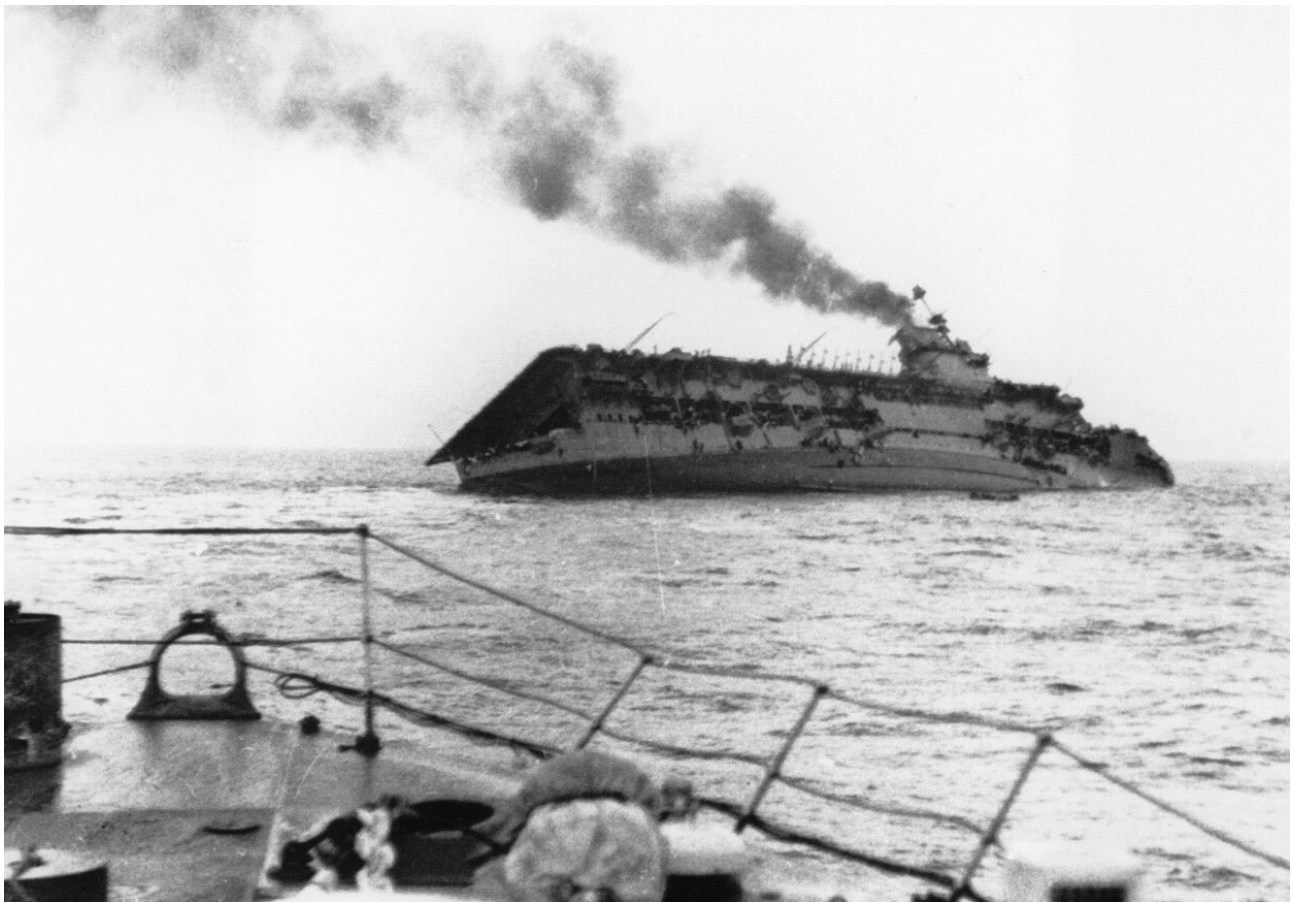




remembrance ni



## **Sinking of HMS Courageous impacted on Northern Ireland**

**On September 17, 1939 HMS Courageous is sunk off Ireland by U-29 with the loss of 519 Royal Navy sailors, only 2 weeks after leaving HMNB Devonport for her patrol.**



**HMS  
Courageous had  
an air group of 2  
squadrons of  
Swordfish  
aircraft, 48  
planes in total.**

HMS Courageous was the lead ship of the *Courageous*-class cruisers. She was decommissioned after the end of WW1 and began reconstruction 29 June 1924 and completed 21 February 1928.

She was the first ship to be fitted with transverse arrester wires, this work being completed 2 January 1933.

She could carry 48 aircraft compared to the 36 carried by *Furious*. She briefly became a training carrier, but reverted to her normal role a few months before the start of the Second World War in September 1939.

Courageous was torpedoed and sunk 17 September 1939 in the opening weeks of the war, going down with more than 500 of her crew.

In the early days of the war, the Royal Navy formed hunter killer groups around its fleet's aircraft carriers to find and destroy U-boats. On 31/08/1939 HMS Courageous went to her war station at Portland and embarked two squadrons of Swordfish. She then departed Plymouth on the evening of 03/09/1939 for an anti-submarine patrol in the Western



## Location map showing where Courageous was sunk.

Approaches, escorted by four destroyers.

On the evening of 17/09/1939, she was on one such patrol off the coast of Ireland. Due to an

attack on a merchant ship two of the escorting destroyers had been dispatched to go to its aid and find the U-Boat, she had also despatched all her aircraft on patrols. As the aircraft started to return for recovery and refueling she was being stalked for over two hours by U-29, commanded by Captain-Lieutenant Otto Schuhart.

As Courageous turned into the wind to relaunch her aircraft, the turn put her right across the bow of the U-29 which fired three torpedoes at her. Two of the torpedoes struck the ship on her port side before any aircraft could take off, the torpedo strikes knocked out all electrical power on her and she started to capsize and then sank in 20 minutes with the loss of 519 of her crew, including her captain.

The survivors were rescued by the Dutch ocean liner Veendam and the British freighter Collingworth. The two escorting destroyers counterattacked U-29 for four hours with no success.



**KK Otto Schuhart,  
CO of U-29.**

An earlier unsuccessful attack on Ark Royal by U-39 on 14/09/1939 followed by the sinking of Courageous three days later, prompted the Royal Navy to withdraw its carriers from anti-submarine patrols. Courageous was the first British warship to be sunk by German forces.

Karl Dönitz regarded the sinking of Courageous as "a wonderful success" and it led to widespread jubilation in the Kriegsmarine. Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, directed that Schuhart be awarded the Iron Cross First Class and that all other members of the crew receive the Iron Cross Second Class.

During the war Schuhart sank twelve ships on nine patrols, for a total of 67,277 tons of Allied merchant shipping. He then became commander of 1. U-Lehr Division ("1st U-boat Training Division") and later of 21st U-boat Flotilla in Pillau. From 1944-1945 he was commander of I./Marineschule Flensburg-Mürwik (Mürwik Naval Officers Training School). After the German capitulation he commanded a marine

battalion. He then served in the German mine clearing service until December 1945.

## **HMS COURAGEOUS - ROLL OF HONOUR**

### **+CARTWRIGHT, James**

RN. Leading Stoker. D/KX 82206. HMS Courageous. Died 17/09/1939. Age 25. Son of Allan and Maria Cartwright, Richardson St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 34

### **+COOKE, William Jordan**

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 13584. HMS Courageous. Aircraft carrier. Died 07/09/1939. Age 27. Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Cooke, Comber. One of two Comber men lost - see John Sturgeon. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 33. Comber Presbyterian Church WM Window. Comber WM

### **+CREE, James**

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 27141. HMS Broadwater. Died 18/10/1941. Aged 21. On convoy duty in the Atlantic. He was a survivor of HMS Courageous when aged 19. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 23/09/1939). He was injured in the evacuation of Dunkirk. He was hospitalised after the RN destroyed the greater part of the French fleet which was lying in Oran harbour. All this was before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Son of William and Elizabeth Cree, Wesley St., Lisburn. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 46. Lisburn WM

### **CREIGHTON, Harry**

“Enniskillen Man on ‘Courageous’ - How he was Saved - Looking the picture of health, despite his harrowing



experience, Mr. Harry Creighton, one of the survivors of HMS Courageous, arrived at his home at Belmont, Enniskillen, on Thursday, and was given a great welcome. Aged almost 19, Harry Creighton is the youngest son of Mr. W.H. Creighton, U.D.C., and Mrs. Creighton. Educated at Portora Royal School, he entered the Royal Navy this year. Following his training at Portsmouth he was moved to Devon-port and was drafted to the Courageous, an aircraft carrier, on 30th July last - only two months ago, and he was on this ship at the time of the King's review of the reserve fleet. Harry is a fine swimmer, and this accomplishment stood him in good stead in his trying ordeal. He was a member of the Enniskillen Swimming Club, and, prior to leaving school, was captain of the Ulster House Swimming Club, in the summer term of 1938. On the Courageous he was a supply assistant. The Courageous was torpedoed by a German submarine on the evening of Sunday, 17th inst., and out of a crew of 1,260 men only 600 were saved." - Impartial Reporter 28/09/1939. Belfast Weekly Telegraph 23/09/1939.

#### **+DYER, William**

RNVR. AB. HMS Courageous. Died 17/09/1939. Age 22. Member of HMS Caroline. Son of Agnes Munn, Northumberland St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939).

#### **HICKSON, C**

AB. Survivor of HMS Courageous. Belfast (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939.)

**+McCAULEY, Henry**

RN. AB. D/J35109. Served 1915 - 1939. Died 17/09/1939. Age 40. HMS Courageous. Enlisted and served throughout World War 1 in RN. 24 years service including the Battle of Jutland. Qualified for his pension in January, 1939, only to be called back to duty in August 1939. It was said that he had the biggest funeral in the area ever. He was one of the first men to be killed during World War II from the Ballyclare area. His brother James lost a leg at the battle of the Somme. Another brother Robert died during the 1914 -18 war and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. Son of Robert and Mary A McCauley, Mill Lane, Ballyclare. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939). Rashee New Cemetery, Ballyclare.

**McKENNA, P**

Stoker. Survivor of HMS Courageous. Warrenpoint. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939.)

**McNEILL, Herbert**

Leading Stoker. Survivor of HMS Courageous. Thorndale Ave., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 23/09/1939.)

**+MILLAR, James**

RN. AB. D/J 7695. HMS Courageous. Died 17/09/1939. Age 46. 24 years service including the Battle of Jutland. His wife Elizabeth was resident at Greenmount St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939). Son of James and Elizabeth Millar, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 33

## **MOORE, WJ**

Survivor of HMS Courageous. Davy's St., Carrickfergus.  
(Belfast Weekly Telegraph 23/09/1939.)

## **+MUNN, Thomas**

AB. HMS Courageous. Died 17/09/1939. Age 22. Son of Agnes Munn, Northumberland St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939).

## **SAYERS, John E**

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant Commander. Ulster Division 1911 -1969. Jack Sayers was the son of the editor of the Belfast Telegraph. He was in HMS Courageous on 16/09/1939 when it was torpedoed west of Ireland by a U boat. His name was not on the original list of survivors. A debate at Stormont, where his father was observing proceedings, was interrupted to confirm his safety. A few weeks later his father suffered a heart attack and died at his home on Kirkliston Drive on 15/10/1939.

Jack Sayers was educated at Methodist College, Belfast where he was Head Boy. On leaving school he followed his father into the Belfast Telegraph as a junior reporter. Over the next few years he covered anything and everything from meetings of Belfast's Harbour Board to Collegians' rugby matches in which he was playing (signing himself J S Edwards). On his father's accession to the editorship in 1937, he became the parliamentary correspondent at Stormont. In 1937 he enlisted in the RNVR Ulster Division.

In November 1939, six weeks after the torpedoing of Courageous, he was recruited to Winston Churchill's naval/military "map room" which had been set up by his friend and



fellow Ulster Division RNVR officer, Richard Pim, a future head of the RUC. This was an extraordinary makeshift map room which moved with Churchill from Admiralty House to Downing Street. This was kept up to date day and night and gave precise information relating to the position of every British and Allied warship, of convoys, their speed, the numbers of ships involved, their escorts and the estimated position of any known enemy naval units at sea, together with full comparable military information. Here the course of the war was plotted. Sayers manned the room and was called by Churchill, "The Ulsterman with the card index memory". The map room and its Ulster staff also travelled to conferences abroad including Newfoundland for the Atlantic Charter Meeting with President Roosevelt on HMS Prince of Wales, to Washington and Qubec, to Malta, Alexandria, Cassablanca, Marrakesh, to Yalta for the meeting with Stalin, and finally to the Potsdam Conference in 1945.

Shortly after the war in October 1945, Jack Sayers married a widow, Mrs Daphne Godby, and returned to Belfast where he was appointed political correspondent at the Telegraph then under the editorship of his uncle, RM Sayers. In 1953 he became the third member of his family to be editor of the Belfast Telegraph. He supported Terence O'Neill's political vision. He retired on 17/03/1969, in poor health and disheartened by the turn of events. He died five months later on 30/08/1969.

### **+STURGEON, John**

RN. AB. D/JX1448794. HMS Courageous. Died 17/09/1939. One of two Comber men lost - see William Jordan Cooke. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 33. Comber Presbyterian Church WM Window.

## **WATERSON, R**

AB. Survivor of HMS Courageous. Groomsport. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 30/09/1939.)

## **WHITE, John Frederick**

Leading Stoker. Survivor of HMS Courageous. Son of JC White, University Ave., Belfast. Father served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion RUR in WW1. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 23/09/1939.)

## **+WHITLA, James**

Named on Portadown WM. Only record with CWGC is for AB. D/J 26083. Died 17/09/1939. H.M.S. Courageous. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 33

## **+WILLS, Harold Henry**

RN. AB. D/230707. Died 17/09/1939. Age 51. HMS Courageous. Son of Richard Henry and Mary Stribly Wills. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 33.

## **Archbishop who was airborne at Arnhem**

**Alan Buchanan was a Church of Ireland cleric who served as a chaplain in Italy and in Operation Market Garden.**

Born on 28/02/1905 in Fintona, he was educated at Masonic School and Trinity College, Dublin. In 1931 he was ordained. Buchanan was with the Church of Ireland Mission in East Belfast until 1937 after which he was rector of a

number of parishes at St Cedma Larne and St Mary's, Belfast and St Comgall's, Bangor.

On 202/01/1942 Buchanan was commissioned as Royal Army Chaplain (218713) and on 18/08/1943 he joined the 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. He served with them in Sicily where he was taken prisoner by Italians. The authors of "By Land, Sea and Air" wrote about him in an incident. "The Italian officer spoke very good English and told them they were POWs. However, Buchanan suggested that it would be more sensible for the Italians to surrender as they were surrounded by British troops, which had landed all over the island. The Italian officer talked it over with his men and agreed to surrender, provided that they would not be harmed. After disarming the Italians, the party left to find their objective. Buchanan had no idea where to go and after walking for some time came under fire from some British troops who fired a few rounds at the group; probably because they thought that they were a party of Italian soldiers with British prisoners, given the ratio of Italian to British troops. Buchanan managed to warn them and stop firing, letting them know that they were actually British troops with Italian prisoners."

On 17/09/1944 Buchanan landed with the first units of his battalion, the 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment, on Landingzone-S, at Reijerskamp near Wolfheze

Buchanan attached himself to B Company and went on a long night march with them to Arnhem's western outskirts. During the march they suffered repeated attacks resulting in minor skirmishes. Time and again Buchanan entered the line of fire to help the wounded and the dying.



**1974 - President and Mrs Childers with Most Rev Alan Buchanan, Archbishop of Dublin, and Fr PJ Murphy.**

On 19 September Buchanan and Captain Brian Brownscombe, the battalion Medical Officer, set up a Regimental Aid Post (RAP) in the cellars of Arnhem's municipal museum. As well as tending some 20 wounded, Buchanan took part in the actual fighting. He ordered No 7 Platoon A Company to occupy the house directly opposite the museum; and when the Germans threatened to take over the museum's eastern side, he managed to warn the troops who had gathered in a narrow gully west of the museum to withdraw.

On 20 September he left the wounded in the care of a medical orderly and tried to make contact with Captain Brownscombe, whom he wanted to help in dealing with the

heavy number of casualties. Buchanan wrote about this in a letter to Major Cain in 1945: "When I met the CO and you later that morning, I had left twenty wounded in the front house (Museum) in charge of a medical orderly. I felt it was my job to stick by the Battalion at all costs until the battle was decided. But when I got back to the next house there were still men wounded. 'Basher' Brownscombe was with them, but he was dressing one of them and, as the rest seemed rather defenceless, I stayed on with them and was captured a few minutes later. I always felt since that I should have stuck to the first decision and left the wounded in charge of the medical orderlies. If I had been with you throughout the week at Oosterbeek I would have been much happier. I intended to try to evacuate the twenty wounded from the first house, but I saw a steady barrage from mortars and tanks outside, while they were comparatively safe inside. So I thought that the fairest thing to them was to leave them where they were." (By Land, Sea and Air. Page 118)

While Buchanan was working the make-shift Regimental Aid Post fell into enemy hands. Buchanan stayed with the wounded and was soon captured and taken to the railway station some 500 yards east of the museum. He was allowed to return to St Elizabeth Hospital, which at that time lay firmly in German hands.

Until 27 September he was able to visit the wounded in St Elizabeth's and the Municipal Hospital some way further north. Afterwards he was taken to Apeldoorn and ended up at the King William III barracks. After 26 October he worked at the St Joseph's Foundation, a psychiatric hospital at Apeldoorn.



On 13 April 1945, Buchanan was taken to Heemstede. Here the head of the German medical services in Holland used his services when discussing with the Canadians the position of the German sick and wounded after the final surrender.

After the liberation, Buchanan resumed his post as Rector of St. Mary's, on the Crumlin Road in Belfast. In 1945 he visited the former battlefields and was involved in the creation of Oosterbeek's Military Cemetery.

On 20 /09/1945 Buchanan was awarded a Mentioned in Despatches for his actions in Arnhem. Three padres were KIA in the early hours of the invasion: Padre Parry (7th Para Bat), Padre Harris (1st Canadian Para) and Padre Kay (8th Para).

Buchanan was Bishop of Clogher from 1958 to 1969 when he became Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. In 1977 failing health forced him to step down. Buchanan died in Castleknock, Ireland. His remains were buried in Donacavey Cemetery, Fintona.

## On this Day – September 17

### 1916

WWI flying ace The Red Baron of the German Luftstreitkräfte, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France

The French attack the Southern Somme taking Vermandovillers and Berny, Deniecourt is surrounded and the German reserves are badly cut up. Its reported many German prisoners taken.

## 1918

The Americans consolidate their line between the Meuse heights and the Moselle.

The French gain ground NE of Soissons and capture several strong points.

## 1939

The Soviet Union invades war-torn Poland. Moscow's plan is all part of a secret deal worked out between Hitler and Stalin in the infamous Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.

## 1944



Beginning of Allied Operation Market Garden, one of the largest airborne operations in history.

The objective was to create an Allied invasion route into northern Germany. It failed, however, to secure a bridgehead over the Rhine.

## Roll of Honour – September 17

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1914**

### **+GEDDIS, Robert**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 7887. Died 17/09/1914. Age 27. Son of Joseph and Margaret Geddis, of Rathfriland; husband of Mary Elizabeth Geddis, of Main St., Rathfriland. Rozieres Churchyard, Rozieres-sur-Crise, France

### **+NEVIN, William James**

Highland Light Infantry. 4th Btn. Private Pte. Drowned near Fort Rennie on 17/09/1914. Aged 17. Born Ahoghill. Son of William Nevin, of 8, Cedar Avenue, Ballydollaghan, Newtownbreda, Co. Down. Born at Ahoghill, Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Hooe (St. John) Churchyard Ext.

**+WOODSIDE, Thomas**

RNR. Seaman. 3681C. HMS Fisgard II. Died 17/09/1914. Age 32. Capsized off Portland Point. Son of the late James and Sarah Woodside, Ballykeel, Islandmagee. Brother of David. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 6. First Islandmagee - PCI RH

**1916**

**+BOYLE, Louis**

Canadian Infantry, 24th Btn. Private. 144825. Died 17/09/1916. He enlisted in the Canadian Infantry in Ottawa on 18/08/1915. Louis Boyle was the son of Joseph and Annie Boyle. He was born in Cookstown on 27/09/1892. He was one of twelve children. The family lived in Cookstown. Like his father, Louis was a painter. Vimy Memorial, France. Cookstown WM

**+CALDWELL, Stephen**

Irish Guards, 2nd Bn. att'd. 2nd Guards Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Private. 6175. Died 17/09/1916. Age 25. He had served in the RIC and had been posted to County Armagh. It is possible he served at Tullyallen Police Station. He was one of a large number of officers who transferred to the Irish Guards. Born in Kilfennan, Co. Londonderry. Son of John and Isabella Caldwell, of 14, King Street, Waterside, Londonderry. Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Tullyallen Presbyterian Church RH

**+GALLOWAY, Robert Harrison**

5th Bn. Seaforth Highlanders. Private. 4156. Died

17/09/1916. Age 20. Son of Robert and Matilda Galloway, of 3, Ravenscroft St., Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

### **+JOHNSTON, Samuel**

Canadian Infantry, 20th Btn. Private. 57075. Died 17/09/1916. Age 29. Samuel was a policeman with Toronto Police Force. Samuel Johnston enlisted on 08/01/1915 in Toronto. On the morning of 16/09/1916, while on duty in support trenches near Courcelette, France, he was hit in the face by shrapnel from an enemy shell. His wound was dressed and he was taken to No 3 Casualty Clearing Station at Puchevillers. Private Samuel Johnston died of wounds the following day. Samuel was the son of John and Isabella Johnston. He was born in Maghera on 18/04/1887. Samuel's mother died in June 1906 in the Maghera area. Samuel emigrated to Toronto, Canada. Samuel and Elizabeth married. They had four children. Puchevillers British Cemetery, Puchevillers, France; Tobermore WM; Tobermore Presbyterian Church RH

### **+MATHERS, Samuel George**

2nd Bn. Irish Guards. Private. 8293. Died 17/09/1916. Aged 23. Son of Samuel and Ann Jane Mathers, of Fagan Row, Millbrook, Larne. Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Larne WM

### **+McGOWAN James**

1/5th Seaforths. Pte. 4550. Died 17/09/1916. Age 18. His short working life prior to the war was with Frazer and Haughton. He was an accomplished violinist and was well-known in musical circles. Eldest son of James McGowan, Hillmount, Cullybackey. Cite Bonjean Cem. Armentieres. Cuninghame Memorial WM and Cullybackey UF WM



**+McMASTER, James Andrew**

RMLI. Private. PLY/17781. 2nd RM Battalion RND. Plymouth Division. Died 17/09/1916 of wounds. Age 20. Enrolled 14/12/1914. Embarked Royal Marine Brigade 05/12/15 per HMT Northlands arrived Alexandria 17/12/15, joined 2nd Royal Marine Battalion at Mudros 26/01/1916 -17/09/1916. Born Belfast 02/12/1896. Son of Thomas and Mary Jane McMaster, Glenvarlock St., Castlereigh Rd., Belfast (1914), and Wayland St., Belfast. IMR. ADM 159/161/17781

**+RAINEY, James**

Canadian Infantry, 52nd Btn. Private. 622046. Died 17/09/1916 in the trenches west of Courcellette.. Born in Creeve, Duneane, near Randalstown, on 08/10/1888. He was a member of LOL 2569, Winnipeg, Canada. He enlisted in Winnipeg on 22/12/1914. He had been working as a freight checker on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Son of James and Margaret (nee Lee) Rainey, who had married in Randalstown (Old Congregation) Presbyterian Church on 12/11/1883. They resided at of Leitrim, Randalstown. Vimy Memorial, France

**1917**

**+ALLEN, Samuel James**

1st Bn. Scots Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 7538. Died 17/09/1917. Age 27. Son of G. and Mary Jane Allen, of Bleary, Lurgan. Bleulet Farm Cemetery, Belgium

**+McCLOSKEY, Patrick**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 30730. Died 17/09/1917. Age 19. Son of John McCloskey and Winifred Doherty (his wife), of Woodend, Strabane. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

**1918**

**+BUCHANAN, Robert**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Depot. Private. 10963. Died 17/09/1918. Age 28. Son of James and Mary Buchanan, of 11, Linenhall St., Londonderry; husband to Elizabeth Buchanan. Londonderry City Cemetery

**+HARVEY, Thomas Fullerton**

Cameronians, 5th Btn. (Scottish Rifles). Private. 39642. Died 17/09/1918. Age 19. Born in Ballyclare on 14/07/1899. Enlisted Glasgow. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Harvey of 11, Gairbraid Avenue, Maryhill, Glasgow. Varennes Military Cemetery, France. Ballyclare WM

**+McALINDON, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Captain. MC. Died 17/09/1918 in a military hospital from a fever which was spreading out of control in the unsanitary conditions of trench warfare. Age 26. In September 1917 during the Battle of Ypres he won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. His unit was pinned down by machine-gun fire from a German pill-box. He went forward on his own and captured the enemy position. Son of Sarah McAlindon, of Derryloiste, Lurgan. Derrytrasna Roman Catholic Churchyard, Lurgan

**+McALLISTER, James**

Canadian Infantry, Central Ontario Regiment. Sergeant. Died 17/09/1918. Age 35. On this day the village of Sains-lès-Marquion about 12 km north-west of Cambrai was captured by the 1st Canadian Division. The following day the Infantry Brigade began a cemetery in the village which was used for burying their dead until the middle of October and following the Armistice the ground was enlarged to accommodate other burials brought in from neighbouring battlegrounds and also from Marquion Churchyard. James was the son of Mrs. Ellen Croll, of 24 Bentham Street, Sandy Row, Belfast.

### **+MULLAN, Thomas**

Leinster Regiment. 2nd Btn. D Coy. Private. 18188. Died 17/09/1918. Age 28. Husband to Mary Ann Mullan, of 50, Sultan St., Belfast. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

## **1920**

### **+TIMONEY, Edward Joseph**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. attd. 36th Div. Signal Coy. Lance Serjeant. 6972309. Died 17/09/1920 just two days before his 30th birthday. Age 30. Born 19/09/1890 in Cookstown. Both he and his father worked as garden labourers. Son of Edward and Bridget Timoney, of Loy St., Cookstown, Co. Tyrone; husband to Catherine Timoney, of 45, Churchtown Cottages, Dundrum, Co. Dublin. Malakand Cemetery. Delhi Memorial (India Gate), India. Cookstown WM

Courageous, an aircraft carrier. was torpedoed and sunk in the opening weeks of the war, going down with more than 500 of her crew. See article on this site, September 17. See above.

## 1942

### **+HATTON, Jay Andrew John Duke**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1093768. Died 17/09/1942. Aged 21. Son of Jabez George and Helen Izett Hatton, Belfast. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

### **+JOHNSTON, James Andrew**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 981988. Died 17/09/1942. 158 Sqdn. Lurgan New Cemetery. Lurgan WM

## 1944

### **+BRACKSTONE, Charles Thomas**

ACC. Glider Pilot Regiment, 2nd Wing. Sergeant. 2083005. Died 17/09/1944. Age 22. Operation Market Garden. As part of No. 6 Flight, C Squadron, he was the Co-Pilot of Hamilcar GAL 319 that left R.A.F. Tarrant Rushton, Dorset, England. The glider carried a 3-ton Morris lorry towing a 17-pounder anti-tank gun from D Troop, 1st Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery, Royal Artillery. On landing short of the railway embankment at LZ-Z, the glider overturned killing the Co-Pilot and injuring Pilot Jack Shaw. He enlisted in Eastleigh in 1939. He served with the Royal Engineers before training and transferring to The Glider Pilot Regiment. Born on 09/10/1920, he was the son of Rupert Brackstone and Lily Ada Lydia (née Vaughan)

Brackstone of Dundonald, Co. Down. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands.

**+CLARKE, Thomas George**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Guardsman. 2719127. Died 17/09/1944. Age 26. He was with the Armoured Brigade and had five year's service. He died during 2nd Btn's push on to Valkenswaard, Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden. His M4A4 Sherman Mark V came under fire on the main road, which became known as "Hell's Highway". Son of James and Jane C. (Nee Warnock) Clarke, of Corkley, Almamachin, Co. Armagh. Thomas George Clarke has no known grave. His name is on Panel 3 of the Groesbeek Memorial, Gelderland, Netherlands. There are 6 Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves in Valkenswaard War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands belonging to personnel from Irish Guards who remain unidentified.

**+DOUGAN, Robert Alexander**

A.A.C. The Parachute Regiment. 1st Btn. R Coy. 8 Platoon. Private. Died 17/09/1944. Age 20. His brother Norman Arthur Dougan was also serving with the 1st Btn. He was injured and captured. He escaped in Operation Pegasus in November 1944. Son of Arthur and Sarah Elizabeth Dougan, of Lower Glenanne, Co. Armagh. Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Netherlands

**+MALLON, Norman**

Irish Guards, 3rd Btn. Guardsman. 2718372. Died 17/09/1944. Operation Market Garden. Valkenswaard War



Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Aghalee Parish  
Church WM

### **+MOORE, William Gill**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Guardsman.7020985. Died 17/09/1944. His M4A4 Sherman Mark V came under fire on the main road, which became known as “Hell’s Highway” in Operation Market Garden. The Commander of the Sherman tank was Lance Sergeant Dave Roper of No. 1 Troop. Moore was the Wireless Operator on board. The remaining crew members were Gunner A. Saunders, Driver O’Riley, and Co-Driver G. Dowd. O’Riley and Dowd escaped unhurt, Roper and Saunders sustained injuries in the attack. Bill had married a woman from Yorkshire and in 1944 she served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service. As news broke of Bill’s death, his wife was on leave in Belfast with his parents. He was the son of Mr. E.S. Moore and Mrs. Moore of 45 Sandymount Street, Belfast. Bill’s father served with 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in The Great War. He suffered severe injuries. He received the Military Medal for his contribution. Valkenswaard War Cemetery. Fitzwilliam PCI

### **+PARKES, William John**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Warrant Officer Class II (Squadron Sergeant Major). 2717391. Died 17/09/1944. Aged 33. Operation Market Garden. Serving in the Armoured 2nd Btn, he was shot and killed after his Sherman tank had been destroyed on “Hell’s Highway” and whilst he was trying to escape his stricken vehicle. Later in the day, William’s brother passed down the same road with 3rd Btn Irish Guards past his brother’s body. Born 07/06/1912 in Belfast, He enlisted into the army in 1931, initially seeing service in

Egypt. In 1938 he became an army reservist joining the Belfast Harbour Police. He was a Constable before being recalled into the army in 1939. Son of Joseph and Esther W. (nee McGibney) Parkes, of Belfast. Billy wrote a last letter home to his mother the night before he died. Valkenswaard War Cemetery, a few miles south of Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Family memorial Belfast City Cemetery

### **+PORTER, John**

Kings Own Scottish Borderers. 5th Btn. Private. 697750. Age 28. Died 17/09/1944. On that day almost 12,000 parachute and glider-borne troops landed to seize the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem in Holland. The King's Own Scottish Borderers were trying to cross the Meuse-Escaut Canal. John Porter was the son of John and Mary Porter. He was born about 1916. Prior to enlisting, he lived at Union Road, Magherafelt. Kasterlee War Cemetery, Kasterlee, Antwerp, Belgium. Magherafelt C of I RH

### **+STUART, Robert John Ochiltrie**

Royal Armoured Corps, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers. B Sqn. Lieutenant. Viscount. 311623. Died 17/09/1944. Age 20. Born on 12 /12/1923 in England. Son of Arthur Stuart, M.C., 7th Earl of Castle Stewart, and Eleanor, the Countess of Castle Stewart, of Nutley, Sussex. He received his education at Eton College. Afterwards, he served for a time in the Nutley Home Guard. After his elder brother's death in action, Robert became Viscount Stuart. Ancona War Cemetery, Italy. Stewartstown WM, Stewartstown C of I RH

### **+WATSON, Thomas Crowe**

Irish Guards, 3rd Btn. Guardsman. 2724057. Died 17/09/1944. Operation Market Garden. Age 21. Son of Mary and Thomas Watson from Dunmurry. In September 2019, Dutchman Han Maas attempted to get in touch with surviving members of Crowe's family. He had looked after the grave since 2018 and wanted them to know it was in safe hands. WartimeNI helped Han get in touch with surviving descendants of the Crowe family still living in Dunmurry. Valkenswaard War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.

### **+WINKWORTH, Charles William**

AAC.Glider Pilot Regiment. Sergeant. 5110811. Died 17/09/1944. Age 22. As part of No. 6 Flight, C Squadron, he was the Pilot of Hamilcar GAL 318 that left R.A.F. Tarrant Rushton, Dorset, England. On landing, the glider overturned killing the Pilot and injuring Co-Pilot D.A. White. His parents resided in Birmingham, England. Husband to Mary Elizabeth Winkworth of 114 Alliance Drive, Belfast. Charles Winkworth has no known grave. His name is on the Groesbeek Memorial, Gelderland, Netherlands. Records suggest removal of his body from the glider wreckage was not possible. The German army set fire to all destroyed gliders when they retook the landing zones.

## **VETERANS**

### **BABINGTON, Robert**

RNAS/ Fleet Air Arm. Sub Lieutenant. Pilot. 1939-45. During the course of the war he had at least two near death experiences. His first wartime posting was flying Fairy Fulmars from the Harland and Wolff-built carrier HMS Formidable. He arrived in Egypt just as his ship was about

to take part in the evacuation of Crete. After the Crete evacuation he flew Swordfish torpedo bombers during the invasion of Syria and once spent three days in a dingy, without food or water, after being forced to ditch at sea. Robert was awarded a DSC. The citation reads: "The Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded to Sub Lieutenant Babington for his skill, bravery and sustained resolution in many air attacks against enemy submarines and E-boats in the Mediterranean. He had another brush with death when the carrier HMS Dasher was sunk on 27/03/1943 while sailing in the Clyde with the loss of 379 men. As the ship was sinking, he was forced to jump overboard and swim to safety. A massive explosion took the ship under a short time later. Dublin born. St Columba's College and Trinity College, Dublin. Called to the Northern Ireland Bar 1947. Queen's Counsel 1965. An Ulster Unionist member. He resigned from the '66 Committee of Unionist backbenchers in October 1970. Sat for North Down from the 1969 general election until the prorogation of the Parliament in 1972. County Court Judge for Fermanagh and Tyrone from 1974. Died 17/09/2010

### **GREACEN, Thomas Earldrid**

Canadian Infantry, Captain. MC. Campbell College. Ulster Schools XV, 1911 and 1912. QUB 1913. Canadian Bank of Commerce, 1914. Sales Manager in Esso Petroleum Co., London, for 21 years. 1940-45, Seconded to British Govt. as Technical Adviser on Petrol Rationing. Home Guard, Sussex Regt. 1946, Managing Director, Greacen and Co. Ltd., Wine and Spirit Merchants, Monaghan. Cortolvin House, Monaghan. Born 17/09/1893, son of Robert Greacen, Aviemore House, Monaghan.

**MAXTON, Leonard Graeme**

RNAS. Transferred to RAF. Squadron-Leader, 1931. Awarded Air Force Cross, 1926. Norwegian Campaign, mentioned in despatches 1940. 1940 - 42, Battle of Atlantic. 1943 - 45, Staff and Training. Retired as Group Captain. Born 17/09/1896. Died 12/1972, Chittern, Wilts. Son of James Maxton, Kirkliston Drive, Belfast. Campbell College 1008.

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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



Remembrance Ni, September 17

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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