



remembrance ni



Newry woman who helped Edith Cavell

Today is the anniversary of the execution by the Germans in Belgium of Nurse Edith Cavell (photo left) in WW1.

Ada Bodart was the niece of Robert Hogg Doherty, long serving Clerk of

Newry Town Commissioners and Urban District Council.

Ada moved to Belgium where she had a number of jobs before she married Louis Joseph Bodart and became acquainted with English nurse Edith Cavell.



**Ada Bodart from
Newry was tried
by the Germans
with Edith Cavell**

it is not clear when, she became acquainted with Nurse Edith Cavell, an Englishwoman of considerable courage, *sang froid*, and (perhaps most significantly) utterly firm religious faith.

The Cavell organisation, as it came to be known

among some after the execution of Nurse Edith Cavell for espionage in 1915, was rather more amorphous than this name indicates. Its immediate impetus came from the serious failure of the British Expeditionary Force's invasion of Belgium in Autumn 1914. The British, however bravely and professionally they fought, were so outnumbered by the German army they had invaded Belgium to attack. Many historians nominate the "Retreat from Mons" as the turning point of the campaign, a campaign which left hundreds of British soldiers stranded in German-occupied territory. The Cavell group certainly assisted British soldiers to find their way through the German rear to the Netherlands, a neutral

power. Aid could mean concealment, food, clothing, maps and directions; accounts survive of Bodart flirting with German sentries, though it is not clear whether this primarily to distract them or even to bribe them.

Cavell, Bodart and others were arrested and tried.

The trial conducted under German military law and therefore in German, saw Cavell called first, Bodart fourth; she had allegedly sheltered over 30 men of military age including two soldiers. The third to be called, Baucq, when asked if that was his name – “Sind Sie Baucq?” – answered “Oui monsieur, et bon patriote!”. Bodart, when asked if she too was a patriot, replied “Ce n’est pas un défaut!”. Eventually several defendants were sentenced to death though many of these sentences, including Bodart's, were commuted, in her case to 15 years’ penal servitude.

It has been suggested by some historians that this may have been following a plea in mitigation of the defendant having dependent minors, a common plea at the time. Cavell was duly shot. Apparently Bodart was one of the last people to see her on the eve of her execution. Naturally, Bodart’s incarceration ceased at the end of the War.

On release, Bodart was like many, financially in some trouble and claimed compensation in over 4000 francs from the British government for her expenditure in aiding fleeing servicemen. She was awarded at first 1000 francs, though later the full amount, and also the medal of the Order of the British Empire. In 1923 the *Sunday Post* newspaper published in instalments her own account of her life.

She also appeared in a controversial film. It was not uncommon after the War that films were made about which

featured actual locations and actual actors in the historical sense.

One of these productions was British, about the life and death of Edith Cavell, entitled *Dawn* and featuring as Cavell a leading actress of the day, Dame Sybil Thorndike. There had been an incident in court during the trial of the Cavell network, in which Philippe, Bodart's son, was questioned from the Bench, and his mother rose to intervene as he was a minor. Bodart for this scene in the film appeared as herself and was billed second in the publicity of the entire production. The film met with positive critical acclaim, but not political: Austen Chamberlain, British foreign minister, refused to see it, provoking no little controversy, and prompting Bodart to return her OBE in protest. *Dawn* is often cited as an early example of official censorship in Britain; another view posited is that ten years after the War, people wanted to "move on" and felt the film was too anti-German, or blatantly so. Bodart was no Germanophile, and in protest at what she considered were too-warm British-German relations rescinded her British state pension. She occasionally gave talks about her past which would, one historian has observed, alter her place of birth according to where she was speaking.

Ada Bodart died aged 61 in her hometown of Brussels after a short illness. A funeral service was held on 10 February at the Cathedral of St Michael and St Gudula in Brussels. On 11 October 2016, the Ulster History Circle unveiled a blue plaque in William Street, Newry, dedicated to her.

Acknowledgment - Richard Froggatt and the Dictionary of Ulster Biography

On this Day – October 12

1915

British nurse Edith Cavell, 49, is shot for helping 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium. "Patriotism is not enough," she reportedly tells a chaplain on the eve of her execution. "I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone." First World War heroine, Ada Bodart, who was born in William Street, Newry, in 1874, worked alongside Nurse Edith Cavell in a secret network which enabled Allied soldiers and prisoners of war escape from German-occupied Belgium.

1916

The British attack on a four mile front between Eaucourt and the Bapume-Peronne road. The line advances 500 to 1,000 yards.

1917

The British attack NE of Ypres on a six mile front from the French right, to the Ypres-Roulers railway. Some progress all along the line, but heavy rain stops the chance of any big advance.

Battle of Passchendaele

In terms of lives lost in a single day, 12 October 1917 ranks as the most catastrophic in the New Zealand's post-1840 history. On that day the New Zealand Division assaulted Bellevue Spur at Passchendaele, in Belgium.

The second of two attacks made by New Zealand troops during the Third Battle of Ypres, it was a disaster.

The New Zealanders began their advance at 5.25 a.m. on the 12th. The preliminary artillery barrage had been largely ineffective because thick mud made it almost impossible to bring heavy guns forward, or to stabilise those that were in position. Exposed to raking German machine-gun fire from both the front and the flank, and unable to get through uncut barbed wire, the New Zealanders were pinned down in shell craters.

Orders came for another push at 3 p.m., but this was mercifully cancelled at the last moment. The troops eventually fell back to positions close to their start line. For badly wounded soldiers lying in the mud, the aftermath of the battle was a private hell; many died before they could be rescued. Extensive efforts were made to get them out in the next two days, assisted by an informal truce that developed as Germans refrained from firing on stretcher parties.

On 18 October, Canadian troops relieved II ANZAC Corps. In a series of well-prepared but costly attacks in atrocious conditions, they finally occupied the ruins of Passchendaele village on 6 November. The offensive had long since failed in its strategic purpose and the capture of Passchendaele no longer represented any significant gain.

The toll was horrendous: 843 New Zealand soldiers were either dead or lying mortally wounded between the lines. After analysis of casualty figures it is estimated that fatalities as a result of the 12 October attack is 957 lives lost.

1918

It is reported that U.S. troops overseas number over 1,900,000.

Northern Whig - Ulster Division Rank & File Fatality Rifleman Joseph Uprichard, Ser. No. 75, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 6th September, 1918. Son of William John and Jane Uprichard, of Moira, County Down ; Husband of Margaret Uprichard, of 24, Templemore Street, Belfast. Deceased was 33 years of age and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

1919

Belfast Nationalist ex-soldiers paraded to St. Peter's Church, Falls Road, for a Requiem Mass in memory of all Roman Catholics who fell during the Great War

1939

Hans Frank appointed Nazi Gauleiter (governor) of Poland. Jews evacuate Vienna.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain rejects Hitler's "peace offer."

1940

President Roosevelt in a fireside chat suggests the drafting of 18 and 19 year old men.

Night raids on London continue.

Hitler postpones invasion of Britain until the spring 1941.

U-101 torpedoes and sinks the merchant ship Saint-Malo south of Iceland. The ship was a former French vessel requisitioned by the Canadian government. 28 are killed.

A German military mission is set up in Bucharest, Romania, for the purpose of aiding in the training of the Romanian Army.

1941

Army Group Centre captures Kaluga and Bryansk. Women and children evacuated from Moscow.

1942

Attorney General Francis Biddle announced that Italian nationals in the United States would no longer be considered enemy aliens.

1943

The Heaviest RAF attack so far on northern Italy, with more than 1,000 tons dropped on Milan in under 30 minutes.

350 allied bombers hit the Japanese base at Rabaul in New Britain. The damage reported includes 120 planes destroyed and three destroyers sunk.

The U.S. Fifth Army begins an offensive along the Volturno river in Italy.

1944

The Germans fall back across the Lower Rhine, west of Arnhem.

The Germans evacuate Athens.

The Germans manage to hold line of the Niemen to cover East Prussia.

First B-29 Superfortress arrives in the Marianas, Joltin' Josie, flown by 21st Bomber Command CO, General Haywood Hansell.

In Italy, Buffalo Soldiers of US 92nd Infantry Division breach Gothic Line, the only black unit to see combat in Europe.

Greek Resistance and British glider troops/paratroopers enter Athens, Greece.

Lt. Chuck Yeager (US 363rd Fighter Group) shoots down 5 German Me 109s in a single engagement over Holland.

Polygon Wood Cemetery

Polygon Wood Cemetery is located 8 kilometres east of Ypres town centre, near a road leading to Menen.

Polygon Wood is a large wood 1.6 kilometres south of the village of Zonnebeke which was completely devastated in the First World War. The wood was cleared by Commonwealth troops at the end of October 1914, given up on 3 May 1915, taken again at the end of September 1917 by Australian troops, evacuated in the Battles of the Lys, and finally retaken by the 9th (Scottish) Division on 28 September 1918.

On the Butte itself is the Battle Memorial of the 5th Australian Division, who captured it on 26 September 1917.



Polygon Wood Cemetery is an irregular front-line cemetery made between August 1917 and April 1918, and used again in September

1918. The cemetery contains 107 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 19 of them unidentified. 60 of those buried here served with the New Zealand forces. There is also one German grave within the cemetery. A walled avenue leads from Polygon Wood Cemetery, past the Cross of Sacrifice, to the Buttes New British Cemetery. This burial ground was made after the Armistice when a large number of graves (almost all of 1917, but in a few instances of 1914, 1916 and 1918) were brought in from the battlefields of Zonnebeke.

The Buttes New British Cemetery (New Zealand) Memorial, which stands in Buttes New British Cemetery, commemorates 378 officers and men of the New Zealand Division who died in the Polygon Wood sector between September 1917 and May 1918, and who have no known grave. The cemeteries and memorial were designed by Charles Holden. See also On This Day.

Photos of Polygon Wood courtesy of WW1 Cemeteries

Roll of Honour – October 12

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+RUDDOCK, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 6561. Died 12/10/1914. Age 42. Son of Robinson and Betina Ruddock of Ballywilly, Kilmore, Co. Armagh and formerly of Tartaraghan. Husband to Agnes. Le Touret Memorial, France

1915

+CROWE, Michael

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 7753. Died 12/10/1915. Age 36. Son of James and Mary Crowe; husband of Bridget Crowe, and father of James, of 29, Darkley Keady, Co. Armagh. The family were members of the Roman Catholic Church. Loos Memorial, France

+SHERIDAN, Thomas Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 5th Btn. C Coy. Private. 17684. Died 12/10/1915 of wounds. Age 20. Thomas was born about 1895. Military records suggest he was born in Sixmilecross, County Tyrone. The census records that he was born in County Monaghan. Thomas Sheridan enlisted in Omagh. Son of James and Mary Sheridan, of

Mullyconnor, Dungannon. Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

1916

+CUTLER, John Isaac

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd (Garrison) Btn. Colour Serjeant. G/1228. Died 12/10/1916, Husband of Kathleen Cutler, of 61, Belvoir St., Belfast. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

+BOYLE, George

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 20115. Died 12/10/1916. Age 23. In 1911 he was working as a farm servant for a Murphy family at Camlough. His brother Louis, a private with the Royal Irish Fusiliers died in Palestine in November 1918. Son of Edward and Mary Boyle, of Corromannon, Belleeks, Co. Armagh. The family were members of the Roman Catholic Church. Theipval Memorial, France

+GRAHAM, Albert

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 11984. Died 12/10/1916. Age 26. Son of Thomas Graham and the late Sarah Ann Graham (nee Craig) of 25, Carrickblacker Road, Portadown. London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, France

+GREGG, John William

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 16533. Died 12/10/1916 of wounds at 1st Southern General Hospital Birmingham. Age 27. Son of James and Lucy Gregg (nee



Polygon Wood cemetery

McCord), of Ballykeel, Artifinny. Hillsborough (St Malachi) C of I Churchyard.

+HEANEY, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 22744. Died 12/10/1916. Age 20. Son of Samuel J. and Elizabeth Heaney, of Tullymore Park, Armagh. Theipval Memorial, France

+HERON, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9220. Died 12/10/1916. Age 40. Brother of William James Heron, of 2,

Charlemont St., Belfast. Courcelette British Cemetery,
France

+IRELAND, Samuel James

The King's Liverpool Regiment. Second Lieutenant. Died
12/10/1916. Thiepval Memorial, France; Sydenham WM,
East Belfast

+LOCKHART, Robert

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 18559. Died
12/10/1916. Age 26. He was wounded on a raid at Petite
Douvre Farm and died from his wounds later that day. Son
of Robert and Eliza Jane Lockhart, of Main St., Tandragee.
Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+McGIVERN, Robert William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 23947. Died
12/10/1916. Age 20. He was wounded on a raid at Petite
Douvre Farm and died from his wounds later that day. Son
of William and Isabella McGivern, of Lisnogree, Poyntzpass.
Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+MURDOCH, Ross

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 12568. Died
12/10/1916. Age 38. Son of Nathaniel and Ann Murdoch, of
36, Trillick St., Belfast; husband to Elizabeth Cavan
(formerly Murdoch), of 56, Trillick St., Belfast. Thiepval
Memorial, France

+REANEY, Robert

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 18070. Died 12/10/1916. Enlisted in February 1915 and disembarked France in October 1916. During the attack on Hamel on 01/07/1916 he was a company runner and was wounded. He died in action during the attack on La Petite Douvre farm. Son of James and Martha Reaney of Darkley, County Armagh. He was one of twelve children. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium

1917**+FOX, Bernard**

Australian Army Medical Corps, 9th Field Amb. Private. 11980. Died 12/10/1917. In 1911 he was 22 years old and working as a farmer. He was living with his widowed mother Rose and brother Arthur at Killylin, Grange. Armagh. He emigrated and enlisted with Australian forces. He was a stretcher-bearer at Passchendaele Ridge where he was injured stretchering a patient from the battlefield. He died at Brennan House relay post the following day. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+WALLACE, Samuel

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. 34th Btn. Private. 2684. Died 12/10/1917. Fourth son of Samuel Wallace, Crumkill, Ballymena. He emigrated to Australia eight years before his death. His brother Private David Wallace was severely wounded on 15/09/1916 and was later discharged. Hooge Crater Cemetery, Belgium

1918**+BURTON, Robert**

King's Own Scottish Borderers. 10th Btn. Private. 47098. Died 12/08/1918. Born in Drumbo, Co. Down. He lived and enlisted at Belfast, served originally in RIR (686) and subsequently transferred to 10 KOSB. Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, Nord, France

**Polygon Wood cemetery****+CARSON, Herbert William**

RAMC. Lieutenant - Colonel. DSO. MiD twice. Died 12/10/1918 in Damascus. Larne Grammar School, Queen's, the Richmond Hospital, Dublin and the Royal University of Ireland, where he graduated MB., B.Ch and BAO. in 1905. He was known for being a keen sportsman, winning many

prizes on the track, while at college, and was a member of the XV. He was also an excellent golfer and tennis player. Herbert was gazetted Lieutenant RAMC on 29/07/1907, then went to India in 1909. He gained promotion to Captain on 29/01/1911. He was still serving in India when war broke out and proceeded to Egypt, where he was appointed Registrar of No 15 General Hospital. Between 04/07/1917 and 22/11/1917, he acted as Lieutenant Colonel, and was given command of a Field Ambulance.

He served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine until he was seriously wounded at Nebi Samevil on 22nd November. After recovering he was attached to the Headquarters of the Desert Mounted Corps, and was appointed acting Major from 21/01/1918 to 08/05/1918 and 29/05/1918 to 12/10/1918. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallant and distinguished service in the field. He died on 12/10/1918 at the English Hospital, Damascus of pneumonia, following malignant malaria. A brother officer wrote: "He was held in high esteem by all with whom he came in contact, and his loss was very deeply regretted." Born Larne 14/07/1892. Herbert was the second son of Thomas and Mary Carson (daughter of John McFaul of Glenarm), The Knowe, Larne. Brother of Holden and James, a dentist who also died in the war. Damascus Commonwealth War cemetery, Syria.

+COLLINS, George

4th Bn. Guards Machine Gun Regiment. Guardsman. 1031. Died 12/10/1918. Aged 37. Born Lucan, County Dublin. Son of Michael and Nancy Collins. Lived Ballycastle. Husband of

Anne, Knockumber, Navan, Co. Meath. Carnieres
Communal Cemetery Extension

+LEONARD, James Joseph

Royal Engineers, 157th Field Coy. Sapper. 36704. Died
12/10/1918. Age 30. Son of James and Sarah A. Leonard, of
Brackaville, Coalisland. Cambrin Military Cemetery, France.
Dungannon WM

+ROBINSON, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 11/2229. Died
12/10/1918. Age 29. Nephew of Maggie Robinson, of
Trummery by Moira. Dadizele Communal Cemetery,
Belgium

+MURPHY, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8785. Died
12/10/1918. Age 33. Husband to Catherine Murphy, of 7,
William St., Newry. Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel,
Germany

+PEDLOW, William

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Captain. Military Cross. Died
12/10/1918. Aged 24. The family had close links with
Ballymena and may have lived at Broughshane Road. Son
of William and Marianne Pedlow, 59 Anglesea Road, Dublin.
Honnechy British Cemetery Nord, France.

+SIMMS, Samuel

Canadian Infantry, (Alberta Regiment), 10th Btn. Private.
430110. Military Medal. Died 12/10/1918. The battalion

participated in every major Canadian battle of the First World War, and set a record for the most decorations earned by a Canadian unit in a single battle at Hill 70. The unit was known to its contemporaries simply as *The Fighting Tenth*. Enlisted 01/03/1915 in Victoria, British Columbia. Born 12/04/1890 at Ballygorman, Loughgilly. Son of James Simms of Ballygorman, Loughgilly which is halfway between Armagh and Newry. Chapel Corner Cemetery, Sauchy-Lestree, France. Canadian national First World War Book of Remembrance, page 500

1942

+KILGORE, John

Royal Artillery, 5 H.A.A. Regt. 7 Bty. Gunner. 872531. Died 12/10/1942. Aged 22. Son of James E. and Annie Kilgore, of Bellview Avenue, Londonderry. Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan

1943

+CARSON, Edward Henry Sidney

RN. Telegraphist. D/JX 158782. HM Submarine Usurper. Died 12/10/1943. Age 20. On 03/10/1943 HMS Usurper, a 'U' class submarine, was believed to have been sunk by depth charges after being attacked by the German anti submarine vessel in the gulf of Genoa. Failing to return to Algiers, HMS Usurper was posted missing presumed lost with all hands on 12/10/1943. Previously served in HMS Illustrious. Brother serving with RIF. Son of William J. and Olive V.M. Carson, Ballyronan, Magherafelt. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/10/1943). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 81

+FRASER, Melbourne Glaister

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1061575. Died 12/10/1943. Aged 30. 462 (R.A.A.F.) Sqdn . Law 1935 - 37, QUB. Son of John Kilpatrick Fraser and Margaret Glaister Fraser, of Belfast. Solicitor (Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland). Alamein Memorial, Egypt. QUB RH

1945**+FITCHIE, Samuel Jamieson**

RN. Sub-Lieutenant. Died 12/10/1945 of pulmonary tuberculosis in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast. Age 28. HMS Arawa. HMS Arawa was built as the *Esperance Bay* in 1921 by William Beardmore and Company Ltd., Dalmuir, Scotland and in 1936 she was renamed *Arawa*. Owned by the Shaw, Savill and Albion Company Ltd., London this passenger ship was requisitioned by the Admiralty and converted to an Armed Merchant Cruiser in 1939. She operated in the China, East Indies and South Atlantic Stations until 1941 when she was used as a troopship by the Ministry of War Transport (MOWT) and later as a repatriation ship for prisoners. HMS *Arawa* was returned to her owners in 1945. Born on 12/05/1917. Son of Robert H. M. Fitchie and Agnes Fitchie, *Stormont View*, Lower Castlereagh. Killinchy Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churchyard.

+HEWITT, William Herbert

Pioneer Corps. Private. 7667701. Died 12/10/1945. Age 27.
Son of David and Anna E. Hewitt, of Belfast. Padua War
Cemetery, Italy

VETERANS

KANE, Thomas

Today is the birthday of the late Bombardier Thomas
Henderson Kane, 1488019, 8th Belfast Heavy Anti Aircraft
(H.A.A.) Regt., 22nd Battery, Royal Artillery.

The regiment is known as 'The Twelve Mile Snipers' when in
support of ground troops they fired their guns in a ground to
ground role.

Thomas' grandson Nigel Johnson recalls - "Granda enlisted
on the 12th October 1939 at Clifton Street and joined his
unit at Green Road, Belfast. He then served in France
against Nazi Germany with the British Expeditionary Force
(BEF). Returning to England he was stationed in London
and Middlesbrough during the 'Blitz'. "

In 1942 he was sent to India with his regiment. For the next
two and a half years he served in Burma against Japan. The
war in Europe ended on the 8th May 1945, but for Tommy
and his comrades it would go on a further 4 months until the
surrender of the Japanese.

Thomas then returned home to Portrush, becoming well-
known as a bus driver for Ulster Transport and caretaker at
Portrush Primary School. He was a keen organist and
member of the Church Choir at Holy Trinity Church, he
passed away in December 1999.

Coincidentally Colonel O'Hara Logan who was principal of the school, commanded 102 Air Defence Regiment (TA) which was a successor regiment of the 8th Colonel Logan had served with the RAF in the Burma - China area.

"I only remember Granda mentioning the war once, he was much more interested in music and fixing clocks!" Nigel commented.

SMYTH, George Osbert Stirling

Major, Military Cross. French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Youngest son of George and Helen Ferguson Smyth of Banbridge.

He signed up for War service and was injured in early 1914. He was wounded again on 29/10/1915 and again on 21/12/1915. On 03/06/1916 he was awarded the Military Cross in the King's Birthday Honours. He received the Mons Star and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Eleven days after the murder of his brother Osbert, he insisted on a transfer in order to help crush the rebellion in Ireland.

On 12/10/1920 at 2.00am, he and a group of soldiers went to the house of a Professor Carolan in Fernside, Drumcondra, Dublin, where Osbert was murdered.

Like Gerald, Osbert's remains were taken from Clonaslee on Friday 15/10/1920 and interred in Banbridge Municipal Cemetery.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

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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