



remembrance ni



The final day of the Somme Offensive - 1st July 1916-18th November 1916

On 18th November 1916, British Commander in Chief Sir Douglas Haig calls a halt to his army's offensive near the Somme River in northwestern France, ending the epic Somme Offensive after more than four months of bloody conflict & heavy casualties.



At the end of the Battle of the Somme, British and French forces had penetrated 6 miles (10 km) into German-occupied territory along the majority of the front, their largest territorial gain since 1914.

The operational objectives of the Anglo-French armies were unfulfilled, as they failed to capture Peronne and Bapaume, where the German armies continued to maintained their positions over the winter.

By the end British troops had sustained 420,000 casualties including 125,000 deaths. The casualties also included 200,000 French troops and 500,000 German soldiers.

The 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) Divisions had suffered heavy casualties. Roughly 3,500 men from all over Ireland died in this battle and thousands more wounded. Altogether, roughly 40 men were killed for every yard gained. 534 men from the 16th - including the poet Tom Kettle - were killed on a single day capturing the village of Ginchy.

In total, over a million men from both sides were killed or wounded during the battle.

The Battle of the Somme was a joint operation between British and French forces. Intended to achieve a decisive victory over the Germany on the Western Front, instead the stalemate came to define the brutal trench warfare of the First World War.

On the first day alone, the British Army suffered more than 57,000 casualties, making it the bloodiest day in British military history.

The Western Front Association Memorial at the National Arboretum is dedicated to the 956,703 British Empire men and women who died in the First World War. The Hornbeam trees in the memorial grove have an especially poignant significance from the battlefield as they were grown from the only tree left standing in Delville Wood after the Battle of the Somme.



On this Day – November 18

18th November 1915 - the Ballymoney Free Press and Northern Counties Advertiser : -

COUNTY ANTRIM M.P. TO COMMAND IRISH GUARDS

We understand that Lieutenant-Colonel R.C. McCalmont M.P. the commanding officer of the 12th Batt. Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim Volunteers) has been appointed to the command of the 1st Batt Irish Guards in France.

The appointment has entailed the severance of Lieutenant Colonel McCalmont from the Ulster Division with which he has been closely identified since it's formation in September 1914 and all ranks are sorry to lose their commanding officer but they rejoice that he has been selected for such a distinguished post as Colonel of his old regiment – the famous Irish Guard. He is one of the four M.P.'s for County Antrim, all of whom who are at the front.

1915

The Canadians raid German trenches south-west of Messines.

1917

HM Submarine K1 collided with HM Submarine K4 while on surface patrol off the North Sea coast of Denmark, and was so badly damaged that the decision was taken to scuttle her.

K1 was sunk by shellfire from light cruiser HMS Blanche. No casualties.

Sloop HMS Candytuft was torpedoed by German submarine U-39 off Bougie, Algeria. The first torpedo blew off her stern and a second broke off her bows as she made for the shore. The remainder of the ship then grounded. 9 crew lost their lives

Paddle minesweeper HMS Marsa (formerly G&SWR paddle steamer Mars) was struck in the dark by a British destroyer off the entrance to the harbour at Harwich while minesweeping. She was run onto a sandbank but broke her back and could not be salvaged.

1918

Belgian troops re-enter Antwerp and Brussels.

1939

The Dutch ship Simon Bolivar hits an 'un-notified' mine in the North Sea, killing 80. Several other neutral ships also sunk by mines.

IRA detonate four small bombs in Piccadilly, London.

1941

At 6am British forces launch 'Operation Crusader' in North Africa. It would be the first victory over the German ground forces by the British in the war. The aim of the British Eighth Army's offensive is to relieve Tobruk. Rommel, who arrives back from Rome that day, is caught by surprise, allowing the British XXX Corps to advance 50-miles and capture the axis



airfield 10 miles south of Sidi Rezegh. The Germans, believing that the British are about to encircle Bardia, send the Afrika Korps on a wild goose chase in that direction.

Gen. Sir Alan Brooke replaces Field Marshal John Dill as British Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

1942

Laval is given absolute power by Vichy in Africa.

1943

A German counter offensive recaptures Zhitomir.

The RAF begins the 'battle of Berlin' with 700 tons dropped. Other areas also pounded in the biggest RAF operation so far.

1944

A German hospital ship, Tübingen is sunk accidentally by allied aircraft in the Adriatic, but luckily no wounded were

onboard. The British express regret to the German authorities about the mistake.

Inmates of Janowska concentration camp near Lwów (at this time in German-occupied Poland), staged an uprising that ultimately failed. Leon Weliczker and several other prisoners had run errands for the camp guards, and were accustomed to bringing firewood into the guard houses. On the evening of the 19th, two groups of prisoners attacked guards in two different locations, stole their machine guns, and started a breakout.[59] The 6,000 remaining Jewish residents of Janowska camp were killed over the next four days and on November 23, Lwów (now Lviv in the Ukraine) was declared Judenrein (“clean of Jews”).

The U.S. Third Army crosses the German frontier. Metz is cut off and surrounded by the U.S. Third Army's, XX Corps.

Roll of Honour – November 18

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+ALLEN, Charles

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 1535. Died 18/11/1914.

Initially enlisted in Ballymena on 18/11/1902 and spent three years with the colours. He then spent nine years in the

reserves before being called back to his regiment on 05/08/1914. His unit, mobilized on the 4th August, marched into Belgium on the 20th and reached the Mons area before being forced to retreat on the 26th; this was the famous Retreat from Mons, and for Charles Allen, it was a fighting retreat of about 140 miles. The unit was sent into billets at Hazebrouck in October but was then moved through Ypres and into trenches in Klein Zillebeke in November. On his second spell of duty in the trenches there - it was snowing and the Germans were shelling them heavily - he was killed. He was born at 39, North Queen Street, Belfast on the 15/08/1884, the son of William and Elizabeth Allen, nee McClean, of Alexander Street, Ballymena. He worked in Liscolman Spinning Mill. His wife Matilda and three children lived at Dervock. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Billy Parish Church. Ballymoney WM

+COOKE, Archibald

Royal Field Artillery, 51st Battery. Gunner. 90597. Died 18/11/1914. Age 31. Archibald Cooke was born in Coagh on 13/12/1882 and lived near Springhill, Moneymore before he enlisted with the Royal Field Artillery at Stockton-on-Tees. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

+CULBERTSON, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 6th Btn. Rifleman. 16120. Died 18/11/1914. Born Finvoy. Lived at Ballyboyland, Ballymoney. Enlisted at Belfast. Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin. Ballymoney WM, Trinity Presbyterian Church

+HARRISON, William

Canadian Infantry, 21st Btn. Private. Died 18/11/1914 by drowning in Canada. Age 34. Born Ballynure 29/11/1873. Son of William James and Anne Smythe Harrison, of Dunturkey, Ballynure, Ireland; husband of Agnes Harrison, of Monroe, Washington, U.S.A. They married in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 07/11/1903. They may have been living at Brock St., Kingston, Ontario before William's death. After which his wife moved back to Monroe, Washington. Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

+McCAFFERTY, James

Kings Own Scottish Borderers, 2nd Btn. Private. 8787. Died 18/11/1914. Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres

+McCLINTON, Samuel

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 4381. Died 18/11/1914. Born Templepatrick 01/10/1894. Worked as a factory hand. Son of John and Mary Ann (Minnie) McClinton (nee Stewart). Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery, Belgium. Old Presbyterian Church, Templepatrick, RH

+McDONAGH, Patrick

Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) attached Suffolk Regiment, 2nd Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 18/11/1914. Age 20. St Patrick's College, Armagh and then St Malachy's College, Belfast. Student, QUB Faculty of Medicine 1912-1913. Member of the University OTC. He joined the army and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen's Own on 02/05/1914. He was shot in the trenches when the regiment was deployed at Wulverghem about six miles south of Ypres in Belgium. Born 1894, in Cong, Co

Mayo. His father was in the Royal Irish Constabulary and he died of illness a month after Patrick was born. In 1901 he and his siblings were living with their widowed mother who had returned to her home area of Loughgall, Co. Armagh. Son of Thomas and Maria McDonagh, , Loughgall, Co. Armagh. Wulverghem - Lindenhoeek Road Military Cemetery. QUB WM

1916

+ADAMS, John Hanna

North Staffordshire Regiment. Second Lieutenant. Died 18/11/1916. Age 25. Member of the QUB Training Corps 1915. He was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force and received his commission on 12/07/1915. He was posted to France on 29/05/1916. He was listed as missing on 18/11/1916, but it was not until the following year that his other was informed that his body had been recovered and was buried at Grandcourt, Ancre, France. John had been the Rector's Churchwarden in Templecorran Parish. He worked as a bank clerk for three years and then entered the family firm of John Adams, North St., Belfast before enlisting. There is a Memorial Plaque in Templecorran Church which bears the regimental insignia of the Prince of Wales; North Staffordshire Regiment. It was unveiled in October 1918, only a month before the end of the war. At a memorial service in St Patrick's Church, it was stated that "John took an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the church. As a lad, he was an example, and as a young man he was a pattern for others..." Born in Larne. Eldest son of William George Adams and Emily F. Adams, Annadale, Whitehead. Grandcourt Road Cemetery,

Grandcourt. County Antrim Yacht Club Memorial Plaque,
Templecorran Parish Church plaque

+BAKER, John

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 7th Btn. Private.
G18647 Died 18/11/1916. Aged 38. Son of William and
Harriet Baker, Harpole, Northampton; husband to Ellen
Baker, 64 Moat Road, Ballymena. Thiepval Memorial.

+FORSYTHE, Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Bn. (16th Irish Division).
Private. 24309. Died 18/11/1916. Born 10/07/1898, Union
Workhouse, Ballycastle. Son of Margaret Forsythe and
James Gillen. Thiepval Memorial. Ballycastle WM

+JOHNSTON, David

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 97th Coy. Previously served
with Royal Irish Rifles (11/6287). Private. 13786. Died
18/11/1916. Age 18. Lived in Crumlin. Enlisted Clondeboyne
Camp. Son of James and Elizabeth Johnston, 17 Union St.,
Portadown. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McALPINE, William John

RNR. Trimmer. 3120/ST. HMS St. Seiröl. Died 18/11/1916.
Age 18. Son of Robert and Eliza McAlpine, Cowan St.,
Newry. St. Patrick's C of I churchyard, Newry

+ROBINSON, Walker Alexander

Canadian Infantry, 75th Btn. Private. 163427. Died
18/11/1916 at Courcellette on the Somme. Age 25. Born
27/08/1891. Son of James and Eliza Jane Robinson of
Darkley, Keady. He was one of eight boys. He emigrated
April 1911. Ship's records state he was a mill worker

intending to work as a farm labourer. He enlisted August 1915. Vimy Memorial, France

+WEIR, Joseph

Border Regiment, 11th Btn. Private. 25397. Died 18/11/1916. Age 31. Son of Joseph and Annie Maria Weir, of "River View." Shaw's Bridge, Belfast. Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France

+WYLIE Alexander

2nd Manchester Regt. Pte. 41583. Died 18/11/1916. Aged 27. Husband of Annie, 17 Rope Street, Oldham. Son of Alex Wylie of Harperstown, Cullybackey. Thiepval Memorial

1917

+FISHER, B

Royal Field Artillery, 66th Bty. Gunner. 71400. Died 18/11/1917. Age 25. Son of Benjamin and Annie Fisher, of 9, Constance St., Albert Bridge Rd., Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

+MOTHERWELL, James

Dorsetshire Regiment, 1st/4th Btn. Private. 202542. Died 18/11/1917. Age 41. Son of William Gemmell Motherwell and Mary Motherwell, of Belfast; husband to Marie Motherwell, of 20, Locket Rd., Wealdstone, Harrow, Middx. Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

1918

+BUNTING, Ernest

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd. Btn. CQMS. 9764. Died 18/11/1918 at home from influenza and pneumonia. Age 29. Disembarked in France on 19/12/1917 and was discharged in July 1917. From Mullavilly, he and Mary Stevenson married in Mullavilly Parish Church on 16/06/1915.

+CRAWFORD, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 17/289. Died 18/11/1918. Age 38. Son of Samuel and Mary A. Crawford; husband of Anna Crawford, of Belfast. UK Book of Remembrance. Shankill Graveyard, Belfast

+O'NEILL, Malachy

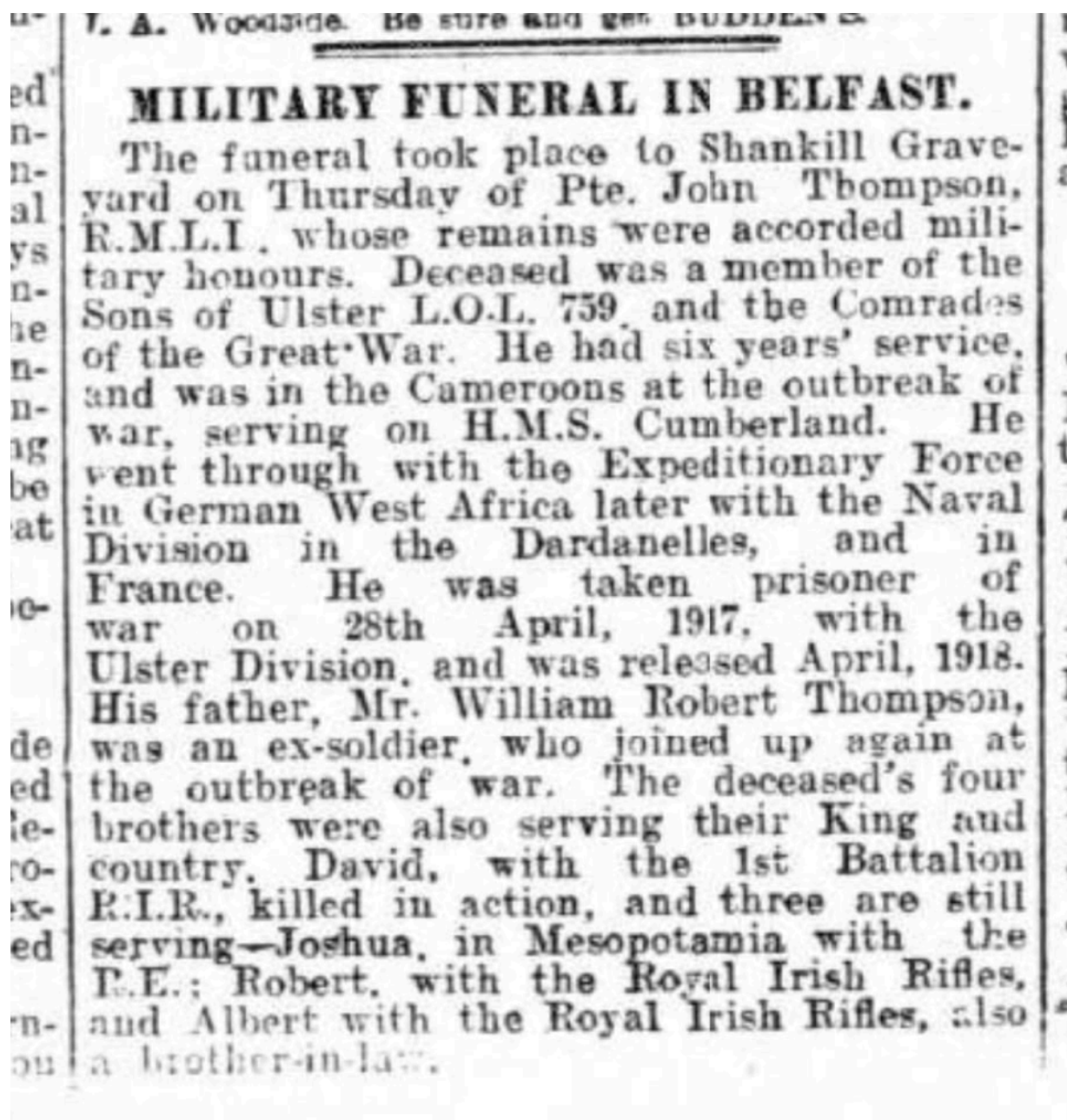
Royal Irish Rifles, Depot. Rifleman. 8691. Died 18/11/1918. Age 29. Husband of Mary Ellen O'Neill, of 98 Ballcan St., Falls Rd., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

+REID, William

Connaught Rangers, 1st Btn. Private. 2835. Died 18/11/1918. Native of Belfast. Deir el Belah War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

+Thompson, John

RMLI. Private. PLY/15927. Died 18/11/1918. Age 24. He had six years service. On the outbreak of war he was in HMS Cumberland in the Cameroons. He served with the Expeditionary Force in German West Africa and later with the Naval Division in the Dardanelles. Whilst serving with the Division in France he was taken prisoner on 28/04/1917 and was released in April 1918. He was a member of The



Sons of Ulster LOL 759 and the Comrades of the Great War. He was the son of William Robert Thomson, an ex-soldier who rejoined at the outbreak of war. Four of John's brothers also served. David died serving with RIR 1st Btn, Joshua was in Mesopotamia with the Royal Engineers, Robert and Albert were with the RIR at the time of John's death. The funeral to Shankill Graveyard was accorded full military honours.

1939

+McCLEERY, Arthur

RAF. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 632999. Died 18/11/1939. Killed/Died on Active Service (Family Memorial). Son of Thomas and Alice McCleery of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery

1941

+McGONIGAL, Eoin Christopher

Royal Ulster Rifles, (attd. "L" Det., Special Air Service Bde.) and No. 11 Commando. Lieutenant. 97290. Died 18/11/1941. Age 20. He was living in Belfast and had attended Queens University, Belfast before joining the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1939.

According to the Special Forces Roll of Honour Database: "Lieutenant Eoin Christopher McGonigal, Service Number 97290, was the Son of John McGonigal, K.C., and of Margaret McGonigal, of Dun Laoghaire, Eire. Living in Belfast, Eoin attended Queens University before joining the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1939. The following year Eoin was attached to Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and in 1940-41 he served with 7 Troop, 11 Commando. Eoin was one of the first two officers selected from an Irish regiment for Commando training in 1940. After leading a troop at the River Litani battle in Syria, he became the youngest of the original officers selected for the SAS."

On 15/08/1941 he was attached to the Special Air Service and involved in Operation Squatter targetting airfields at

Timimi, west of Tobruk however contact was lost with the rest of the soldiers.

It was not until October 1944 when Jim Blakeney and Roy Davies had escaped from a P.O.W. Camp and been able to make their way back to Britain that the truth was known.

"After landing he lay up until dawn and found himself alone with other members of his party, including Lt McGonigal, who was badly injured and died later"

He was subsequently buried by members of his stick in an unmarked grave.

This party, which endeavoured to make for the LRDG RV got lost and made their way to the coast, and were picked up by an Italian guard at Timimi airport.

Blair Mayne was deeply affected by McGonigal's failure to reach the RV and while at a later stage of the Desert War, when Gazala was in Allied hands, he would go there to search for the grave of his friend, but for the moment he brooded on his disappearance, vowing to have his revenge on the enemy.

The son of Mr. Justice McGonigal, KC, and of Margaret McGonigal, of Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. His widowed mother lived at Kingstown, Dublin. Born Eire, resided Belfast. He was the brother of Sir Ambrose McGonigal MC (RUR, 12 Commando, and SAS) and of Mrs. Letty Carson, wife of Colonel R.J.H. Carson OBE. Educated Clongowes Wood College, Co.Kildare, and Queen's University, Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Queen's University, Belfast WM.

1942

+HILL, Frederick Charles

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 62649. Died 18/11/1942. Flying a Hurricane. Aden Defence Flight. Son of Charles V. and Evelyn I. Hill, of Belfast. Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 248. Knockbreda Parish WM and Family memorial in churchyard. 502 (Ulster) Squadron WM, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

+McCORMICK, George

RM. Marine. CH/X 3438. Died 18/11/1942. Age 21. HMS Arethusa. In the eastern Mediterranean. After unsuccessful air attacks, Arethusa came under further attacks by torpedo-carrying aircraft at dusk. The vessel was hit on port side abreast B turret and took on a heavy list to port. Extensive fires in forward structure broke out due to oil fuel together with flooding. 156 killed and 42 injured. Ship disabled. Son of William Hugh and Annie Elizabeth McCormick, Larne. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 65

+SPRAGUE, Richard Alfonso

RAF. 47 Sqdn. Wing Commander. D.F.C. 26067. Died 18/11/1942. Age 34. Beaufort DE 118 , 47 Sqdn, took off from Shandur, Egypt to fly to RAF Shallufa, near Port Tefiq on a test flight. It landed at Shallufa without incident. It was armed with a torpedo. En route to RAF Gambit the aircraft flew into the ground 80km south of Sidi Haneish. Wg Cmdr Sprague and Sgt Areugustinus (RAAF) were killed. Two others who had minor injuries survived. DFC awarded whilst with 208 Sqdn, gazetted 28/03/1941. Youngest son of the late Colonel Louis C. Sprague, Royal Irish Rifles, and Frances Sprague, of Paddington, London. El Alamein War Cemetery. Lurgan WM

1943

+CONNOR, Walter Campbell

RAFVR. Warrant Officer (Air Gunner). 1079115. Died 18/11/1943. Aged 21. 7 Sqdn. Son of John and Ellen Beatrice Connor, of Lisburn. Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany

+CURRY, David

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1521801. Died 18/11/1943. Age 25. 15 Sqdn. Son of Thomas James Curry and Emma L. Curry, Belfast. Souain Communal Cemetery, France

+DOUGHERTY, William John

RAFVR. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 1901690. Died 18/11/1943. Aged 18. Son of William A. Dougherty and Margaret Dougherty of Lisburn. Lisburn cemetery

+McCOMB, John Graham

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 161589. RAF 9 Sqdn, Died 18/11/1943. He was the second pilot on an Avro Lancaster Bomber conducting a night raid over Berlin. On 18/11/1943 Lancaster Mk III DV294 SW-G "G for George" took off at 1725hrs. The plane departed for Germany from RAF Bardney in Lincolnshire. The base at Bardney heard nothing from DV284 after take off and it failed to return to base. After the war, a report emerged of the Lancaster's crash, shot down by anti-aircraft guns. At around 2153hrs, flak struck the plane. It came down around 1km south-west of Burgwerben and 2km north of Weissenfels, a town 35 km south west of Leipzig. John had promotion to Flight Sergeant on 12/10/1943. Born in Belfast he was the son of Samuel McComb and Elizabeth Ann (née Young) McComb

from the Shankill district. Samuel and Elizabeth married on 21/04/1919 at Townsend Street Presbyterian Church.

Samuel was a fitter. His father James McComb, a labourer. Elizabeth or Liza Young's father was Albert Young, a dealer from Downpatrick, Co. Down. Robert Hamilton and Maggie Hamilton were witnesses to the ceremony. 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Charlottenburg, Berlin, Germany.

+STONELEY, Michael John Ernest

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 158258. DFM. Died 18/11/1943. Aged 22. 156 Sqdn. Son of Ernest Andrew Alexander Stoneley and Annie McKay Stoneley; husband to Jessie Stoneley, of Belfast. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 133

1945

+CAMPBELL, Hamish Moray

Royal Artillery, 117 Field Regt. Lieutenant. 331248. Died 18/11/1945. Aged 21. Son of James Alexander and Jennie Hamilton Campbell, Glasgow. Columbo (Livermentu) Cemetery, Sri Lanka. QUB RH

1946

+ADAMSON, Stanley

Royal Engineers. 9 Airborne Sqn. Captain. 327110. Freedom Medal (Norway). Died 18/11/1946. Age 28. Son of Henry and Margaret Adamson, of Belfast. Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

VETERANS

McDONALD, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 18/1238. 18th Reserve. Called up and served with the 9th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, Battalion's Royal Irish Rifles. Discharged 18/11/1918 due to gun-shot wound. Silver War Badge B42157. Entitled to the British War and Victory medal. Thomas resided at Church Street, Greyabbey, County Down.

THOMPSON, John

RMLI. Private. PLY/15927. Died 18/11/1918. Age 24. He had six years service. On the outbreak of war he was in HMS Cumberland in the Cameroons. He served with the Expeditionary Force in German West Africa and later with the Naval Division in the Dardanelles. Whilst serving with the Division in France he was taken prisoner on 28/04/1917 and was released in April 1918. He was a member of The Sons of Ulster LOL 759 and the Comrades of the Great War. He was the son of William Robert Thomson, an ex-soldier who rejoined at the outbreak of war. Four of John's brothers also served. David died serving with RIR 1st Btn, Joshua was in Mesopotamia with the Royal Engineers, Robert and Albert were with the RIR at the time of John's death. The funeral to Shankill Graveyard was accorded full military honours.

MILLAR, William

Sergeant William Millar, 11/19698, C' Company 11th (Service) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (South Antrim Volunteers) was taken prisoner of war on 01/07/1916, and remained a prisoner in Dulmen Camp in Germany until the Armistice, being repatriated to England on 18th November,

1918. Sergeant William Millar was entitled to the trio of medals, 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medal. Prior to enlistment he was employed in the despatch office of the "Old Bleach," Randalstown. He was a member of the South Antrim Volunteers.

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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