



remembrance ni



**The Garden of Remembrance ceremony at  
Belfast Cenotaph**

**“They buried him among the Kings because he  
had done good toward God and toward his  
house”**

**The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior**



The idea of a **Tomb of the Unknown Warrior** was first conceived in 1916 by the Reverend David Railton, who, while serving as an army chaplain on the Western Front, had seen a grave marked by a rough cross, which bore the pencil-written legend 'An Unknown British Soldier'.

He wrote to the Dean of Westminster in 1920 proposing that an unidentified British soldier from the battlefields in France be buried with due ceremony in Westminster Abbey "amongst the kings".

On the morning of 11 November 1920, the body of the Unknown Warrior" was laid in a grave which was then capped with a black Belgian marble stone (the only tombstone in the Abbey on which it is forbidden to walk) featuring this inscription, composed by Herbert Edward



Ryle, Dean of Westminster, engraved with brass from melted down wartime ammunition.

Beneath this stone rests the body  
Of a British warrior  
Unknown by name or rank  
Brought from France to lie among  
The most illustrious of the land  
And buried here on Armistice Day  
11 Nov: 1920, in the presence of  
His Majesty King George V  
His Ministers of State  
The Chiefs of his forces  
And a vast concourse of the nation

Thus are commemorated the many  
Multitudes who during the Great  
War of 1914 – 1918 gave the most that  
Man can give life itself  
For God  
For King and country  
For loved ones home and empire  
For the sacred cause of justice and

## The freedom of the world

They buried him among the kings because he  
Had done good toward God and toward  
His house

### **Around the main inscription are four New Testament quotations:**

The Lord knoweth them that are his (top; 2 Timothy 2:19)  
Unknown and yet well known, dying and behold we live  
(side; 2 Corinthians 6:9)

Greater love hath no man than this (side; John 15:13)

In Christ shall all be made alive (base; 1 Corinthians 15:22)

**On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme.**

None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why.

The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied.



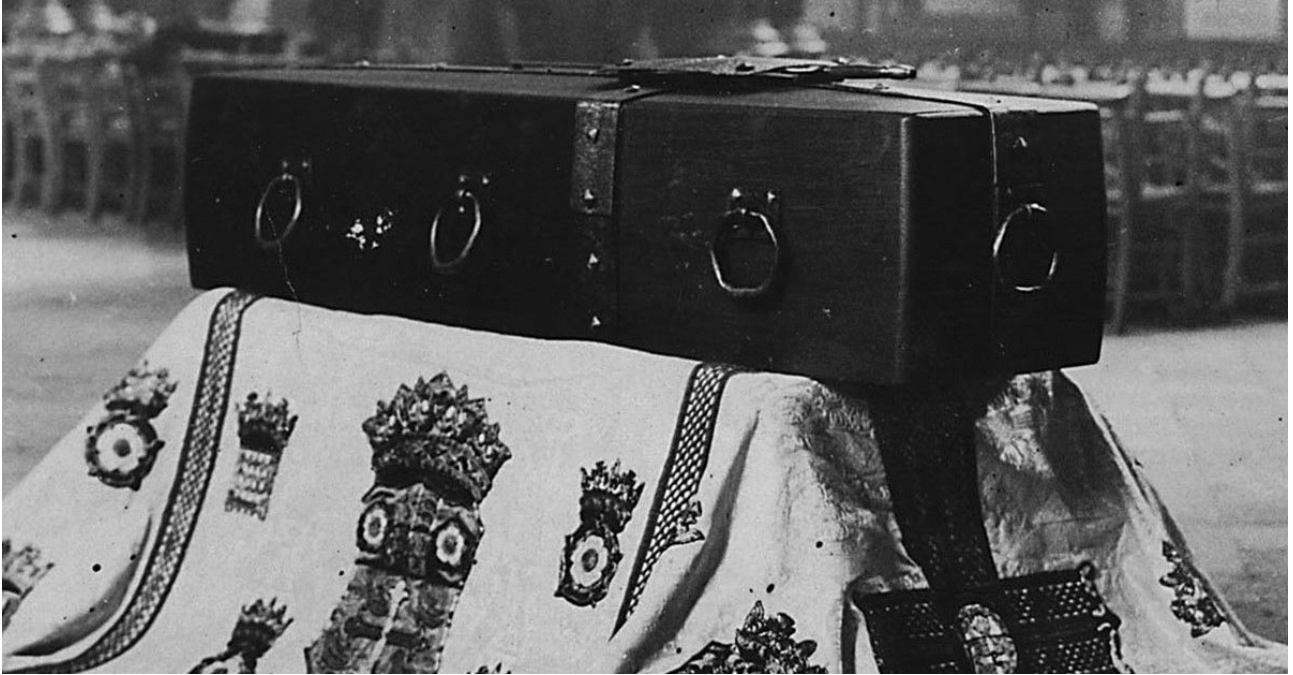
**The body of the Unknown Warrior was carried onto HMS Verdun in Boulogne and sailed to Dover.**

A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight of the chosen soldier overnight.

On the morning of the 8th November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside.(Photo next page).

On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed:

"A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".



On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside.

There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals.

A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London.

He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.



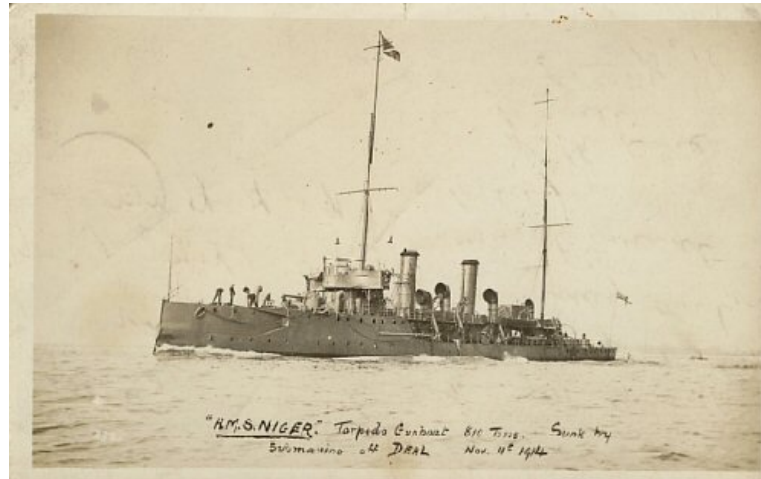
Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

**Sir Douglas Haig walks alongside the gun carriage transporting the coffin of the Unknown Warrior on its journey to Westminster Abbey.**

It was Padre David Railton's intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son...

The King - and nearly 1,000 widows and mothers of men killed in World War One - were present as the warrior was buried at the Abbey. A handful of earth from France was then dropped by the king onto his coffin during the service.

# On this Day – November 11



## 1914

Minesweeper HMS Niger (built as a torpedo gunboat 1892 and converted to a minesweeper 1909) was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-12 off Deal. A courageous rescue operation saved many of those on board, but 15 crewmen lost their lives.

## 1918

The First World War ended

The Armistice of Compiègne was signed at 5:45 a.m. Fighting continued until it came into force at 11:00 a.m Paris time, with 2,738 men dying in the last hours of the war, and marked a victory for the Allies and a defeat for Germany.

Over 210,000 Irish-born soldiers fought, the majority with the United Kingdom. 4,731 also fought with Australia and 19,327 with Canada.

At least 30,986 Irish-born soldiers were killed; some estimate 40,000.

## **1920**

The Unveiling of the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London

## **1939**

HRH Princess Elizabeth broadcasts a message to the women of the Empire, calling them to join the war effort.

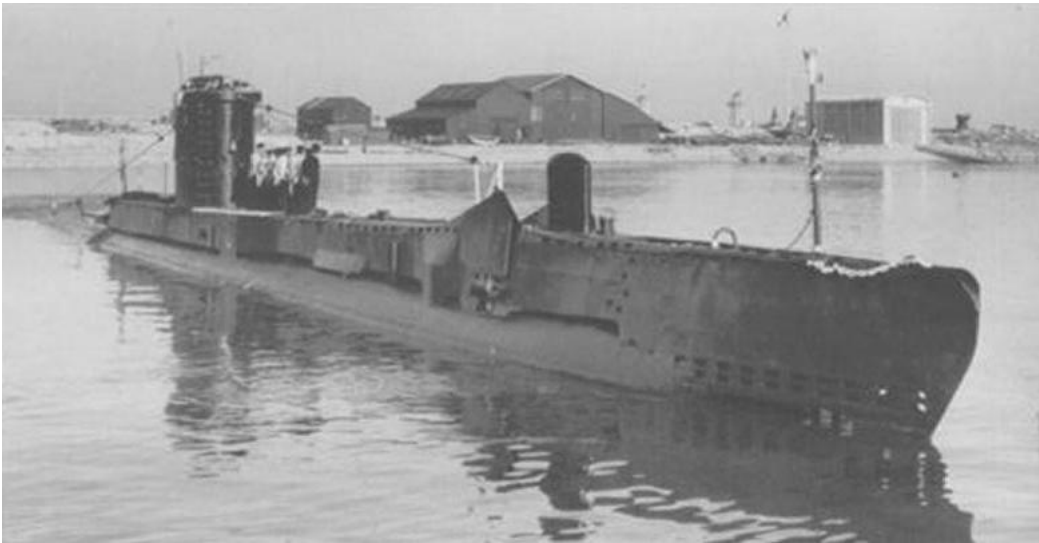
## **1940**

On the anniversary of the end of World War I, several hundred Paris students stage a disorganized protest on the Champs Elysee over the arrest of a popular professor. Although Gaullists in London report several deaths, it appears no one was killed, but 123 students are arrested. Although it is the first sign of organized anti-German feeling since the armistice in June, German authorities report to Berlin that the small size and unorganized nature of the protest demonstrates that pro-Gaullist feeling is minimal.

Italian aircraft attack Thames Estuary with little success: first and last Italian air attack on Britain.

The British Fleet launches an air attack against the Italian fleet at Taranto. Swordfish aircraft from the Aircraft Carrier HMS Illustrious damage three battleships, two cruisers, two destroyers and two auxiliaries craft. This British victory, forces the Italians to temporary withdraw their big surface units to the safer ports on the west coast of Italy.

The RAF's first offensive air operations in Greece are carried out by Blenheims in a low-level attack on Valaca airfield.



## 1942

Submarine HMS Unbeaten was destroyed when she was depth-charged and sunk in error by an RAF Wellington in the Bay of Biscay. She went down with all hands: 36 officers and men.

In the United States the draft age is lowered to 18

The United States extends Lend-Lease aid to the Free French Forces under General de Gaulle.

German forces begin the occupation of those parts of France controlled by the Vichy government. In a letter to Marshal Petain, Hitler declares that the purpose of this move is "to protect France" against the allies.

French Admiral Jean Francios Darlan joins French General Alphonse Juin in calling an all-out cease fire for French forces throughout Africa.

6th Army launches its last major attack to capture Stalingrad and succeeds in reaching the Volga near the Red October factory on a frontage of 600 yards. The 13th Panzer-Division of III Panzer Corps begins to disengage its units halted before Ordshonikidse to avoid being cut off by the heavy Soviet attacks against its communications.

On 11/11/1942, men from all parts of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales left Greenock with **38 (Irish) Brigade** on route for Algiers. 30 months of bitter fighting lay ahead for the Skins, Faughs and London Irish Rifles. Many of them now rest in Tunisia and Italy

## 1943

Auschwitz Kommandant Hass is promoted to chief inspector of concentration camps. The new kommandant, Liebehenschel, then divides up the vast Auschwitz complex of over 30 sub-camps into three main sections.

FDR Secretly Leaves the U.S. on the USS Iowa

American air power continues to hit Rabaul.

## 1944

The German First Army HQ leaves Metz as the U.S. Third Army gains three bridgeheads over the Moselle.



# Roll of Honour – November 11

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1914**

**+ADAIR, Robert James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. . 8995. Rifleman. Died 11/11/1914. Age 24. Son of Robert Hunter Adair, of 84, Brussels St., Belfast, and the late Elizabeth Adair. His brother John Adair also died in service. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+ALLISON, William John**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 7864. Died at home on 11/11/1914. Born at Slatt Ballymena, the son of Thomas and Agnes Allison, nee Dunseath. William enlisted in Belfast and lived in Drogheda. His name is recorded on the Brookwood Memorial. The Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial is a memorial which commemorates casualties with no known grave. The majority of the casualties commemorated there are service personnel from the land forces of the UK, who subsequently died in the care of their families.

**+DICKEY, James**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. G Coy. Corporal. 8995. Died 11/11/1914. Age 24. Son of William and Letitia Dickey, of 6, Dayton St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+DUNNE, Thomas**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9406. Died 11/11/1914. Age 25. Son of John and Eliza Dunne, of 25, Steens Row, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+FERRIS, Samuel**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9153. Died 11/11/1914. Age 40. Husband to Catherine Ferris, of 914, Crumlin Rd., Ballysillan, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+HANRATTY, Thomas**

Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 5240. Died 11/11/1914. Born at Mullabawn, Forkhill, Co Armagh. Enlisted Irvine, Ayrshire. Disembarked in France in September 1914. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+KELSO, John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 4674. Died 11/11/1914. Son of Isaac Kelso, of 6, Britton St., Belfast. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

**+KENNEDY, William Wolfe**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7223. Died 11/11/1914. Age 25. Son of John and Sarah Kennedy, of 57, Island St., Belfast. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West-Vlaanderland, Belgium

**+KERR, Peter**

Scots Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 8778. Died 11/11/1914. Age 24. The Portadown Express of 17/09/1915 reported that

some of his pals in the regiment felt he was a prisoner of war and stated his mother would be grateful for any information about him. Son of James and Bridget Kerr of Liskeyborough, Richill. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+McCARTNEY, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7252. Died 11/11/1914. Age 29. Born on 23/09/1885 in Ballyhamage, Doagh. Enlisted Ballykinlar. Son of David John and Margaret (nee Lawther) McCartney, of 2, Mashona St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Ballyclare WM

### **+McGUIGAN, Samuel**

Cameron Highlanders, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 4979. Died 11/11/1914. Enlisted Edinburgh whilst living in Juniper St., in the city. There is a possibility that he was the son of Arthur and Janet (nee Burgess) McGuigan of Ballyclare, and born on 29/06/1880. He was husband to Margaret. Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium

### **+McILROY, William John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd. Btn. Rifleman. 8769. Died 11/11/1914. Age 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. McIlroy, of 5, Fort St., Banbridge. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West-Vlaanderland, Belgium. Seapatrck C of I Parish WM, Banbridge

### **+MONTGOMERY, Charles**

Scots Guards, 1st Btn. Guardsman. 8608. Died 11/11/1914. Born 23/05/1888 in Ballymena. Son of Robert James and

Agnes Montgomery. By 1890, the family had moved to Cookstown. They lived in Killymoon Street. Charles was a worker in flax store. He enlisted in Glasgow, Scotland. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West-Vlaanderland, Belgium. Cookstown WM, Molesworth St., Presbyterian Church RH

### **+STEWART, James A**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8264. Died 11/11/1914. Born Carrickfergus 1888. Husband to Mary Stewart, Commons Milebush area of Carrickfergus. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West-Vlaanderland, Belgium

### **+WILLIAMSON, Francis**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 9088. Died 11/11/1914. Age 38. Son of William John and Mary Jane Williamson, of 31, Kendal St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

## **1915**

### **+COCHRANE, Thomas Hill**

Canadian Infantry, 21st Btn. (Eastern Ontario Regt.). Lance Corporal. 59175. Died 11/11/1915. Age 24. Born 13/09/1891, Craigs, Cullybackey. Brother of Sergeant John Harvey Cochrane, 12/18891, 12th Btn (Central Antrim Volunteers) Royal Irish Rifles killed in action on the 24/03/1918, aged 33. Thomas and John were the sons of John and Margaret Cochrane. Thomas was husband to Bertha. Ridge Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

### **+EWING, Frederick**

Australian Infantry. AIF. 17<sup>th</sup> Btn. Private. 1190. Died 11/11/1915. Family emigrated from Magherafelt district.

Native of Moruya, New South Wales. Son of James and Sarah Ewing, of Goolmangar, New South Wales. Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey

### **+O'LONE, Robert James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Captain. Died 11/11/1915. Age 31. Son of John and Mary O'Lone, of Belfast; husband of Gladys Louise O'Lone, of 11, Grove Avenue, Twickenham, Middx. Tancrez Farm Cemetery, Belgium

## **1916**

### **+DUNLOP, Samuel**

Royal Field Artillery, 364th Bty. Gunner. 80564. Died 11/11/1916. Age 21. Son of Samuel and Mary Dunlop, of 29, Wilson St., Belfast. Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

### **+IRWIN, William**

Canadian Infantry, 47th Btn. Private. 78024. Died 11/11/1916. His battalion was part of the Canadian division which captured the German held Regina Trench and where William died in action. In 1901 William, aged 22, was working as a postman and living with his widowed mother at Ballymore, Tandragee. He emigrated to Canada and enlisted in 1916. Vimy Memorial, France

## **1917**

### **+WRIGHT, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles. Second Lieutenant. Died 11/07/1917. In September 1914, he joined QUB OTC and received his commission with the 18th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, a home-based reserve battalion, in May 1916. He was posted

to Egypt in September 1917, having been attached to the 2/5th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, which was part of the 31st Brigade, 10th(Irish) Division. Robert Wright was killed in action, at the age of 21, on 07/11/1917 during the Third Battle of Gaza, in which Jerusalem was captured by British forces under the command of General Allenby.

The battalion suffered over 120 casualties with 23 men being killed. The battalion war diary states the following about the day's action:

“The battalion was ordered to attack the Hareira Tepe redoubt situated about 2 miles north of the Rushdi system. At 7am the attack was launched supported to the right by the 6th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and 4 Vickers Guns. The battalion came under heavy shell fire shortly after the attack commenced but casualties were few from this cause. About 1200 yards from the position, the battalion came under the most heavy concentrated machine gun fire and during its advance to the final position suffered many casualties. The right and centre portion of the line reached a position about 300 yards from the object from which further advance was impossible. The Turks retired and the battalion was able to charge the position; the Hareira Tepe redoubt was found to be a very strong position with two lines of fire and numerous machine gun emplacements. The redoubt dominates the surrounding positions: from information received from prisoners and from personal observation, it was defended by at least 30 machine guns and a garrison of about 300 men. The battalion camped on the occupied ground. The Divisional Commander personally congratulated the CO and the battalion on their magnificent performance.”

Robert Wright was born on 08/03/1896 at “Downan” in Ballantrae, Ayrshire, the third of four children (and the only son) born to David Wright and Marion Dunlop Wright (who later lived at “The Moat” in Dundonald). David Wright, a Justice of the Peace, owned a bottle manufacturing company on Stranmillis Road close to the family home at “Dunesk” (130 Stranmillis Road). The family moved to 11 Lower Crescent in 1912. Second Lieutenant Robert Wright remains are buried in the Gaza War Cemetery. His name is commemorated on Fitzroy PC WM, PCI RH, RBAI WM

**1918**

**+BELL, John Mercer Grimshaw**

Royal Air Force, 7th Squadron. Lieutenant. Formerly of Royal Field Artillery. MC. Died 11/11/1918. Appointed Temporary Lieutenant 18/02/1918, London Gazette. Son of Richard and Annie Stewart Bell, of Maple Cottage, Sooke, British Columbia, Canada. Late of Ireland. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France. Hollywood WM, Helen’s Bay C of I WM.

**+CURRIE, Samuel**

Army Ordnance Corps, No. 9 Section (York). Private. 044342. Died 11/11/1918. Age 28. Husband to Martha Currie, of 20, Island St., Belfast. Thorncliffe Cemetery, Barrow-in-Furness.

**+DOHERTY, Denis**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Lance Corporal. 6/12972. Died 11/11/1918. Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, France

**+HIGGINS, W**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Lance Corporal. 3320. Died 11/11/1918. Belfast City Cemetery

**+IRWIN, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 583. Died 11/11/1918. Age 30. Son of Hugh and Ann Irwin, of Belfast. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

**+JOHNSTON, Robert John**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Coy. 15th Btn. Corporal. 15/12936. Died 11/11/1918. Age 23. Son of Richard and Emma Johnston (nee Baird), of Ligoniel, Belfast. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

**+MURRAY, James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 27502. Died 11/11/1918. Age 36 years old. Son of George and Bertha Murray, of Muff, Co. Donegal; husband to Isabel Murray, of Culmore, Londonderry. Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, France

**1919**

**+NESBITT, R W**

Royal Engineers. Sapper. WR/260378. Died 11/11/1919. Age 25. Son of Joseph and Charlotte Nesbitt, of 6, Athol St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

**1942**

**+ADAMS, Herbert Charles Nigel**

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 128851. Died on 11/11/1942, aged 24. On 11th November 1942 he was flying solo in Oxford I, N4596 doing circuits around the airfield at Wheaton Aston. The aircraft crashed at Lapley to the northwest of Birmingham and P.O. Adams succumbed to his injuries. Son of Benjamin Samuel and Emily Jane Adams of Newry. St. Patrick Church of Ireland Churchyard, Newry

**1944**

**+BORLEY, Ian Edward Maitland**

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1396469. Died 11/11/1944. Aged 21. 224 Sqdn. He was born in Rathmines, Dublin and lived in Armagh. Runnymede Memorial. Son of Edward William Harold and Doris Kate Borley, of Colchester, Essex.

**+HURSON, William Redmond**

RAFVR. 211 Sqdn. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 1140213. Died 11/11/1944. Age 25. Son of John and Martha Hurson, of Belfast. Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia

**1945**

**+FRENCH, William**

RAFVR. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 1905636. Died 11/11/1945. Aged 22. Son of David and Mary French, Belfast. Colombo (Liveramentu) Cemetery, Sri Lanka

**+MONTGOMERY, John Henry**

RAF. Corporal. 631441. Died 15/11/1945. Aged 26. Son of

Thomas William and Sarah Jane Montgomery. Dundonald Cemetery

**1947**

**+MOORE, John**

RAFV. Gunner.1903432.115 Squadron. Died 11/11/1947. Aged 28. 115 Squadron. Moore was a gunner on Avro Lancaster B1 TW647 taking part in a fighter affiliation exercise from RAF Witchford, Cambridgeshire. This Lancaster was second last on the starboard side of the 6-plane formation. De Havilland Hornet F1 PX284 simulated an attack from the rear but misjudged the breakaway distance. The escort plane collided with the larger Lancaster bomber.

The Hornet lost its port wing causing the plane to lose control and come down near Stanford, Norfolk. The Lancaster went into a shallow dive that increased causing the nose to break off behind the pilot's seat. This threw Flight Officer PE Clarke clear and allowed him to deploy his parachute. All other crew members on board Lancaster TW647 died in the crash.

John was the son of John Moore and Margaret Moore of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery, Newtownabbey.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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masthead.**

**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. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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