



remembrance ni



## Pond Farm Cemetery

There are six Cookstown men remembered at Pond Farm Cemetery. They all served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and died between 08/09/1916 and 24/11/1916. They are Andrew Booth, Thomas Curry, Robert Hogshaw, Hugh McIvor, William Thomas Mitchell and Samuel Spiers.



**Pond Farm Cemetery** (above) is located south-west of Ypres near the village of Wulvergem in Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium . 'Pond Farm' was in the fields about 800 metres East of Packhorse Farm, and on the North-West side of Pond Farm is the Cemetery. Total Burials 301.

Wulverghem (now Wulvergem) was the scene of a German gas attack on the night of 29-30 April 1916 which was repulsed by the 3rd and 24th Divisions. The village was captured by the Germans on 14 April 1918 and reoccupied by the 30th Division on the following 2 September.

The cemetery was begun by the 3rd Rifle Brigade and the 8th Buffs in July 1916 and it was used by fighting units and field ambulances until October 1917. Further burials were made in April and September 1918. There are now 296

Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery, including special memorials to three casualties of the 1st/7th Cheshires, buried here early in September 1918, whose graves could not be found. The cemetery also contains five German war graves. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

Photos of Pond Park courtesy of WW1 Cemeteries.

## On this Day – October 11

### 1914

Battle of Flanders begins, a desperate struggle for the coast lasting for some six weeks and including (a) Battle of the Yser, 16th October, (b) Battle of Ypres, 19th October.

### 1915

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Battalion, (East Belfast Volunteers), enter the trenches for the first time at Mailley-Maillet, France

### 1918

#### **Ballymena Observer, October 11, 1918**

**Corporal William Stevenson**, North Irish Horse, son of the late Mr. Wilson Stevenson, Crankill, and brother of Mr. James Stevenson, contractor of Gracehill, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field during the recent advance. Corporal Stevenson joined up in November 1915 and was drafted to France in July 1916.



**Second Lieutenant H. A. Healey**, 3rd Royal Irish Rifles, has been gazetted Lieutenant in the West African Regiment. He is a native of Martinstown, Ballymena, Co. Antrim.

## 1939

British Expeditionary Force on continent reaches strength of 158,000 in five weeks.

The Soviet Union and Finland begin negotiations concerning the establishment of Soviet air bases on Finnish soil. The Soviet Union also requires Finland to cede territory around lake Ladoga and the Gulf of Finland, plus the Petsamo area in northern Finland. In return the Soviet Union offers to give Finland a chunk of desolate land in central Karelia. The Finns reject the Soviet demands fearing that to accept will only encourage further Soviet demands.

## 1941



Wellington Mark II, W5379, in flight from Aldergrove, County Antrim, prior to delivery to No. 12 Squadron RAF at

Binbrook, Lincolnshire. It was lost over Cologne on 11/10/1941. Imperial War Museum Photo

Rumours of an impending capture of Moscow by the German Army cause thousands of civilians to flee the city.

Erich Koch, Reich commissar in Ukraine, announces the closing of all schools there. According to Koch, "Ukraine children need no schools. What they'll have to learn will be taught to them later by their German masters."

## **1942**

The first night raid on Britain by Luftwaffe for 15 days.

The US Navy surprises a Japanese naval squadron in the night 'Battle of Cape Esperance', off Savo Island in the Solomons. The Japanese lose one cruiser and a destroyer, while the US Navy loses just a single destroyer.

## **1944**

PARA Btns jumped into Op Manna some 40 miles from Athens. Despite heavy fighting, the feeding of 20,000 civilians stands out. The ability to fight the enemy yet support the civilian populace.

The RAF complete the flooding of Walcheren with a 102-bomber raid near Veete.

US First Army begins battle for Aachen, Germany.

The Red Army captures Klausenburg in Romania as Hungary and the Soviet Union begin negotiations for a ceasefire.

U.S. air raids against Okinawa begin.

## 1945

Negotiations between Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek and Communist leader Mao Tse-tung break down.

Nationalist and Communist troops are soon engaged in a civil war.

US Marines land at Tsingtao, China to slow Communist advances; Japanese troops in Tsingtao surrender to US.

# Roll of Honour – October 11

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

## 1914

### **+ROSSINGTON, Harold**

Cheshire Regiment. 1st Bn. Company Sergeant Major. 7923. Died 11/10/1914. Links with Larne. Mons (Bergen) Communal Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium

## 1915

### **+ELLIS, James Graves St John**

Royal Engineers. Second Lieutenant. Died 11/10/1915. Age 28. Son of William Edward Ellis, L.L.D., L.L.B., and Edith Annie Ellis, of Dublin; husband of Florence Kathleen Ellis, of

4, Rugby Terrace, Rugby Rd., Belfast. Assistant Engineer, C.P.R. Hill 10 Cemetery. Turkey (including Gallipoli)

**+SPENCER, Frank**

Cheshire Regiment. 1st Btn. Private. 9083. Died 11/10/1915. Age 25. Son of Edwin and Elizabeth Spencer, of Burland, Nantwich, Cheshire; husband to Mrs. S. E. Spencer, of 71, St. Kilda St., Belfast. Corbie Communal Cemetery, France

**1916**

**+McCANN, William Robert**

Durham Light Infantry, 7th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 11/10/1916. Age 19. RBAI. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James McCann, "Fernagh," Whiteabbey, Belfast. Bazentin-le-Petit Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. St Matthias' Church, Silksworth, Sunderland. RBAI WM

**+McMAHON, H A**

South African Infantry, 3rd Regt. Private. X/87. Died 11/10/1916. Pre-war he had worked in London as an accountant for the National Bank of South Africa. He enlisted with South African forces. His brother Patrick, a lieutenant with 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Rifles, was also killed (11/06/1917). Son of Patrick and Annie McMahon, of 3, Edward St., Armagh. The family were members of the Roman Catholic Church. Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France

**+MURPHY, Matthew**

Cameron Highlanders, 5th Btn. Private. S/17936. Died 11/10/1916 on the Somme. Enrolled Perth. Disembarked France 11/08/1915. Son of Thomas and Ellen Mrphy, Keady St., Markethill. The family were members of the Roman Catholic Church. Husband to Mary of Perth. Theipval Memorial, France

**+MURPHY, Peter**

Royal Field Artillery, 61st Bde. C Bty. Gunner. 76430. Died 11/10/1916. Born in Crossmaglen. Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, Montauban, France

**1917**

**+CLARK, George**

RNR. Lieutenant. HM Yacht Kethhailes. Died 11/10/1917. Aged 25. Son of Robert Dawson Clark and Jane Clark, of West Hartlepool; husband of Lilian Jane Clark, of Flush House, Knockbreda Rd., Belfast. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 25

**+HUNTER, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles. 16th Bn. Rifleman. 1151. Formerly Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 19452. Died of wounds 11/10/1917. Aged 23. Son of John and Margaret Hunter, of Milberry, Caledon. Rocquigny - Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France. Dungannon WM

**+KEERS, Joseph**

Mercantile Marine Reserve. Carpenter. HM Yacht Kethalles. Died 11/10/1917. Age 46. Son of James and Sarah Keers, Coleraine, Londonderry, Ireland; husband of Harriet L.





## **Pond Farm Cemetery**

Keers, Albert St., Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.  
Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 25.

**1918**

**+BOYD, James**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Serjeant. 10400. Died  
11/10/1918. Age 24. Son of William and Esther Boyd, of 3,  
Barrow St., Old Park Rd Belfast. Dadizeele New British  
Cemetery, Belgium

**+CUPPLES, David**

Canadian Infantry. 31st Bn. Alberta Regiment. Private 2138287. Died 11/10/1918. Aged 25. Born 01/03/1889, son of David Cupples and Jane Wilson, Kells, Ballymena who married in Randalstown OC Presbyterian Church on 17/07/1878. Queant Communal Cemetery British Extension, Pas de Calais. Kells Presbyterian Church RH

**+DUNLOP, William John**

Royal Field Artillery. Lance/Bombardier. 35222. Died 11/10/1918. Aged 25. From Ballycastle. Zandvoorde British Cemetery

**+GREEN, George**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 467. Died 11/10/1918 of pneumonia in Germany. Born Ballytweedy, Killead on 20/05/1900. Son of Robert and Violet (nee Lemon or Lennon) Green, of Clacey, Lyle Hill, Templepatrick. His father died in 1907. Homecourt Communal Cemetery, France. Antrim WM. Loanends United Free Church (now Loanends Presbyterian Church) RH.

**+KYLES (COYLES), Samuel**

Royal Field Artillery, 84th Bde. D Bty. Driver. 651139. Died 11/10/1918. There is confusion in records over his surname. Born Castle St., Antrim on 01/05/1889. Member of Thornhill LOL 651. Enlisted Greenock, Scotland. Son of Samuel and Agnes (nee O'Hare) of Castle St., Antrim. Husband to Mary (nee McQuilkin). They married in their own home in Port Glasgow. Tincourt New British Cemetery, France. POOrt Glasgow WM, Antrim WM, All Saints C of I, Antrim, RH

### **+NEESON, Charles**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (late Connaught Rangers). Sergeant. Died 11/10/1918. Sergeant Neeson had four years' service to his credit, and had been a casualty three times previously. Born in Ballymena. Lived in Belfast where he enlisted. Prior to enlistment he was employed as an assistant with Mr. M'Shannon, spirit merchant, Mountpottinger Road, Belfast. His father and two brothers were serving with his Majesty's forces. Son of Mr and Mrs. Neeson, 12 M'Cleery Street, Belfast. Voormezeele Enclosure No 3, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

### **+O'TOOLE, Thomas John**

Northumberland Fusiliers. 12th/13th Bn. Private. 26089. Died 11/11/1918. Aged 31. Born in Hong Kong about 1887. Son of Joseph and Catherine Frances O'Toole, of Castlecaulfield, Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone. Prior to enlistment he worked as a linen and cotton Weaver. Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France.

### **+SAVAGE, Thomas John**

Rifle Brigade. 3rd Bn. Formerly North Irish Horse. Second Lieutenant. Died 11/10/1918. Son of Robert and Martha Savage, of Larne. St. Aubert British Cemetery, Nord, France

## **1940**

### **+WILKINSON, Robert Stewart**

Royal Ulster Rifles. 6th Btn. Corporal. D/24552. Died 11/10/1940. Aged 52. He was born in Belfast, Co. Antrim on 10/02/1888. The 1939 Belfast Street Directory lists his

occupation as a porter at the address of 33 Brookmount Street, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

**1944**

**+CARMICHAEL, James Alexander**

Special Boat Service, S.A.S. Regiment, A.A.C. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Fusilier. 2931910. 6980528. Died 11/10/1944. There was a small skirmish that day at Megalo Pevko between the SBS and a German bicycle patrol. SBS won despite being heavily outnumbered. 3 x Military Medals awarded. 2 to SBS, 1 to RAF Regiment. Son of Arthur and Annie Carmichael, of Omagh, Co. Tyrone. The connection between the Special Boat Service (SBS) and the Phaleron War Cemetery is that some SBS personnel are buried there, particularly those from World War II operations in Greece. While Phaleron is the primary resting place for many Commonwealth war casualties in Greece, the SBS's active role in the region during the war means some of its elite soldiers, like Victoria Cross recipient Anders Lassen, fought and are commemorated in the area. Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece

**+McILREAVEY, Joseph**

Royal Canadian Artillery. Lance Sergeant. B/11124. Died 11/10/1944. Aged 24. 12 Field Regt. Son of Robert and Annie McIlreavey, of Coleraine. Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**1945**

## **+HUNTER, William Herbert**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. Captain, 224892. Died 11/10/1945. A student at Belfast Royal Academy, on 01/03/1938, he joined the staff of the Northern Bank at their head office in Belfast. He briefly transferred to a branch in Whitehead in 1939 before returning to Head Office. He enlisted on 15/12/1939. He first joined the Royal Artillery receiving his call up as a Gunner on 13/01/1940. He rose quickly through the ranks, promoted to Lance Bombardier, then 2nd Lieutenant by 1942 and finally as a Captain with Royal Ulster Rifles. William died in a motoring accident near Bad Oeynhausen, Germany. He was due to demobilise a short time after his untimely death. Around 5 weeks before the motoring accident, he visited Whitehead and expressed his desire to return to the Northern Bank. Known as Wilber, he was the only son of the late Herbert Charles Hunter and Ellen Hunter of 730 Antrim Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim. Ellen later lived at Pebble Cottage, Ballygally, Co. Antrim. Munster Heath War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

## **VETERANS**

### **ADAMS, Thomas**

RN. OS. J59854. Enrolled 28/05/1916. Served in Pembroke I and Orotava. Discharged 11/10/1917. Born Belfast 29/12/1895. ADM 188/766/59854

### **BOYD, John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 13<sup>th</sup> Btn. Enlisted on 17/09/1914 at Clandeboye Camp. A labourer aged 28, he was born in



Whitehaven, Cumberland It was noted in his attestation papers that he was 5 feet 2½ inches tall with a fresh complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. He cited his mother Mary Jane Boyd of 1 Talbot Street, Newtownards as his next-of-kin. Rifleman John Boyd (No. 17306) was discharged from the Army on 20/03/1915 after 185 days. There is also on record a Short Service (For the Duration of the War) Attestation for ex-Rifleman John Boyd (No. 17306) who re-enlisted on 23/09/1915 in Newtownards. This time it was noted that he was 5 feet 2 inches tall and he was appointed to the 12<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (No. 12/26389). He went to France on 21/07/1916 and returned to the Home Front on 14/08/1917. On 26/08/1918 he was posted to the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (No. 802394 and No. 643979). Private John Boyd (No. 643979) was discharged as no longer physically fit for war service on 11/10/1918 after 3 years 19 days service. He was given War Badge and Certificate Number B.32056. After the war John Boyd lived at 5 Upper Cargill Street Belfast.

**Every day is a Remembrance  
Day**

***We will remember them***

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The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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