



remembrance ni



Pack horse through mud, Beaumont Hamel

The battle of the Ancre, November 1916

The battle of the Ancre, 13 -19 November 1916, was the final phase of the first battle of the Somme (1 July - 18 November, 1916). It involved an attack on the German



Water refilling point on the Ancre at the causeway of Mill Road, November 1916

front line as it crossed the Ancre River, a sector of the front that had first been attacked on the first day of the battle without success.

The attack along the Ancre had originally been planned for 15 October, as part of the battle of the Ancre Heights, but had been postponed repeatedly by bad weather. By November the original plan had been reducing in scope from an attempt to push the Germans back up to five miles along the Ancre to one to capture Beaucourt and push the Germans back at most two miles.



Battlefield of Beaumont Hamel

This was a strong sector of the German front. The first British objective involved an advance of 800 yards and would require the capture of at least three lines of trenches. The next target was the German second line, from Serre south to the Ancre. Finally it was hoped to capture Beaucourt, on the Ancre.

First Royal Naval Division attack on Western Front

The attack would be launched by II Corps south of the river and V Corps to the north, with V Corps carrying out the main offensive. The attack immediately north of the river was to be carried out by the 63rd (R.N.) Division, under Major-General C. D. Shute. This was the first time they had taken part in an attack on the Western Front, and so extra care



A Chaplain of the Army Chaplains' Department helping along a wounded German prisoner taken on the 13/11/1916. Near Aveluy Wood.

was taken to make sure everybody knew what was expected of them. Amongst their officers was Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Freyberg, later to hold high command in the Second World War, who commanded the Hood Battalion (the Naval battalions were named after famous sailors – Hood, Drake, Nelson and Hawke). The division captured the German front line despite heavy German resistance.

Further north the attack made less progress, and so despite Freyberg's optimism the attack on Beaucourt was delayed until the next day. 51st Division captured Beaumont Hamel,

and 2nd Division managed to capture parts of Redan Ridge, but further north no progress was made.

The attack was renewed on 14 November. This time the 63rd Division was able to secure Beaucourt, which fell at 10.30am. The success at Beaucourt encouraged Gough to plan for a more ambitious offensive, but Haig ordered him to wait until after he could return from the Chantilly Conference of 15-16 November.

One final attack was made, on 18-19 November. This began in snow and sleet and descended into chaos. On the right of the line the 4th Canadian Division captured its first objectives, but elsewhere little was achieved.

Beaumont Hamel

The attack was a relative success. Beaumont Hamel and Beaucourt were captured, but Serre and the northern part of the German line remained untouched. Once again mud intervened to help the defenders, preventing the use of the few available tanks, and making all communication difficult. All the early successes on the Ancre achieved was the creation of a British held salient on the Ancre, which proved to be a very dangerous area to be posted over the winter of 1916-17.

Amongst the casualties on the Ancre was the writer H.H. Munro, better known as Saki, killed by a sniper's bullet on 14 November during the attack on Beaumont Hamel.

The divisional history of the 51st Highland Division describes the impact of the weather on the Beaumont Hamel attack - "...in the days before the attack the weather had been atrocious and the ground had become a sodden mass. The



***Field kitchen of the 2nd Battalion, Manchester Regiment
near St Pierre Divion, November 1916***

move forward to the start line during the night was difficult and those that arrived there first had a long wait as the rest move slowly into position. At 5:45 a.m., the time selected to begin the attack, a mine was exploded as the signal after which an intense bombardment of the German position began. There had been no preliminary bombardment which would have risked giving away the preparations for the attack. There was a thick fog on the morning and this helped with the concealment and delayed the response of the Germans. The progress behind the barrage was deliberate and slow. The state of the ground made it impossible to

move quickly and the rate of advance was about 25 yards a minute.

“There was stiff resistance but by 7.50 a.m. both brigades had reached the third line although pockets of resistance, emerging from tunnels, were still behind them. “Y” ravine proved particularly stubborn and despite progress elsewhere it took all day to overcome the resistance here.

“Elsewhere the attack had reached the Green line and in one case continued in the direction of the Yellow line. However the casualties had been too heavy for a sustained attack to the Yellow line and they fell back to conform to the flanking movements.

“The night was spent consolidating the position on the Green line and preparing to continue the attack the next morning”.

Acknowledgments - J. Rickard - Battle of the Ancre, History of War, 51st Highland Division, John Warwick Brooke, Imperial War Museums

On this Day – November 16

1915

John Caffrey, born in Birr, Offaly was helping a wounded man with a medic in no man's land. The medic was shot & Caffrey took him back to friendly lines before going back out

to get the first wounded man. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.

1916



General Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the British Expeditionary Force, requests that 20 additional air squadrons be deployed in France by the spring of 1917.

1918

Allied troops begin to move towards Germany.

1940



The Nazis wall off the infamous Warsaw Ghetto. As many as 400,000 Jews will be confined to the 1.3 square mile district

where they will be systematically brutalized, starved and rounded up for deportation to death camps.

131 RAF Bomber Command aircraft make raids on four Hamburg targets.

1941

The German 11th Army takes Kerch in the eastern Crimea, although Sevastopol still holds out.

1942

U.S. and Australian forces join up for the assault on the last Japanese stronghold in Northern Papua, the Buna-Gona bridgehead.

German submarine U-173 was depth charged and sunk off Casablanca by American warships.

1943

Leros surrenders to the Germans.

The RAF bomb the 'heavy water' plant at Telemark, which the Germans are attempting to repair.

Germany's nuclear weapons programme was dealt a blow when 306 American bombers flew over Norway and struck a heavy water plant at Rjukan and a molybdenum refinery at Knaben.

The Battle of Leros ended when Allied troops on the island surrendered. The Germans paid a heavy price, however. Having lost 160 planes and 4,800 personnel in the five days of fighting, they were even considering calling off the offensive before word of the surrender came through.



***Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mark VB of 243 Squadron.
Oil on plywood by Barrie Allan Frank Clark (1970s).
Fleet Air Arm Museum.***

Residents of the English village of Tyneham in Dorset were all given notice that they were being evicted. Signs posted in the village that day put everyone on notice that they had to leave by December 19. None of them had the right to contest the action, because they were all tenants of the descendants of Nathaniel Bond, whose family owned the Tyneham House and the surrounding area. The British War Department had acquired the area as a training ground in preparation for D-Day.

The USS Corvina became the only American submarine to be sunk by an attack by an enemy submarine, after the Japanese submarine I-176 struck it with two torpedoes in the South Pacific.

The German submarine U-280 was depth charged and sunk in the North Atlantic by a B-24 of No. 86 Squadron RAF.

1944

The First and Ninth US Armies launched Operation Queen, a new attack to the East of Aachen towards the Roer Dams (6 miles away) with four divisions on a 25-mile front. The Wehrmacht was successfully able to delay the American advance, especially in the Hürtgen Forest, and launched their own offensive on 16 December (Ardennes offensive).

With Antwerp, Marseilles and other liberated ports now available for Allied use, a relay of U.S. Army supply trucks operating between the front and the Normandy beaches, is finally shut down as trains are brought in to use.

5,689 tons of bombs, a record for one day are dropped by the RAF on the German frontline to the East of Aachen.

1945

Eighty-eight German scientists, holding Nazi secrets, arrive in the United States.

Roll of Honour – November 16

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+LAGAN, Andrew

RMLI. L/Corp. 15996. Died 16/11/1914. Age 20. HMS Victory naval base and barracks, Portsmouth. Born about 1894 in Kildress, Cookstown. Son of William and Annie

Lagan of 43 Wood Street, Grangetown, Yorkshire.
Southampton Old Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire

+McCAFFERY, John Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 4065. Died 16/11/1914. Age 19. Born at Moyglass, Co. Fermanagh on 10/07/1895. He was second of six children, all born in the Ely area. By 1911, the family had moved to Portadown. Son of John and Ann McCaffery, of 26, Blackhill, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. John worked at Adair's Mill at Greenvale, Cookstown. Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, France

+McKILLOP, Bernard

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Private. 8810. Died 16/11/1914. Age 30. Son of James and Maria McKillop, Shore Street, Cushendall. Menin Gate Memorial, panel 40

1916

+HAZLETT, Francis

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman 17/1427. Died 16/10/1916. Aged 18. He was born in the parish of St Anne's Belfast and was the son of Francis and Jane of 71, Kimberley Street, Ormeau Road, Belfast. He was in France on the 19/11/1915. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. St Jude's C of I, Belfast, WM

+ORR, William John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 11th Btn. D Coy. Private. 11/16212. Died 16/11/1916. Age 19 years old. Son of

Andrew and Margaret Orr, of Brook Hall, Londonderry. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+PARKER, Albert

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. D Coy. Rifleman. 14/3090. Died 16/11/1916. Age 18 years old. Before the war Albert Parker was employed at McCaw, Stevenson and Orr Limited (printers, publishers, and chromo lithographers, Loop Bridge Works, Castlereagh Road). Albert Parker enlisted with the Royal Irish Rifles and was deployed to France with 14th Battalion in October 1915. Son of George J. and Jane Parker, of 71, Castlereagh St., Belfast. Jane Parker was awarded a pension of five shillings per week and George James Parker received a War Gratuity of eight pounds and ten shillings in October 1919. His brother, John Parker, served with the same battalion and was transferred to the Class Z Army Reserve on 9th April 1919. He was subsequently awarded a 20% Disablement Pension in respect of gunshot wounds to the left hip at the rate of eight shillings per week. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Family memorial Carnmoney Church of Ireland Graveyard

+WALKER, Isaac

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. D Coy. Serjeant. 11225. Died 16/11/1916. Age 26. He was injured at Hamel on 01/07/1916 and later died in Bethnal Green Hospital, London. His remains were brought home for burial. Pre-enlistment he was employed at Gowdy & Sons mills in Loughgall. He was a section leader of Summerisland company of the UVF and a member of Summerisland RBP 319. He was the first in the district to join the colours. Born in

Charlemont. Eldest son of James and Catherine Walker, of Summerisland, Loughgall, Armagh. His brother Private J Walker of the Royal Irish Fusiliers served in France for a considerable time, was invalided out and located with the 10th Btn of his regiment at Newtownards. Serjeant Walker's military funeral was to Loughgall Old Churchyard

+WALLACE, Robert

Seaforth Highlanders, 4th Btn. Private. 3792. Died 16/11/1916. Age 19. Son of William John and Margaret Jane Wallace, of 268, Springfield Rd., Belfast. Theipval Memorial, France

1917

+CLEGG, William Hamilton

Cameron Highlanders, 1st Btn. A Coy. Private. S/43008. Died 16/11/1917. Age 22. Son of John and Anne Jane Clegg, of 2, Sturgeon St., Sandy Row, Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

+GORDON, Thomas Rankin

1st Australian Light Horse. Trooper. 9469. Died 16/11/1917. Age 26. He was aged 21 when he emigrated to Australia. By 03/05/1916 Thomas was based in Tel El Kebir, Egypt. Son of Hugh and Sarah Gordon, of Searle, Co. Armagh. Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Canberra WM, Australia. First Drumbannagher and Jerrettspass Presbyterian Church RH

+KNOX, John Connor

Royal Engineers. Sapper. 121376. Died 16/11/1917. Aged 18. Only son of Charles and Mary J. Knox of Union Place,

Dungannon. He was educated at Brookfield School and Bangor Grammar School. He enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles in 1915 but was only 15. Shortly afterward he enlisted to train as a wireless operator. On completion of his course, he was posted to the Royal Engineers. In January 1917 he went out to the Western front. Arising primarily out of shell shock, he contracted an illness and was moved to London General Hospital where he died. Drumcoo Cemetery, Dungannon. Dungannon WM

1918

+COULTER, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 23683. Died 16/11/1918. Age 26. Belfast City Cemetery Alternative Commemoration - Lisnaskea Union Cemetery, Co. Fermanagh.

+McDONALD, David or Donald

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Private. 14286. Died 16/11/1918, but who he was and when he died is unclear. Local reports say 14286 David McDonald died suddenly on the 15/16th November 1918. His sister apparently lived at 12 Ballymoney Street, Ballymena and he was the son of Lachlan and Catherine McDonald, 8 Union Street, Glasgow. CWGC says 14286 Donald McDonald, with the same parent and wife, died on the 09/03/1919 when aged 35 years old. He is not found in the website records of the Scottish National War Memorial. Kilbowie Cemetery, Dumbartonshire, Scotland.

+McLAUGHLIN, R

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 5/11269. transf. to (Pte. 231796) Labour Corps. Died 16/11/1918. Age 42. Born at Belfast. Husband of Elizabeth McLaughlin, of 4, Clyde St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

1939

+DUNDEE, Philip Ellard

RAF. Pilot Officer commissioned 25/01/1937 (London Gazette). Appointment confirmed 16/11/1937. Died 15/11/1939. Pilot of Bristol Blenheim N6226. The airplane was returning to RAF Upper Heyford following a bombing practice. After landing, the airplane rolled for about 50 yards when the 'hung up' bomb fell and exploded. The pilot P/O Philip Ellard Dundee was killed and two others Sgt P. N. Davidson and Cpl Francis James Wilson Moores, wireless operator and air gunner, were unhurt. QUB

1940

+COREY, Peter Paul

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Fusilier. 6983666. Died 16/11/1940. Age 26. Son of Peter and Ellen Corey, of Lurgan; husband to Margaret M. Corey, of Lurgan. Aghagallon (Maghernagaw) Roman Catholic Graveyard

+LANNIGAN, Thomas Wright

Royal Artillery. 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, 21 Battery. Gunner. 1475147. Died as a result of enemy

action in Middlesex, England on 16/11/1940. Aged 34. In July 1939, Thomas joined the Supplementary Reserve in Belfast. After training, he joined 8th (Belfast) HAA which in 1940, fought in the rearguard during the retreat from Dunkirk. Born on 22/09/1906, he was the son of Robert John Lannigan and Jane Stranaghan Lannigan (née McCullough) of Disraeli Street, Shankill, Belfast. He was one of five brothers who served in the forces during World War Two. Three of Thomas' brothers served in the Army and one brother served in the Royal Air Force. On 16/10/1933, Thomas married Isabella Todd in St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Isabella died two years later on 26/06/1935. He later married 22 year old Alma Reynolds in St. Anne's Cathedral, on 16/12/1935. At his time of death, Thomas' given address was Disraeli Street, Belfast. He spent leave time there with his mother Jane Ferguson six weeks before he died. His funeral took place on 20/11/1940 to a burial plot belonging to Mary Anna Todd Fee. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

HM Submarine Swordfish

+MORRISON, Charles Archibald

RN. Leading Stoker. C/KX 84966 . Died 16/11/1940. HM Submarine Swordfish. On 7th November 1940, HMS Swordfish left Portsmouth for a war patrol with orders to patrol off Brest. She was never seen or heard from again. The Admiralty assumed that she had fallen victim to either German warships or mines in the Bay of Biscay. Her wreck was found in July 1983, blown in half, a few miles south of St Catherines Point on the Isle of Wight. It is certain that she struck a mine on the day of her departure from Portsmouth and was lost with all hands. Bangor. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 38, 1

+O'NEILL, Joseph Patrick

RN. Stoker 1st Class. D/KX 84929. HM Submarine Swordfish. Died 16/11/1940. Age 29. Swordship (Lt M A Langley), 7th November 1940, Western Europe, English Channel off the Isle of Wight, southern England - probably German mines. Sailed from Portsmouth on 7th November for Brest patrol. Failed to signal back on 15th and 16th, and not heard from again. At the time she was declared 'overdue, presumed lost' and believed sunk in the Bay of Biscay either on mines or at the hands of German destroyers near Brest. Her wreck was discovered in 1983 a few miles south of St Catherine's Point off the Isle of Wight. She had been mined a few hours after leaving Portsmouth, with the loss of all 41 crew (Brest patrol). Son of Phelix and Ellen O'Neill, Lurgan. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 41

1942

+GORDON, David Sime

Royal Artillery. Lance Serjeant. 967859. Died 16/11/1942. Age 22. 389 Battery, 111 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Son of Andrew and Jeannie Gordon, of Romford, Essex. Belfast City Cemetery

+McCLOUD, Thomas James

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1066739. Died 06/11/1942. Aged 24. 18 Sqdn. Son of Samuel and Martha McCloud, Comber. Comber Cemetery

1943

+DALY, Frank

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Fusilier.7019935. Died 16/11/1943. Age 22. Son of Daniel and Annie Mary Daly, of Blagh, Coleraine. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+MAXWELL, Roderick Leighton Potter

Wiltshire Regiment. King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). Captain.103030. Died 16/11/1943. Age 31. Son of Harry and Edith Mary Maxwell of Lurgan. Leros War Cemetery, Greece

+McILWAINE, Harold

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6978716. Died 16/11/1943. Age 23. Son of Robert and Agnes McIlwaine, of Belfast. Leros War Cemetery, Greece

+WALTERS, John Ralph

Royal Engineers. 263 Bomb Disposal Sec. Lieutenant. Died 16/11/1943. Age 20. WOPE 1942 QUB. Son of James William and Winifred Alice Walters, of Gateshead. Co. Durham. Athens Memorial, Greece. RE Bomb Disposal Branch WM, Carver Barracks.

1944

+ACTON, Jack

RN Stoker First Class. P/KX 150614. Died 16/11/1944. Age 25. HM Submarine Thule. Thule served in the Far East for much of her wartime career, where she sank thirteen junks, two lighters, and five sampans with gunfire in the Strait of Malacca in a twelve-day period between 17/12/1944 to 29/12/1944. She also attacked a submarine, probably the Japanese submarine Ro - 113 and believed she had sunk it, but Thule's torpedoes exploded prematurely and the submarine escaped unharmed. She went on to sink a

further five sailing vessels and three coasters, as well as laying a number of mines. Son of Thomas and Fanny Acton Bolton, Lancs. Husband to Anna Acton, Glenwherry St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 22/12/1944). Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 85

+JAMES, Robert Keith

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Navigator - Bomber). 162485. Died 16/11/1944. Aged 22. QUB. Son of Robert and Edith Gertrude James, Knock, Belfast. Nicosia War Cemetery, Cyprus.

1945

+MOORE, Charles

RAMC 185 Field Ambulance. Captain 260698. 1934 1937 1942 QUB. B.M., B.S., B.A.O. RAFPE 1943. Died 16/11/1945. Age 26. Son of William and Sarah Anne Moore, of Ballinacarrick, Ballintra. Kilbarron C of I Churchyard, Republic of. Ireland. QUB WM

VETERANS

COLLINS, Alan Frederick

RN. Ord. Seaman. MiD. BA 1942 QUB. MCB. Born 16/11/1921. Son of William Collins, Clifton Drive, Belfast

LONG, John

Served for the duration of WW1 in the Royal West Kent Regt, and on demobilisation joined the embryonic RUC. John became a very popular points-man in central Belfast,

and was promoted to Sergeant in charge of Co Down's Traffic Branch, based in Downpatrick. Photos in the press showed him saluting Sir Edward Carson at the laying of the foundation stone at Stormont. John Long MM died this day in 1940, aged 52, from a brain tumour.

LONG, Victor C

Royal Ulster Rifles and Special Air Service. Victor Long was from Kimberley Street in the Ballynafeigh area of Belfast. Service Number 7021988, Victor was initially with 1st (Airborne) Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles before becoming a member of 1st Special Air Service Regiment on 17/03/1944.

Victor took part in Operation Archway which had been planned to support the XVIII Airborne Corps 'Operation Varsity' parachute landings across the River Rhine. The force from the Special Air Service was known as Frankforce after Lieutenant Colonel Brian Franks who was in Command of the Operation. Two reinforced Special Air Service Squadrons, one each from the 1st and 2nd Special Air Service Regiments numbered about 300 all ranks carried in 75 armed Jeeps.

Victor was one of the first British Troops who liberated Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp on the afternoon of 15/04/1945. Victor later recalled that "After we entered the Camp one of the first things we came across was a huge open grave that was almost full of dead bodies.

"There were lots of dead bodies everywhere and the people that were alive were in a bad way.

“We weren't allowed to leave the Camp until we'd been fumigated because there was so much disease around”.

Sergeant Long was involved in 'Operation Gain' which was a British Special Forces operation by D Squadron, 1st Special Air Service. He had arrived by parachute on 17/06/1944 and after lying-up for some time they made contact with Major Fenwick and his 6 strong Headquarters Section who had landed the previous day.

As a member of Lieutenant Bateman's Section Victor recalled that “We didn't really allow the Maquis into our Camp because Major Fenwick said you couldn't trust them”.

Victor's first action was blowing up the Orleans to Pithiviers Railway Line on 20th June.

On 12th August Captain Riding sent Vic Long and John Morton on a Road Watch and the following morning Leslie Packman and John Ion set off in a Jeep to collect the pair.

When their Pick-up did not arrive Victor and John Morton walked for about an hour before they heard shooting. The two men watched as there was more rifle fire before about forty or fifty Germans moved onto the road and pushed the Jeep into a ditch at the side of the road.

Having heard nothing from Packman and Ion the two men returned to their Camp where they reported what had happened to Blair Mayne.

The bodies were later recovered and Victor made a statement regarding what had happened and his observations which were to be used at a later War Crime Investigation.

On leaving the Special Air Service Regiment on 16/11/1945 he received his 1st Special Air Service Regiment Service Certificate which is signed by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Blair 'Colonel Paddy' Mayne.

Victor was Mentioned in Despatches and had the Oak Leaf attached to his 1939-1945 War Medal. He was also awarded the 1939 - 1945 Star, France and Germany Star and The Defence Medal as well as the General Service Medal with 'Palestine 1945 - 1948' Clasp.m(Thanks very much to Francis Nige Long)

McCALLA, William Trevor

RNVR. Lieutenant. Frequent Competitor in Ulster T.T. Races. "E" Class Lap Record, 1935. Winner of Co. Down Trophy Race, 1934. Director, W. McCalla and Co., Belfast, and Proprietor, Ulster Steam Tender Co. Member, Belfast Local Marine Board. Born 16/11/1904. Son of William McCalla, Greenoge, Strandtown, Belfast. Campbell College. RNIYC WM

McCAUSLAND, Samuel Osborne

RNAS. Russian Armoured Car Brigade. Order of St. Stanislaus (Russia). Born 01/10/1892. Died 16/11/1920. Son of Wm. McCausland, Cherryvale, Ravenhill Rd., Belfast. Campbell College 901.

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI
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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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