



remembrance ni



Inniskillings private memorial on the western front

Many visitors to the battlefields understandably look at that part of the western front that lays between the River Somme and the town of Ypres. But outside this sector there still remains interesting points of interest to visit. One of these



The headstone is in the form of a stone cross and base inscribed:

'EN SOUVENIR DE 2ND.LIEUT. HAROLD A. BOYD DE WARE ANGLETERRE ET PRIVATE J. COUSSINS BELFAST IRELANDE ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILERS QUI SONT MORTS POUR LEUR PATRIE DANS LA GRANDE GUERRE A COTE DE CET ENDROIT 7 SEPTEMBRE 1914'

Note the misspelling of Pte Cousins' name.

points of interest is the most southern 'Private Memorial' on the western front.

During the retreat of the BEF in September 1914 (when the army, under Sir John French fell back in the face of the

Schlieffen Plan)
there were untold
numbers of small
actions which
caused losses to the
rearguards whose
job it was to keep the
German troops at
bay.

One of these actions
was by the 2/Royal
Inniskilling Fusiliers.

**2nd Lt Harold
Alexander Boyd**



Photo right - had only just arrived with another officer and 89 other ranks as reinforcements when the battalion moved off at noon on 7th September 1914.

In the early evening of 7 September 1914, the battalion was ordered to find the enemy outposts. But while moving into position near La Grande Loge Farm it came under fire. In a twenty minute skirmish 2nd Lt Harold Boyd and Private James Cousins were killed and an officer and 25 men were wounded and missing, according to the War Diary.

Cpl W Foots later wrote "In the evening the Inniskillings had to find the outpost to the village to which we had come - on the right being an open road with a row of apple trees, and on the left a clear open plain. In the distance, about 1000 or 1200 yards, was a broad belt of wood and shrubs from which came rifle and big gun fire. This took us by surprise.

We lined out and retaliated but the shelling was terrific and we had no artillery with us. Our Officers were trying to find the range and had no cover from the shells, thus exposing themselves, notably Mr Boyd, who was standing by an apple tree by the right of the road. He was struck on the body by shrapnel and killed instantly. Also Private Cousins and 14 wounded. We continued all night in this position. In the morning the enemy had retired."

As the only two fatal casualties, 2nd Lt Boyd and Pte James Cousins were buried together near where they fell. Being rare in the locality, this British grave was well looked after by the farmer, so much so that after the War Boyd's father thanked him and arranged for the grave to remain where it was. It is still there, in the care of the present landowner.

Their resting place was (and remains) marked by a 'Private Memorial'. It is now rarely visited due to its remote rural location well 'off the beaten track'.

2nd Lt Harold Alexander Boyd was 19 years old. He was the son of Dr. A.J. Boyd, of The Manor House, Ware, Herts. Boyd was born at The Manor House (now a library), Ware, Hertfordshire, on 19th January 1895, the only son of Dr A J and Mrs Boyd. He was educated at Rugby School and Trinity College Cambridge where he was reading medicine and had passed his first MB. A successful all round sportsman at school and university, Boyd had joined the Special Reserve of Officers in 1913 and was mobilised at the outbreak of war, going to France on 31st August.

All that is recorded in CWGC record of Private James Cousins is his rank, number and place of burial. A

SE5093 1st MB 23/32 13/00/8254. 2/11/23

DEPENDANT'S PENSION. D.A. 1205

Name *Cousins James* Regimental No. *8490* D.P. 115C

Regiment *R. Irish Rifles* Rank *Pte*

Documents received from Paymaster *14.11.17*

Date and cause of death *7.9.14 - Killed in Action. France or Belg.*

Dependant *Mrs. Cousins.*

Address *111 Rd. Ballymacateer, Lurgan. Co. Armagh.*

Relationship to soldier *Mother -*

Pension *10/-* a week from *4-4-17*

Date awarded *5-12-17* If refused ☐

Papers ☐ reason ☐

H15/1179

(11238) Wt 50720/6 80000 1/17 H & J, Ltd
(15044) Wt 4436/144 80000 4/17 H & J, Ltd

The dependant's pension record for Private James Cousins, 8490, was issued on 14/11/1917 on behalf of his mother Mary. She was to receive ten shillings per week from the beginning of December 1917. There is a townland of Ballymacateer, Magheralin, near Lurgan.

dependant's pension record (See above) states his mother lived in a townland in the area of Lurgan.

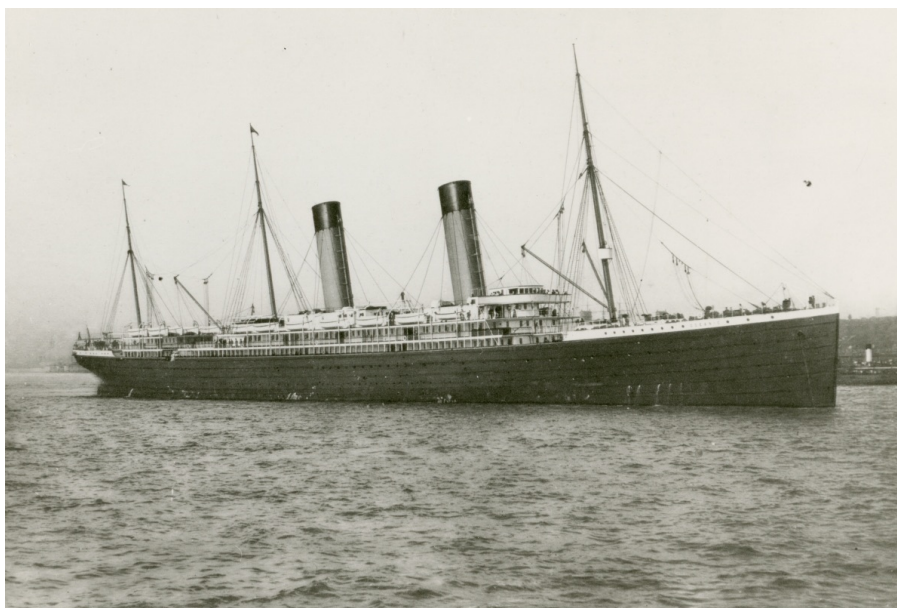
Presumably Pte Cousins' family were consulted but there is no record of this. Indeed, little is known about him; there being no next of kin details in the cemetery register. He was born in Maralin, County Down and enlisted in Lurgan according to 'Soldiers Died', but the headstone inscription says he was from Belfast.

On this Day – September 8

1914

Private Thomas Highgate becomes the first British soldier to be executed for desertion during WW1. Private Thomas Highgate served with the Royal West Kent Regiment, of which his offence, trial, sentencing and execution all took place on the same day - 8 Sept 1914

Aged 17, he had been unable to bear the carnage of the Battle of Mons, and had fled and hidden in a barn. Pte Highgate was undefended at his court martial because all his regimental comrades had been killed. In 2000, the parish council in his home village of Shoreham, Kent, voted not to include his name on its war memorial. More than 300 British soldiers were executed by their own side in WWI



Armed merchant cruiser HMS Oceanic (ex White Star RMS Oceanic) ran aground and was wrecked off Foula, west of

the Shetlands, due to navigational error: the first Allied ship lost in WW1 (although lost to shipwreck not enemy action). No lives were lost.

1915

German Zeppelin raids the eastern counties and London, a reported 20 killed and 86 wounded.

1917

At Verdun the French attack on the Meuse front and seize Fosses, Caurieres and Chaume Woods, reportedly capturing 800 German prisoners.

1918

It is reported from many areas that the Germans are showing stiff resistance.

Destroyer HMS Nessus sank while under tow, with no loss of life, in the Pentland Firth. Nessus had been damaged in a collision in fog with cruiser HMS Amphitrite. She had been part of Amphitrite's escort while the latter laid mines.

1941



This day in 1941, Army Group North of Nazi Germany begin the 872 days siege of Leningrad. The siege was lifted in January 1944, and became one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history with over 4 million casualties

1943

Eisenhower confirmed an Italian Armistice.



The Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) surrendered its Fleet.

The surrender took place in numerous locations but particularly poignant was the RV in the Mediterranean of main body with HMS Warspite and Valiant, who were also at surrender of the German Fleet in 1918.

Both battalions of the London Irish Rifles were in Sicily awaiting orders to move to the mainland. The 1st Btn LIR (RUR) moved from Fiumefreddo to Piedimonte Etneo and the 2nd Btn were still re-training on the north coast of Sicily.

1944



An attack on Le Havre marked the last bombing operation by the Stirling when four of No.149 Squadron's aircraft joined a force of Lancasters. It remained in Bomber Command giving service in airborne, SOE and transport roles.



Paris finds itself on the receiving end of history's first ballistic missile attack as a Nazi V2 rocket slams into the city. Hours later, London is also hit.

Roll of Honour – September 8

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+DOBSON, Park

5th (Royal Irish) Lancers. Private. 2513. Died 08/09/1914. Age 24. Son of William H. and Eleanor Dobson, of Roden Terrace, Woodstock Rd., Belfast. Perreuse Chateau Franco British National Cemetery, France

1915

+COLLINS, Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 3962. Died 08/09/1915. Age 18. Son of James Collins, of 76, Pernau St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+POTTER, George

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 5923. Died 08/09/1915. Age 48. Husband of Bridget E. Potter, of Church St., Keady, Co. Armagh. Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France

+WOOD, Richard

London Regiment. 1st/10th Btn. Private. 1932. Died 08/09/1915. He and his siblings were born in Armagh. In 1901 the family were living in the Barracks, Barrack Hill, later called Gough Barracks Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916

+BOOTH, Henry

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 16/937. Died 08/09/1916. Age 45. Husband to Annie Margaret Booth, of 13, Colchester St., Donegall Rd., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery.

+CRILLY, Bernard

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 47th Coy. Private. 22779. Formerly Royal Irish Regiment (3568). Died 08/09/1916. Age 22 years old. Born 13/04/1893 in Draperstown. Like his father Bernard was a fowl dealer. Brother of Charles Crilly, Royal Irish Regiment, who died on 08/09/1917. Son of John and Annie Crilly, of Draperstown. Theipal Memorial, Somme, France

+CURRY, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 17494. Died 08/09/1916. Age 20. He was described as a quiet, good natured lad and before joining the army he was a member of the local Ulster Volunteers and a member of Knockinroe L.O.L. 194. He enlisted in Cookstown on 05/09/1914, and trained at Finner Camp, Ballyshannon, County Donegal and Shane's Park Camp, Randalstown. He was wounded in

action on 01/07/1916, and was posted back to his Battalion after he recovered. Youngest son of Jane Curry, of Drapersfield, Cookstown, and the late Robert Curry. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Cookstown WM. St Andrew's C of I RH. Molesworth Street Presbyterian Church RH

+FEGAN, John

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Private. 22015. Died 08/09/1916. Age 23. Born in 1895 at Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh, John was an Agricultural Labourer before enlisting in the Connaught Rangers in 1914 and was posted to 6th (Service) battalion. He was one of around 1200 men who transferred from 16th Division to 10th Division in 1915 as the 10th prepared to embark on active service. John joined 6th (Service) Btn Royal Dublin Fusiliers and landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, on 7 August 1915. He saw action there before the battalion was posted to Salonika in October 1915. John was seriously wounded in action at the Struma river in September 1916 and died of his wounds at 1st Canadian General Hospital, Lembet. Son of Patrick Fegan and the late Margaret Fegan, of Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece. Brookeborough WM. See Fegan, Veteran below

+McIVOR, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 27973. Died 08/09/1916 - in the trenches when a sniper's bullet hit him through the heart and he died practically instantaneously.. Age 31. Hugh worked as a farm labourer. Hugh McIvor enlisted with the 10th Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Newtownards. In February 1916 the Battalion arrived in France. Born in Moneymore about 1883. Hugh

worked as a farm labourer. Son of Frances and Nancy McIvor, of Moneymore, Co. Londonderry; husband to Maud McIvor, of Queen St., Magherafelt. Hugh and Maud married on 14/09/1906 in Magherafelt town. They had three children. They lived with Maud's parents in Queen Street, Magherafelt. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Magherafelt C of I RH

+MOLES, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Rifleman. 1232. Died 08/09/1916. From Donaghcloney Co. Armagh. Theipval Memorial, France

+PRESBUR, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 15/3066. Died 08/09/1916. Age 32. Brother of Matthew Presbur 8th Btn. Died 20/06/1917. Son of Elizabeth Presbur, of 57, Longford St., Belfast, and the late William Presbur. St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium

+STEWART, Hugh James

Canadian Infantry. 8th Btn. Private. A22156. Died 08/09/1916. Age 24. Hugh was employed as a Clerk before emigrating. He sailed from Liverpool to Quebec, Canada, in May 1912, with a stated destination of Winnipeg, Manitoba. In January 1915 Hugh enlisted, in Winnipeg, with the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force and was assigned to Canadian Infantry (8th Battalion). He was later transferred to France. Born 30/09/1891 in Belfast. He had 3 brothers and 5 sisters – the family lived at Newington Street, Duncairn, Belfast. Later, during the war his parents Hugh and Alice Stewart lived at 'Fernleagh' Downshire Road,

Belfast. Puchevillers British Cemetery, France. Cregagh Presbyterian Church RH. Newington Presbyterian Church RH

+WILSON, Patrick

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). 9th Btn. Private. S/4583. Died 08/09/1916. In 1911 he was living with his parents James and Rose Wilson at 72 Banbrook Hill, Armagh. He was a machine boy in a. Local flax mill. He enlisted at Cowdenbeath, Fifeshire. Thiepval Memorial,

1917

+CRILLY, Charles

Royal Irish Regiment, 2nd Btn. Private. 2586. Died 08/09/1917 of wounds. Age 27 years old. Born 23/07/1891 in Draperstown. Like his father, Charles was a fowl dealer. Private Charles Crilly received one of 'Hickie's Medals' for his courageous work on 27/05/1916. Brother of Bernard Crilly, Machine Gun Corps, who died 08/09/1916. Eldest son of John and Annie Crilly, of Tonagh Cottage, Draperstown. One of three members of the battalion who died on this day and whose remains were interred in the same cemetery. Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France

+KIERAN, James

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Private. 6884. Died 08/09/1917. Born in Creggan, Co. Armagh. Enlisted Hamilton, Lanark. Disembarked France 16/08/1915. Husband to Maggie

Kieran, of Louth, Co. Louth. Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

+WRIGHT, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 3709. Died 20/09/1917. Age 19. Son of James and Margret Wright, of Cross Lane, Coleraine. Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

1918

+ELLIOTT, George Keith

Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. att'd. 25th (Montgomeryshire and Welsh Horse Yeomanry) Btn. Lieutenant. Died 08/09/1918. Age 20. Educated at RBAI, Shrewsbury School. Science Scholar of University College, Oxford. He did not take up his open science scholarship at University College, Oxford, instead joining the Oxford University OTC. Gazetted to the R.W.F., he served both in Egypt and Palestine in 1917-18. He proceeded with them to France in May 1918, where he was promoted to Lieutenant on 01/09/1918. His commanding officer wrote: "His patrol got checked by heavy machine gun fire and rifle fire and many were hit. Keith, with no thought for his personal safety, pushed on himself with his runner to get to his patrol, and crossing the open, was met by a hail of bullets. Keith is a great loss to us; he was, without exaggeration, the most popular officer in the battalion, his men idolized him and he gave his life trying to save some of them." His former commanding officer, Lord Kensington, wrote: "His youth and charming manner endeared him to all - always cheery, we all loved him. He had grown into such a fine lad and we were all very fond of

him. He had lately very much distinguished himself at physical training and bayonet fighting and was appointed Instructor of Bayonet Fighting to the battalion. I feel almost as if one of my own boys were in his place, but I know that his gallant young life was ungrudgingly given whilst nobly doing his duty in his country's cause." Elder son of Katherine T. Elliott, of The Woodlands, Battlefield, and the late Dr. George Elliott, of The Cedars, Baschurch. Ste Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, France. RBAI WM

+KELSO, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 3958. Died 08/09/1918. Age 24. Robert was severely wounded in five places by a shell in Nov 1914, and was shipped to a military hospital in Manchester, England. He died from his injuries at Belfast Mater Hospital. Son of Isaac Kelso, of Belfast; husband to Jane Kelso, of Belfast. Shankill Graveyard, Belfast

+MOORE, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 19704. Died 08/09/1918. Age 23. Born Killead 07/12/1894. Enlisted Antrim. He was a fisherman, a member of Dungonnell UVF and of the Orange Order. Son of David and Alice (nee Keenan) of Dungonnell, County Antrim. Arneke British Cemetery, France. Antrim Town WM

+MOORE, Thomas

Royal Field Artillery, 36th Div. Ammunition Col. Driver. 35697. Died 08/09/1918. Age 26. Son of Margaret

Moore, of 63, Sandy Row, Belfast, and the late Robert Moore. Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre, France

+ROBINSON, James Thompson

Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 24th (Denbighshire Yeomanry) Btn. Lieutenant. Died 08/09/1918. Age 25. Son of John Clarke Graham Robinson and Lizzie Robinson, of "Myrobella," Chichester Park, Belfast. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

1919

+WILLIAMSON, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 17963. Died of consumption at Tempo on 08/09/1919. Born on 13/06/1890 in Tempo, County Fermanagh. He was one of ten children. The family lived near Tempo, County Fermanagh. His father was an agricultural labourer. Son of Alexander and Annie Williamson, of Diamond, Tempo; husband to Caroline Williamson, of Edenamore Terrace, Tempo, Enniskillen. Fivemiletown WM; Fivemiletown C of I Churchyard

1941

+BROWN, John

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 759281. Died 08/09/1941. 90 Sqdn. Bygland Churchyard, Norway. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfas

1943

+BENTLEY, Alexander Weatherall

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1072426. Died 08/09/1943. Aged 25. Flying with 1402 MET flight. Son of Samuel and Margaret Bentley, of Strandtown, Belfast. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 142

+VAUGHAN, William Frank

Hampshire Regiment. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 5498135. Died 09/09/1943. Age 28. Son of Edward Henry Vaughan and Isabella (nee Hall Gillis) Vaughan. Edward died in 1917 in WW1. At that time the family was living in Lonsdale Street, Armagh. Salerno War Cemetery, Italy

1944

+BLACK, James Henry

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 2723094. Died 08/09/1944. Age 28. He was a Gunner Operator in a Sherman tank in No. 1 Squadron, No. 2 Troop of the 2nd Armoured Battalion of the Irish Guards. It is assumed he was injured in an enemy engagement on 01/08/1944, and died of wounds five weeks later. Son of William and Sarah Black. Husband to Sarah Eleanor Black, of Dungannon. Brussels Town Cemetery, Evere., Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium. Dungannon WM

1945

+COFFIN, William

Royal Engineers. 1951203. Died 08/09/1945 as a result of a motorcycle accident in Southampton. His death took place in a Military Hospital. Age 38. Born 20/09/1906, he was the

son of the late Philip Coffin and Agnes "Hannie" Manson Coffin (née Kelly) of 15 Crystal Street, Belfast. The family later lived at Ravenhill Avenue, Belfast and then 38 Railwayview Street, Bangor, Co. Down. Known to family and friends as Willie, Coffin worked as a ship painter. On 28/11/1927, he married Winifred May Wright of Drumgavlin, Dromara, Co. Down in Magherahamlet Parish Church, Ballynahinch, Co. Down. After their marriage, the couple moved to Hull, Yorkshire, England. A funeral with full military honours took place from his mother's house in Bangor, Co. Down. Pastor David Burrows of Bangor Baptist Church conducted the service, which was attended by many family members. Bangor Cemetery, Bangor WM, First Bangor Presbyterian WM

+LORIMER, John Dundee

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 176873. Died 08/09/1945. 117 Sqdn. Singapore Memorial, Singapore. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

VETERANS

CARSON, William John

RN. Petty Officer. J16209. HMS Phaeton. Jutland. Enrolled 08/09/1913 for 12 years. War service in Formidable, St. George, Phaeton (01/01/1915 - 09/07/1917), Polyanthus and Gibraltar. Joined RFR 01/08/1922. Born Coleraine 08/09/1895. ADM 188/679/16209

FEGAN, Patrick Joseph

Patrick Joseph Fegan from Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh. Patrick enlisted firstly in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in March 1916 aged 18, and served with 5th

battalion at Salonika, Palestine and then on the Western Front, where he was wounded on 10 October 1918. On recovery, he was posted to No 300 Company Royal Defence Corps at Gosport, Hampshire. After a month there, he was posted to 6th (Provost) Company Dorsetshire Regiment remaining with them until demobilised in December 1919. Five days after being demobilised, he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving with them in Germany for a year. On 24 January 1921, he enlisted in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, serving with them until their disbandment in June 1922. In September 1923, he enlisted in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and served with them in India until transferred to the Army Reserve in 1930, being finally discharged from the military in September 1935. See Fegan RH 1916 page 12 above.

JONES/GOTTO, Gwyneth M D

WAAF. BSc 1943 QUB. MCB. Born 08/09/1921. Daughter of JH Jones, Windsor Pk., Belfast. Post war - Married Vivian Gotto, teacher (VP MCB) 1947. Harberton Dr., Belfast

MOULD, William

The first fatality on the CWGC list is Special Constable William Mould (Local Defence Volunteer, forerunner of the Ulster Home Guard) of Dunmurry who died at 4:30am on 8th September 1940 when he was struck by a vehicle with no lights when walking home whilst on duty. The car was driven by Lieutenant Ernest John Bloom, Corps of Royal Signals and reports on the inquest were carried by the Lisburn Standard and Lisburn Herald (on 13th and 14th September respectively). William Moulds had served with the Canadian Infantry during the Great War and is

commemorated on the War Memorial in Derriaghy Church of Ireland.

PATTERSON/GRIMSHAW, Dorothy I

WRNS. MCB. Born 08/09/1919. Daughter of William Patterson, Fitzwilliam Ave., Belfast. Hockey Ireland. Married Norman Grimshaw 1942. Craigavad

PRYDE, Robert Selby Alexander

RE. Major. MC. Served in Burma with No 421 Queen Victoria's Own Madras Indian Field Company Indian Engineers. MC London Gazette 08/02/1945. Ap Sci 1933 QUB. Born 22/10/1915. Son of Arthur Rowland Moore Pryde and Lucie Selby Pryde, Leighinmohr Avenue, Ballymena. Died 08/09/1989 - Harare, Zimbabwe

SCOTT, James Park

RNVR. Midshipman 1917. Born 08/09/1900. Died 11/1966. Son of WJ Scott, Ardlui, Kincora Avenue, Strandtown, Belfast. Campbell College 1281

**Every day is a Remembrance
Day**

We will remember them

To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI masthead.

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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