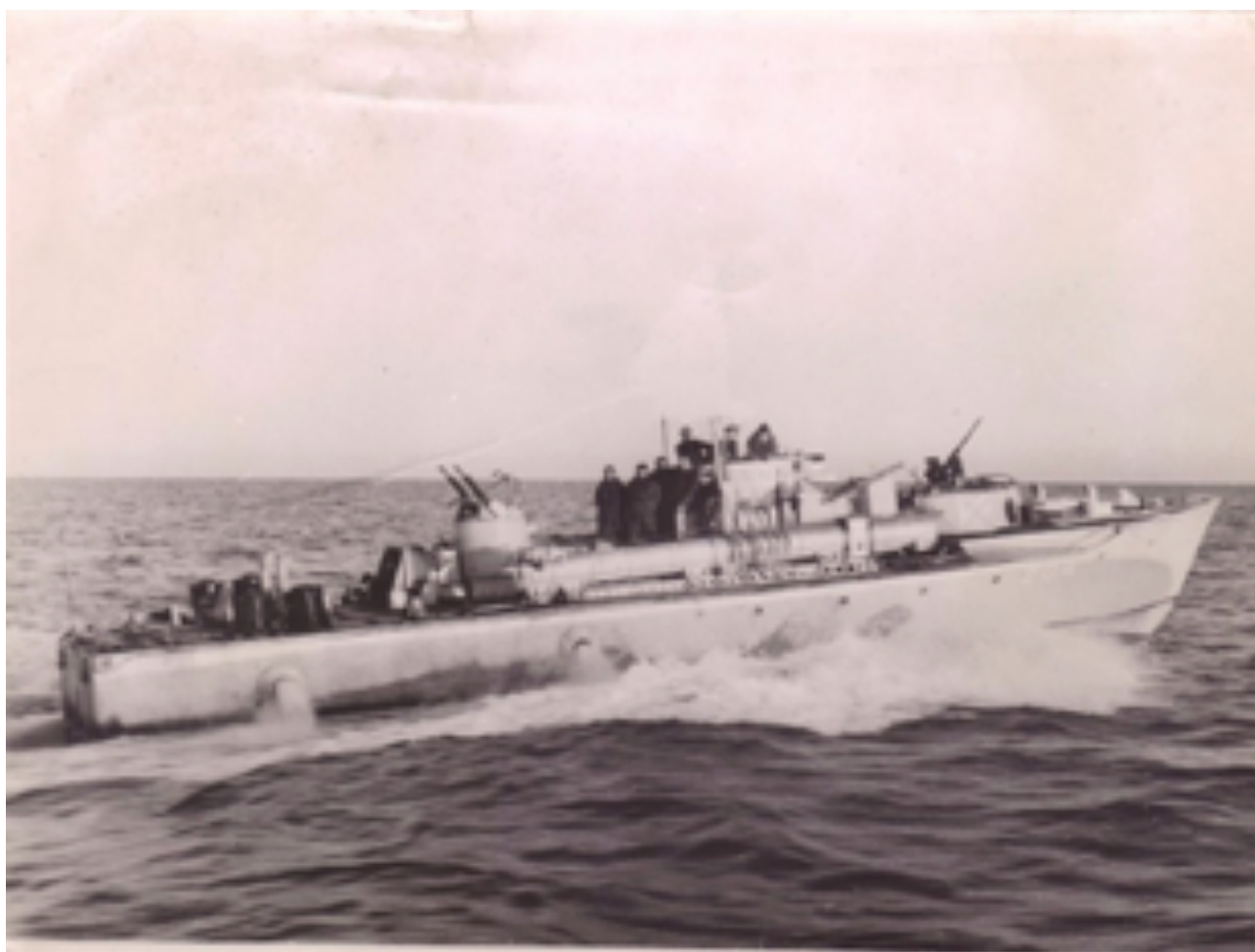




remembrance ni



Belfast lawyer was outstanding MTB Flotilla Commander

George Lennox Cotton began his Solicitor's Apprenticeship in Belfast before the Second World War. During the War he served with distinction in the Royal Navy

and was awarded the DSC in 1942. He commanded the 50th MTB Flotilla. He was wounded during battle with E boats.

Mobilised before outbreak of war in July 1939, he was appointed to HMS Hermes. He served as First Lieutenant of the MTB base at Great Yarmouth (HMS Midge). In May 1940 he was posted to Motor Torpedo Boats and served at Crete and Alexandria. Subsequently he was appointed to command 50th MTB Flotilla where he was wounded in an action with E-boats. In August 1942 as a Lt. Commander he was placed in command of MTB 502. Sea Training Officer in HMS Bee at Holyhead. From January 1945 to November 1945 served in HMS Mull of Galloway in the Pacific and was present at the Japanese surrender at Singapore.

The action in which Cotton was wounded whilst commanding 50th MTB Flotilla in the English Channel was described by Lieutenant-Commander Peter Scott, MBE, DSC, in his book, “The Battle of the Narrow Seas - A history of the Light Coastal Forces in the Channel and North Sea” :

“A week later came a night when there was great activity in the Dover Strait. Two groups of E Boats were laying mines one off Folkestone, the other off Rye; there was a friendly convoy eastbound and another westbound through the Narrows, and a friendly destroyer bound for Portsmouth, which was ordered to turn about because of further enemy mine-laying off Selsey Bill.

“Meanwhile, at about 2 a.m. the M.T.Bs under Lt.GL Cotton, RNVR [Spinks’ skipper in M.T.B. 201], were making their interception, though unfortunately it was detected before the attack could be completed. At once the air was full of

starshell and tracer, but Cotton, with magnificent determination, went straight on in, closely followed by Lt. EH Larive, Royal Netherlands Navy. Which of the two boats fired the torpedo which is believed to have hit will probably never be known, but both MTBs passed through the screen of some seven or eight E Boats and a number of flak trawlers. In the action which followed the result was inconclusive. It was less successful than many MTB battles, but, as an example of human fortitude and determination in adversity, the story must take a high place.



“Cotton describes in his report how, because of the blinding glare, he was not at first certain whether a ship ahead of him was a merchant vessel or a trawler, so he fired one torpedo at a range of 300-400 yards. Too late, as the torpedo left the tube, he realised that it was only a trawler.

"At this juncture," he writes, "we were hit on the bridge by an E Boat firing from astern of us. I was wounded and the

coxswain was temporarily knocked out; the wheel was taken by the Canadian spare officer, Sub.-Lt. ID Moore, RCNVR.

“A large vessel was sighted immediately ahead which appeared to be the tanker, extremely light, as she was high in the water. She engaged us with very heavy gunfire. The remaining torpedo was fired at a range of 300 yards or less, and we turned to starboard, passing approximately 50 yards from the target's port quarter.

“Shortly after the second torpedo was fired, the spare officer and the gunner clearly saw and heard an explosion, while others felt the concussion; the gunner maintains that he saw smoke rising from the fore hold of the ship. I personally did not see any explosion, as my attention was occupied elsewhere.

“By this time one engine had been put out of action by a hit on the salt-water pump. In turning away from the tanker we passed an E Boat at fairly close quarters, but it did not open fire. Two trawlers, however, engaged us as we were still turning, with extremely heavy and accurate fire, hitting us so often that the remaining engines and the guns were put out of action, a small fire was started, and many of the crew became casualties. So bad was the damage that the boat stopped, disabled, about three-quarters of a mile from the nearest trawler. Both trawlers continued shelling intermittently, so that finally the order had to be given to jettison the confidential books, and destroy all secret equipment.

“The state of the personnel at this time was as follows:

Commanding Officer .. Wounded.

First Lieutenant .. Wounded.

Spare Officer .. Badly wounded (Died before reaching Base).

Telegraphist .. Slightly wounded.

Gunner .. Wounded.

Signalman .. Killed.

Motor Mechanic .. Very seriously wounded.

Coxswain .. Wounded.

Leading Stoker .. Killed.

Stoker .. Badly wounded.

“Only the Seaman Torpedoman and the 'Trained Man' were unwounded.

“At 0220 I gave the order to abandon ship, intending to lie off in the raft while the trawlers continued shelling, and this was carried out during a lull in the firing. One trawler then trained a searchlight on the boat and the firing continued intermittently for about half an hour, after which both trawlers disappeared.

“I then ordered the boat to be re-boarded and an endeavour to be made to get her under way. This was successful, and at 0340, proceeding on one auxiliary engine and hand-steering, course was set for Dover. The boat was making water rapidly, though the few still capable were endeavouring to their utmost to keep the level down by bailing and operating the hand bilge pump. At 0745 two High-speed Launches of the R.A.F. closed us and took off the badly wounded. An attempt was made to tow, but by this time the bilge pump was out of action and at 0848 she turned over and sank.

“Forwarding Cotton's report to Admiralty, the Commodore Commanding, Dover, Rear-Admiral R. L. B. Cunliffe, after

remarking on the 'valiant efforts to save their vessel' made by 'her gallant and much tried crew,' goes on to say that there is no conclusive evidence of the damage inflicted on the enemy, but although three weeks had elapsed since the attack, 'the tanker, it is observed, still remains in the docks at Dunkirk.'"

As a result of being wounded in this action in the Channel, Cotton was invalided to shore service for a time.

Lennox Cotton qualified as a Solicitor in 1946 and became a partner, as did his brother Bertrand 'Ber' (Colonel, Royal Artillery), in his father Dawson Cotton's firm of Crawford & Lockhart Martin H. Turnbull & Co., one of the oldest firms of Solicitors in Ireland. He retired from private practice in 1985 but remained as a Consultant for many years and until his death remained in close and regular contact with the firm. Lennox Cotton served for many years as a Council Member of the Law Society of Northern Ireland becoming President in 1977. He held a number of company directorships, was Chairman of the Royal Victoria Hospital Trust Committee and had many charitable interests.

Lennox Cotton had a wide range of hobbies amongst them were hunting, horse breeding and racing, sailing, shooting, gardening and he was a very enthusiastic golf member at Royal County Down and took part in many Law Society matches.

Born 25/10/1915. Educated at Castle Park School, Dalkey, County Dublin and Wrekin College, Shropshire. He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for County Down 24/10/1969. He was devoted to his family and was survived by his wife Eileen, to whom he was married for over sixty years, his

daughters Caroline, Grania and Anne and several grandchildren. Died 09/09/2000. Clontagh House, Crossgar.

On this Day - September 9

1914



First fully mechanized unit in the British Army created - the Canadian Automobile Machine Gun Brigade (WWI)

At the Battle of the Marne the British cross the river in pursuit of the Germans. The French carry the Ourcq.

1916

Tom Kettle, the poet and Home Rule politician, died at the Battle of Ginchy when he and the 16th Irish Division attacked the village. The Irishmen took the village but at

great cost. Interestingly, Lt. Emmet Dalton (photo above) was present and survived.

The British capture Ginchy (Northern Somme) and make progress of 300 yards east of High Wood, north-east of Pozieres and take 600 yards of enemy trenches.

1938



The Auxiliary Territorial Service was formed. During WWII over 250,000 women served in the ATS

1939

The first troop convoy of the British Expeditionary Force left the ports on the Bristol Channel and Southampton for France. By 27 September, 152,000 soldiers and 21,424 vehicles had been landed in France.

Chamberlain's Cabinet plans for a 3 year war.

Advance elements of the BEF begin to arrive in France.

Hermann Goering boasts that Berlin will never be bombed by the enemy.

The 4th Army (von Kluge) captures Lodz and Radom, as the 4th Panzer Division reaches the outskirts of Warsaw. Further penetrations in to the suburbs of Warsaw by the 4th Panzer Divisions are repulsed by the cities defenders.

1940 350 German planes attack London causing fires near St. Paul's and the Guildhall; heavy casualties in bombed East End school housing homeless Blitz victims.

German guns shell Dover.

Italians bomb Tel Aviv, killing 111 people.

1942

Hitler sacks Field Marshal List and takes personal command of Army Group A in the Caucasus, which having been foiled by the Red Army in the western Caucasus, was now meeting increased resistance in its drive towards Astrakhan and Baku.

Open pit burning of bodies begins at Auschwitz in place of burial. The decision is made to dig up and burn those already buried, 107,000 corpses, to prevent fouling of ground water.

A Japanese float plane, launched from a submarine, makes its first bombing run on a U.S. forest near Brookings, Oregon, in retaliation for the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. Newspapers in the U.S. voluntarily withhold this information.

1943

41 Commando RM were involved in the Salerno landings: Operation AVALANCHE the Invasion of Italy. During the operation against the Germans in Sicily it was decided to

carry out an amphibious assault in the area of Salerno on the west coast of Italy. as the first step towards the capture of Naples. The role of No. 2 Commando was to capture the coast defence battery at Vietri, and then to threaten the western end of Salerno.

The U.S. Major League Baseball commissioner announces that the 1943 World Series will be filmed and a twenty-two minute highlights film will be distributed to the armed forces in the European and Pacific theaters.

All Italian forces within the German-controlled areas of Italy, southern France, Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece are disarmed without opposition and made prisoners of war. Operation 'Avalanche' sees the U.S.

Formation of an anti-Badoglio, Republican Fascist Government is formed in northern Italy.

The Italian fleet leaves Spezia in Northern Italy, en route for Malta, where it surrenders to the Royal Navy.

Iran, under pressure from the allies who occupy the country, declares war on Germany.

1944

General de Gaulle forms a provisional French government that includes Communists.

After being hit by 133 RAF bombs and rockets the day before, the Italian pre-war luxury liner Rex capsizes and sinks off Trieste, where it had been mothballed for much of the war. The Rex was the only Italian ship ever to hold the North Atlantic "Blue Ribbon" for the fastest trans-Atlantic crossing.

1945

Japanese in Korea surrender.

August 10. The UVF dry land sailors honoured by the Tzar.
Roll of Honour

Roll of Honour – September 9

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+BIRNEY, Patrick

Connaught Rangers, 5th Btn. Private. 2883. Died 09/09/1915. Age 38. Born in Dungannon about 1877. The 1901 census lists Patrick Birney (Senior) as age 24 living with his family at house 73 in Lincoln Street, Falls Ward, Belfast. He was married to Mary Birney and Patrick was working as a tailor. By 1911, the family were living in Monaghan. Patrick Birney enlisted in Belfast where he was living at the time. Private Patrick Birney was serving with the 5th Btn of the Connaught Rangers in Gallipoli when he contracted dysentery. He is buried in Weston Mill Cemetery in Plymouth, which suggests he was removed back to a hospital in England. He was 38 years old. Private Patrick Birney's son, also Patrick Birney, fought and died in the war too. Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth

+CLARKE, John

RAMC. Captain. Died 09/09/1915. Age 32. Ballymena Academy, Edinburgh University and QUB. Prior to the war he was in medical practice at Aberbargoed, near Cardiff. Commissioned as Lieutenant RAMC 24/10/1914. Attached to 3rd Monmouthshire Regiment and later to 1st Welsh Field Ambulance, Welsh Territorial Division, Gallipoli from 09/08/1915. Son of William and Mary Anne (nee White), High Street, Ballymena. Brother of James Clarke, solicitor. (Ballymena Observer 17/09/1915). Hill 10 Cemetery, Sulva, Gallipoli. Wellington St. Presbyterian Church, Ballymena, RH.

+GALLAGHER, William

Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Btn. Private 8240. Died 09/09/1915. Son of William and Jane Gallagher of 23 Cross St, Waterside, Londonderry. Auchonvillers Military Cemetery. France

+NEILL Thomas James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 5th Btn. Private. 11006. Died 09/09/1915. Age 30. Son of Wm and Sarah Jane Neill, 33 David St., Portadown. Helles Memorial, Greece

1916

Remembered today are the 69 men of the Royal Irish Rifles who died on 09/09/1916. The majority of them died with the 6th Battalion that day in the attack on Ginchy

+ADAIR, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Rifleman. 5/5481. Died

09/09/1916. Age 23. Son of Mrs. Adair, of 15, Cromwell St., Belfast. La Neuville British Cemetery, Corbie, France

+AGNEW, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 43149. Died 09/09/1916. Age 30. Son of James and Catherine Agnew, of 23, Paterson St., South Side, Glasgow. Native of Larne, Co. Antrim. Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+ALLEN, Alexander

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. A Coy. Private. 13077. Died 09/09/1916. Age 22. Born in 1894 at Loughall. Son of Alexander and Margaret Allen. In 1901 Alexander (6) was living at 32 Ballygoland St., Whitehouse, Belfast. Son of Mrs. Margaret Allen, of 54, Clementine St., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+ALLEN, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private, 26345. Died 09/09/1916. Age 29. Son of William and Phoebe Allen, of Portinode, Kesh. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

+BARKLEY, James

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 5778. Died 09/09/1916. Age 35. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Barkley. Native of Belfast. Brookwood Military Cemetery, Brookwood, Woking

+BELL, Charles

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Sergeant. 26493. Died 09/09/1916. Son of Elizabeth Bell, of 21, Gardenmore

Place, Larne, and the late Charles Bell. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

+BLAKELY, Herbert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Corporal. 9437. Died on the Somme on 09/09/1916. Born in Belfast, he lived in Dunmurry, and enlisted at Ballykinlar. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

+BRADY, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 26503. Died 09/09/1916.

+BRENNAN, Michael

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private, 23139. Died 09/09/1916. Age 27. Michael was the son of John and Mary Ann Brennan. He was born on 05/06/1886. He was one of eight children, seven surviving. All the children were born in Tempo, County Fermanagh. By 1901 the family were living in Cookstown. Son of John and Mary A. Brennan, of Dromore Rd., Omagh. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Cookstown WM

+BROWN, Francis Alfred Joseph

Leinster Regiment, attached 6th and 8th Royal Muster Fusiliers. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Age 22. Civil servant. Member of the QUB Training Corps from 11/11/1915. On 05/09/1916, four days before he died, Frank wrote his last letter home; he was killed during the attack on Ginchy. When the attack started he jumped over the parapet and led his men towards the German trenches under heavy rifle and machine gun fire from the enemy. He fell within 30 yards of the German lines. Afterwards the Chaplain wrote

saying that Frank Brown had been at the taking of Guillemont on 3 September and that 'he had behaved splendidly; he was the only officer of his company to come back from there'. Two of his brothers were also on active service during the First World War, one with the Navy and the other with the Army. Son of William Henry Brown, CPO RN retired, and Jane Eleanor Brown, Belfast Terrace, Ballyholme Esplanade, Bangor. Theipval Memorial Pier 16, Bangor WM, RBL Bangor Memorial Plaque, First Bangor Presbyterian Church, Bangor Grammar School WM, QUB RH

+CAIRNS, John

Royal Irish Regiment, 6th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 2299. Died 09/09/1916. Thiepval Memorial, France

+CAPPER, Adam Clarke

Royal Irish Rifles. 20th, attd. 7th Bn. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Age 23. Born 18/06/1894, son of Adam Clarke Capper and Rebecca Capper, of "Malvern," Malone Rd., Belfast. Educated RBAI and QUB where he was a member of the Training Corps 1914. He worked for his father's yarn business, in Brunswick St. He was member of the North of Ireland RFC, and Malone Golf Club, and was commissioned into the 36th Division, working in its recruiting office at the City Hall for 3 months. He caught measles as the Division departed for France and so was sent to the Army Service Corps training school at Woolwich instead, later spending six months with the Transport Train of the South African Division at Borden. He applied for and received a transfer to the 20th Royal Irish Rifles, being sent to the training camp in Newtownards just days after the slaughter of his former colleagues on the Somme, in July

1916. He quickly secured his travel papers, allowing him to join the 7th Rifles in August, and was killed on 09/09/1916, as part of the capture of the village of Ginchy, at the age of 22. He was buried nearby but his grave was lost in subsequent fighting. Commemorated in Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval (Spec Mem B8), Somme, France, where his remains are believed to be buried. RBAI WM. QUB RH

+CARRUTH, Matthew

Royal Irish Regiment, 4th Btn. attd. 6th Btn. Connaught Rangers. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916 after only four weeks at the Front. Age 26. Born in Mallusk 28/07/1890. He was a school teacher at the Model School, Londonderry. He trained at Marlborough Hall, Glasnevin, Dublin. His brother John Carruth also lost his life in the war on 11/10/1918. Son of Elisha Carruth and Jane Carruth, of The Haven, Mallusk, Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France. Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, Mallusk, RH. Family pillar in Mallusk Cemetery

+CLARKE, Wilfred James

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 5th Bn. attd. 8th Bn. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Age 30. Veterinarian. Member of the QU Training Corps 1915. It states in the OTC Register 1914-1950 (PRONI MIC 204) that Wilfred James Clarke resigned from Queen's OTC in order to join the Inns of Court OTC (in Dublin). Ravenscroft Avenue, Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, Pier 16, Somme, France. QUB RH

+COLGAN, James

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 6907. Died 09/09/1916. Age 18. Son of William and Jane Colgan, of 11, Bute St., Belfast.

Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+COLSTON, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Serjeant. 24091. Died 09/09/1916. Age 23. His brother James also fell. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Colston, of Clincoohy, Ballyconnell, Co. Fermanagh. Theipval Memorial, France

+CROWE, Cecil Alexander

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. D Coy. 7th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Aged 26. Enlisted May 1915 and went to the front on 03/06/1916, attached to the 7th Btn. He was killed in the charge at Ginchy on 09/09/1916, whilst leading his company. Four officers and 184 other ranks of the 7th Btn. died on September 9, 1916. Cecil was educated at Portora Royal School in Enniskillen. While there he played both rugby and cricket and was reputed to be a fine sportsman. Cecil boarded with the McVeys in Molesworth Street, Cookstown. He worked as a bank clerk for the Ulster Bank. His brother Geoffrey also served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Rifles. He died in San Francisco in 1975. Son of Thomas and Jennie Crowe, of Drumday House, Enniskillen. Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France. Portora Royal School WM

+DOHERTY, George

Royal Irish Regiment 6th Btn. Private 2312. Died 09/09/1916. Son of Patrick Doherty; husband of Margaret Doherty. Born in Londonderry. Theipval Memorial, France

+DONELLY, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 43262

Died 09/09/1916. Age 27. Son of Francis and Margaret Donnelly, of Magherafelt, Co. Derry. Theipval Memorial, France

+GUINEY, Thomas

Royal Irish Regiment 6th Btn. Private 2768. Died 09/09/1916. Son of Thomas Guiney, and Eliza Jane Guiney, of Portaferry. Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France

+HANNON, Hugh

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 21032. Died 09/09/1916. Age 26. Born at Shane's Castle estate, Antrim. He enlisted in Ballymena. He served using his mother's maiden name. Son of Mrs. Sarah Murdock, of Edenduff, Milltown, Antrim. His mother and Hugh Murdock married on 20/02/1891. Thiepval Memorial, France

+HARPER, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Lance Serjeant. 13031. Died 09/09/1916. Age 22. Born 19/11/1893 in Belfast. He had 4 brothers and 2 sisters and lived with his parents at Coburg Street, Belfast. His father was a Commercial Traveller. Joseph worked as a Labourer before the war. When war broke out, he enlisted with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. His older brother Charles served with the 9th North Staffordshire Regiment and survived the war. Son of Rebecca Harper, of 6, Coburg St., Belfast, and the late Thomas Harper. Thiepval Memorial, France. Cregagh Presbyterian Church RH

+JESS, Isaac

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Lance Corporal. 5172. Died 09/09/1916. Age 20. Son of Martha Ann Jess of Greenogue, Dromore, Co Down. Ovillers Military Cemetery, France

+KELLY, Francis

Munster Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 5382. Died 09/09/1916. Age 43. Francis Kelly enlisted in Cork. He was living in Aughnacloy at the time. Born about 1873 in Carnteel, County Tyrone. Son of James and Rose Kelly later of Ravella Terrace, Aughnacloy. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France.

+KELLY, John

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 6681. Died 09/09/1916. Age 37. Husband of Maria Kelly, of 4, Maralin St., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+KENNEDY, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. formerly 4th Bn. Private. 3204. Died 09/09/1916. Age 20. Enlisted Jan., 1914. Also served at Gallipoli and was wounded. Son of Robert and Marion Kennedy, of 11, St. Andrew Square North, Belfast. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France.

+KENNEDY, Thomas James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Son of Mr. Samuel Kennedy, Cookstown, and brother of Mr. Samuel Kennedy, editor "Lisburn Standard." Lieut. Kennedy, "who went to the front just the week following the suppression of the rebellion, was killed while serving with the Irish Brigade at Ginchy on the 9th September." (He had been in service with the South Irish Horse and volunteered

on the outbreak of war and was given a Commission in the 36th Ulster Division, but was later transferred to the 16th Irish Division.) “The late Lieut. Kennedy was managing editor of the “Northern Standard,” Monaghan, before the war, and was when he volunteered early in 1915.” W.M. of Masonic Lodge 55, Monaghan. Later a full-length portrait of the late Lieut. Kennedy was unveiled in the Masonic Hall there by Major E. J. Richardson, D.L, D.P.G.M. Theipval Memorial, France. Cookstown WM. Molesworth Street Presbyterian Church RH

+LEWIS, William Henry

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Serjeant. 13385. Died 09/09/1916. Age 30. Pre-war he was working as a damask weaver. He enlisted in Portadown. He was born about 1886 in Portadown. He lived with the family at Jervis Street, Portadown. His father was a railway worker. Son of William Henry Lewis and Annie Lewis, of Hampton Terrace, Portadown; husband to Minnie Lewis, of Bernagh, Dungannon. Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France. Dungannon WM. St Anne’s C of I Church WM, Dungannon

+MARSHALL, Charles Frederick

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 8th Btn. A Coy. Private. Died 09/09/1916. Age 27. Charles was the youngest of three children, all born in the Omagh area. His mother died when he was young. Son of Charles and the late Mary Marshall, of Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone. His father was a teacher at a National School. Frederick was educated at the Royal School Dungannon. He emigrated to the United States of America and in 1914 he returned to Ireland to enlist. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France. Royal School, Dungannon, Book

+MITCHELL, W T

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. No. 3 Coy. Serjeant. 11084. Died. 09/09/1916. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Hannah Mitchell, of Coagh, Co. Tyrone. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+McCANN, Patrick

Royal Irish Rifles. 7th Btn. Rifleman. 4609. Died 09/09/1916. Age 27. Enlisted Lisburn. Born at Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Son of Michael and Catherine McCann, of Camally, Silverbridge, Co. Armagh. Theipval Memorial, France

+McCOY, Joy

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Lance Corporal. 21353. Died 09/09/1916. Age 28. Son of Patrick McCoy, of 53, Chatham St., Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McERLEANE, John

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 24820. Died 09/09/1916. Born in Moneyglass, County Antrim. He enrolled in Clydebank, Scotland. He was resident at Harphall, Carnlough when he and Catherine McAuley married in Glenarm Roman Catholic Church. They went on to have two children. When John died Catherine (Katie) was living in Main St., Glenarm. John's father, Peter, was a farmer. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McGEEHAN, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Corporal. 21251. Died 09/09/1916. Age 23. Brother of Hugh McGeehan, of Towns

End St., Strabane. Brother of James. Theipval Memorial,
Somme, France

+McGOWAN, John James

Royal Irish Regiment. 6th Btn. Private. 2462. Died
09/09/1916. Son of Hannah McGowan, 7 Moore St., off
Bishop St., Londonderry. Delville Wood Cemetery,
Longueval, France. Londonderry Diamond WM

+McGREEVY, Hugh

Royal Irish Regiment, 6th Btn. Private. 8819. Died
09/0/1916. Age 38. Son of Patrick and Alicia McGreevy, of
Barnamaghery, Crossgar. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McGUIGAN, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 43172. Died
09/09/1916 during the Battle of Ginchy - in the 1916 Battles
of the Somme. He had initially joined a reserve battalion of
the Connaught Rangers (6275) but was deployed to the 8th
Btn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in France. He was born at
Albert Street in Belfast on 04/06/1879. Son of Patrick
McGuigan and Catherine Ahern. James and Mary Drain
married at the Roman Catholic Church in Randalstown on
29/12/1906. James and Sarah were living at Drumsough in
Sharvogues in 1911 and they had seven children, the first
child (Peter) being born in May 1907 and the last child
(Lizzie) being born in March 1915. Thiepval Memorial,
France. Midland Railway Memorial

+McKEANEY, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 24732.

Died 09 /09/1916. Age 19. Son of George and Elizabeth McKeaney, of Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McKERNAN, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 7th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 5699. Died 09/09/1916. Age 17. Brother of Serjeant Thomas Henry McKernan who died on 30/11/1916. Son of George and Mary Ann McKernan, of 15, Convention St., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McMAHON, Alfred

Royal Irish Rifles. 7th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 6115. Died 09/09/1916. Age 20. Son of Martha McMahon, of 144, Leopold St., Belfast, and the late Alfred McMahon. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McMAHON, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 19408. Died 09/09/1916. He moved to Scotland where in 1905 he married Janet McSevaney. Son of Samuel and Margaret McMahon of Collone, Armagh. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McNEILL, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 25944. Died 09/09/1916. Age 28. Son of James and Mary McNeill, of Drumcon, Rasharkin, Co. Antrim. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McPARLAND, Francis

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Corporal. 5907. Died 09/09/1916. Son of Michael and Ellen McParland. He was

born on 03/12/1894 in Blackwatertown, County Armagh. He was one of twelve children. The family lived in Milltown Village, County Armagh. Francis was a linen weaver. Francis McParland enlisted in Armagh. He was recorded as living in Benburb, County Tyrone at the time. Thiepval Memorial, France. Dungannon WM

+McWILLIAMS, Michael

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 23065. Died 09/09/1916. Eldest son of John and Maggie McWilliams. He was born in Lissan, near Moneymore on 20/09/1893. He was the oldest of seven children, five surviving. They all seem to have been born in Lissan. John McWilliams was a labourer. In his will, Michael left his effects to his mother, who was living at Tullynure Cottage in Lissan, Cookstown. Thiepval Memorial, France. Cookstown WM

+MITCHELL, William Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. No. 3 Coy. Serjeant. 11084. Died 09/09/1916. Age 22. Thomas joined the army, volunteering in August 1914. While training at Randalstown Camp he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and to Sergeant in June 1916. Born in Tamlaght, Co. Tyrone on 13/09/1894. He was one of seven children. Son of Thomas and Hannah Mitchell, of Coagh, Co. Tyrone. His father Thomas Mitchell was a labourer. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Coagh WM

+MOORE, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 20537. Died 09/09/1916. Age 22. Born in Glenoo, County Tyrone about 1894. Thomas was the foster-son of Patrick McAloon, of Glenoo, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. The 1911 census lists

Thomas as age 18 living with the McAloon family at house 17 in Glenoo, Fivemiletown. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France. Fivemiletown WM

+MONTGOMERY, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Lance Corporal. 26039. Died 09/09/1916. Age 37. Brother of Alfred T. Montgomery of 41, Grovenor Rd., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+MORGAN, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Age 25. Son of the late Francis Morgan and of Sarah Morgan (stepmother), of 147, University St., Belfast; husband to the late Annie Rodgers formerly Morgan). Thiepval Memorial, France

+MORRIS, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 7th Btn. Rifleman. 1236. Died 09/09/1916. Age 43. A railway clerk. Son of John and Maryanne Morris, of Elizabeth St., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+MURPHY, Joseph Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 8th Btn. Private. 20675. Died 09/09/1916. Age 22. Son of Mrs. Mary Ann Murphy, of 4, Mill Hill, Castlewellan, Co. Down. Thiepval Memorial, France

+O'DORNAN, Samuel

Connaught Rangers. 6th Btn. Private, 4301. A Battalion Signaller, he served with the Connaughts during their

Autumn attacks on the Somme. The Braidman was wounded in action and subsequently died on 09/09/1916. Aged 24. This family man with two children, joined up on 19/05/1915 in Ballymena where he resided in William Street. Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt L'Abbe IV, France

+OLPHERT, Hugh Montgomery Archdale

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. attached to the Leinster Regiment 7th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 09/09/1916. Age 18. Son of the late Canon John Olphert, Urney Rectory, Sion Mills and grandson of the Very Rev Thomas Olphert, former Dean of Derry. Theipval Memorial, France

+PARK, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 17565. Died 09/09/1916. Age 18. Born on 11/01/1898 in Orritor, Cookstown into a large farming family. Before the war John was employed by the Midland Railway Company in Moneymore as a clerk. John Park enlisted in Cookstown. He fought at the Battle of the Somme and 'escaped without a wound.' Son of James Wilson Park and Jane Park, of Anitor, Craigs, Cookstown. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Cookstown WM. Orritor Presbyterian Church RH

+RAFFERTY, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Bn. Private. 27368. Died 09/09/1916. Age 21. Enlisted in Enniskillen. He was living in Fivemiletown. Son of Daniel and Mary Rafferty. He was born on 19/12/1893 in Brookeborough, County Fermanagh. He later became the foster son of his uncle and aunt, Henry

and Eliza Anne Heron. The 1901 census lists Joseph Rafferty as living with the Harren family at house 6 in Aughavoory, Corralongford, County Fermanagh. Foster son of Henry Heron, of Tattenabuddagh Cooneen, Fivemiletown. Thiepval Memorial, France. Fivemiletown WM

+WEBB, Francis

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th Btn. A Coy. Private. 21485. Died 09/09/1916. Age 18. Son of James and Rose Webb, of 10, Arran St., Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, France

+WILSON, Thomas

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). 47th Coy. Corporal. 11660. Died 09/09/1916. Age 28. In June 1908 whilst working as a butcher in Downpatrick, he joined 'A' Company of the 5th Btn Royal Irish Rifles at Ballykinlar Camp, as a Special Reservist for 6 years. He attended regular drill practice at the old gaol in Downpatrick (now Down County Museum), and 4 weeks of training at summer camps at Ballykinlar Camp each year between 1910 and 1913, being discharged in March 1914. On the outbreak of war, Thomas entered service with the 2nd Btn Royal Irish Rifles and arrived in France on 11/11/1914. On 17th December, he was in the General Hospital in Wimereux, near Boulogne and was soon evacuated on the Hospital Ship, Carisbrooke Castle. On 22/02/1916, Thomas and Mary Kilpatrick of Killyleagh, married in Killyleagh Presbyterian Church, and they established their home at Shore Cottage, Killyleagh. The marriage was conducted by James Moore McCleary, whose son was a Sergeant in the 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed at the Battle of the Somme, on 1st July 1916. Only 6 days later, on 28th February, Thomas left his base at

Hollywood Barracks, and was sent to join the 47th Machine Gun Company, as part of the 16th (Irish) Division on the Western Front. At some time between February and September 1916, Thomas was promoted from Private to Corporal. The 16th (Irish) Division launched a major offensive to capture the towns of Ginchy and Guillemont between 1st and 10th September 1916, suffering casualties amounting to 224 officers and 4,090 men. Thomas was killed on 9th September, aged 28, and this was confirmed on 17/04/1917. From May 1917, his wife Mary was granted a pension of 15 shillings a week. They had only spent a few days together as a married couple after their wedding in February. Thomas was a member of LOL 1464. Son of William and Margaret Wilson Downpatrick. Husband to Mary Wilson, Shore Cottage. Killyleagh. Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont, France. Family gravestone in Down Cathedral graveyard.

1917

+McALLISTER, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 20235. Died 09/09/1917. Age 23. Enlisted Randalstown. Born in Moneyglass, Toome, County Antrim about 1880. Eldest son of Daniel and Elizabeth McAllister, of Ballymultrea, Magherafelt. Both he and his father were agricultural labourers. John was a member of Salterstown L.O.L. No 482. Hermies British Cemetery, France, Coagh WM

+MORRISON, Douglas St George

Royal Field Artillery, attd. "R" Anti-Aircraft Bty. Lieutenant. Died 03/09/1917. Son of Robert Douglas Morrison (County Inspector, Royal Irish Constabulary) and Henrietta Maria

Langrishe Morrison (nee St. George), of "Dunsona," 28, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast. Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+SPEER, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 12th Btn. Private. 21289. Died 09/09/1917. Age 22. Son of John and Margaret Speer, of Churchtown, Castlederg. St Bestius C of I Churchyard, Termonamongan

+SWINFEN, Percy Courtney

Royal Flying Corps and General List. Second Lieutenant. Died 20/09/1917. Aged 18. Son of Charles Percy and Milly Lucy Swinfen, of 49, Lyndhurst Drive, Leyton, London. Born at Belfast. Hull Western Cemetery, Yorkshire

1918

+HENRY, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Garrison Btn. Private. 13240. transfd. to (534010) 969th Area Employment Coy. Labour Corps. Died 09/09/1918 of malaria. Age 39. Private Henry served for over three years in Salonika, Greece. He was born in Cookstown about 1879. He had gone to live and work in Blantyre, Scotland. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Henry; husband to Annie Henry, of 5, Kirkgate, Saltcoats, Ayrshire. Bralo British Cemetery, Greece

+JOHNSTON, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Lance Corporal. 18061. Died 09/09/1918 of wounds. He was wounded during the retreat from St Quentin in March 1918 and again during the attack

on Hill 63. Born in Liverpool. He lived at Tassagh, Armagh.
Arneke British Cemetery, France

+MAJOR, Charles

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 20271. Native of
Belfast. Died 09/09/1918. Age 19. Native of Belfast. Son of
George and Harriett Major, of 63, Minard Rd., Crossmyloof,
Glasgow. Arneke British Cemetery, France

+McAVOY, J

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 15180. Died
09/09/1918. Age 23. Son of James and Bridget McAvoy, of
4, Kerrera St., Crumlin Rd., Belfast. Valenciennes (St Roch)
Communal Cemetery, France

1919

+FITZPATRICK, Patrick Joseph

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Regimental Serjeant Major. 5021. Died
09/09/1919. Age 41. Born at Armagh. Husband to Adelaide
Fitzpatrick, of 17, Pembroke Estate Cottages, Merrion, Co.
Dublin. Born at Armagh. St Patrick's Roman Catholic
Cemetery, Armagh

1920

+DOHERTY, R

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Bn. A Coy. Private. 32012.
Died 09/09/1920. Age 20. Son of Alexander and Annie
Doherty, of Belfast. Karachi 1914 - 1918 War Memorial,
Pakistan

1940

+PALMER, Edward Bartle

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 105 Sqdn. Sergeant. 743071. Died 09/09/1940. Age 27. He and his two fellow crew members in a Bristol Blenheim Mark IV bomber failed to return to RAF Watton in Norfolk from a bombing operation. Son of Maurice Wheals Palmer of Kileen near Armagh, and Ada Emma Palmer; husband to Helen Adeline (nee Roulston) Palmer, of Armagh.(Possibly the daughter of Rev Roulston of Redrock) Runnymede Memorial. Armagh
WM

1941

+McALISTER, Samuel Patrick

RAF. Corporal. 632997. Died 09/09/1941. Aged 33. Son of John and Sarah McAlister of Belfast; Husband of Kathleen McAlister of Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

+TOWNSEND, Charles Frederick

Royal Sussex Regiment. 2nd Btn.attd. 4th Btn.
Northamptonshire Regiment. Private. 6397881. Died 09/09/1941. Age 31. He was stationed in Bellaghy at the time. Ballyscullion Parish Churchyard in Bellaghy.
Castledawson WM

1942

+MOORE, Thomas McMurtry

RAFVR.Flight Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 1026311. Died 11/09/1942. Aged 25. 233 Sqdn. The younger son of Thomas and Jeannie Moore, of 58 Dunluce

Avenue, Belfast and formerly of Coleraine. Gibraltar North Front Cemetery, Gibraltar

1943

+VAUGHAN, William Frank

Hampshire Regiment. 1st Btn. Serjeant. 5498135. Died 09/09/1943. Age 28. Son of Edward Henry Vaughan and Isobella (nee Halls Gillis) Vaughan, Lonsdale St., Armagh. Edward Henry Vaughan died serving in 1917. Salerno War Cemetery, Italy. Armagh WM

1944

+MONTGOMERY, David Fulton

Royal Ulster Rifles. London Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7012017. Died 09/09/1944. Age 29. From Belfast. He had served 12 years and was stationed for 5 years in Armagh where he met and married Mary Elizabeth Murphy who lived with her aunt Mrs Mary McAneaney in Barrack Hill, Armagh. Son of David and Eliza Montgomery; husband to Mary Elizabeth Montgomery, of Armagh. They had three children. Gradara War Cemetery, Italy. Armagh WM

1947

+McCRACKEN, Charles Henry Kemp

Corps of Royal Military Police. Private. 7043029. Died 09/09/1947. Age 42. Son of Samuel McCracken, and of Margaret McCracken, of Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

VETERANS

COTTON, George Lennox

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Lieutenant - Commander. DSC 1942. Law, QUB 1936. Mobilised before outbreak of war in July 1939 and appointed to HMS Hermes. May 1940 to Motor Torpedo Boats and served at Crete and Alexandria. Wounded in action in the Channel and as a result invalided to shore service for a time. Served as First Lieutenant of the MTB base at Great Yarmouth (HMS Midge), subsequently appointed to command 50th MTB Flotilla. In August 1942 as a Lt. Commander he was placed in command of MTB 502. Sea Training Officer in HMS Bee at Holyhead. From January 1945 to November 1945 served in HMS Mull of Galloway in the Pacific and was present at the Japanese surrender at Singapore. B 25/10/1915. Educated at Castle Park School, Dalkey, County Dublin and Wrekin College, Shropshire. He qualified as a Solicitor in 1946 and served for many years as a Council Member of the Law Society of Northern Ireland becoming President in 1977. He held a number of company directorships, was Chairman of the Royal Victoria Hospital Trust Committee and had many charitable interests. He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for County Down 24/10/1969. He was survived by his wife Eileen, to whom he was married for over sixty years, his daughters Caroline, Grania and Anne and several grandchildren. Died 09/09/2000. Clontagh House, Crossgar.

DUDGEON, Elliott

Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Sub - Lieut. Born 09/09/1885. Son of Wm. Dudgeon, Mullaghmore, Omagh. Campbell College 722

MARSHALL, Robert

RAMC. Major. President QUB Services Club 1941, 42, 43. Educated at MCB and QUB, obtaining first place in medicine

in his year. QUB MB 1912, BCh DPH 1918, MD QUB 1921. FRCPI 1921. After graduation he held the office of resident medical officer at the Royal Victoria Hospital and later went to London, where he became resident medical officer at the National Hospital for Heart Diseases. Lieutenant RAMC Dec, 1914. Captain Dec, 1915. In France from 02/12/1914. Served in France with the 1st and 3rd Cavalry Divisions. After the war engaged in private general practice whilst holding the post of registrar in the RVH and that of assistant physician to the Ulster Hospital for Women and Children. Gradually his interests took shape and he paid particular regard to cardiology and diseases of children, although he never gave up his role as consulting physician. The Centenary Year of the Belfast Medical School coincided with his turn to give the opening address to students at the beginning of the winter session, and he took the opportunity to give them a truly masterly account of the school from its earliest days in Frederick Street. This work was followed in 1959 by his Scott-Heron Lecture on "The Story of the Ulster Hospital". At the visit of the BMA to Belfast in 1937 he made himself responsible for editing all the unsigned articles included in the 'Book of Belfast'. The loss of his only son, Robert, who qualified in medicine in 1939 and promptly joined the Army, unfortunately only to be killed in Burma after the fall of Singapore during the Second World War, was a grievous blow to him because between father and son there had existed a great understanding. Dr. and Mrs. Marshall generously bequeathed a room in the university medical library to their son's memory. Born 09/09/1889, Son of WJ Marshall JP and Bertha nee Shaw, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast. Husband to Evelyn Mary, daughter of William Marshall, Bangor.

ROBSON, John Edward

HMS Caroline. RNVR. Commander. OBE. Served 1939-46. Master Mariner. Joined RNR 1939. Served as Midshipman in HMS Wolfe on the Northern Patrol and Atlantic convoy. Promoted to Sub - Lieutenant 1940 and to Lieutenant in 1942 when in HMS Hastings. Later in 1942 appointed to Captain 'Johnnie' Walker's renowned Second Escort Group as Navigating Officer in HMS Wren, and took part in some of the fiercest anti-submarine actions of the Battle of the Atlantic, before being transferred to the Pacific in 01/1944 as Navigating Officer of the escort carrier HMS Ruler in which capacity he was present at the surrender of the Japanese navy in Tokyo Bay. Demobbed in 04/1946 he joined the Royal Mail Line as a Second Officer.

In 1950 he 'left the sea' and transferred to RNVR, Ulster Division, where he was soon promoted to Lt. Commander and awarded the RNR Decoration. When he assumed command of the Ulster Division in 1957, the post-war transformation of the Naval Reserves was nearly complete with the amalgamation of the RNVR and the RNR. Captain Robson's period of command was one of consolidation.

A highlight was the centenary celebrations of the original RNR in 10/1959 when Belfast enjoyed a "Navy Week". The frigate HMS Duncan and the submarine HMS Thule visited the port and together with HMS Kilmorey, the Ulster Division's ship, were open to the public. The Royal Marine Band of Plymouth Command beat retreat on the lawn at RBAI. An exhibition was held in the Drill Hall of the OTC at QUB and the celebrations ended with a Centenary Parade through Belfast to St Anne's Cathedral for a Trafalgar Day Thanksgiving Service. Chairman NI Sea Cadet Corps 1962 -

78. B 09/09/1920. Son of EG Robson. Gilnahirk Road,
Belfast. Campbell College 2576

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We will remember them

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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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