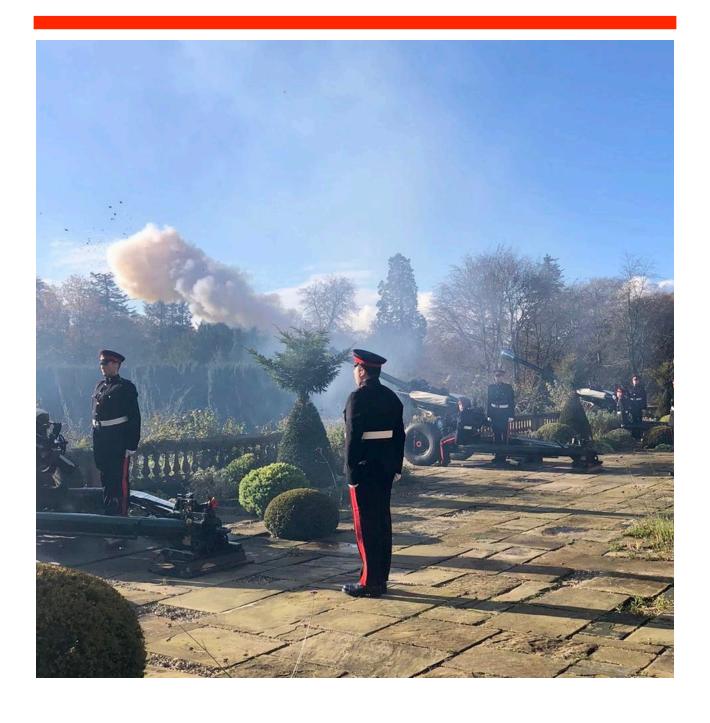


## remembrance ni



**Ulster Gunners firing a Royal Salute at Hillsborough** 

# **On this Day - November 15**

#### 1918

Sir Edward Carson and Sir James Craig launched a campaign to raise the funds to enable them to build a memorial fitting of the 'gallant deeds of the Ulster Division.'

In the Belfast Newsletter on the 15th November 1918, Carson stated, 'I suggest that a monument be erected on a suitable site on the battlefield to commemorate for all time the heroic deeds of those men; and, to that end, that a Fund be started in which all sympathisers may participate: any balance to be devoted to the U.V.F Patriotic Fund. Craig was now appointed honorary treasurer.

Later it was announced in the papers that 'preliminaries to the erection at Thiepval of a memorial to the dead of the Ulster Division have now been completed.' Readers were also informed that the memorial would take the shape of, 'a modified reproduction of Helen's Tower.'

#### 1919

The first dinner of the 36th Ulster Division Officers Old Comrades Association took place on Friday 14th November in the Café Royal, Belfast.

A number of speeches were made including a speech by Major JD McMullan DSO. These were recorded in the

Belfast News Letter 15th November 1919. "Major J D McMullan D.S.O. said he has just come direct from Germany and he brought with him a message of greeting from the remnants of the Division the 12th Royal Irish Rifles. The battalion was still playing the game and was still keeping up the splendid traditions of the Division – traditions that have been won on many a hard fought field

#### 1939

The German pocket-battleship Admiral Graf Spee\_sinks the merchantman Africa Shell off Mozambique.

#### 1940

67 RAF Wellington, Whitley, and Hampden bombers attack Hamburg, doing extensive damage to the city and shipyards, with no loss of aircraft.

The prototype de Havilland Mosquito takes off for the first time; designed as a bomber fast enough to dispense with defensive armament, it has a top speed of 400 mph (644 km/h).

RAF squadrons deploy from their bases in the Middle East to Greece under the command of Air Vice-Marshal J D'Albiac.

Blenheims and Wellingtons of the Western Desert Air Force attack targets deep inside enemy territory, and Lysanders and Blenheims provide complete reconnaissance of Italian defenses at Sidi Barrani.

The Warsaw Ghetto, containing over 400,000 Jews, is sealed off.

#### 1941

In temperatures of -20°C, Army Group Centre resumes its offensive against Moscow, employing Panzer Groups 1, 2 and 3, as well as the 2nd, 4th and 9th Armies.

The de Havilland Mosquito light bomber enters service with No. 105 Sqn at RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk. However, it was on 31 May 1942 that the Mosquito took part in its first operational raid (Cologne).

A Japanese special negotiator arrives in Washington.

#### 1942



Royal Navy Escort Carrier HMS Avenger is hit by a torpedo fired from a u-boat and is lost in only 12 minutes. The speed of the loss was caused by explosion in the bomb room and resulted in 526 men lost with only 12 survivors.

Another night action off Guadalcanal costs the US Navy three destroyers for Japanese battleship Kirishma.

#### 1943

The allied expeditionary air force is formed in Britain for the invasion of Europe.

Mark Clark calls off the U.S. Fifth Army's offensive. The British counter-attack on Leros fails as the Luftwaffe flies 600 sorties a day. A State of emergency is declared in Milan as unrest in northern Italy continues. The Germans take 1,750 hostages; machine guns are in the streets and 8pm curfew enforced.

The 2nd Tactical Air Force (2nd TAF) is formed; this in turn forms part of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force (AEAF), commanded by Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, in preparation for the invasion of mainland Europe.



### **Caterpillar Valley Cemetery**

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery contains 5,571 WW1 burials of which 3,793 are unidentified. Caterpillar Valley was the name given by the army to the long valley which



rises eastwards, past "Caterpillar Wood", to the high ground at Guillemont.

Caterpillar Valley was the name given by the army to the long valley which runs West to East, past "Caterpillar Wood", to the high ground at Guillemont. Longueval village is on the Northern crest of this valley and 500 metres West of the village, on the South side of the road to Contalmaison, is Caterpillar Valley Cemetery.

Caterpillar Valley was captured during a successful night assault by the 3rd, 7th and 9th Divisions on Bazentin Ridge on 14 July 1916. It was lost in the German advance of March 1918 and recovered by the 38th (Welsh) Division on 28 August 1918, when a little cemetery was made (now Plot 1 of this cemetery) containing 25 graves of the 38th Division

and the 6th Dragoon Guards. After the Armistice, this cemetery was hugely increased when the graves of more than 5,500 officers and men were brought in from other small cemeteries, and the battlefields of the Somme. The great majority of these soldiers died in the autumn of 1916 and almost all the rest in August or September 1918.

Of the burial grounds from which Commonwealth graves were taken to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery:-

CLARK's DUMP CEMETERY, BAZENTIN, was a little West of High Wood, on the road from Bazentin-le-Petit to Flers. It



contained the graves of 26 soldiers from the United Kingdom, and two from South Africa, who fell in August-December 1916.

GINCHY
GERMAN
CEMETERY (500
metres North of

the village, between the Flers and Lesboeufs roads), in which two unknown British soldiers were buried.

McCORMICK's POST CEMETERY, FLERS, nearly two kilometres West of Flers village. Here were buried 19 soldiers from the United Kingdom, nine from Australia and nine from New Zealand, who fell in September-November 1916.

MARTINPUICH ROAD CEMETERY, BAZENTIN, contained the graves of 41 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in July and August 1916.

SNOWDON CEMETERY, BAZENTIN, in Bazentin-le-Grand village, contained the graves of 24 soldiers of the 38th (Welsh) Division who fell in August and September 1918.

WELSH CEMETERY, LONGUEVAL, between Flers village and High Wood, in which were buried 17 soldiers of the 38th (Welsh) Division who fell in August and September 1918.

CATERPILLAR VALLEY CEMETERY now contains 5,573 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 3,798 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 32 casualties known or believed to be buried among them, and to three buried in McCormick's Post Cemetery whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

On the 6th November 2004, the remains of an unidentified New Zealand soldier were removed from this cemetery and entrusted to New Zealand at a ceremony held at the Longueval Memorial, France. The remains had been exhumed by staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission from Plot 14, Row A, Grave 27 and were later laid to rest within the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, at the National War Memorial, Wellington, New Zealand.

On the east side of the cemetery is the CATERPILLAR VALLEY (NEW ZEALAND) MEMORIAL, commemorating more than 1,200 officers and men of the New Zealand Division who died in the Battles of the Somme in 1916, and whose graves are not known.

#### Remembrance Ni, November 15



This is one of seven memorials in France and Belgium to those New Zealand soldiers who died on the Western Front and whose graves are not known. The memorials are all in cemeteries chosen as appropriate to the fighting in which the men died.

Both the cemetery and the memorial were designed by Sir Herbert Baker.



# **Roll of Honour - November 15**

#### Representing their comrades who died on this day

#### 1914

#### +AGNEW, Joseph

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Private. 7516. Died 15/11/1914. From Larne. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

#### +FRY, William

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 1245. Died 15/11/1914. Age 31. Son of John and Martha Fry, of Tullylish, Gilford; husband to Annie Fry, Red Row, Gilford, Co. Down. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France. Seapatrick Parish Church RH, Banbridge

#### +HANLON, T

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 4921. Died 15/11/1914. Age 30. Brother of Mrs. Mary Jane Piddock, of 29, Kilronan St., Duncairn Gardens, Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

#### +McBLAIN, James

Gordon Highlanders, 1st Btn. Private. 3/6756. Died 15/11/1914. Age 38. Born 30/01/1876, William Street, Newtownards. Husband to Anne Mary White (Minnie), 4 Church Terrace, Newtownards. Father to seven children. Son of Stewart and Mary (Dowling) McBlain. Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

#### +ORR, Hamilton

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. B Coy. Rifleman.6795. Died 15/11/1914. Age 30. 12 years Service (10 in India). After the outbreak of the Great War, Rifleman Hamilton Orr returned through Aden and he arrived in Liverpool on 22 October 1914. He was granted two day's leave of absence and he came home for a brief visit to Newtownards. He returned to England to re-join his Battalion at Horsley Park Camp in Winchester and he left there on 5 November 1914 to go to the Western Front. On 10 November 1914, his mother received a postcard from him telling her that he was well. The next communication that the family received was a letter from Company Sergeant Major C.H. Welsman (No. 6198) informing them that Rifleman Hamilton Orr had been killed in the trenches at Rue Tilleloy on the night of 15/11/1914 (the Battalion had gone into the trenches for the first time that afternoon). Major Welsman assured them that Hammy's death had been 'almost painless'. Hamilton Orr was born on 28/12/1884 in Shuttlefield, Newtownards and he was the second son of James and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Orr (nee Dickson) who were married on 19/11/1880 in Newtownards C of I Parish Church (St Mark's). Rue-du-Bacquerot (13th London) Graveyard, Laventie, Fance; Newtownards and District War Memorial; Strean

Presbyterian Church Newtownards; Family Grave Headstone in Movilla Cemetery, Newtownards

#### 1915

#### +DUDDY, Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 6th Btn. Private. 18621. Died 15/11/1915. Age 46. Born Faughanvale, Co. Derry 07/08/1869. Son of Henry and Ann (Curran) Duddy. Husband to Catherine Doherty, 17/11/1892. Lived in Coleraine and at 8 Kirklow St., Carluke. Enlisted Carluke, Lanarkshire 28/12/1914. Father of Private William Duddy, Highland Light Infantry, 12th Btn. Died 25/04/1917 in France. Alexandria (Chatby) Cemetery, Egypt. Memorial in Carluke, Lanarkshire

#### 1916

#### +GORDON, James

Royal Irish Rifles.11th Btn. Rifleman. 3747. Died 15/11/1916. Age 24. Son of Wilson Gordon and Agnes Gordon, of Straid, Gracehill, Ballymena. His brother Corporal Robert Gordon, 1st Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario) Regiment died in June 1915. La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery

#### +GORMAN, J J

Seaforth Highlanders.1st/6th Btn. Private. 3636. Died 15/11/1916. Age 32. Husband of Catherine Gorman, of 41, Emerson Row, Ligoniel, Belfast. Mailly Wood Cemetery, Mailly-Maillet, France

#### +McCLEAN, W

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. attd. 10th Trench Mortar Bty. Lance Corporal. 18217. Died 15/11/1916. Age 21. Son of James and Charlotte McClean, of Keilpoint, Dundrum. La Plus Douvre Farm Cemetery, Belgium

#### +McFADDEN, J

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 17/1253. Died 14/11/1916. Age 26. Son of Joseph and Emily McFadden, of Newry St., Banbridge. Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium

#### 1917

#### +McGAHEY, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Private. 15897. Died 15/11/1917. Age 22. Son of Andrew and Ellen McGahey, 4 Davy's Row, Ballycastle. Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

#### **+DONNELLY**, James

165th Infantry Regiment (better known as the 69th New York). Sergeant. Died 15/10/1918. Age 23. Born in County Tyrone, son of Michael and Catherine Donnelly (nee Mooney) of Drumallan. He sailed from Derry on 14/04/1914, bound for Newark, New Jersey. When the United States entered the war in April 1917, James Donnelly was eligible for conscription, and when the 42nd (Rainbow) Division was activated in August 1917, he was drafted to Company B of the 165th Infantry Regiment. Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, Meuse, France.

#### 1918

#### +McCANN, R

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Private. 152596. Died 15/11/1918 of war wounds. Born at 33 Hollywood Street, Belfast lived at 75 Newcastle Street. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

#### +STARTUP, Robert George

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), Training Btn. Private. 180506. Died 15/11/1918. Age 28. Husband to Agnes Startup, of 75, Manor St., Belfast. St Pancras Cemetery, Middlesex

#### +WILLIAMSON, Thomas Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 3rd Btn. Private. 6529. Died 15/11/1918. Age 43 years old. Son of Thomas and Sarah Ann Williamson; husband to Jeannie Williamson, of 22, Brittanic St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

#### 1940

#### +COUSINS, Austin

RAF. Aircraftman 1st Class. 653086. Died 15/11/1940. Aged 22. Son of Thomas and Margaret Cousins, of Brackagh. Clogherney Presbyterian Churchyard, County Tyrone. Dungannon WM

#### 1942

#### +BECKETT, James Ewart

Royal Navy. Leading Supply Assistant. C/MX 71721. HMS Avenger. Died 15/11/1942. Age 21. The escort carrier HMS

Avenger when it left Gibraltar the previous night to return to Britain after work had been completed on her engines. At 0320 the ship was attacked by U-boat U-155, was hit by a single torpedo and sank with the loss of 516 men. Only twelve members of the crew were rescued. He was a member of St Elizabeth's Church Lads' Brigade, Dundonald. Son of Isaac and Annie Edith Beckett, of Dundonald. Chatham Naval Memorial. Family memorial Dundonald Cemetery.

#### +BEGGS, Henry William

FAA. Lieutenant (A). Died 15/11/1942. Age 25. In May, 1939 he joined the Fleet Air Arm. In June 1940 he was attached to the RAF where he converted onto Hurricanes and was posted to No 151 Squadron at Martlesham Heath on 1 July. On 14 August he destroyed a Messerschmitt 109 over Kent but during an engagement with further 109s the following day he was shot down over Dover, crash landing near Folkestone. Only slightly wounded, he returned to the FAA shortly afterward and in January 1942 he joined 883 Squadron which embarked on the escort carrier HMS Avenger in May 1942. Tragically, he was lost on 15/11/1942 when Avenger was sunk to the west of Gibraltar by one torpedo from U-155 which detonated against the bomb store causing a massive explosion as a result of which the ship broke up and sank within minutes. Eldest son of Mr. J A and Mrs. Beggs of Irvinestown, Co Fermanagh. Husband to Rosemary Beggs, Chiswick, Middlesex. Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Bay 3. Enniskillen WM

#### **+BRENNAN**, James Francis

RN. Steward. Died at sea 15/11/1942. His effects valued at

£264 10s were gifted in his will to Margaret Brennan, a spinster. (Will abstract PRONI). Rushfield Avenue Belfast.

#### +GRIMLEY Patrick

Corps of Military Police, 115 Provost Coy. Lance Corporal. 3853199. Died 14/11/1942. Age 35. Son of Patrick and Bella Grimley, of Portadown. Alamein Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

#### +INSKIP, Kenneth Frederick George

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 126516. Died 15/11/1942. Aged 27. 46 Sqdn.Son of John Edward and Constance M. Inskip; husband to Alice Margaret Inskip, of Knock, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

#### **+LYTTLE**, George Aubrey

Royal Corps of Signals, 4 L. of C. Sigs. Signalman. 3712389. Died 14/11/1942. Age 22. Son of Alfred William and Mary Ann Lyttle of Portadown. Alamein Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

#### +NORRIS, John McGookin

HMS Caroline. RN. ERA Fourth Class. P/MX 89392. Died 15/11/1942. Age 21. HMS Algerine. Leader of the 12th Minesweeping Flotilla which was posted to the Mediterranean to assist with Operation Torch. In 1942, after a successful mine clearing operation off Bougie, she was torpedoed by the Italian submarine Asciaanghi, causing Algerine to sink, leaving only eight survivors. John had there years' service in RN. Formerly worked for D Scott and Son, Corporation St., Belfast. A brother-in-law was lost a year previously serving in the Merchant Navy. Son of Frederick James and Catherine Norris, of Belfast. (Belfast Weekly

Telegraph 11/12/1942). Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 6

#### +SMITH, Thomas Armstrong Smith

RNVR. Lieutenant (E). Died 15/11/1942. Age 37. HMS Avenger, an aircraft carrier. Thomas served his apprenticeship with the Electrical Department in Harland and Wolff. He was with the Union Castle Line from 1926. Son of Mrs. Margaret Smith, Kincora, Cregagh Rd., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 25/12/1942). Liverpool Naval Memorial, Panel 3

#### 1943

#### +ANDERSON, Marjorie Wilson

ATS. Women's Transport Service. Senior Commander. 192396. Died 15/11/1943. Age 41. She was a member of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and Senior Commander of an Auxiliary Territorial Service Camp in Ballymena. Daughter of Samuel Wilson Anderson, Chairman of the Braidwater Spinning Co. Ltd., and Edith Maude Monroe Anderson MBE, JP, Coleraine. Ballymena New Cemetery, Cushendall Road.

#### +HUTCHINSON, Norman

Royal Artillery. 7 Coast Regt. Gunner. 863250. Died 15/11/1943. Age 24. Son of John Henry and Maimie Hutchinson, of Cregagh, Belfast. Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar

#### +McMASTER, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6978240. Died between 15/11/1943 and 16/11/1943. Age 25. Son of

#### Remembrance Ni, November 15

Thomas and Maud McMaster, of Ballydrain, Co. Down. Athens Memorial, Greece

#### +SMYTH, Samuel

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). 2nd Btn. Private. 3856526. Died 15/11/1943. Age 25. Son of George and Margaret Smyth, of Belfast. Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand

#### 1944

#### **+BOUSTRED**, Thomas Jesse Robert

Middlesex Regiment. 1/7th Btn. Corporal. 6211703. Died 15/11/1944. Age 27. Husband of Ellen L. Boustred of Portrush. Nederweert War Cemetery. Netherlands

#### +MARTIN, William Ernest Whitney

Royal Artillery. 8th HAA Regt. 23 Bty. Lieutenant. 179291. Died 15/11/1944. Aged 23. Attd. 1st Bn. The London Irish Rifles, Royal Ulster Rifles. Son of William Ernest and Christina Martin, of Oldpark Rd., Belfast.

#### 1945

#### +HORNER, Samuel Young

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver. T/185532. Died 15/11/1945. Age 45. Son of Isaac John and Agnes Horner, of Belfast; husband to Helen Horner of Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

#### +MONTGOMERY, John Henry

RAF. Corporal. 631441. Died 15/11/1945. Aged 26. Son of Thomas William and Sarah Jane Montgomery. Dundonald Cemetery

#### **VETERANS**

#### **ABRAHAM, James Johnston**

James Johnston Abraham, CBE, DSO, grew up on New Row, Coleraine and was son to Elizabeth Ann Morrison of Tobermore and William Abraham JP of Co. Fermanagh.

J.J. Abraham was educated at Coleraine Academical Institution, obtained his doctor's qualification from Trinity College, Dublin in 1900 and went on to take up employment in London.

During 1918, Dr Abraham was Assistant Director of Medical Services (A.D.M.S.), Palestine Line of Communication. His duties included the operation of a number of hospitals, medical stores, casualty clearing stations, hospital trains and steamboats and a fleet of ambulances. Casualties of the Royal Flying Corps serving in Egypt were also under Dr Abraham's care.

On 1st January 1918 J.J. Abraham was awarded a D.S.O. (Distinguished Service Order) on recommendation from the D.M.S. (Director of Medical Services) for his involvement in the capture of Jerusalem in 1917.

J.J. Abraham wrote in his autobiography 'Surgeon's Journey' (1957), "I was very pleased. I hadn't thought of any award when doing the job, but it was nice to write home about."

J.J. Abraham was released from his post as A.D.M.S in May 1919, six months after the Armistice and returned to London.

He went on to receive a C.B.E. (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) at Buckingham Palace on 15th November 1919.

#### **BOWMAN**, Harry

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Private.17290. France (wounded), Served in the RUC. 01/09/1922 to 30/03/1952. Born 31/03/1895 at 7 Central Street, Belfast. Married Eveline McKitterick on 26/12/1921 at St Donard's, Bloomfield. Died 14th November 1975, funeral to Lurgan Cemetery. Named on the War Memorial in Comber, Co. Down.

#### **CUNNNINGHAM**, Joseph Irwin

RNVR. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander. MBE (Military). He served on destroyers and cruisers during the Battle of the Atlantic, North Russian Convoys, and the Mediterranean. He was decorated by King George VI for heroism at Flensburg, where the ammunition dump exploded a few days after the war ended. As a physician he put his life in great danger to save the lives of others, who shortly before had been his enemies. Following VE Day he was reassigned to the Pacific theatre. He was en route when the war ended, but as a result made his first visit to Victoria, BC. Post war he worked in Newfoundland and the wilds of northern Manitoba, Hudson Bay and Resolute Island. Born only a few yards from the sea, he always loved the ocean and sailing. He sailed single-handed across the Atlantic in

1952 (westward) and 1957 (eastward) in his 25 1/2 foot boat, Icebird, becoming the first Canadian and only third in the world to do so in both directions. At the end of the fifties he "settled down" as one of the doctors and a member of the diplomatic corps in various Canadian Embassies overseas. In Vienna, Austria, he met his beloved wife, Edith, whom he married in 1958 in Salzburg. Their first home was on the aptly named Paradise Walk in London. After moves to Germany, Finland, Holland, Austria and Scotland, and now with four sons, they settled in Victoria in 1972. He had a strong faith and loved to serve as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was described as, "A wonderful father, loving husband, distinguished veteran, sailing pioneer, respected elder, man of humility, integrity and great faith." Died 15/11/2009. Born Portrush 14/07/1916 to William Irwin Cunningham and Margaret Cunningham (nee Irwin). MB BCh QUB 1938.

#### **EAMES, William Joseph**

RAF. Pilot Officer. MiD. Bill was born in Enniskillen. He joined Portora Royal School in1935. At 17 years old he joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. Following Induction at Lords Cricket Ground in London he learned to fly on Tiger Moths at Brough near Hull in Yorkshire before being part of the Arnold Scheme and being transported across the Atlantic Ocean to receive instruction on a number of aircraft including Stearman and Vultee as well as Harvard and Anson.

After the uncomfortable outward journey things were much more pleasant of the return leg as this was done aboard the R.M.S. Aquitania which had been converted to use as a Troopship.

#### Remembrance Ni, November 15

Based for a time at R.A.F. Ashbourne in Derbyshire Bill flew Whitley and Albermarle aircraft and in 1943 he served with 570 Squadron based at R.A.F. Hurn in Dorset from where he took part in Supply Drop operations where supplies were dropped to Maquis in occupied France.

These operations took place on moonlit nights, with navigation being done by watching for water features, and always below 2000 feet!

In the early hours of 06/06/1944, D-Day, Bill was flying a Short Stirling aircraft which was towing a Horsa Glider full of troops. The glider was released on the eastern side of Sword Beach near the town of Ouistreham.

Bill was again in action during Operation Market Garden when he towed Gliders on the first three days of the Operation.

On day three, Tuesday 19/09/1944, he was wounded by gunfire but was able to fly back to England where he spent some time in Hospital in Oxford.

Having recovered from his wounds he returned to flying however the injury to his left hand meant that he would be Co-Pilot rather than Pilot. Died peacefully at his home in Lisburn on 15/11/2020, aged 97.

#### **GIBSON**, William George H T

RAF. MCB. Born 15/11/1922. Son of George Gibson, Ardenlee Ave., Belfast. Post war. Company director, Gibsons Bakery Ltd

#### JOHNSTON, Benjamin

An Irish-Canadian who served with the North Irish Horse.

Benjamin Johnston was born on 20/04/1880 at Stranorlar, County Donegal, the first of at least five children of medical practitioner and surgeon Henry Maturin Johnston and his wife, Mellicent Agnes. He was educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen. He served in the Boer War in the 54th (2nd Belfast) Company, 13th (Irish) Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry and was wounded at Lindley in May 1900. He was later discharged as no longer fit for service.

Johnston then emigrated to Canada, where he worked as a rancher at Priddis, near Calgary, Alberta. On 10 /04/1916 he enlisted at Calgary in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He embarked for England on 29 June with the 13th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, arriving a week later. There he was taken on strength of the reserve regiment of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) at Shorncliffe.

Two months later he applied for a commission in the North Irish Horse. He was sent to the No.1 Cavalry Cadet Squadron at Netheravon on 06/12/1917. On 17/04/1917 Johnston was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant and posted to the North Irish Horse reserve regiment at Antrim. There he remained until 30/01/1918, when he was sent to France to join the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment.

In February-March 1918 the 1st North Irish Horse was dismounted and converted to a corps cyclist regiment. This left around a quarter of the officers and men of the regiment surplus to requirements. Between 1 and 13 March nine officers and 66 other ranks left the regiment, all but three of the latter reporting for duty at the Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers. However following heavy losses in the German

offensive at the end of March, most were attached as reinforcements to regular cavalry units of the 1st Cavalry Division. The war diary of the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers noted on 3 April that six officers of the North Irish Horse joined the regiment, one of those being 2nd Lieutenant Johnston.

On 17 October 1918 Johnston was promoted to lieutenant.

After the Armistice the 9th Lancers served at Düren in Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. The regiment's war diary notes that Johnston was hospitalised there between 12 and 30 January 1919. On 3 March he was demobilised, and on 1 April the following year he relinquished his commission in the North Irish Horse.

After the war Johnston returned to Calgary, Canada. He died on 15/11/1946.

#### **MOORE, James Herbert**

RAMC. Captain. Served 1916 - 20. Campbell College. QUB 1897 - 1903. Son of Dr. Samuel Moore, Ballyalton, Newtownards. Post war became surgeon on Union Castle line.

#### **MUNN, Norman Barry**

Royal Irish Rifles. MC. Campbell College. M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., 1924. Lieut., RAMC, 1942-43. General Practitioner. Son of R. Jackson Munn, M.D., Ingleside, Woodstock Road, Belfast. Resided Sanderstead, Surrey.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

#### We will remember them

To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI masthead.

## 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

#### Remembrance Ni, November 15

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

**Copyright -** all material in this **remembrance ni** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.