



remembrance ni



Crouy British Cemetery and a Canadian VC.

Crouy British Cemetery is located about 16 kilometres north-west of Amiens in France. The cemetery contains 783 WW1 Burials including V. C. recipient Henry (Harry) Garnet Bedford Miner from the Canadian Infantry.



Crouy is a village about 16 kilometres north-west of Amiens on the west side of the River Somme.

The cemetery was used between April and August 1918 for burials from the 5th and 47th Casualty Clearing Stations, which had come to the village because of the German advance.

In October 1919, 42 graves were brought to Crouy from the small military cemetery at Riviere, a few kilometres away to the north-west.

These burials had been made from the 12th, 53rd and 55th Casualty Clearing Stations at Longpre-les-Corps Saints between May and August 1918. They now occupy rows E and F of plot IV and part of row D, plot VI. The cemetery now contains 739 Commonwealth burials of the First World

War, and a number of French and German war graves. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

Grave of a Canadian VC



In Crouy British Cemetery the remains rest of **Corporal Henry (Harry) Garnet Bedford Miner** of the Central Ontario Regiment.

An extract taken from the London Gazette dated 25th Oct., 1918, records the following : "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack, when despite severe wounds he refused to withdraw. He rushed an enemy machine-gun post single-handed, killed the entire

crew and turned the gun on the enemy. Later, with two others, he attacked another enemy machine-gun post, and succeeded in putting the gun out of action. Cpl. Miner then rushed single-handed an enemy bombing post, bayoneting two of the garrison and putting the remainder to flight. He was mortally wounded in the performance of this gallant deed."

823028 Corporal
Henry (Harry) Garnet Bedford Miner, V. C., Croix de Guerre (France),



58th Bn. Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment).
Corporal. 823028. Died 08/08/1918, aged 28. Son of John
and Sarah Orpha Miner.

On this Day – November 20

1917

British Advance at Cambrai - 460 British tanks break through the German lines at Cambrai. It is history's first successful large-scale armour attack. The 3rd Army under Lt.-Gen. Byng attack on a 10 mile front between St. Quentin



and the River Scarpe. The Hindenburg Line is broken at places, and numerous villages are captured. It is reported that over 8,000 German prisoners were taken. Battle of Cambrai famous for 2 things: First great tank attack in history and first preregistration of artillery for offensive. Although tanks and infantry overwhelmed German defences, cavalry was slow to exploit. Germans counter-attacked and regained most of ground lost.



At the Battle of Tunnel Trench, a diversionary attack for the Battle of Cambrai, the "swift & successful operation by 16th

Irish Division was a model of attack." The Irish captured 3,000 yards of trench, took 635 prisoners & killed 300.

1918

General Petain is promoted to Marshal.

1940

Hungarian Premier and Foreign Minister in Vienna agree to join Tripartite.

1941

The exiled Norwegian Government in London officially backs 'Milorg', the largest resistance organization in Norway.

The British garrison is ordered to break out and link up with XXX Corps. However, Rommel, now realizing the threat sent the Afrika Korps to attack at Sidi Rezegh.

Japanese issue attack orders, although no action is to be taken until the results of the latest diplomatic negotiations are known.

1942

Northeast and southwest of Stalingrad, the attacking Soviet armies are making rapid progress in the direction of Kalach on the Don, the chosen meeting point of the two pincers.

The 6th and 4th Panzer Army's hurriedly dispatch mobile units to bolster the unprepared and crumbling Romanian defenses west and south of the Don. Hitler relinquishes his command of Army Group A to Kleist.

The Eighth Army reaches Benghazi.

1943

The Eighth Army crosses the Sangro River for first time.
4,800 British prisoners are taken at Samos in the Aegean.

The Red Army achieves a breakthrough near Kremenchug in the Ukraine and advances toward Kirovograd. Hitler does not allow Army Group North to withdraw to Panther line. Russian POW losses for war now total over five million.

US Marines land on Makin and Tarawa atolls in Gilbert Islands, with fierce fighting reported.

1944

With artillery audible in the distance, Hitler departs for Berlin from the Wolfschanze (Wolf's Lair), his headquarters near Rastenburg in East Prussia that he has occupied since the beginning of the war with the Soviet Union in June 1941. Although construction work continues on the headquarters, Hitler never returns.

1945



The Nuremberg trials begin. The tribunal was given the task of trying 24 of the most important political and military leaders of the Third Reich with Goring, Ribbentrop, Hess, Keitel, Jodl, Raeder, Doenitz, Streicher and other top Nazis on trial. The trials were held till 1 October 1946

1947



Today marks the anniversary of the marriage of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.



Roll of Honour – November 20

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+CRYMBLE, Cecil Reginald

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn attached to 3rd. Lieutenant. Died 20/11/1914 at Houplines, Armentieres, France. Aged 29. RBAI. B.A.(1906), B.Sc (1908), D.Sc., QUB. He was the students' representative on the QUB Senate in 1910, and was for some time employes as a Demonstrator in Chemistry. In 1910 he moved to University College, LOnon, to work with Sir William Ramsay, discoverer of noble gases. He was later appointed Lecturer in Biological Sciences and attained a D.Sc. He had been much involved in the QUB Officers' Training Corps and was one of the first members to join the Special Reserve being posted to the 3rd (Princess Victoria's) Royal Irish Fusiliers. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 22/08/1912, and on the outbreak of war was posted to Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn, proceeding to the front at the beginning of September 1914. Born 06/04/1885 in Belgium to George Gordon Crymble and Agnes Templeton Crymble, of Gordon House, Annandale. He lived care of Mrs G Neill, Gordon House Annadale Avenue, formerly of 7, Upper Crescent, Belfast. Ploegsteert Memorial. St Jude's C of I, Belfast, WM. RBAI WM

+STRANAGHAN, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 3rd Btn. Private. 7955. Died 20/11/1914. Age 34. Born at Belfast. Son of the late Andrew and Mary Stranaghan. Clacton Cemetery

1915

+BOORMAN, James

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 8364. Died 20/11/1915. Age 41. Native of Ballymoney. Brother of Mrs. Maggie McCartney, of 57, Melrose St., Belfast. Native of Ballymoney, Ireland. Sailly-sur-La-Lys Canadian Cemetery, France

1916

+GINGLES, John

Canadian Infantry, 78th Btn (Manitoba Regiment). Sergeant. 147729. Died 20/11/1916. Age 29. Son of Patrick and Agnes Gingles, of Ballyedward, Kilwaughter, Larne. Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France

+HAGGAN, David

RN. Stoker I. SS/115481. HMS Express. Died 20/11/1916. Age 19. Died in hospital, East Pilton, Edinburgh, from severe, extensive, burns. Enrolled 19/02/1914. Pembroke II, St. George, Tyne (Express 09/09/1914 - 20/11/1916). Born Belfast 14/01/1896. Son of David and Rose Ann Haggan, Alaska St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery. DM 188/1121/115481

+SEELEY, William

South African Infantry, 10th Regiment. Sergeant. 6568. Died 20/11/1916 in East Africa of malaria/blackwater fever. One of 11 children of William Scilly and Eliza Jane Scilly. The farming family was living in Killybaskey, Moneymore by 1871. The family name was spelled Scilly / Silly in most early records. By 1911, it seems to have changed to Seeley. William Seeley served in the Boer War. Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery, Tanzania. Cookstown WM

1917

+ANDERSON, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 4662. Died 20/11/1917. Age 18. Son of William and Agnes Anderson, of 3, Foxglove St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+BRACKEN, Robert John

Middlesex Regiment, 12th Btn. Private. G/40798. Died 20/11/1917. Age 20. Son of Hugh Bracken, of "Birches", Portadown, Co. Armagh, and the late Rebecca Mary Bracken. Thiepval Memorial, France

+BUCHANAN, J M

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 27418. Died 20/11/1917. Age 31. Son of William and Isabella Buchanan, of Aughlish, Dromore, Co. Tyrone. Hermies British Cemetery, France

+BURKE, David

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. Private. 19354. Died 20/11/1917. Age 23. Son of Robert and Mary Jane Burke; husband of Margaret Elizabeth Burke, of Creo, Fyfin, Strabane, Co. Tyrone. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+CRAIG, S

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Company Serjeant Major. 13210. Distinguished Conduct Medal. Died 20/11/1917. Age 27. Husband of Sarah Craig, of 12, Gosford Place, McClure St, Ormeau Rd., Belfast. Croisilles British Cemetery, France

+DANE, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th Btn. Private. 11/26085. Died 20/11/1916. Age 27. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Dane, of Shanco, Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+DONNELLY, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 5739. Died 20/11/1917. Age 28. In 1911 James was working as a faram labourer and living with his widowed mother who was a flax scutcher. Son of Daniel and Eliza Donnelly; husband of Elizabeth Donnelly, of Crossmore, Keady, Co. Armagh. Arras Memorial

+GALWAY, William

Tank Corps, D Btn. Gunner. 75257. Died 20/11/1917. Age 25. Son of Elizabeth Galway, of 39, Church View, Holywood,

Co. Down, and the late Robert Galway. Flesquieres Hill
British Cemetery, France

+GIBSON, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Btn. att'd. 10th Btn. Private.
15037. Died 20/11/1917. Native of Fintona. Hermies British
Cemetery, France

+GORDON, William

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 29976. Died
20/11/1917. Age 24 years old. Son of Thomas and Anna
Gordon, of Tawlaugh, Ballynarry, Co. Cavan; husband of
May Halliday (formerly Gordon), of 2, Mornington St.,
Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louveral, France

+HINDS, Michael

Connaught Rangers. 6th Btn. Private. 4695. Died
20/11/1917. Youngest son of John Hinds, Ballyrolly.
Downpatrick. Croisilles Railway Cemetery, Pas de Calais,
France

+LAVERTY, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Lance Corporal. 21495.
Military Medal. Died 20/11/1917. The actions which lead to
Newbuildings man Private Patrick McKee and his
Ballymoney comrade Lance Corporal John Lavery being
decorated are unrecorded. What is known, is that over a two
week period in August 1917, Private McKee and Lance
Corporal Lavery acted with such heroism that they were
both awarded the Military Medal shortly afterwards. In
November that year, McKee and Lavery held off a German
attack with a heavy machine gun, while their fellow
servicemen withdrew. Both men manned the gun to their

deaths. They have no known grave and are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France.

+LITTLE, Daniel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Serjeant. 13654. Died 20/11/1917. Age 26. Bronze Medal for Valour, 3rd Cl. (Italy). Son of the late George and Jane Little, of Leckpatrick, Ballymajorry, Strabane. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+MAGUIRE, Patrick

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 21225. Died 20/11/1917. Larne. Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

+MARTIN, Alexander

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 40651. Died



20/11/1917. Age 27. Born in Stewartstown area 15/10/1890. Son of James and Sarah Martin. His mother died before his third birthday and by 1901 Alexander and his brother George were living with their aunt Annie Straghan and her husband at India Street, Belfast. Alexander

worked as a warehouse assistant or Belfast firm Messrs Renwick, Robinson & Co., before enlisting. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim on 25/05/1915 (No.1610). At the end of December 1916 he was one of forty North Irish Horsemen who transferred to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (No.40651). They embarked for France on 09/01/1917 and were posted to the 10th Battalion, joining it at Ploegsteert Wood on the Ypres front. On 20/11/1917 the 10th Battalion saw action during the first day of the Battle of Cambrai. Their first objective, the spoil heap on the left of the Canal du Nord, was taken with relative ease. Following this they worked their way forward along the German trenches, clearing dugouts and taking a large number of prisoners. By 10.00 am they had reached the Demicourt–Flesquières road. Their casualties had been light, but included Private Martin, killed in action. One of Martin's brothers was wounded in action on 16/08/1917 during Third Ypres. Another served in the Royal Navy. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Albany Presbyterian Church, Ardboe RH

+MARTIN, Alexander

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 40651. Formerley North Irish Horse. 1610. Died 20/11/1917. Born on 15/10/1890 at Killycolpy, County Tyrone, fifth son of nailer and farmer James Martin and his wife Sarah (nee Ruddel). His mother died before his third birthday and by 1901 Alexander and his brother George were living with their aunt Annie Straghan at India Street, Belfast. Alexander was still with his aunt in 1911, by then working as a warehouse assistant. He was a member of the South Belfast UVF and prior to enlistment was working for Belfast firm Messrs Renwick, Robinson & Co.

Martin enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim on 25/05/1915. At the end of December 1916 he was one of forty North Irish Horsemen who transferred to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. They embarked for France on 09/01/1917 and were posted to the 10th Battalion, joining it at Ploegsteert Wood on the Ypres front.

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+McANARY, Matthew James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 9197. MM. Died 30/11/1917. Battle of Cambrai. Born and lived in Desertmartin, County Londonderry. He enlisted in Cookstown and served with the 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Castledawson WM.

+McCLELLAND, Daniel

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7/8th. Private. 23765. Died 20/11/1917. Born in Bushmills on 19/07/1890. Son of James McClelland and Mary McDonald. He was 10 and living in Bushmills with his family in 1901 and in 1911 was 19 and a farm servant in the household of the McCluney family of Dunsilly, Antrim. He married Elizabeth McCloskey in Antrim RC Church on

13/04/1914 and the couple lived at Brecart, Toomebridge.
Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+McCREA, Walter James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 11th Btn. Private. 16211. Died 20/11/1917. Age 20. Son of Thomas McCrea, of Drumackin, Tempo, Enniskillen. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+McCULLOUGH, A

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Private. 25038. Died 20/11/1917. Age 16. Son of William J. McCullough, of 8, Lower California St., Belfast. St Martin Calvaire British Cemetery, St Martin-sur-Cojeul, France

+McFADDEN, Manus

Connaught Rangers. 6th Btn. Private. 7344. Died 20/11/1917. Age 17. He served in France and was wounded in the winter of 1915. Formerly he had been employed by Mr. William Margey, J.P., as a barman in his hotel, Main Street, Portstewart. He was a cousin of Mr. Edward McCaffrey, Coleraine Road, Portstewart. He was born in Kilmacrennan, County Donegal. Portstewart WM, IMR

+McGUIRE, Patrick

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 21225. Died 20/11/1917.

+McKEE, Edward

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. B Coy. Serjeant. 25193. Died 20/11/1917. Age 27 years old. By 1911 he had enlisted and was serving in India with Royal Irish Fusiliers 2nd Btn. Also recorded as serving with the first battalion. He disembarked in France in 1914, later transferring to 7th/8th

Btn. Son of Robert and Mary Anne McKee, of Enagh, Tynan, Co. Armagh. Arras Memorial, France. Lislooney Presbyterian Church WM

+McKEE, Patrick

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 7th/8th Btn. Private. 20912. Military Medal. Died 20/11/1917. The actions which lead to Newbuildings man Private Patrick McKee and his Ballymoney comrade Lance Corporal John Lavery being decorated are unrecorded. What is known, is that over a two week period in August 1917, Private McKee and Lance Corporal Lavery acted with such heroism that they were both awarded the Military Medal shortly afterwards. In November that year, McKee and Lavery held off a German attack with a heavy machine gun, while their fellow servicemen withdrew. Both men manned the gun to their deaths. They have no known grave and are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France.

+McKINLEY, Thomas

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 6356. Died 20/11/1917. Son of Margaret McKinley, of Dollingstown, Lurgan. Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+McKINLEY, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 11th Btn. Private. 28115. Died 20/11/1916. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Emma McKinley, of Ardmore, Cullion, Londonderry. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+MORAN, James

Labour Corps, 182nd Btn. Private. IL/528. Died of wounds

20/11/1917. Age 35. Born in Desertmartin and lived in Bracanaslea, County Londonderry. He enlisted in Cookstown with the Royal Irish Regiment and served as Private 29829 before transferring to the 182nd Battalion Labour Corps. St Hilaire Cemetery, Frevent, France.

+MORGAN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Serjeant. 514. Died 20/11/1917. Age 43. Husband of Elizabeth Morgan, of William St., Donacloney, Lurgan. Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery British Extension, France

+QUINN, Hugh

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. Private. 21183. Died 20/11/1917. Age 37. Son of James and Alice Quinn; husband of Ann Jane Quinn, of 9, Rosetta Cottages, Ormeau Rd., Belfast. Arras Memorial, France

+ROCKS, Joseph

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. R.N. Div. Drake Btn. Petty Officer. Clyde Z/4397. Died 20/11/1917. Age 22. Letter from Lieutenant Southwood to Mrs Joseph Rocks: June 1917: "Petty Officer Joseph Rocks was killed by an enemy shell whilst superintending some important work in consolidating a position won by his Division in April and May. He was only with us a short time, but he won the respect of the men and officers of the company, and was looked upon as being one of the best Petty Officers in the battalion. At the time of his death he was standing in the open superintending the work of his men in the trench, and despite heavy shelling he carried on with his work in a manner, which did him the

greatest possible credit. It will be I am sure a great consolation to you to know that he suffered no pain, as he was killed instantaneously. You have, and will at least have, the satisfaction of knowing that he died as a true Britisher should – doing his duty bravely and well.” Son of Michael and Mary Rocks, of 19 Edward Street, Lurgan. Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+SMITH, Albert

King's Royal Rifle Corps, 12th Btn. Rifleman. R/40042. Died 20/11/1917. Son of Thomas and Annie Smith, of Larne. Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France

+STEVENSON, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 11th Btn. Lance Corporal. 29652. Died 20/11/1917. Age 18. Son of Leonard Stevenson, of Corr, Coalisland. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Dungannon WM

+THOMPSON, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7th/8th Btn. L/Cpl. MM. 11167. Died 20/11/1917. Age 23. Son of James Thompson, The Green, Downpatrick. LOL 359. Arras Memorial, France

+WATSON, William James

Machine Gun Corps, 16th Coy. Private. 86869. Died 20/11/1917. Son of James and Sarah Ann Watson, of 78, Church St. East, Belfast. Born on 08/06/1897 in Caledon, County Tyrone. By the time of the 1901 census, the family had moved to Knocknagoney, Ballyhackamore, County Down. Ribecourt British Cemetery, Nord, France

1918

+FINNEGAN, James

Highland Light Infantry, 2nd Btn. B Coy. Private. 3754. Died 20/11/1918. Age 29. Son of John and Catherine Finnegan, of Innisrush, Portglenone, Belfast. Born at Hollywood, Co. Down. Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, France

+HORGAN, Dennis Edmund

Royal Field Artillery. Driver. 99785. Died 20/11/1918. Age 20. Son of Dennis and Anna M. Horgan, of 55, Woodvale St., Belfast. St Michael's C of I Churchyard, Blackrock, Ireland

1919

+FULLERTON, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Private 12/17663. Died 20/11/1919 from pulmonary tuberculosis. Born Bellaghy 10/06/1895. Before enlisting he worked at Hydepark Bleach Works, Mallusk. Enlisted 16/09/1914.. Discharged 24/10/1917 as pleurisy "no longer rendered him fit for war service". His brothers James and Samuel also served. Both were injured but survived the war. Son of William and Isabella (nee Robinson) of Craigarogan, Mallusk, Hydepark Presbyterian Church RH. Royal British Legion, Hydepark Branch RH

+HIGGINS, Matthew A

RAF. Private. 51703. Died 22/01/1919. Age 24. 39 Sqdn. Born in Draperstown 08/11/1894. Son of Francis and Susanna Higgins. He was one of 14 children. The family lived in Desertmartin. Matthew was an agricultural labourer.

He enlisted in 1915. Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

1941

+HAMILTON, Joseph Vincent

RAF. Sergeant. 654636. Died 20/11/1941. Aged 34. 38 Sqdn. Son of Hugh and Mary Ann Hamilton, of Carnmoney, Co. Antrim. Alamein Memorial, Egypt

+McAULAY, Angus Campbell

Royal Australian Navy. H.M.A.S. Sydney. Band Corporal. 17244. Died 20/11/1941. Indian ocean. Age 34. Son of William and Lily McAulay; husband of Muriel Irene Elizabeth McAulay, of Cronulla, New South Wales, Australia. Plymouth Naval Memorial, panel 58

HMS KHANDAHAR

+CARSON, William John

RN. Writer. D/MX 67650. Died 20/12/1941. Age 21. HMS Kandahar. He had been a noted boy soccer player with international appearances against England, Scotland and Wales. He was on the staff of Shell-Mex Co.Ltd. Brother of Miss Ula Carson, Twaddell Ave., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 09/01/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 55

+McDOWELL, George Patrick

RN. Acting Yeoman of Signals. D/JX 143268. Albert Medal. Died 20/12/1941. Age 22. HMS Kandahar. He was awarded the Albert Medal posthumous for bravery and devotion to duty saving life. His ship had gone to the assistance of the crew of another ship which had been sunk. Yeoman

McDowell went into the water and assisted many sailors to reach the rescue ship. Although he knew his strength was waning he refused to give up, and in company with another crew member, also awarded the Albert Medal, he gave his life. Son of Hugh and Elizabeth McDowell. Brother of Arthur McDowell, Ballymacateer, Lurgan. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 14/08/1942). Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 50, Column 1. Dollingstown WM

1942

+LAVERTY, Robert Anthony

RAFVR. Sergeant. 994040. Died 20/11/1942. 202 Sqdn. Born 02/01/1924, in Moy. Co. Tyrone, son of Robert and Sarah Lavery. He was the fifth of eight children. He attended Aughanlig school on the Armagh side of Charlemont. In 1938 he went to study at Armagh College. In April 1940 Robert enlisted in the RAFVR After training, in October 1942, he was posted to 202 Squadron, based in Gibraltar. On 20/11/942, Sergeant Robert Lavery was on board a Catalina escorting a convoy when it was shot down by friendly fire. All ten crew members were killed. Malta Memorial, Malta. Dungannon WM

1944

+GRAHAM, Patrick

Royal Ulster Rifles. 7th Btn. Private. 25670. Died 20/11/1944. Aged 47. Son of Edward Graham and Jane Graham of Lisburn, and husband to Nellie Graham of Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Holy Trinity Cemetery. Lisburn WM

VETERANS

ALDWELL, Basil Willington

RNVR Lieutenant (A) HMS Illustrious. Japanese POW. Born in Lurgan on 23/04/1920. Son of Frederick Basil and Edith Aldwell. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin. His father was later the rector of St George's Parish Church, Belfast. Basil enlisted 20/11/1920.

War time service - 810 Sqdn. FAA. Temp Sub Lt 25/10/1941. 788 Sqdn. FAA. HMS Lanka (RN base Colombo). 01/10/1942 796 Sqdn FAA HMS Kilele (RN air station, Tanga, Tanganyika). 15/02/1943 Pilot 803 Sqdn FAA - army co-operation in East Africa. 20/09/1943 Pilot 797 Sqdn FAA HMS Ukussa (RN Air Station, Katakurun, Ceylon). 25/04/1925 Temporary Lieutenant . Flying Barracudas. 26/02/1944. Pilot 810 Sqdn FAA. HMS Illustrious. 21/06/1944 shot down on bombing raid on Port Blair, Andaman Islands with Observer S/Lt Gunther and PO Rogers, LS 471.

They were captured 15 miles off the Andaman Islands. Treatment on board a Japanese ship was good but deteriorated when they reached the islands being handcuffed and taken to Andaman Jail for interrogation. After 10 days they were flown to Singapore and although being interrogated the treatment and food was much better than at Andaman. They were then flown by Saigon, Hong Kong and Taiwan to South Honshu, Japan. They were then taken to Tokyo POW Camp. South west from the centre of Yokohama. There were 135 POWs who were naval aviators from UK and USA. Add to that submariners who had been captured. The camp leaders were two US navy officers. On

05/04/1945 the Japanese discovered that CPO Rogers was not an officer. He was moved to Omori Camp, Japan, where he was eventually liberated. Basil and Robert Gunther were questioned and punished for 10 months during which they both lost 60 lbs through lack of food. Daily for weeks they were beaten by baseball bats, made to stand on their toes or their hands. Although they were both beaten down and started to answer questions after ten months of sheer misery, they were still being questioned up to the time Japan capitulated.

During his time at Ofuna Basil undertook a religious reading at the burials of fellow prisoners. These were based on the upbringing in his youth by his father Rev F B Aldwell. At liberation there was a change of guard at Ofuna. Masses of food and clothes were freely given. Previously the Japanese had retained over half of the Red Cross parcels and the remainder rationed over several months. Basil was diagnosed as a sitting case aboard Hospital Ship Benevolence in Tokyo Bay. He was suffering from Beri Beri and malnutrition. He was vaccinated for TB. He was taken by hospital ship to Auckland, New Zealand.

The Japanese Commander Yokura Sashizo was sentenced to 25 years hard labour at the War Crimes trials.

It was not until 1950 that Basil was fit enough to work. A radio ham, his first post was fixing the police radar in Northern Ireland. A keen sailor who won the Ailsa Craig race twice. He kept a ship's chandlers in Bangor. He and Hilda Patricia Thompson married. They had three children. Basil had a farm on the coast of Strangford Lough where he bred pedigree Herefords. When the Troubles broke out in N

Ireland he moved to Meath and then to Guernsey. He also had a home in Key Largo, Florida where he and his wife went each winter because of his lungs. He died on 13/05/1996 aged 76 at home in Guernsey. His remains were interred at St Pierre du Bois. Brother of Lt.(E) Thomas Derek Aldwell, RN who died in a FAA aircraft crash at St Merryn (Also known as HMS Vulture and HMS Curlew) on 13/09/1950.

JOHNSTON, Mervyn Baptist

RN. Stoker. C/KX85491. MiD - London Gazette 20/11/1945. Clanelly, Fermanagh.

MILLS, Robert John McLaughlin

RN. Born Belfast. Moved to Canada 1948. Husband to Elsie. Died at Acton in his 89th year on 20/11/2010

MONARD, Patrick Terence

RNVR. FAA. Petty Officer. 1939 - 45. Born 20/11/1924. Son of SH Monard, The Warren, Donaghadee. Campbell College 2842

**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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