916 the greater part of Longueval village was taken by the 9th (Scottish) Division and on the 15th, the South African Brigade of that Division captured most of Delville Wood. The wood now formed a salient in the line, with Waterlot Farm and Mons Wood on



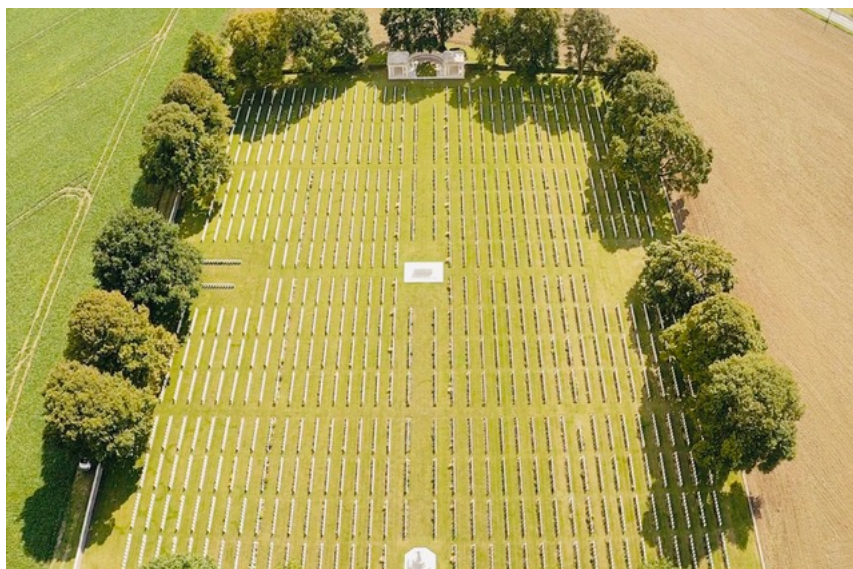
The South African Memorial, Deville Wood

the south flank still in German hands, and, owing to the height of the trees, no close artillery support was possible for defence.

The three South African battalions fought continuously for six days and suffered heavy casualties. On 18 July, they were forced back and on the evening of the 20th the survivors, a mere handful of men, were relieved.

On 27 July, the 2nd Division retook the wood and held it until 4 August when the 17th Division took it over.

On 18 and 25 August it was finally cleared of all German resistance by the 14th (Light) Division. The wood was then held until the end of April 1918 when it was lost during the German advance, but was retaken by the 38th (Welsh) Division on the following 28 August.



Delville Wood Cemetery was made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from a few small cemeteries and isolated sites, and from the battlefields.

Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916.

Naval courage Derry style

Today is the anniversary of the death in 1942 of Lieutenant Leopold John Tillie, D.S.C. & Bar, Royal Navy, and a member of a prominent Londonderry family which owned a famous shirt manufacturing company

D.S.C. London Gazette 7 June 1940: 'Sub. Lieut. R.N. For daring, resource and devotion to duty in the first Battle of Narvik.'

Bar to D.S.C. London Gazette 3 December 1940: 'Lieut., R.N. For courage and resource in recent operations against Italian submarines.'

Lieutenant Leopold John Tillie served in H.M.S. Hotspur from early in the War until he died on 12 September 1942. It was during the first Battle of Narvik that he won his D.S.C., an action that also saw the first gazetted Victoria Cross of



HMS Hotspur during the war, as modified for escort duties

the War, to Captain B. A. W. Warburton-Lee in H.M.S. Hardy. Warburton-Lee was Captain (D), 2nd Destroyer Flotilla, comprising Hardy, Hotspur, Havoc, Hunter and Hostile, in the attack on Narvik on 10 April 1940, when the flotilla became engaged with a vastly superior German force. During the action, the heavily damaged Hunter swerved across the path of Hotspur, whose captain, Cdr. H. F. H. Layman, promptly gave orders to avoid collision. 'At that moment a shell burst below his bridge, cutting not only the controls between the wheel and the steering gear, but twisting and jamming the engine-room telegraph connections. Unable either to steer or to give orders to stop engines, Layman saw his bow cleave deep into the Hunter's hull.

The two ships were locked together, the Hotspur's forward way spinning them slowly round. To get control of his ship again, Layman left the bridge to run aft to where he could give verbal orders to the engines and the auxiliary steering position right aft. Hardly had he left when a shell hit on the bridge, bursting against the pedestal of the gun director,

killing every soul left on the bridge and in the director tower. The German destroyers were now pouring a devastating fire into the two crippled ships. Reaching the after superstructure where "X" gun was mounted and whence the two after guns were being kept in action and controlled by the wounded Sub-Lieutenant L. J. Tillie, Layman was able to control his engines by verbal orders passed down the engine-room hatch. He managed to disengage his ship from the now sinking Hunter, then, by the cumbrous method of passing messages down to the tiller flat in the extreme stern, he was able to shape a wavering course down the fjord away from the hail of shells which was rapidly reducing the Hotspur to a wreck. In this action both Hardy and Hunter were sunk, and Hotspur very badly damaged.

Lieutenant Tillie won the Bar to his D.S.C. on 20 October 1940, when Hotspur, with Gallant and Griffin, and supported by flying boats of No. 202 Squadron, sank the Italian submarine Lafole just east of Gibraltar. His was one of only six D.S.C's with Bar to be won in 1940. During 1941 Hotspur had a very active time in the Mediterranean, taking part in the evacuation of Greece, an attack on Benghazi harbour, the blockade of Beirut, and the sinking of U-79 off Bardia. In March 1942, Hotspur moved to the Indian Ocean and operated there for many months. On 12 September 1942, en route to the landings of the 29th Infantry Brigade at Tananarive, Madagascar (operation Jane), Lieutenant Leopold Tillie was washed overboard and lost in heavy seas. A search was made but without success. Lieutenant-Commander Hugh Hodgkinson, a shipmate in Hotspur, made the following tribute:

‘Leo was “Number Three.” He had everything; tall, good-looking, twenty-one years old, D.S.C. and Bar, Chief Cadet Captain at Dartmouth, all-round games player, lover of good music. Leo excelled too much for this war. There was no room for Leo and Hitler in this same modern world, so the gods took Leo back. It was good that he never felt disillusion, that he never had to countenance the horrors of present Europe. He rode high on his ideals, and the sailors loved him

On this Day – September 12

War Diary - 11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (South Antrims)

108th Brigade, 36th (Ulster) Division

Battalion War Diary Entries for the dates 11th September 1916 - 22nd September 1916.

11th Sep 16 - Artillery Activity on both sides. Enemy shelled this sub-sector but did no damage.

12th Sep 16 - Comparatively quiet period. From 3 to 5pm. Our artillery shelled the enemy frontline apparently registering.

13th Sep - 16 - Hostile machine guns less active than usual. Our artillery active, enemy quiet. Enemy transport heard near Messines between 10PM & 2AM 14/9/16.

14th Sep 16 - Very Quiet Period

15th Sep 16 - Considerable artillery & trench mortar activity on our side. Enemy quiet as usual.

16th Sep 16 - Very little artillery activity on either side. Our artillery shelled enemy frontline during the day. Enemy did not reply. Relieved by the 12th Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim) 10PM out to Grande Munque Farm.

17th Sep - Resting and finding working parties

18th Sep - 22nd Sep 16 - Ditto Ditto

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1916

The French make good gains on the Somme front.

1917

L/Sergeant John Moyney from Laois was in command of 15 men & surrounded by enemy, cut off for 96 hours. On the next day, Moyney charged the enemy with grenades and a Lewis gun & lead his men to safety. For this he received the Victoria Cross.

1918

The Battle of Epehy begins with British success on the Cambrai front. Moeuvres, Havrincourt and Trescault taken along with a reported 1,000 German prisoners.

The Battle of St. Mihiel begins. The Americans supported by the French attack the St. Mihiel salient, south of Verdun, and the advance five miles on a twelve mile front. Its reported that about 8,000 German prisoners are captured.

The Battle of Epehy begins with British success on the Cambrai front. Moeuvres, Havrincourt and Trescault taken along with a reported 1,000 German prisoners.

1943

German commandos rescue Mussolini from captivity in the Italian alps. Even Churchill describes the raid as "one of great daring."

Roll of Honour – September 12

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+GRACEY, David

Highland Light Infantry. 11th Btn. A Coy. Private. 19424, Died 12/09/1950. Age 20. Son of John and Dinah Gracey, of Balteagh, Portadown. Cambrin Church Yard Extension, Pas de Calais, France

1916

+IRWIN, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Drummer. 15629. Died 12/09/1916. Age 25. Son of William and Annie Irvin, of Distillery Rd., Limavady. Pond Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+O'NEILL, H

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 4525. Died 12/09/1916. Age 30. Husband to Ellen O'Neill, of 2, Brandywell Rd., Londonderry. Cambrin Churchyard Extension, France

+SHEARER, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Garrison Btn. Rifleman. 659. Died 12/09/1916. 44 Carnalea St, Belfast. Cawnpore Cantonment New Cemetery, India

1917

+DEVLIN, James, 8683

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn . Private 8683. Died 12/09/1917. Age 22. Born Liverpool. Enlisted Liverpool. Youngest son of Bernard and S. Devlin, and brother of John and Harry Devlin, 53, Congers Street, Kirkdale, Liverpool. Harry Devlin died in action on 25/04/1918, age 28, serving with Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), formerly 42757, Lancashire Fusiliers. Grandsons of John Devlin, engineer of Londonderry.

+HAMMOND, William James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 29108. Died 12/09/1917. Age 40. Wounded at the battle of Ypres. Son of William and Mary Jane Hammond, of Castledawson; husband to W. J. Hammond, of Main St., Castledawson. Etaples Military Cemetery, France. Castledawson WM. WW 1 Masonic memorial in Termoneeny Parish Church, Knockloughrim. Curran

Masonic Hall RH. Family headstone in Castledawson Church of Ireland graveyard.

+WILSON, George

RN Brigade. Private. Died 12/09/1917 in hospital in Mesopotamia. Ex-Clyde 2/2404 AB RNVR, Enlisted 16/05/1913 ; Anson Battalion A/113. 22/08/1914 - 27/02/1915 discharged medically unfit from Anson Battalion. Re-enlisted in Royal Field Artillery at Glasgow. Born Dublin 08/04/1894. Son of John Wilson, Taylor's Row, Coleraine. 1914 Star issued to father 09/12/1919. Terrace Row - PCI RH. ADM/171
1918

+GILMOUR, Frank

New Zealand Rifle Brigade. 1st Btn. Machine Gun Section. Died in Germany as the result of wounds received in action on 12/09/1918. Age 29. Late of Rathfriland and Glasgow. Deeply regretted by Alex Gilmour, 46 Madison Avenue, Belfast. Le Cateau Military Cemetery, France

+LLOYD, John Joseph

RN. Stoker I. S3S116844. Died 12/09/1918 of influenza and pneumonia. Enrolled 20/02/1915 for 5 and 7 years. Victory II, Attentive, Dolphin and Vivid. Born Belfast 28/12/1895. ADM 188/1122/116844

1942

+DAVIS, John Lumsden

RAF. Sergeant. 549689. Died 12/09/1942. Aged 23. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Davis, of Londonderry. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

+DONNELL, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Serjeant. 6977600. Died 12/09/1942. Age 28. Son of William and Elizabeth Margot Donnell, of Ballee, Co. Tyrone. Delhi War Cemetery.

+DYNES, William Thomas

RAF. Sergeant. 537457. Died 12/09/1942. Age 25. Son of William and Mary Dynes, Andersonstown, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

+HUNTER, William James

RAF. Corporal. 540459. Died 12/09/1942. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hunter, of Newtownards. Alamein Memorial, Column 263, Egypt. Newtownards WM

+MOORE, Andrew

RAF. Corporal. 532303. Died 12/09/1942. Aged 26. Son of John and Margaret Moore, of Aldergrove. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

+TILLIE, John

RN. Sub Lieutenant. DSC and bar. Died 12/09/1942. A member of a prominent Londonderry family which owned famous shirt manufacturing company. He became one of the first men from the city to earn distinction in the war while serving on HMS Hotspur during the Battle of Narvik in 1940 when he was awarded DSC. Citation states, "Though

himself wounded, he rallied the survivors from his two guns' crews and opened rapid and accurate fire on the enemy, causing them to keep their distance until HMS Hostile and HMS Havock could return to cover HMS Hotspur's withdrawal". He was later awarded a bar to the DSC for his skill and coolness while tracking down an Italian submarine in the Mediterranean. He also took part in the evacuation of Crete, was involved in the Tobruk convoys and assisted in the sinking of another submarine. He died at sea as a result of enemy action on 12/09/1942. Plymouth Naval Memorial.

1944

+DAVISON, James

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1480506. Died 12/09/1944. Aged 25. 619 Sqdn. Son of James and Janie Davison, Carryduff, Co. Down, Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany

+HANSON, John

Royal Artillery. 118 Field Regt. Gunner. 946170. Died 12/09/1944. Age 26. Son of Martin and Catherine Hanson. Born Fife. Residence Co. Antrim. Singapore Memorial. Lisburn WM

+MORRISON, William

Royal Artillery. 3 HAA Regt. Lance Bombardier. 1427308. Died 12/09/1944. Aged 25. Son of John and Isabella Morrison, of Seacon, Co. Antrim. Singapore Memorial, Column 10

+RAMSEY, Thomas

Royal Artillery. 3 HAA Regt Bombardier. 850364. Died 12/09/1944. Aged 28. 3 H.A.A. Regt. Son of Henry and Annie Ramsey, of Londonderry. Singapore Memorial, Column 8

+SMYTH, Robert

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant (Air Bomber). 993020. Died 12/09/1944. Age 26. 207 Squadron. Husband to Joyce Smyth. Son of Tom Smyth, People's Park, Ballymena. Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany

1945

+McQUADE, William

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1302586. Died 12/09/1945. Aged 34. Son of John and Jane McQuade (nee Francis), of Londonderry. Jakarta War Cemetery, Indonesia

VETERANS

McKIBBIN, Frederick

RAMC. Colonel. OBE. QUB MB 1915. Lieutenant RAMC SR, Feb 1914. Mobilised 25/03/1915. Captain, Sept 1915. Served in France from 23/04/1915 to 1916. Egypt 1917 - 21. Colonel, Dec 1941. OBE 01/01/1943. Born 1892. Son of John and Margaret McKibbin, Eglantine Ave., Belfast. Died 12/09/1952

WOODS, Philip

Philip Woods was born in 1880 in a working-class district of Belfast. He studied at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and the Belfast School of Art, before working in the linen trade. He joined Baden-Powell's South African Constabulary in the final year of the Boer War. Woods became involved in the Ulster Volunteer Force, and in September 1912 he was one of half-a-million loyalists who pledged to defend their British citizenship and the 'unity of Empire'.

In August 1914 Woods joined one of the 36th (Ulster) Division's service units, being trained at Ballykinlar Camp. Commissioned as lieutenant, his soldierly and leadership skills resulted in rapid promotion. On 2nd July 1916, as second-in-command of the 9th (West Belfast) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Woods led an assault on the Schwaben Redoubt near Thiepval Wood in the Battle of the Somme, receiving the DSO for his role. Before the year's end he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and appointed to command his battalion. In June 1917 he led his men into battle once more at Messines Ridge. Less than two months later, however, Woods was suddenly removed from his post, the result of a campaign of opposition by his subordinate officers.

Woods returned to Belfast and in January 1918 he was appointed to lead the 19th (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles. However, an intervention by his former commander, F.P. Crozier, resulted in his sailing for North Russia with a British-led expeditionary force. Their aim was to prevent German troops, who had landed in Finland in early 1918 to help suppress a Communist uprising, from

advancing north-eastwards towards the Arctic coast and the Russian munitions stores of Archangel. Woods set sail in mid-June 1918 from Newcastle-on-Tyne destined for the Arctic port of Murmansk. There, General Maynard's 'Syren' force was securing the northern stretch of the Petrograd-Murmansk railway against the threats of a German invasion from Finland in the west and of a Bolshevik advance from the south.

Woods and his Royal Marines disarmed the Bolsheviks in Kem, on the south-western coast of the White Sea, and created an army of 4,000 'Irish' Karelians, giving them green shamrock cap badges. By mid-October, in spite of the spread of 'Spanish Flu', the Karelians had repelled several thousand White Finns who, led by German officers, were marauding through Karelian villages. Maynard recommended Woods for the CMG, and he was promoted that month to the local rank of full colonel.

At the end of 1918, White Russian officers of the new Murmansk Army established their own garrison at Kem and undermined Woods, who had become involved in the Karelian autonomy movement, to no avail. His Karelian regiment suffered in the struggle against both the White Russians and the Bolsheviks, and was abandoned by Britain. At the end of September 1919 Woods embarked for Britain with the remaining units of the intervention force, with many of his Karelian friends falling victim either to the White Russians or to the Bolsheviks who reoccupied the territory the following year.

In 1923 Woods was elected as an Independent Unionist to the new Northern Irish parliament, where he sat until 1929. He died 12/09/1961

Sources: research by Nick Baron; Francis Higgins.

Also -Today's veterans

[Philip James Woods - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_James_Woods)

and Irish Dictionary of biography

[Woods, Philip James | Dictionary of Irish Biography](<https://www.dib.ie/biography/woods-philip-james-a9117>)

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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