



remembrance ni



NI naval crew members in HMS Monmouth signed Ulster Covenant in China

On this day in 1912 471,414 people came together in villages, towns, and cities across Ulster to make a solemn commitment to defend their cherished position of equal citizenship within the United Kingdom

(MEN)

5338

SHEET No. 2

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION. _____

DISTRICT. _____

PLACE OF SIGNING. NY

Covenant:—

BEING CONVINCED in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as of the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship, and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant, throughout this our time of threatened calamity, to stand by one another in defending, for ourselves and our children, our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom, and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland. And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us, we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority. In sure confidence that God will defend the right, we hereto subscribe our names.

And further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

NAME.	ADDRESS.
George. Richard Ellis.	18 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China
John. Dyre	15 Memel St. Bridge End, Belfast 20 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China
David Murphy	3 Harland St. Ballymacrett, Belfast 23 Mess H. M. S. Monmouth, China
John Bleakely	Ballywalter Co Down 21 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China
James Gilchrist	235 Oliver Terrace Oldpark Rd. Belfast 22 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China
Robert McHarg	Ardglass, Downpatrick, Co Down 30 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China
James Marshall Boyd	70 & Greenwell Ave. B. Bloomfield 20 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China Belfast
Frederick Ferguson	66 Frome St. Ballymacrett Belfast 8 Mess H.M. S. Monmouth, China
	9 Messrs D. & G. Lys 80 Bankmore St. Belfast

D 1327 3/95

One of the more exotic locations where the Ulster Covenant was signed is Nanking, Kiangsu Province, China. It was there that eight members of the crew of HMS Monmouth signed the Ulster Covenant.

One of the signatories, John Bleakley was lost in HMS Monmouth when she was sunk in the Battle of Coronel in WW1.

The crew members who signed the Covenant are listed here together with those service records which are at hand at present.

AYRE, John

3 Harland St., Ballymacarrett

BLEAKLEY, John

235 Olive Terrace, Oldpark Road, Belfast

+BLEAKLEY, John

RN. Stoker 1st Class. 213143. HMS Monmouth. Died 01/11/1914. Age 33. Battle of Coronel. Boy service from 10/01/1901. Enrolled 09/09/1902 for 12 years. War service in Vivid II, Talbot, Challenger, Commonwealth and Monmouth (02/08/1914 - 01/11/1914). Born Belfast 09/09/1884. Son of Robert Bleakely, Ballynure St., Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial. IMR. ADM 188/373/213143

BOYD, James Marshall

66 Froome St, Ballymacarrett, Belfast

BOYD, James Marshall

RN. AB. 233585. Enrolled 03/02/1907 for 12 years. War service in Vivid I, Majestic and Agincourt. Demobbed 03/04/1919. Born Banbridge 03/02/1889. ADM 188/414/233585

ELLIS, George Richard

15 Memel St., Bridge End, Belfast

FERGUSON, Frederick

c/o Messrs D & G Frys, 80 Bankmore St., Belfast

FERGUSON, Frederick

RN & RNAS. AB and Air Mechanic. J3128. Boy service 14/10/1908. Enrolled 03/06/1910 for 12 years. Transferred to RNAS 22/04/1915. War service in Monmouth, Vivid I, Exmouth, Pembroke I, President II and Crystal Palace. Transferred to RAF 31/03/1918. Born Belfast 13/06/1892. ADM 188/653/3128

GILCHRIST, James

Ardglass, Downpatrick

GILCHRIST, James

RN. 1st Cl. Petty Officer. Masonic Lodge 172, Ardglass

GILCHRIST, James

RN. Leading Stoker. K3114. Enrolled 29/05/1909 for 12 years. War service in Vivid II, Caesar, Magnificent. Demobbed 09/07/1921. Born Dunsford, Co. Down 08/12/1890. ADM 188/873/3114

MEHARG, Robert

90 Greenville Ave., Bloomfield, Belfast

MURPHY, David

Ballywalter, Co. Down

MURPHY, David

RN. Leading Stoker. 306176. HMS Princess Royal. Jutland. Enrolled 18/03/1904 for 12 years. Re-enrolled 18/03/1916. Served to 01/02/1922. War service in Duke of Edinburgh, Vivid II, and Princess Royal (21/12/1914 - 22/03/1918). Born Ballywater, 19/11/1885. ADM 188/499/306176

On this Day – September 28

1912

471,414 people came together in villages, towns, and cities across Ulster to make a solemn commitment to defend their cherished position of equal citizenship within the United Kingdom.

1914

28th September - 10th October 1914. The Siege of Antwerp began on this day. A siege that would eventually see Antwerp falling to the Germans, with both Belgian and British losses, along with the Belgian forces retiring to the Yser.

1918

Successful Anglo-Belgian attack on a 23-mile front from Dixmude to Ploegsteert under King Albert. Houthulst Forest captured and over 4,000 German prisoners.

Roll of Honour – September 28

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+HANNA, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 8521. Died 20/09/1914. Age 28. Born at Lisburn. Son of James and Eliza Hanna. Vailly British Cemetery, France

1915

+KEATING, Arthur

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. Private. 6289. Died 28/09/1915. Son of Mary A. Keating, of "Rathdune", 138, Connaught St., Dublin, and the late Peter Keating ex- Royal Irish Constabulary. Educated at Blackrock College, Dublin, Private Keating left the R.I.C., and joined the Irish Guards at the outbreak of the war. Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

+McGOWAN, John

Royal Irish Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private. 11079. Died 28/09/1915. Aged 18. Son of Mrs. McGowan, of 16, Frederick St., Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. Auchonvillers Military Cemetery, France

1916

+BURNS, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7854. Died 28/09/1916. Age 20. Son of William and Elizabeth Burns, of 14, Derby St., Belfast. Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, France

+DARRAGH, H

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private, 9985. Died 28/09/1916. Brother of George Darragh, of 57, Northumberland Street, Belfast. Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium

+DUNBAR, Robert Glass

Canadian Infantry. 68th Btn. Died 26/09/1916. Born 29/12/1872 Edinburgh. Ballycastle link. Vimy Memorial

+HARKIN, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th (Service) Btn. Private. 17835. Wounded at Ploegsteert Wood. Died 28/09/1916. Son of Mr. J. Harkin, of Dunadry, Co. Antrim. Born at Aghadowey, Co Londonderry in 1895. His younger brother Andrew, who enlisted with him was killed in action three months earlier on 01/07/1916. La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium. Both brothers are commemorated on the Rolls of Honour at St John's Parish Church Donegore and Muckamore Presbyterian Church.

+REID, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th (Service) Btn., att'd. 108th Trench Mortar Bty. Corporal. 457. Died 28/09/1916. Son of Joseph and Ellen Jane Reid, of 16, Adelaide Terrace, Larne; husband of Martha Reid, of 23, Stewart's Terrace, Circular

Rd., Larne. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

1917

+BELL, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Private. 31237. Died 28/09/1917. Age 21. Born 02/09/1896 in the Coagh area, the second son of James and Mary Bell. The family moved to Chapel St., Cookstown. Thomas worked as a weaver. Thomas enlisted with the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Glasgow in January 1917. Private Bell was seriously wounded in September 1917 and was taken to hospital in Vuerne and died of his wounds there. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+CLARKE, W

Royal Garrison Artillery, 20th Siege Bty. Gunner. 3910. Died 28/09/1917. Age 36. Son of David Clarke; husband of Wilhelmina Clarke, of 28, Ulverston St., Belfast. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

+HUNTER, David De Venny

Australian Army Chaplains Dept. Att. 55th Btn. Australian Infantry. Died 28/09/1917 in Glencorse Wood, Belgium. Age 41. He was appointed Methodist Chaplain in Aug 1916 arriving in France in Jan 1917. Born at Banbridge in 1873. He was the third son of George and Jane Hunter, nee Devenney. George and Jane were from Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone and were married at Strabane Presbyterian Church on 31/05/1866. At that time George was a Baker and in the following years the family moved to Banbridge.



When David was four, the family emigrated to Australia, arriving on 30/12/1877 and settling in New South Wales. Information indicates that David was educated at Newington College, Stanmore, New South Wales.

The 1903 Census of New South Wales shows David, already a Methodist Minister, as resident at Coolamon in the State. In 1905, David

married Marion McGregor at Balmain, New South Wales and by 1913, the couple were resident at Bloomfield Street, Liverpool Plains, New South Wales. At that time, David and Marion had a son, Winston Richard.

Records show that David was appointed as Chaplain to the Forces on 21/08/1916 and embarked at Sydney for England three days later, arriving at Plymouth on 10 October. He remained in England training until January 1917, when he embarked for Calais, firstly being posted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital. David only remained there for a few days before being posted to 55th Infantry battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade, part of the 5th Australian Division. Records indicate that he availed of leave to England at the end of April and four days in Paris at the end of August.

The 14th Infantry Brigade was involved in the Third Battle of Ypres, more commonly known as Passchendaele, which began on 31/07/1917. On 20/09/1917, a phase of this offensive, known as the Battle of Polygon Wood began.

The Australian 1st Division quickly captured Glencorse Wood before advancing on Polygon Wood which is situated six miles east of Ypres. On 26/09/1917, 5th Australian Division attacked Polygon Wood and 14th Brigade managed to capture it. As part of this Brigade, 55th Battalion consolidated their positions in the wood. Two days later on 28th September, David visited the troops in the front line with a fellow Chaplain, Reverend Greville of 6th Battalion. As they returned through Glencorse Wood, a shell burst at their feet, killing David.

One of 29 Methodist Chaplains at the front. He was the first Methodist chaplain who had fallen at the front, two other ministers of this denomination having been killed while serving in the ranks.

David's remains were initially taken to a dressing station near Ypres however, when his unit sent personnel to bring his body for burial, it could not be found. Records indicate that David was indeed buried in a marked grave but was exhumed in a graves consolidation process in July 1920 and re-buried at Hoge Crater Cemetery. David's personal effects were returned to his family and records indicate that his wife and son, at that time resident at Bellambi Street, Northbridge, New South Wales, were each in receipt of a pension.

Son of George and Jane Hunter (nee De Venny); husband to Marion Hunter, of "Girrawheen," Pyrmont St., Ashfield,

New South Wales. Hoge Crater Cemetery, Belgium.
Australian War Memorial, Campbell, ACT ,Newington
College RH, Stanmore, NSW.

+McCONNELL, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 4411. Died 28/09/1917. Age 38. Son of Daniel and Annie McConnell, of Londonderry; husband to Ellen McConnell, of 11, Fulton Place, Londonderry. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SKILLEN, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Lance Corporal. 3391. Died 28/09/1917. Brother of James Skillen, of 15, Eighth St., Belfast. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

+SLEVIN, J J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 31303. Died 28/09/1917. Age 19. Son of Francis and Annie Slevin, of Corlea, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+BARNES, Edward

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Corporal. 12575. MM. Died 28/09/1918. Age 22. Son of Benjamin and Mary Ann Barnes, of 74, Bloomfield Avenue, Connswater, Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

+FENTON, James Andrew

Royal Air Force, 209th Sqdn. Lieutenant. Died 28/09/1918. Age 21. Son of Mr. D. J. and Mrs. A. M. Fenton, of 27, Thorndale Avenue, Belfast. Chapel Corner Cemetery, Sauchy-Lestree, France

+JACKSON, Joseph Ernest

Royal Engineers. 36th Div. Signal Coy. Serjeant. 57820. Distinguished Conduct Medal. Died 28/09/1918. Age 25. He joined up on the outbreak of war. In 1917 was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry at Messines. London Gazette citation on 25/08/1917 refers to his. Courage and duty on numerous occasions when in charge of cable laying parties. He had three brothers in the army, two of them being wounded. Son of Joseph and Alice Jackson, of Coragh, Loughgall, Co. Armagh. Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium

+MASON, William

Seaforth Highlanders, 7th Btn. Private. 201159. Died 28/09/1918. Age 19. Son of William and Mary Mason; of 5, Rathcool St., Lisburn Rd., Belfast. Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Belgium

+McCARTNEY, William

Highland Light Infantry, 12th Btn, formerly S/10215 Gordon Highlanders. Private. 29746. Died 28/09/1918. Born 01/05/1896 at Legagrane, Newtowncrommelin, he was the brother of James (died of wounds) and John (wounded and discharged), and the son of James McCartney and Martha Johnston, Legagrane, Glenravel. He enlisted in Kilsyth,

Scotland. Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Belgium.
Newtowncrommelin Presbyterian Church.

+McELROY, Thomas (born McIlroy)

Canadian Infantry, 47th Bn. Private. 679139. Died
28/09/1918. Aged 30. Born 21/01/1888, son of Rachael
Coulter McElroy, Tullygowan, Gracehill, near Ahoghill.
Raillencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

+McGLADRIGAN, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 15901. transf. to 522nd Home
Service Employment Coy. Labour Corps. 498732. Died
28/09/1918. Husband of M. McGladrigan, of 143, McDonald
St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

+TOPPING, Allen

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Corporal. 15/16020. Died
28/09/1918. Age 22. Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Topping, of 145,
Mayo St., Belfast. Hoge Crater Cemetery, Belgium

1919

+HUSTON, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles Service, transf. to 10th Bn. Labour Corps.
Rifleman. 14933. Died 28/09/1919. Aged 45. Son of Hugh
and Isabella Huston, of 24, Lismore St., Belfast. Dundonald
Cemetery

1944

+KENNEDY, John M

Grenadier Guards, 1st Btn. Guardsman. 2612803. Died
28/09/1944. Age 29. Born 1914, Belfast, Ireland. Husband of

Bertha Eileen (nee Old) Kennedy. (Born 25/09/1919. Died 02/1980, aged 60), of Chelsea, London. Guardsman John M Kennedy was initially buried in Jonkerbosch Old Cemetery (688592), Nijmegen, Gelderland, the Netherlands. And reburied on 25/03/1947 in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, his final resting place.

VETERANS

KING, Thomas Quin

RNVR. Lt. Commander. President QUB Services Club 1982. Law, QUB 1937. Qualified as a solicitor in June 1941, taking first place in the final examination and being awarded a gold medal. Aged 21 he joined as an ordinary seaman and shortly afterwards was posted for officer training, as a sub-lieutenant and then a lieutenant. He served in Landing Craft Infantry Squadrons and at the D-Day landings saw action at Juno Beach, Normandy. He ended his service as Lieutenant Commander. He was an early member of the Belfast Solicitors' Association and later became a member of the Council of the Law Society and was elected its President in 1955. At that time he was the youngest ever President of the Society. Despite his active involvement in his practice and the Law Society, Tom found time also to participate in a number of other activities. He was a member of the Council of the Belfast Old Instonians Association and its President, a member of the Board of Governors of The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, a member of the Committee of the Belfast Association for the Blind, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Trustee Savings Bank of Northern Ireland. RBAI. Died 28/09/2002

WHITESIDE, David G

RN. Served 5 years during war. Lived Portadown. Engineer with BT. Migrated to Glastonbury, CT., USA. Husband to Margaret. Born 1917. Died 28/09/2003, Age 86. Buried Manchester, CT. Hartford Courant on Sep. 30, 2003 - David G. Whiteside, 86, of Glastonbury, formerly of Portadown, County Armagh, N. Ireland, son of the late Edward and Lizzie (Prentice) Whiteside and husband of the late Margaret (Sergeant) Whiteside, died Sunday, (September 28, 2003) at home in Glastonbury. He served in the British Navy for five years during World War II, retired as an engineer from the Northern Ireland Telephone Company, and came to Glastonbury in 1976. David was a talented artist and was a former member of the Manchester and Glastonbury Art Guilds. He was predeceased by his brother Edward Prentice and two sisters, Margaret and Lily Whiteside.

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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