



remembrance ni



Courcelette Cemetery.

Honouring Hugh Colvin VC

Second Lieutenant Hugh Colvin was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving with the Cheshire Regiment at Zillebeke, near Ypres, Belgium on the 20/09/1917.

He took command of two companies and led them through heavy machine gun fire. He led them to assist another battalion and in the process he cleared as well as capturing enemy dugouts and machine gun posts single handedly or with some help from his men. He was credited with saving the line through his lead. He and two others went out under heavy fire to a dugout, but he alone went in and captured 14 of the enemy and then in the company of one other man

cleared other dugouts, both killing some of the enemy and taking a number of prisoners.

2nd Lt Hugh Colvin VC died at Bangor Hospital, Co. Down on the 16/09/1962, and his funeral was to Carnmoney Main Cemetery, Newtownabbey.

A memorial stone situated beside the Cross of Sacrifice near the entrance to the cemetery was erected in his memory. It was unveiled on the 20/09/2018 in the presence of the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Paul Michael, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim Mrs Joan Christie CVO OBE, and members Mr Colvin's family.

Hugh Colvin's family hailed from Aberdeenshire in Scotland, but he was born in Burnley on February 1, 1887. The son of a gardener, the family relocated to Romily in Cheshire when he was nine years of age. Hugh also became a gardener before leaving to join his sister's family in Belfast, where he joined the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars as a private and saw six years service in India before WW1 broke out. Hugh was commissioned in the field and gazetted into the 9th Battalion Cheshire Regiment.



On this Day – September 16

1916

Bishop's tribute to Ulster Division

Ballymena Weekly Telegraph - 16th September 1916

It is with great delight, writes the Bishop of Down (Right Rev Dr D'Arcy) that I note that our gallant Ulster Division has now the high honour of winning three VC's, the most coveted distinction in the British Army. Those who know tell me that almost every man in the Division is worthy of a VC, so splendid has been the courage exhibited by the officers and men.

Will you let me give a special tribute of admiration to the heroic exploits of Private. R Quigg of Carnkirk near Bushmills, in saving so many lives, and exerting himself so nobly to find Sir Harry Macnaghten ?

As a former rector of Billy, the parish of which Private Quigg V.C. is a native, it gives me the greatest pleasure to join in the chorus of appreciation which his actions have so justly evoked.

International footballer gassed

Official intimation has been received by Mrs. Wright, 3, Victoria Street, Londonderry, that her husband, Private Robert Wright, Royal Irish Rifles, is in hospital in France suffering from gas poisoning. He is a well-known junior

footballer, and was selected to represent Ireland in the Irish-Scotch junior international in Belfast in 1911.

1939

Convoy OB-4, sailing from Liverpool to North America, is attacked by U-31 (Johannes Habekost), becoming the first “clear” convoy contact in British waters of the war. U-31 sinks 1 ship, the 4,060-ton British freighter Aviemore.

Germans take Brest-Litovsk and surround Warsaw.

1940

President Roosevelt signs the Selective Service Training and Service Act: men aged 20-36 are required to register for the draft.

First flight of Lockheed YP-38 Lightning fighter plane, in Burbank, CA.

Piccadilly, Park Lane, Bond St. hit in night raids.

Italian advance in Egypt continues with occupation of Sidi Barrani, 60 miles from frontier. At this point the Italians halt their offensive and begin to construct a number of fortified camps.

1941

The US announce that it will provide escort for ships carrying Lend-Lease material up to 26°W, which meant that clashes with U-boats would become more likely.

Guderian's Panzer Group 2 and Kleist's Panzer Group 1 meet east of Kiev, trapping five Red Armies.

The Shah of Iran abdicates and his son, Crown Prince 'Mohammad Reza Pahlavi' takes over.

1942

The Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) are established in the U.S.. The armed forces will be supplied with more than 1000 auxiliary pilots through this organization.

Stalingrad railway station changes hands several times. The Governor General of Madagascar asks for an armistice.

The Japanese base at Kiska in the Aleutian Islands is raided by American bombers.

1943

The Dambuster squadron makes a disastrous first use of 12,000lb 'Tall Boy' bombs with a raid on the Dortmund-Ems canal.

In a sign of the increasing confidence and audacity of the French Resistance, Julius Ritter, an aide to Nazi Labour Minister Fritz Sauckel, is shot to death in broad daylight on the Etoile in Paris. Fifty Frenchmen are taken hostage and executed by the Nazis in reprisal.

British occupy Leros in Aegean. German counterattacks against the U.S. bridgehead at Salerno are halted.

Tito's partisans are reported to have captured Split on Yugoslavia coast.

The Black Sea port of Novorossiysk is captured by the Russians after a week of amphibious and land operations.

1944

Conclusion of the Quebec meeting between Roosevelt and Churchill who sign off on the Morgenthau Plan for the treatment of post-war Germany.

Dr. Goebbels exhorts all Germans to resist with the utmost fanaticism.

Over objections from his top generals, Hitler decides to launch a counteroffensive through the Ardennes region of Belgium in an attempt to stop the Allied advance on the western front. The result will be the Battle of the Bulge.

The British make an unopposed landing on the Greek Island of Kythera off the Peloponnese. The Russians enter Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.

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Today's Roll includes a former surgeon at the Mater Hospital, Belfast who died of wounds received in the Dardanelles, a Petty Officer Stoker from the Shankill Road who served in the Iron Duke at Jutland and a naval surgeon from Islandmagee who was invested into the DSO at sea by the King in June 1917.



Roll of Honour – September 16

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+FLEMING, James Alfred

2nd Btn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Corporal. 7835. Died 16/09/1914. Age 30. Son of Margaret Fleming. Born about 1884 in Clogher, County Tyrone. Enlisted in Ballygawley. His brother William was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 01/07/1916. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, La Ferte, Seine-et-Marne. Clogher WM

+McALLISTER, Eneas

Royal Scots, 2nd Btn (Lothian Regiment). Private. 8598. Died 16/09/1914. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, Memorial, France. Larne WM

+NICHOLL, Robert George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 10000. Died 16/09/1914. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Agnes Nicholl, of 29, Danube St., Belfast. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, France

+STEELE, Thomas W

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 11376. Died 16/09/1914. Age 20. He had been in the army for little over a year. Born on 29/10/1894 in the Cookstown area. He was the eldest of six children. The family lived at Toberlane, Orritor. His father Thomas was a farm labourer. His father died in 1909. His mother remarried. Thomas junior was a general labourer. Son of Mrs. Catherine Martin of Desertcreat, Tullyhough, Co. Tyrone. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, France. Cookstown WM, St Luran's Church Cookstown

1915**+WISELY, Francis Joseph**

RAMC. Captain. attached 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. Died 16/09/1915 of wounds received in the Dardanelles. Clongowes Wood College, Royal University and Queen's College, Belfast. B.A.1909; M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. 1911. Scholarship for Botany and Zoology. He was for a short time Resident Surgeon at the Mater Hospital, Belfast and afterwards Resident Surgeon in Worcester County Asylum at Powick. Son of the late Mr. James Wisely and Mrs. Wisely, Ravenhill Road, Belfast. Surname spelt Wiseley on Commonwealth War Graves Commission record. Alexandria (Chatby) Military And War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Worcester/ Worcestershire Roll of Honour Book for army casualties located in Worcester Cathedral as H. Wisley, Lieutenant, Royal Army Medical Corps. QUB RH

1916

+BLAIR, James

Royal Engineers, Base Signal Depot. Sapper. 108392. Died 16/09/1916. Age 39. Died of unspecified causes. Death was probably due to illness which reduced one army unit from 1,135 men to 116 in a six month period. Born in Drumrater, Ahoghill. Son of James and Margaret Ann Blair; husband to Isabella Blair, of 6, Copperfield St., Belfast. Nairobi British and Indian Memorial, Kenya

+BRADLEY, Alexander

Canadian Infantry. 60th Btn. Private. 135264. Died 16/09/1916. Age 45. Born on 16/08/1871 in Tobermore, according to his attestation papers. Alex had been with the Londonderry Artillery for two years. He also spent two years with the 61st Imperial Yeomanry. Prior to enlisting in July 1915, Alex worked as a miner. He was living at 402 Church Street, Toronto. Vimy Memorial, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Tobermore WM; Tobermore C of I RH

+GIRVAN, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 8429. Died Between 15/09/1916 and 16/09/1916. Age 35. Son of John and Annie Girvan, of Derryadd, Lurgan; husband to Martha Girvan, of Kernan, Portadown. Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium

+HENDERSON, Jackson Robinson

Machine Gun Corps. Lance Corporal. 42603. Died 16/09/1916. Aged 20. By 1901 his father had died. His mother was a postmaster and farmer. Son of Ruth Henderson, of Tamnamore, Moy, Co. Tyrone. Serre Road

Cemetery, Somme, France. Dungannon WM. Tamnamore
LOL 513 Plaque

+KEILTY, D J

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 10117. Died 16/09/1916.
Dundonald Cemetery

+McCARRY, Arthur

42nd Bn. Canadian Infantry. Private. 418800. Died
16/09/1916. Age 24. Born 25/12/1891, Glenarriff. Son of
Michael and Anne McCarry Ballycastle. Vimy Memorial, Pas
de Calais, France.

+MONAGHAN, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 27852. Died
16/09/1916. Age 32. Son of John and Elizabeth Monaghan,
of Brookhill, Co. Fermanagh. St Sever Cemetery, Rouen,
France

+MURPHY, Harrison Moore

Royal Canadian Regiment. Private. 477620. Died
16/09/1916. Age 30. B.A. Queen's University, Belfast. He
spent some time in England training with his regiment in
February 1916, when he visited his parents in Cookstown
for a few days leave. Harrison's parents received a letter
from him, dated 15/09/1916 which was full of hope and
cheerfulness. Harrison was killed in action the following
day. Son of Capt. Moore Murphy and Mrs. Elizabeth
Murphy, of Gortreagh, Cookstown. Vimy Memorial, France.
Cookstown WM. QUB WM

+SMITH, Samuel James

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 11th Btn. Private. 9263. Died 16/09/1916. Age 30. Son of James and Isobella Smith, of Belfast. Millencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+TODD, William John

Royal Canadian Regiment. Private. 401752. Died 16/09/1916. Age 23. Son of William and Eliza Todd, of Clonmacate, Birches, Portadown. Vimy Memorial, France

1917**+LAIRD, P**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 29983. Died 16/09/1917. Age 21. Son of John and Catherine Laird, of Drumshell, Dromore, Co. Tyrone. Zuydcoote Military Cemetery, France

+WIGTON, Andrew

Royal Scots. 11th Btn. Sergeant. 3863. MM. Died 16/09/1917. Son of Abraham and Ann Wigton. Born 28/05/1886 in Tamnamore, Dungannon. There is no mention of any of the family in the 1901 census and it is suspected that the family had moved to Scotland by then. Sergeant Andrew Wigton was awarded the Military Medal. He lived at 36 Tollcross Road, Glasgow. Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

1918**+BOYD, Arthur**

Royal Army Medical Corps, 108th Field Amb. Private.

40927. Died 16/09/1918. Age 24. Brother of Mrs. Mary Stewart, of Dundela Park Cottages, Strandtown, Belfast. Arneke British Cemetery, France

+HAUGHAIN, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 26867. Died 16/09/1918. Age 21. Son of Arthur Haughain, of 7, John St., Lurgan. Lurgan (Dougher) Roman Catholic Cemetery

+LOUGHRAN, Joseph William Frederick

Royal Berkshire Regiment, 7th Btn. Private. 42030. Died 16/09/1918. Age 20. Son of Patrick and Margaret Loughran, of 5, Mawhinney's Court, Townsend St., Belfast. Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece

+WILSON, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Company Serjeant Major. 6444. Died 16/09/1918. Age 37. Served in the South African Campaign. Son of John Wilson, of Drumcon, Co. Antrim; husband to Jeannie Wilson, of Henry Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. La Kreule Military Cemetery, Hazebrouck, France

1919

+HAUGHAIN, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 26867. Died 18/09/1919. Age 21. Son of Arthur Haughain, of 7, John St., Lurgan. Lurgan (Dougher) Roman Catholic Cemetery

+REID, A

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 17/215. Died 16/09/1918. Age 21. Son of William and Grace Reid, of 32, Lilliput St., Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery, Newtownabbey

+SANDERS, Thomas

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 300974. Iron Duke. Jutland. Died 16/09/1919 of illness in RN Hospital, Plymouth. Enrolled 29/07/1902 for 12 years. Re-engaged 09/07/1914. War service in Vivid, Tiger, Iron Duke (17/08/1915 - 16/02/1917) and Queen Elizabeth. Born Belfast 15/12/1883. Bristol St., Belfast. Shankill Rd Mission - PCI RH. ADM 188/488/300974

1940

+THOMPSON, Chester William McKinley

RAF. Squadron Leader. 18081. Died 16/09/1940. Aged 41. 19 OTU. Served with RFC in WW1. Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant 26/09/1917. He shot down 12 enemy aircraft. His craft was shot down east of Cambrai by Jasta Boelcke 29/09/1918. He and his observer were taken prisoner of war by the Germans. Repatriated December 1918. In 1928 promoted to Flight Lieutenant and on 19/05/1935 to Squadron Leader. Took off in a Miles Magister MK1 from RAF Kinloss to fly to RAF Manby, Lincolnshire. The aircraft crashed into high ground south of Dalwhinnie, Scotland. An investigation suggested that the aircraft had not been fitted with a full blind flying panel. Born 11/04/1899 in Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA. Son of William and Mary Ellen McKinley Thompson; husband to Frances Thompson. Kinloss Abbey Burial Ground, Moray. QUB WM

1944

+DINSMORE, John Oliver

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Guardsman. 2723037. Died 16/09/1944. Aged 21. John became a prisoner of war after his capture at Anzio on 08/02/1944. His imprisonment likely took place at Campo PG52 Chiavari, Calvari, Italy. Along with him was Royal Artillery Gunner L.E. Haddy. Both men had temporary burials at Spigno Monferrato, Piedmont. Reports suggest they escaped from their prisoner of war camps or transport trains and joined a group of Italian partisans fighting in the Apennines. Son of James Dinsmore, and of Fanny Dinsmore, of Portrush. Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy

VETERANS**BENNETT, Francis Lionel Percy Garnet**

RAMC. Captain. MC (16/09/1918). QUB MB 1915, BCh. Lieutenant RAMC 19/08/1914. Captain 03/11/1915. Served 1914 - 18. In France from July 1915. 60th Field Ambulance, later 62nd. Son of Surgeon Lt. Colonel AMS William Bennett and Alberta Bennett, North Main St., Bandon, Co. Cork. QUB

COLVIN VC, Hugh

Second Lieutenant Hugh Colvin was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving with the Cheshire Regiment at Zillebeke, near Ypres, Belgium on the 20/09/1917. See article above.

HOLMES, James McAlister

RN. Staff Surgeon. DSO. MiD. Methodist College, Belfast 1895 - 1897. QCB MB BCh BAO 1903. F.R.C.S.Ed. 1920.

Held an appointment at Belfast Royal Infirmary for a year before entering the navy. Served for three and a half years on HMS Sandpiper on the China station and in HMS Achilles and HMS Castor in the war. Awarded DSO (16/09/1916) for his services during the Battle of Jutland, "For the very efficient way the wounded were attended to whilst under fire and subsequently." DSO was invested at sea by the King in June 1917. He was also Mentioned in Despatches. Promoted Surgeon Commander 1919. Three articles in Naval Medical Magazine. Retired in rank of Surgeon Captain in 1930. Marlborough Park, Belfast. Born 28/02/1880, Islandmagee. Son of John and Isobel Holmes, Annavale, Islandmagee and a great grandson of Rev William Holmes who fought for the King in the 1798 Rebellion. Husband to Alice Poole of Dunedin, New Zealand. General practice Llandovery, South Wales. Retired to South Yelverton, Devon. Elmwood - PCI RH. Second Islandmagee - PCI RH. Methodist College Belfast RH

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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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