



remembrance ni



Mazargues War Cemetery, Marseilles

**Service in war and peace - Rifleman  
Stanley Burrows, RUR**

**Rifleman Stanley Burrows served in 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles during World War Two. Born in Belfast, he attended Harding Memorial Primary School before taking up work in the shipyards.**

His father and uncles had served with distinction in the Army and so, aged 18 years old in 1940, Stanley Burrows wanted to enlist. He worked full-time in the shipyards and his father convinced bosses there to refuse Stanley permission to leave. Men working in the shipyard were important to the war effort as Harland and Wolff built many vessels for the Royal Navy.

Determined to enlist, Burrows got himself sacked from Harland and Wolff and joined 70th Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles. Intensive training began immediately. By 1941, when Stanley Burrows went to England with the Rifles, he had experienced the horrors of war.

The Luftwaffe bombed Belfast in what became known as the Belfast Blitz. As a young soldier with 70th Battalion, Burrows directed people to safety in Belfast's Corporation Street. Later, he would find himself digging bodies from the rubble.

Soon after moving to England, 70th Battalion disbanded. Burrows applied for the Commandos but his request came too late. He instead joined the gliders of 6th Airborne Division. To gain Para wings, a soldier had to make eight flights. Stanley Burrows would not get that far.

A second medical examination revealed that Burrows had had a perforated eardrum, which he had concealed. After six weeks with the paratroopers, his trick of drying out his seeping ear with peroxide had come undone. Many years later, after the death of his mother, Stanley learned she had



**Stanley exhibiting all the medals gained by his family from military service.**

tipped the authorities off.

From 6th Airborne, Stanley moved to 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles. Training began immediately. While some believed they were bound for Sicily, a move to Droxford, Hampshire saw them prepare for Normandy.

## **Bound for Sword Beach**

On D-Day, Burrows was part of 9th Platoon, 'A' Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles. Bound for Sword Beach on a landing craft, Burrows was one of many soldiers who wrote one last letter home. Aged 22 years old, he addressed his to his mother in Belfast.

The sea and sky were almost black with ships and planes. A shell struck Stanley's landing craft but failed to explode. From this ship, Company Sergeant Major Walsh of 'A' Company and Rifleman Michael "Sticky" Ryan MM of 'B'

Company formed a lifeline. This rope allowed men to pull themselves ashore.

Carrying 56 lbs of equipment, “Bettsy” his Bren gun, and a fold-up bicycle, Burrows knew he would not make it to the beach. He threw the bicycle overboard and his D-Day began as shells and mortars fell around him. All Burrows company made it ashore to the assembly point at Lion-sur-Mer deflecting sniper attacks all the way.

On 7th June 1944, ‘A’ Company followed the lead of ‘D’ Company on a failed attack on the well-defended Cambes Wood. They would end the day retreating to Le Mesnil having avoided mortar fire, snipers, and four Luftwaffe planes.

### **Attack on Cambes Wood**

On 9th June 1944, Stanley Burrows’ company again attacked Cambes Wood. Nine men from his platoon made it through the 10-foot wall into the woods. They fought through to a farmhouse taken by Lieutenant White. He requested a volunteer to return to Captain Montgomery to inform of their whereabouts. Burrows volunteered without hesitation. He returned through the woods, shouting for his own company to not shoot him and relayed the message before rejoining his platoon. For the next while, ‘A’ Company would make Cambes Wood their home.

On 19th June 1944, Stanley Burrows became an unlikely casualty at Cambes Wood. The Belfast man saw a chicken wandering through no-man’s land, sprang into action and within minutes the bird was in a soup. As Burrows cooked up the chicken broth in a biscuit tin, a shell landed nearby and boiling water covered him.





### **Stanley and his friend Richard Keegan on Sword Beach at a memorial ceremony.**

As he dived for cover, Burrows' fellow soldiers realised he had caught fire and extinguished his burning clothes. He sought no treatment from medics and his body went into shock. His skin blistered and he learned he would have to return to England for treatment.

On the return to the United Kingdom, Stanley's medical plane came under attack from the Royal Navy. Once again, he escaped unscathed. He would rejoin the Rifles that summer but after another injury on 9th August 1944, his service ended.

### **The BBC - Burrows, Beck, and Crangles**

It was at Cambes Wood on 23rd June 1944, Stanley Burrows lost his best friend Hugh Crangles. A German sniper shot the 22-year old through the neck. The two men from Belfast, along with Robert Beck, made up the tight unit of Burrows, Beck, and Crangles – "The BBC". Stanley would return many times to Normandy to pay tribute to Crangles and the other men of 2nd Battalion.

Burrows went on to serve with other units throughout the war including the 1st Paratroopers who liberated Copenhagen. He demobbed after World War Two in 1946.

Burrows observed the 60th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy with a group from Lisburn Royal British Legion. They spent five days there visiting the beaches, cemeteries, and memorials. Burrows carried a blackthorn walking stick and wore his green beret bearing the cap badge of the Royal Ulster Rifles. Next to him walked Richard Keegan who served in 'D' Company of the same battalion in 1944.

Rifleman Stanley Burrows MBE died on 2nd October 2004 after a short illness.

Acknowledgment - BBC Your place and Mine

## On this Day – October 21688

**1688** - Prince William of Orange accepts the invitation to take the throne of England...

**1917**



Photo page above - Cruiser **HMS Drake** was torpedoed by German submarine U-79 off the north coast of Ireland. She ran for **Church Bay on Rathlin Island** but capsized and sank in shallow water in the bay. 18 lives were lost.

## **1917**

The Germans attack in Beaumont (Reims), and between Samogneau and Hill 344 (Verdun) and gain a footing. The French counter-attacks all day fail to drive out the Germans.

## **1938**

Winston Churchill comments to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain about the Munich Agreement; "You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You have chosen dishonor and you will have war."

## **1939**

The first Poles are imprisoned in Pawiak Prison in Warsaw. Some 100,000 people will undergo Nazi interrogations here, of whom 37,000 will be executed and 60,000 sent to concentration camps.

Act of Panama signed by US and other western hemisphere nations, declaring Pan-American Security Zone, a 300-mile zone of neutrality off coast of Americas (at about 60° W).

## **1941**

Army Group Centre launches operation 'Typhoon', the main offensive towards Moscow. Hitler tells his troops: 'Today is the beginning of the last great battle of the year'. Army Group South begins an advance against Kursk and Kharkov.

## **1943**

The RAF launches a very heavy air raid on Munich, which lasts 25 minutes.

The British 2nd Special Service Brigade lands at Termoli on East coast of Italy and links up with troops moving North from Foggia.

The Australian 9th Division captures Finschhafen on New Guinea

## **1944**

The end of the Warsaw Uprising, c. 200,000 Polish civilians died during the uprising and a large part of Warsaw had been destroyed.

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Martial law is lifted in Hawaii.

The WASP (Women's Auxiliary Service Pilots) notified of discontinuation of WASP program in December.

## **1945**

General Patton is removed from command for remarks that were allegedly sympathetic to former Nazis.



# Roll of Honour – October 2

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

## 1915

### **+MARTIN, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Rifleman. 9349. Died 02/10/1915 of wounds at Calais. Age 25. Living in London when he enlisted. Born 1890 Loughgilly, Co. Armagh. Son of Harry and Mary Martin. Effects went to his aunt, Mrs Martin of Belfast. Calais Southern Cemetery, France

### **+McGUIGAN, J**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. Private. 12102. Died 02/10/1915. Husband of Jane McGuigan, of 31, Bow St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

### **+WEIR, William**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 5191. Died 02/10/1915. Age 20. Son of Francis and Elizabeth Weir, of Lurgan. Etaples Military Cemetery, France

## 1916

### **+McCUTCHEON, John Cecil**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Lieutenant. Died 02/10/1916. Age 24. Queen's University, Belfast, O.T.C., late of Chinese Customs Service. Son of John B. and Mary H. McCutcheon, of Rineen, Annadale, Belfast. Lahana Military Cemetery, Greece

## **+ROX, Arthur**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 6th Btn. D Coy. Private. 22090. Died between 02/10/1916 and 04/10/1916. Age 34. Son of John and Ann Rox, of 36, Chapel Street, Hamilton; husband of Sarah Rox, of 14, John Street, Belfast. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

## **+WYLIE, Archie**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 23197. Died 02/10/1918. Age 24. Born Ballywatermoy. One of three brothers to die in the war. David (05/04/1916) and John (+ 28/04/1918) also served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Son of Mrs. M. Wylie, of Ballywatermoy, Glarryford, Co. Antrim. Haringhe (Bandaghem) Belgium

## **1917**

### **+ALLEN, David**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Bn. Private. 24898. Died 02/10/1917. Age 21. Born in Minterburn, County Tyrone about 1896. Son of William and Sarah Allen. William Allen was a caretaker and gamekeeper and then a farmer. Rocquigny - Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France. Dungannon WM

## **1918**

### **+BAILEY, James Joseph**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 14/16213. Died 02/10/1918. Aged 40. Son of James and Margaret Bailey. Born on 07/03/1878 in Clabby, County Fermanagh. He worked in Belfast as a gas fitter. James Bailie enlisted in

Belfast. Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Dungannon WM

**+BOYD, James**

Canadian Engineers. Company Sergeant Major. 2013550. Died 02/10/1918 in Montreal General Hospital of influenza and bronchial pneumonnia. Age 26. Born Belfast 29/07/1892. Enlisted St John's Quebec 01/07/1918 with three year's previous military service. Prior to enlistment he worked as a blacksmith. His brother William, Canadian Field Artillery, died in France on 07/07/1917. Son of William and Isabella Boyd, of Main St., Crumlin, Co. Antrim, Ireland. St Jean-sur-Richelieu Cemetery, Quebec, Canada

**+CLARKE, Edmund**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 300. Died 02/10/1918. Aged 21. Son of Edward and Margaret Clarke, of 15, Calvin St., Brushbridge Rd., Belfast. Native of Glenarm. Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Larne WM

**+CLEMENTS, Houston**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Rifleman. 7506. Died 02/10/1918. Aged 19. Son of James and Elizabeth Clements, of 20, Glynview Avenue, Larne. Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Larne WM

**+CROFT, William John Hillis**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. B Coy. Rifleman. 19/49. Died 02/10/1918. Age 20. Son of Joseph and Sarah Croft, of 7, Warkworth St., Belfast. Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium

### **+FULTON, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 15527. Died 02/10/1918. Age 31 years old. Son of William and Alice Fulton, of Coleraine; husband to Ellen Fulton, of Strand Rd., Coleraine. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

### **+HAMILTON, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 11036. Died 02/10/1918. Age 29. Son of the late James and Isabella Hamilton, of 16, Winetavern St., Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

### **+HOUSTON, Charles Edward**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Corporal. 49645. Died 02/10/1918. Age 24. Born Young St., Lisburn on 09/04/1894. Enlisted in Antrim having served previously with the North Irish Horse (1767). Son of Thomas and Sarah Houston, of Doagh Rd., Whitehouse, Belfast. Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium. Whitehouse Presbyterian Church RH

### **+HYNDMAN, John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 21216. Died 02/10/1918. Age 31. Son of John Hyndman, of 62, Waterside St, Waterside, Londonderry. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

### **+KERR, Hugh**

Royal Engineers, G Depot Coy. Lance Corporal. 64156. Died 02/10/1918. Age 43. Son of Andrew and Jane Kerr;

husband of Agnes Kerr, of 14, Kimberley Buildings,  
Newtownards. Movilla Cemetery, Newtownards

**+KING, J S**

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Btn. Rifleman. 15047. Died  
02/10/1918. Aged 48. Husband of the late Mary J. King.  
Dundonald Cemetery

**+KNOWLES, Robert George**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 20529. Died  
02/10/1918. Age 19. Son of George and Margaret Knowles,  
of 685, Ela Villa, Eden, Carrickfergus. Tyne Cot Memorial,  
Belgium

**+McBRIDE, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 47919. Died  
02/10/1918. Previously served with the Inland Water  
Transport Branch of the Royal Engineers (206076). Born  
Ballyclare. Husband of Mrs. Frances McBride, of 30, Gaffikin  
St., Belfast. Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium.  
Ballyclare WM

**+McCONNELL, Alexander A**

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Private. 17/157. Died  
02/10/1918. Age 21 years old. Born Abbey St., Bangor  
20/09/1896. In 1911 the family was living in Dunmurry and  
Alexander was working as a doffer. His father Alexander  
served in the war with the Royal Irish Rifles and then with  
the Labour Corps. He survived the war. Son of Alexander  
and Annie McConnell, of 10, Barbour St., Greencastle,  
Belfast. Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Belgium.  
Whitehouse Presbyterian Church RH



### **+McCORMICK, A**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 12714. Died 02/10/1918. Son of Mr. A. McCormick, of 22, McMillan's Place, Belfast. Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension, France

### **+McDONALD, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 20318. Died 02/10/1918. Served as John Shirley. Husband to Margaret McDonald, of Belfast. Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium

### **+McKELVEY, Sandy**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 29627. Died 02/10/1918 in a counter attack by the Germans near Dadizeele. Age 20. Sandy enlisted in 11th Inniskillings and transferred to 1st Btn in Feb 1918. Son of James McKelvey, of Eden Fore, Plumbridge, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone. Dadizeele New British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

### **+MOOREHEAD, Robert**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn, formerly of the 11th Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 29315. Died 02/10/1918. Age 25. Son of Robert Moorehead, of Kennaught Street, Limavady, and brother of Mrs. Scott also of Limavady. Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Belgium. (18th October 1918 Belfast Newsletter)

**+NELSON, Hugh**

Royal Irish Regiment, 1st Btn. Corporal. 10498. Died 02/10/1918. Age 20. From Belfast. Cement House Cemetery, Belgium

**+RAMSAY, J**

Service Number: 25898. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 10th Btn. Died 02/10/1918. Age 22 years old. From a newspaper clipping he appears to have had a connection with Factory St., Whiteabbey. Son of Robert Ramsay, of Westershiel Hill, Falkirk. Joncourt British Cemetery, France

**+SHEA, Richard**

Canadian Infantry. 27th Bn. Private. 187695. Died 02/10/1918. Aged 29. Son of Michael John and Mary Shea, of Kiltennell, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland. Richard was born in Gorey, County Wexford around 1890. Both his mother and his father were teachers. Richard Shea emigrated to Canada and enlisted in Winnipeg, in November 1915, he gave his next of kin as his sister Margaretta Shea of Augher, County Tyrone. Richard was an electrician by trade. At the time of his death, newspaper reports note his sister Margaretta was living at Union Place, Dungannon with her aunt, Mrs Sloan. Canada Cemetery, Tilloy-Lez-Cambrai, Nord, France

**+SMYTH, John**

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. 2nd/4th Btn. A Coy. Private. 31062. Died 02/10/1918. Age 21. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Shannon, of 51, Bow Lane, Preston. Born at Belfast. Cambrai East Military Cemetery, France

**+WYLIE, Archie**

Royal Innsikilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 23197. Died of wounds on 02/10/1918. Aged 24. Son of Mrs. M. Wylie, Ballywatermoy, Glarryford. Haringhe Military Cemetery, (Bandaghem), Belgium. Killymurriss Presbyterian Church RH

**1942**

**HMS TAMAR**

**+ATTWELL, Gerald**

RN. Able Seaman. D/SSX 20157. HMS Tamar. Died 02/10/1942. Age 21. He had been notified as missing after the capture of Hong Kong. Joined up five years previously and had spent half his service on the China station. Son of John and Emily Attwell, Tandragee. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 06/02/1942, 29/01/1943). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 64

**+CALVERT, Hans**

RN. Signaller. D/JX 229549. HMS Tamar. Japanese PoW. Died 02/10/1942. Hans was being transported from Hong Kong to Shanghai in the hold of Lisbon Maru. On 27/09/1942 the Lisbon Maru left Hong Kong for Shanghai with 1816 prisoners on board. She was Torpedoed on 01/10/1942 by USS Grouper, 6 miles from Tung Fusham Island, off the China coast, 29°57'N, 122°56'N. Son of Thomas M. and Sarah J. Calvert, Comber. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 67. Comber WM

**+CRANGLE, John Raphael**

RNVR. AB. P/UD/X 1399. Died 02/10/1942. Age 25. HMS Tamar. Prisoner of war in Hong Kong. Son of John and Sara Crangle, of Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 21/08/1942). Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 71

**1942**

**HMS CURACOA**

**+HOUSTON, William James**

RN. Cook (S). C/MX 92438. Died 02/10/1942. Age 25. HMS Curacoa. He had been home on leave six weeks before his death. Son of Mr and Mrs Ernest Houston, Bellevue Pk., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 13/11/1942). Chatham Naval Memorial

**+JAMFREY, James**

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. C/K 17091. MiD. Died 02/10/1942. Age 49. HMS Curacoa. 23 years' service. Previously reported as missing. He had been Mentioned in Despatches in the New Year's Honours List. His only brother had been killed in WW1, nine days before the Armistice. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Jamfrey. Born 17/09/1893 in Cookstown. Family moved to Bangor where he was a chorister in the Abbey Choir and a member of the parish Scout troop. His only brother William, a private in the Seaforth Highlanders was killed in action 02/11/1918. Husband to Winifred Mary Jamfrey, Groomsport Rd., Bangor. Father of 3 sons. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 61

**+BOYCE, Samuel John**

Royal Artillery. 965 Defence Bty. Lance Bombardier. 1063039. Died Between 01/10/1942 and 02/10/1942. Aged 40. He was a prisoner of war on Japanese ship Lisbon Maru when it came under attack from U.S.S. Grouper off the coast of Shanghai, China. The vessel sank resulting in the deaths of 828 people. Lance Bombardier Boyce had 27 years' service. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Boyce of Bridge Street, Portadown. Two sisters resident in Portadown

- Mrs David McMullen, 95 Bridge St., and Mrs Charles Hegan, 40 Union St. Sai Wan Memorial, China, (including Hong Kong). Portadown WM

**+LEWIS, William**

RNPS. Leading Cook. LT/MX 83350. Died 02/10/1942. Age 39. HM Trawler Lord Stonehaven. Served through WW1 and volunteered for a year's service in a minesweeper in 1919. He survived the sinking of his ship at Dunkirk. He again escaped when his next ship was torpedoed. Son of William and Martha Lewis, of Belfast; husband of Sarah Lewis, of Belfast. Father of four children. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 23/10/1942). Lowestoft Naval Memorial, Panel 10

**+McELNEY, William Harper Campbell Davison**

South African Air Force. Sergeant. Pilot. 207182. Died 02/10/1942. Born 1900 Co. Down. Son of Rev. Robert McElney and Mary Elizabeth Davison McElney. Brother of Captain Robert McElney MC, RAMC who died 21/03/1918 in France. Nanyuki War Cemetery, Kenya. QUB

**+ROLESTON, Frederick Livingston**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 982544. Died 02/10/1942. Aged 21. 218 Sqdn. Son of Frederick Thomas Roleston and Sarah Louisa Roleston, of Benburb, Co. Tyrone. Hamburg Cemetery, Hamburg, Germany. Moy WM

**1944**

**+BEGGS, Jane Grant**

WAAF. Sergeant. 889112. Died 02/10/1944. Age 43. Daughter of James and Mary Ann Beggs of Dromore. Dromore Cathedral Churchyard



**+BINGHAM, William John**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1796293. Died 02/10/1944. Aged 20. 114 Sqn. Son of James and Maria Bingham, of Greencastle. Argenta Gap War Cemetery, Italy

**+NUGENT, John Andrew**

No. 307920, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards. 5<sup>th</sup> Btn. Lieutenant. 307920. Died 02/10/1944 in Italy as Allied Forces advanced northwards. It was at the end of September 1944 that Allied Forces entered Castiglione and secured their position there. During the Second World War two Nugent brothers served with the 5<sup>th</sup> Btn, Grenadier Guards which was raised in 1941, served in North Africa and Italy and disbanded in 1945. John Andrew Nugent was born on 01/09/1925 and he was a son of Major the Right Honourable Sir Roland Thomas Nugent, Kt., JP, DL and Lady Cynthia Maud Nugent (nee Ramsden) of Portaferry House, Portaferry, Co. Down. They were married on 25/09/1917 and had three children: Elizabeth Anne (born 10/03/1919), Patrick Edmund Charles No 176733 (born 04/11/1920) and John Andrew (born 01/09/1925). Patrick Edmund Charles No 176733 died aged 22 in Tunisia on 27/04/1943.

Sir Roland Nugent held several different offices including Minister without Portfolio in the Northern Ireland Government and Leader of the Northern Ireland Senate.

John Andrew Nugent was educated at Eton College. Castiglione South African Cemetery, Italy. Ballyphilip Parish Church of Ireland Church, Portaferry. Eton College

**+WALKER, Edward Armistice**

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 2722995. Died 02/10/1944. Age 25. He was driving a Tank called Ballyjamesduff when he was killed. He had three years military service. Son of William Henry Walker, and of Mary Walker, of Ballyclare. Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

**1947**

**+McNABB, Lawrence W**

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. Guardsman. 2725582. Died 02/10/1947. Aged 25. Lawrence McNabb's grave is in St. Patrick and St. Bridget's Church, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. The grave has no headstone although it may once have. The name McNabb is on the grave's surround. In February 2015, his name was one of several added to the War Memorial in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim.

## **VETERANS**

**BOYD, Thomas John**

Private, 10th. Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (the Derrys). The Derrys trained at Finner Camp, County Donegal, and Seaford, Sussex, and arrived at the Western Front in October 1915. Thomas served in France and Belgium and was wounded in 1918. Before and after the War he served in the Merchant Navy. His parents, Mr. John (fisherman) and Mrs. Sarah Jane Boyd, lived at Mullaghacall, Portstewart. He was living at Mullaghacall Cottages, when he died on 02/10/1957 aged 68 years; he was buried in Agherton Cemetery. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Agherton Parish Church.



## **BURROWS, Stanley**

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**Stanley exhibiting all the medals gained by his family from military service.**

His father and uncles had served with distinction in the Army and so, aged 18 years old in 1940, Stanley Burrows wanted to enlist. He worked full-time in the shipyards and his father convinced bosses there to refuse Stanley permission to

leave. Men working in the shipyard were important to the war effort as Harland and Wolff built many vessels for the Royal Navy.

Determined to enlist, Burrows got himself sacked from Harland and Wolff and joined 70th Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles. Intensive training began immediately. By 1941, when Stanley Burrows went to England with the Rifles, he had experienced the horrors of war.

The Luftwaffe bombed Belfast in what became known as the Belfast Blitz. As a young soldier with 70th Battalion, Burrows directed people to safety in Belfast's Corporation Street. Later, he would find himself digging bodies from the rubble.

Soon after moving to England, 70th Battalion disbanded. Burrows applied for the Commandos but his request came too late. He instead joined the gliders of 6th Airborne Division. To gain Para wings, a soldier had to make eight flights. Stanley Burrows would not get that far.

A second medical examination revealed that Burrows had had a perforated eardrum, which he had concealed. After six weeks with the paratroopers, his trick of drying out his seeping ear with peroxide had come undone. Many years later, after the death of his mother, Stanley learned she had tipped the authorities off.

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On D-Day, Burrows was part of 9th Platoon, 'A' Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles. Bound for Sword Beach



on a landing craft, Burrows was one of many soldiers who wrote one last letter home. Aged 22 years old, he addressed his to his mother in Belfast.

The sea and sky were almost black with ships and planes. A shell struck Stanley's landing craft but failed to explode. From this ship, Company Sergeant Major Walsh of 'A' Company and Rifleman Michael "Sticky" Ryan MM of 'B' Company formed a lifeline. This rope allowed men to pull themselves ashore.



Carrying 56 lbs of equipment, “Bettsy” his Bren gun, and a fold-up bicycle, Burrows knew he would not make it to the beach. He threw the bicycle overboard and his D-Day began as shells and mortars fell around him. All Burrows company

**Stanley and his friend Richard Keegan on Sword Beach at a memorial ceremony.**

made it ashore to the assembly point at Lion-sur-Mer deflecting sniper attacks all the way.

On 7th June 1944, ‘A’ Company followed the lead of ‘D’ Company on a failed attack on the well-defended Cambes Wood. They would end the day retreating to Le Mesnil having avoided mortar fire, snipers, and four Luftwaffe planes.

On 9th June 1944, Stanley Burrows’ company again attacked Cambes Wood. Nine men from his platoon made it through the 10-foot wall into the woods. They fought through to a farmhouse taken by Lieutenant Corporal White. He requested a volunteer to return to Captain Montgomery to inform of their whereabouts. Burrows volunteered without hesitation. He returned through the woods, shouting for his own company to not shoot him and relayed the message before rejoining his platoon. For the next while, ‘A’ Company would make Cambes Wood their home.

On 19th June 1944, Stanley Burrows became an unlikely casualty at Cambes Wood. The Belfast man saw a chicken wandering through no-man’s land, sprang into action and within minutes the bird was in a soup. As Burrows cooked up the chicken broth in a biscuit tin, a shell landed nearby and boiling water covered him.

As he dived for cover, Burrows' fellow soldiers realised he had caught fire and extinguished his burning clothes. He sought no treatment from medics and his body went into shock. His skin blistered and he learned he would have to return to England for treatment.

On the return to the United Kingdom, Stanley's medical plane came under attack from the Royal Navy. Once again, he escaped unscathed. He would rejoin the Rifles that summer but after another injury on 9th August 1944, his service ended.

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Burrows went on to serve with other units throughout the war including the 1st Paratroopers who liberated Copenhagen. He demobbed after World War Two in 1946.

Burrows observed the 60th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy with a group from Lisburn Royal British Legion. They spent five days there visiting the beaches, cemeteries, and memorials. Burrows carried a blackthorn walking stick and wore his green beret bearing the cap badge of the Royal Ulster Rifles. Next to him walked Richard Keegan who served in 'D' Company of the same battalion in 1944.

Rifleman Stanley Burrows MBE died on 2nd October 2004 after a short illness.

Acknowledgment - Richard Keegan at wartimeni.com

**COYLES, John**

RN. RNR. Stoker. John lived in North Street, Ballycastle, and left a wife and two young children to join the Royal Navy. He had previously worked as a fisherman. John was born on 30/1/1871 in Ballycastle and enlisted for a twelve year period on 07/11/1895. He was based at Devonport. John was five feet ten inches tall with auburn hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. When his twelve year period of service was up he joined the RNR on 8/11/1907. He was called up for further service when war broke out in August 1914 and served throughout the war. In April 1919 John's father, Archibald Coyles, died, but John was unable to get leave for the funeral as he was in mid voyage at the time. Archibald's grandson, Frank McLarty MM. only arrived on the day following the funeral. John was demobbed 02/10/1919. Ramoan Parish Church, Ballycastle RH

**KISSACK, Norah Leece**

WAAF. MCB. Born 02/10/1921. Daughter of John R Kissack, Kilgore Gds, Belfast.

**MORROW, M Thomas V**

RAF. DFC. MCB. Born 02/10/1918. Son of Wilson Morrow, Castleplace, Belfast. Postwar Civil Servant (NI). Shanlieve Pk., Belfast.

**PAYNE, Reuban Woodland**

RN. Surgeon - Lieutenant. FRCS 1926. Ophthalmic surgeon. B 02/10/1892. D 06/1974. Son of R. F. Payne, Hollywood. Campbell College 703

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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**remembrance ni**

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

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