



## remembrance ni



**Men of No 3 Plt ,  
'R' company, 1st  
Parachute  
Battalion, 1st  
British Airborne  
Division armed  
with Bren gun  
and no.4 rifles  
defend a large  
shell hole  
outside Arnhem,  
The Netherlands  
during operation  
Market Garden,  
September 1944.**

## NI men at Operation Market Garden

After the success of the invasion of Normandy on 6th June 1944 the Allied Forces pressed further and further into the occupied countries and herein was a considerable problem.

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Something had to be done.

The Market Garden plan was simple. – The Allied XXX Corps planned to push 60 miles from the Belgian border (Code-name “Operation Market”) and link up with airborne troops (Code-name “Operation Garden”) of the 101st U.S. Airborne Division in the area to the north of Eindhoven and the 82nd U.S. Airborne Division in the Nijmegen area before reaching the British 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem.

The Airborne troops were to have been parachuted behind enemy lines to take and secure the bridges at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem – Which as history now tells us was “A Bridge Too Far”

## **Fighting Sid from Sandy Row stayed at Arnhem**

**“Two of the men of Arnhem arrived in Belfast on Friday on leave. They were Paratroopers Samuel Hillis, of Spruce Street (Donegall Pass), and James Ussher, Sydney Street West. But the joy of homecoming was tempered with sadness because they had left behind them at Arnhem their Sandy Row pal, Sidney Ellis, of Blythe Street.”**

"Poor Sid was killed on the second day at Arnhem - by a sniper's bullet," said Paratrooper Hillis to a "Belfast

Telegraph" reporter. "We were engaged in street fighting at the time, and were being pushed back when a bullet struck him on the chin bone and was deflected through his heart.

"Jimmy and I were fighting beside him at this time, and thinking it was only a wound we proceeded to give him first aid, but when we turned him over he was dead. That's why it hasn't been such fun coming home this time. We three were the only Belfastmen in our battalion, and we were in many a tight corner together. Strictly speaking he shouldn't have been in the Paratroops at all because he was 38 and too old, but a little thing like that didn't trouble Sid. He liked to be wherever there was trouble, and he certainly was in plenty of trouble at the last. All three of us have been in many a 'big show' in the last few years, but we were never in anything like Arnhem. It was like going through hell. Sid, however, was in his element and he died fighting like a lion."

His friend, Jimmy, said Paratrooper Hillis, had removed their pal's red beret and Airborne badge, and had brought them home as keepsakes for the widow.

Paratrooper Hillis, who is only 23, has himself borne a "changed life" since he joined the Army four years ago. He was a year in the Inniskillings, but the infantry wasn't exciting enough, so he transferred to the Paratroops. He has got more excitement than he bargained for since then, but it's "a great life," he says.

Altogether he has made 46 drops, including three operational, and has also been in one of the biggest seaborne landings of the war. After his first big drop in Africa

his unit were utilised as infantry and had a hand in some of the most sensational victories of the African campaign.

Then over to Sicily, where he took part in the historic landing at Catania, and was one of the survivors of the heroic 600 who held the bridge there in July of last year. It was in Sicily that he had his "narrow shave," as he calls it - a mortar bomb burst on a parapet a few yards away "and I don't know yet how on earth I escaped."

At Arnhem, said Paratrooper Hillis, the Division thought it was going to be easy after all when no flak came up at them, but it wasn't long until they discovered their mistake. His battalion, which made the first descent, dropped four miles from the town, and launched their attack almost immediately. The Germans, however, attacked with tanks the same night, and the battalion had to withdraw owing to their losses. They retreated to a village on the banks of the Rhine and dug in wherever they could to begin their long ordeal.

The rest, said Paratrooper Hillis, was not history but although they had spent nine long and anxious days at Arnhem and few of them expected to get out alive, they had their amusing moments. As for instance, when the Germans on the other side of the river got their loud-speaker going and entreated them to "give it up."

"They spoke across to us in perfect English, promising us good food and comfortable beds, and telling us that we hadn't an earthly of getting out alive, but we only laughed at them, and enjoyed the records they used to play for us."

Then there was the comedy of the prisoners cage at Divisional H.Q. There were about 150 Germans held in this, and owing to the peculiar conditions of the Arnhem operation it was impossible to move them to a place of safety. Thus the Germans, like their beleaguered captors, were right in the front line with cannon and mortar shells and machine-gun bullets flying around them.

"We didn't feel any too happy ourselves," remarked Paratrooper Hillis, "but those Germans were the limit. They were running about their prison cages, simply gibbering with fear and trying to burrow down out of sight. One of their own officers, a major, was so disgusted that he let them have it, telling them they were a disgrace to the German Wehrmacht and Hitler's Reich, but it didn't do them a bit of good. Those fellows were scared out of their wits - and no wonder."

Paratroopers Hillis and Ussher are now on 14 days' leave. A big part of it, they say, will be spent sleeping to make up for "all the sleep we lost at Arnhem."

Paratrooper Ussher, who has 10 years' Army service, formerly belonged to the Oxford and Bucks Regiment. He has received a presentation of a wallet of notes from the neighbours of Sydney Street West. This was handed over by Messrs Mullen and J Spratt.



# On this Day – September 18

## 1916

South of the Ancre, the British advance, taking ground between Bouleaux Wood and Ginchy, on a mile front to a depth of 1,000 yards.

## 1918

The Australian 5th/6th Infantry Brigades advance on a 16-mile front North-West of St. Quentin, extending from Holnon Wood to Gouzeaucourt. A reported 6,000 prisoners and a number of guns captured.

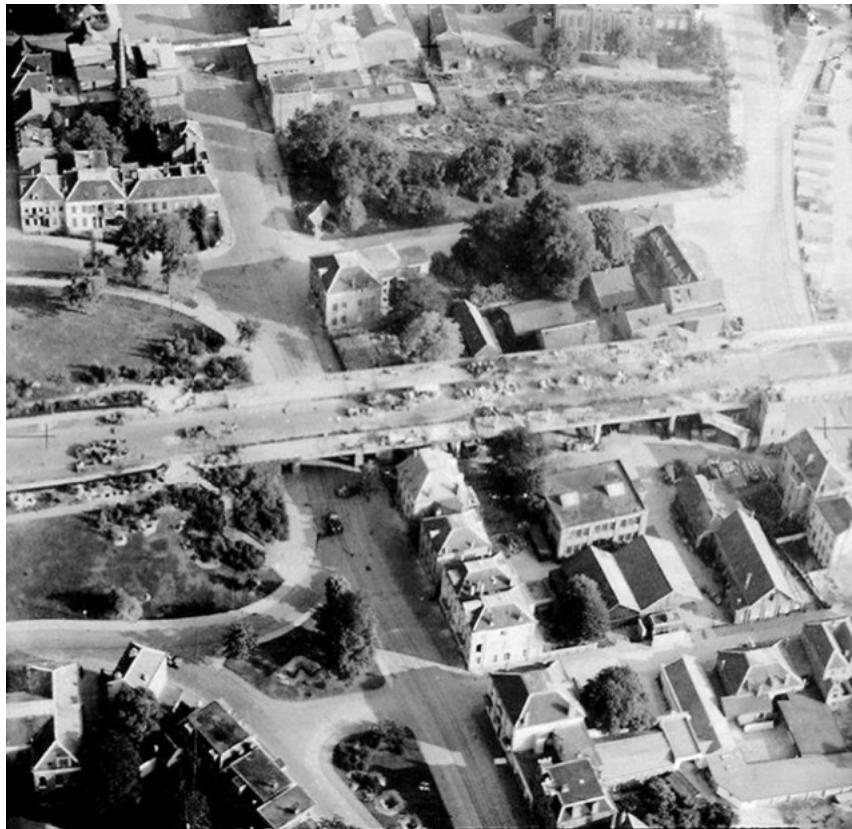


## 1939

The infamous Nazi propaganda announcer William "Lord Haw Haw" Joyce takes to the airwaves for the first time. His show, 'Germany Calling,' is broadcast in English and beamed into Great Britain.



**1942** - Britannia Royal Naval College In Dartmouth is damaged by a German Bomb resulting in the trainees being evacuated to Eaton Hall in Cheshire for the rest of the war. There were several local civilian casualties but only 1 at the college. PO WREN Whittall.



## 1944

This day in 1944, forces of the US 101st Airborne Division liberate the city of Eindhoven.

Around noon the 101st Airborne were met by the lead reconnaissance units from the British XXX Corps.

1500hrs

At this point John Frost and approx. 740 men hold the northern end of the Arnhem Road Bridge.

The remainder of the Troops from the 1st Lift are either trying to fight through to the Bridge or holding the Drop or Landing Zones

German Major-General Friedrich Kussin, the Stadtkommandant of Arnhem, was ambushed and killed by men of 3rd Parachute Battalion after he visited German HQ in Wolfheze. He was warned by his men that the road was probably already captured by British paratroopers.



# Roll of Honour – September 18

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1914**

**+MARTIN, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8490. Died 18/09/1914. Age 31. Son of the late John and Kathleen Martin, of Ballymena; husband to Margaret Martin, of 52, Abercorn Rd., Londonderry. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, France

**+McCLEAN, R**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 8746. Died 18/09/1914. Age 25. Brother of Mrs. Mary J. Moore, of 36, Clementine St., Rowland St, Belfast. Montbrehain Communal Cemetery, France

**1916**

**+BRUCE, Robert**

Canadian Infantry. 24th Btn. Private. 124459. Died 18/09/1916. Age 22. Son of Mrs. Isabella Bruce, of 721.5, Barton Street East, Hamilton, Ontario. Robert Bruce was the son of William and Isabella Bruce. He was born in Lanark, Scotland on 22/10/1893. Robert emigrated to Canada / USA. Prior to enlisting, Robert was living at 30 Cameron

Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, United States of America, and was working as a Dye Repairer. He was listed as missing, presumed killed in action, on 18/09/1916. At the time of Robert's death, his father was living in Duneane, Toomebridge. Vimy Memorial, France

### **+LEAHY, Eugene Patrick**

Royal Army Medical Corps, 61st Field Amb. Captain. Died 18/09/1916. Age 24. Born in 1889, the son of Mr David Leahy, Justice of the Peace, Glengormley, Belfast. He was educated at St. Malachy's College Belfast and came to Manchester University to study medicine between 1907 and 1913, gaining an M.B and Ch.B. He was living with an uncle at 66 Rochdale Rd., Manchester. He went on to work at Chester Infirmary before setting up in General Practise in Belfast. He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in February 1915. He was seriously wounded in the September fighting on the Somme and died of his wounds. Son of David Leahy JP and Mary (nee McGlade) Leahy, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast. His father was a director of Leahy, Kelly & Leahy Ltd., Belfast, tobacco merchants. Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, France. Chester WM in Town Hall. Manchester University WM

### **+McALLISTER, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 3623. Died 18/09/1916. Age 38. Son of the late William John and Mary Jane McAllister; husband to Kathleen McAllister, of Newry St., Rathfriland, Co. Down. Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol

## **+SMYTH, Thomas Mercer**

Seaforth Highlanders, 1st/5th Btn. Private. 4363. Died 18/09/1916. Age 18. (Served as Mercer). Son of Isaac and Martha Smyth, of 57, Weir St., Shankill Rd., Belfast. Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France

## **+WAFER, John Dobbin**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Corporal. 13225. Died 18/09/1916. Age 21. Son of Lloyd S. and Ellie D. Wafer, of 7, Dunfield Terrace, Waterside, Londonderry. Lahana Military Cemetery, Greece

## **1917                      Q Ship HMS Stonecrop**

HMS Stonecrop was one of the disguised identities of the Q Ship, Glenfoyle, a former collier built in 1913 and sunk in 1917 by a U Boat off the west coast of Ireland. The ship sank quickly and before an signal could be sent. The U boat surfaced and its gun was manned. "What ship is that?" he demanded. "The 'Salient', Cardiff to Scapa, cargo coal, 2,000 tons", replied the navigator. Apparently satisfied with this information the submarine commander turned his boat round and made off to the S.W., securing his gun as he went. This was the last the 'Stonecrop's' crew saw of him. The survivors were in a boat and on a raft. The boat set off to notify the land based authorities. The raft under Lieutenant Smiles spent four stormy nights at sea with rationed water and a tin of biscuits. Three ships searching for them failed to see them in the difficult sea state over a six day period.

*“O” Boat Adventures – by Lieutenant Commander Harold Auten V. C., R. N*

**+GAWN, John**

Mercantile Marine Reserve. Trimmer. 774966. HMS Stonecrop. Died 18/09/1917. From Larne.

**+WATSON, J G**

Mercantile Marine Reserve. Trimmer. G/9218. HMS Stonecrop. Died 18/09/1917. Age 16. Son of William and Marion Watson, Bentinck St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 26

**1917**

**+MILLS, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles. 19th Btn. Rifleman. 19/537. Died 18/09/1917. Age 36. Husband to the late Susana Mills, of Belfast. Ballygowan Presbyterian Churchyard. UK Book of Remembrance

**1918**

**+COLLINS, Leslie James Stanley**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 8/12674. Died 18/09/1918. Age 28. Son of Robert Henry and Kate Collins, of Rathverde, Knock, Belfast. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

## **+GAMBLE, WH**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 22673. Died 18/09/1918. Son of Catherine Gamble and the late Hugh Gamble; husband of Ellen Gamble, of 12, James St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

## **+HALL, Fred**

Welsh Regiment, 11th Btn. Private. 79706. Died 18/09/1918. Age 23. Son of Alice Sinton (formerly Hall), of Kingscourt Bldgs., Wellington Place, Belfast, and the late F. Hall. Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece

## **+HARTLEY, John Stevenson**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 959. Died 18/09/1918. Age 25. Son of John and Martha Hartley, of Gransha, Rathfriland. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

## **+MAGUIRE, J**

Royal Irish Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private. 18568. Died 18/09/1918. Age 21. Son of Margaret Maguire, of Kilfinan, Waterside, Londonderry. Sunken Road Cemetery, Boisleux-St Marc, France. Londonderry Diamond WM

## **+MONTGOMERY, R**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 30918. Died 18/09/1918. Age 20. Son of Edward Montgomery, of Garvetagh, Castlederg, Co. Tyrone. La Kreule Military Cemetery, Hazebrouck, France

## **+MOORE, William John**

Welsh Regiment. 11th Btn. Private. 79790. Died 18/09/1918. Age 26. William was born about 1892 in Desertmartin. He enlisted in Manchester on 03/11/1914. While in the field with the Manchester Regiment in Salonika, he contracted malaria and was admitted to hospital in Corfu. His health remained poor and it was not until 05/08/1918 that he returned to Salonika. He joined the 11th Btn of the Welsh Regiment on 07/09/1918. Son of William and Mary Ann Moore, of 82, Droylsden Rd., Newton Heath, Manchester. Doiran Military Cemetery, Doiran, Thessaloniki, Greece

## **+PAISLEY, William**

RNR. Lieutenant. HMS Africa. Died 18/09/1918. Age 29. Born Belfast. Son of John and Catherine Paisley, Oak Terr., Beech St., Liverpool. Freetown (King Tom) Cemetery

## **1940**

## **+HARRISON, Henry Herbert**

RAF. Sergeant. 538889. Died 18/09/1940. Aged 23. 149 Sqn. Lost on operations over La Havre. Son of Henry and Annie Harrison, of Belfast. Runnymede Panel 15

## **1942**

## **+McKENNA, Francis**

Pioneer Corps. Private. 7011079. Died 18/09/1942 in Belfast. Age 30. Born in Belfast, his family and friends called him Frank. He enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment later transferring to the Pioneer Corps. Military records show him living in Armagh, Co. Armagh, in 1941 with wife Eileen McKenna as his next of kin. Records suggest the couple

had a daughter named Eileen Teresa McKenna. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

**1943**

**+CURRAN Joseph**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Flight Engineer).1045746. 428 RCAF SQDN Died 24/09/1943. Aged 20. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. Sergeant Curran from Lurgan was shot down over Germany while serving with 428 Ghost Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, then based at RAF Middleton St George, Durham. The squadron was first equipped with Vickers Wellingtons (Mk III and Mk X), and its first operational mission was on January 26–27, 1943, when five Wellingtons bombed the Keroman U-Boat pens at Lorient in Brittany, on the Bay of Biscay. In the early part of June 1943, the squadron moved to RAF Middleton St George, Durham where it remained for the remainder of the war. Around this time the squadron was converted to Handley Page Halifax (Mk Vs).

At 22.39 on 23/09/1943 he was aboard Handley Page Halifax EB207, NA-B for a night operation to Mannheim, Germany. The aircraft was on its way to the target when it was attacked and shot down by Oblt. Heinz-Martin Hadeball of 3./NJG 6 of the Luftwaffe, with the loss of all seven Crew Members who were:- P/O William Anderson Hadden, Sgt. Joseph Curran, Sgt. Alexander F. Morris, Sgt. Sydney A. Whitby, Sgt. Peter J. Flower, Sgt. Clifford W. Renwick and Sgt. Archibald Yuill. The Halifax crashed into woodland at Hahnenberg near Kottreichen.

Son of John and Mary Curran, of Ballynamoney, Lurgan. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

**+MOORE, William Craig**

Royal Artillery. 126 HAA Regiment. Second Lieutenant. 267047. Died on 24/09/1943. Aged 27. Son of William and Jean Houston Moore of Dunmurry. Belfast City Cemetery

**1944**

**+CRORY, William Samuel**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1523061. Died 18/09/1944. Aged 22. Son of William Crory, and of Elizabeth Crory of Ballyward. Drumgooland Presbyterian Churchyard. Newcastle WM

**Market Garden Roll of Honour 1944**

After the success of the invasion of Normandy on 6th June 1944 the Allied Forces pressed further and further into the occupied countries and herein was a considerable problem.

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The Airborne troops were to have been parachuted behind enemy lines to take and secure the bridges at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem – Which as history now tells us was “A Bridge Too Far”. See also article above.

**+AUBREY, Trevor**

Monmouthshire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal.  
3910777. Died 24/09/1944, Age 26. Son of Trevor and Katie Aubrey; husband of Gladys Carson Aubrey, of Belfast.  
Valkenswaard War Cemetery, Netherlands

**+BOYD, James Frederick**

AAC. Glider Pilot Regiment, 1st Wing. Staff Serjeant.  
7013328. Died 23/09/1944. Age 22. Son of Jeanie Boyd, of Portstewart. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+BRACKSTONE, Charles Thomas**

AAC. Glider Pilot Regiment, 2nd Wing. Serjeant. 2083005.  
Died 17/09/1944. Age 23. Son of Rupert and Lily Ada Lydia Brackstone; husband of Winifred Ethne Brackstone, of Dundonald. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+CAMERON, James**

AAC. Parachute Regiment. 21st Indep. Coy. Private.  
6982743. Died 26/09/1944 from wounds. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Ellen Cameron, of Carrickfergus. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

### **+CASSIDY, Samuel Patton**

King's Own Scottish Borderers, 7th (Airborne) Btn.

Private. 14207764. Died 21/09/1944. Age 24. Husband to Mary Cassidy, of Belfast. Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

### **+CAMERON, James**

ACC. Parachute Regiment, 21st Independent Company.

Private. 6982743. Died 26/09/1944. Age 22. Son of Thomas Cameron and Ellen "Nellie" (née Armstrong) Cameron of 64 Davy's Street, Carrickfergus. Thomas Cameron served in 12th Btn Royal Irish Rifles during the First World War.

James enrolled in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1940. He volunteered for airborne training in 1942 and saw action in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. In Operation Market Garden he sustained gunshot wounds during house-to-house fighting at Stationweg 6-8, Oosterbeek, Netherlands. Before transfer to the hospital at Apeldoorn, James received treatment inside the house from Sergeant Gerry Thompson and Private Harry Bruce. His death at St. Joseph's Mental Hospital, Apeldoorn came on what would be the final day of the Battle of Arnhem. Temporary burial took place at Heidehof General Cemetery before reinterment in Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands. Family memorial Victoria Cemetery, Carrickfergus

### **+CLARKE, Anthony Leslie**

AAC. Parachute Regiment, 1st Btn. Corporal. 1806655.

Died 24/09/1944. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Clarke, of Penn. Wolverhampton. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+CLARKE, Thomas George**

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. Guardsman. 2719127. Died 17/09/1944. Age 26 . Son of James and Jane C. Clarke, of Corkley, Almamachin, Co. Armagh. Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

**+DOLAGHAN, Francis George**

AAC. 4th Parachute Bde, H.Q. Private. 64880. Died 20/09/1944. Aged 21. He was Batman to Shan Hackett and was killed in action near Arnhem Bridge. Son of James and Maria Dolaghan, of Belfast. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

**+DOUGAN, Robert Alexander**

ACC. Parachute Regiment, 1st Btn. Private. 6985006. Died 17/09/1944. Aged 20. Son of Arthur and Sarah Elizabeth Dougan, of Lower Glenanne, Co. Armagh. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

**+ELLIS, Sidney**

ACC. Parachute Regiment. 1st Btn. Private. 6974976. Died 18/09/1944. Age 38. Even before the outbreak of the Second World War, friends knew Ellis as "Fighting Sid". He joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers once he was old enough, spending seven years serving in India. On his return, he spent a further seven years in the reserves but civilian life was too tame for Sid. He traveled next to the Middle East, serving two and a half years in the Palestinian Police Force. His return from Palestine saw Ellis become a Warden at a prison in Belfast. The declaration of the Second World War led to a call going out for volunteers and Ellis was among

the first to reenlist. He rejoined the Royal Irish Fusiliers and later transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps. In 1943, keen for yet more excitement, he joined The Parachute Regiment. During Operation Market Garden he was a Runner in Battalion Headquarters. His pals Hillis and Ussher brought home Ellis' red beret and Airborne Division cap badge to present to his widow. He was the son of William Ellis and Clara Ellis of Belfast, and husband to Elizabeth Ellis of 204 Blythe Street, Belfast. His younger brother James Ellis served in the Royal Marines for more than 25 years. Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Netherlands

### **+HAMILTON, John Mallon**

AAC. Parachute Regiment. Private. 5109896. Died 21/09/1944. Aged 26. Son of John and Margaret Mallon Hamilton, Belfast; husband to Robertena Hamilton, of Belfast. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

### **+HOUSTON, James Ivor**

AAC. Parachute Regiment, 3rd Btn. HQ Coy. Essex Regiment. Major. 53748. Died 20/09/1944. Age 32. From Londonderry. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dick Houston; husband to Lorna Houston, of Weyhill, Hampshire. Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

### **+HUNTER, John**

Border Regiment. 1st (Airborne) Btn. Serjeant. 3596799. Died 20/09/1944. Aged 30. From County Antrim. Son of George and Elizabeth Hunter; husband to Lily Hunter, of Prudhoe-on-Tyne, Northumberland. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

**+LYNAS, Ernest**

ACC. Parachute Regiment, 156th Btn. Lance Corporal. 7043594. Died 25/09/1944. Aged 26. Husband to Violet Lynas, of Portadown. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

**+MALTBY, Ralph Alexander**

Royal Artillery attached to 2nd Wing Glider Pilot Regiment Army Air Corps. Lieutenant. 73034. Died 17/09/1944. Age 26. Mentioned in Despatches. Order of the Patriotic War (U.S.S.R.). Son of Francis Brough Maltby and Enid Rosamond Maltby; husband to Jean Felicity Maltby (nee Beath), of Oxford. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

**+McCLUNE, John**

Parachute Regiment, 11th. Btn. AAC. Lance Corporal. 6979069. Died 24/09/1944. Age 25. Son of John McClune and Isabella (née Malcolm) McClune of Belfast. Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+McKIBBIN, William John**

Irish Guards, 3rd Btn. Lance Sergeant. 2720351. Died 19/09/1944. Age 27. Operation Market Garden. Born on 19/09/1917, he was the son of Lantry McKibbin and Agnes McKibbin, and stepson of Martha McKibbin. Husband to Sarah Jane Duff of Waterside, Derry/Londonderry. The couple had a young daughter Elizabeth McKibbin. Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium. Oldpark Presbyterian Church RH

**+MURDOCK, Frederick**

Royal Welch Fusiliers, 6th. Btn. Corporal. 7010813. Died 25/09/1944. Age 33. Born Belfast. Son of Robert Murdock and Margaret (née Patterson) Murdock of Belfast, and husband to Violet (née Young) Murdock of Belfast. Reusel Roman Catholic Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.

**+PARKES, William John**

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. (Armoured) Warrant Officer Class II (Squadron Sergeant Major). 271739. Died 17/09/1944. Age 33. He was shot and killed after his Sherman tank had been destroyed and whilst he was trying to escape his stricken vehicle. Billy was the son of Joseph and Esther (nee McGibney) Parkes. 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. Billy wrote a last letter home to his mother the night before he was killed. This letter is a family treasure. It was a sad fact that his brother - also serving with the British Forces was to pass Billy's body later on the 17th September. Valkenswaard War Cemetery, a few miles south of Eindhoven, in the Netherlands along with some 215 Commonwealth dead.

**+PERCY, Robert**

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant (Flt. Engr.).1077628. Died 21/09/1944. Age 25. 190 Sqdn. Son of William and Elizabeth Percy, of Ballymena. Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery

## **+POWER, Sydney**

ACC. Parachute Regiment, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 7013959. Died between 21/09/1944 and 25/09/1944. Age 25. From County Armagh. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

## **+SMELLIE, John Frederick**

AAC. Captain. 158421. Glider Pilot Regiment, 1st Wing. Flew glider on D-Day (Wave 3) and at Arnhem with B Squadron 1 Wing GPR. Killed in action 23/09/1944 aged 30. On the 17/09/1942 he was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery and later transferred to the Glider Pilot Regiment-Army Air Corps in 09/1944 where he became Officer Commanding 4 Flight (B Squadron, No 1 Wing.) A graduate of QUB in law, he became a solicitor. Son of N.S.H Smellie and Ileen Smellie, Brookside Manor, Hollywood. Arnhem (Oosterbeek) War Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands. Royal Courts of Justice Belfast WM, Hollywood Parish Church WM. QUB RH

## **+TANSLEY, George**

Parachute Regiment. 156th Btn, Army Air Corps. Private. 6981799. Died 25/09/1944. Aged 29. WM St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray, "In memory of the officers and men of the 156 Battalion of the Parachute Regiment who left their station in this parish to fly to Arnhem, and there died in the cause of freedom". Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+WALKER, Joseph**

AAC. Parachute Regiment. 1st Btn. Private. 3603968. Died 18/09/1944. Aged 22. Son of James and Sarah Walker, of Bury, Lancashire; husband to Irene Walker, of Freetown, Bury. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+WATTERS, William John**

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Guardsman. 2723656. Died 22/09/1944. Age 20. Son of Robert George Watters and Catherine Watters of Belfast. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

**+WHITE, Robert Graham (Bertie)**

AAC. Parachute Regiment, 156 Btn. Sergeant. 6977506. Died 19/09/1944. Age 30. Shot down when parachuting onto Ginkel Heath on the second day of the Battle of Arnhem. He enlisted with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers aged 16 (he falsified his age), before transferring to the Parachute Regiment. Son of Abraham and Elizabeth White. Born 26/05/1914. Oosterbeek War cemetery, Arnhem, Gelderland, Netherlands. Dungannon WM. Moy WM.

**ARNHEM VETERAN**

**SMITH, Bert - Arnhem DFC**

On 18th September 1944 Bert Smith from Richill was Navigator of a Dakota aircraft towing a Horsa Glider to Arnhem. This was the second day he had been involved in

Operation Market Garden however on crossing into enemy held territory both his aircraft and the glider were hit by flak which killed his pilot and wounded Bert and another crew member. Bert Smith took control of the aircraft and ensured the glider reached friendly territory before turning for home and making an emergency landing. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Bert survived the war and lived in Bangor for many years.

## **1944**

### **+CRORY, William Samuel**

RAFVR. Sergeant. Nav/Radar. 1523061. Died 18/09/1944. Age 22. Aboard Beaufighter TF.X KW326. Son of William Crory, and Elizabeth Crory, Ballyward. Drumgooland Presbyterian Churchyard

## **VETERANS**

### **McCLELLAND, Robert**

RN. MCB. Born 18/09/1920. Son of John McClelland, Parkend St., Belfast. Post war Director the Ulster Office, London, sometime NI representative to the Common Market. Northwood, Middlesex

### **McCULLY, Andrew Lowry**

RAMC. Lieutenant. QCB 1890, MB 1997. Born 1872. Son of Rev James and Mrs Lowry McCully, Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, Castleblaney. Died 18/09/1942

## **WRIGHT, Peter Paul**

RAMC. Lieutenant. Marist College, Dundalk. QUB MB 1914. BCh MD 1919. FRCS Edinburgh 1921. Served in Salonika and Gallipoli. Born 1892 Murroe, Co Limerick. Son of James (RIC Sergeant retired) and Ellen Wright. Died Belfast 18/09/1952. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

# 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 [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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