



remembrance ni



Cairo War Cemetery

Medical mother's war service after son's death

Hugo Bell Fisher was educated at Newry Intermediate School and RBAI. He then went to QUB Faculty of Science 1914 - 15. He intended to read medicine.



Elizabeth Gould Bell

He was a member of the Officer Training Corps.

He received a commission with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1915 and he joined his unit in France on 23/11/1916. He was wounded and captured during the Battle of Passchendaele - the Third Battle of Ypres. Exactly a year after

arriving in France, he died of wounds in a German Field hospital. See today's Roll of Honour [here](#).

His mother Elizabeth Gould Bell was the first female medical graduate in Ulster. Elizabeth qualified in 1893 from the Royal University of Ireland (RUI). She was born on December 24 1862 in Newry, Co Down, and was the daughter of Joseph Bell of Spring Hill, Newry, clerk of the Newry Poor Law Union.

Elizabeth married Dr Hugh Fisher on March 2 1896 in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church in Belfast but her husband died in 1901 of typhoid fever, leaving her a widow after only a few years of marriage – the first great tragedy of Dr Bell's life.

Hugo Bell Fisher, was their only son.

Elizabeth Gould Bell was a supporter of the women's suffrage movement. She was a close friend and ally of Mrs Pankhurst, the founder of the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903.

She was also friendly with Lady Betty Balfour, wife of Gerald Balfour, a former Conservative chief secretary for Ireland, and daughter of Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton, the 1st Earl of Lytton. Lady Betty was an active suffragist and sought to convince the leadership of the Conservative Party of the justice of votes for women. The leadership of the Conservative Party was much more receptive to the proposition than the leadership of the Liberal Party.

In November 1911 Dr Bell was arrested for throwing stones at various London department stores and was imprisoned in Holloway.

The first recorded militant act by the movement in Belfast took place on November 16 1912 and was an attack on the General Post Office in Donegall Square in which its windows were smashed.

The context for some of this militancy was Sir Edward Carson's unexpected announcement that women's suffrage would be granted under plans for a provisional government of Ulster. However, when the constitution of the provisional government was publicised in September 1913, there was no mention of votes for women. Dr Bell and others contended that Carson had 'reneged' on his 'pledge' and this provided their justification for intensification of their



campaign and, more specifically, their resort to arson against unionist-owned property. Dr Bell subsequently insisted that she checked there were no people in these buildings before they were torched.

By far the greater part of her career was spent in Belfast where her patients were mostly women and young children but in the first decade of the 20th century she was in Manchester (probably with her sister) and during the Great War she worked in Malta, where soldiers and sailors wounded in the eastern Mediterranean were treated. Elizabeth Tate, another medical woman pioneer, served there and died of an illness contracted in her work.

Dr Bell was honorary physician to the Maternity and Baby Home at The Grove and medical officer to the Belfast

Corporation's 'Baby Club', a welfare scheme run by the corporation providing subsidised milk for impoverished mothers.

In February 1919 Dr Bell was appointed as medical officer to Riddel Hall which was founded and endowed by the Misses Eliza and Isabella Riddel.

They had donated a substantial sum of money (£35,000) to build Riddel Hall as an independent hall of residence for female Protestant students and teachers of Queen's University in 1913. Dr Bell subsequently became a governor of the permanent committee of Riddel Hall.

She taught students in the Presbyterian Deaconesses' Home. She was also interested in temperance and supported the Ulster Women's Christian Temperance Association.

Noted for her 'striking personality and intellect', she lived at 83 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, before moving to 4 College Gardens.

She died after a long and painful illness on July 9 1934. On October 11 2016 the Ulster History Circle erected a Blue Plaque to honour Dr Bell at Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry. The location was chosen because it was the site of the Newry Workhouse where Dr Bell grew up and where her father worked.

Acknowledgment - Ulster Medical Journal, 2017

On this Day – November 23

1914

Ypres (Ieper) is heavily bombarded by the Germans. Reports of much damage and destruction done to the Cathedral and the Cloth Hall.

1917



Dame Katharine Furse appointed as first Director of the Womens Royal Naval Service. This remarkable woman had already had an influential war with the Red Cross and was also the first Director of the Girl Guide Association. Until 1991 Furse House in London was named for her.

1939

RAF shoots down seven German aircraft over France.

The Nazis in control of Poland issue a decree requiring all Polish Jews over the age of twelve to wear white armbands emblazoned with a blue Star of David.

The Scharnhorst and Gneisenau intercept a convoy, which is escorted by the merchant cruiser Rawalpindi. The Scharnhorst sinks the Rawalpindi (killing 265 crew), which sacrificed itself in order that the convoy could escape. The British Home Fleet puts to sea in an attempt to engage the two German ships. However, both the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau have already headed for home. The Royal Navy recovers its first intact German Magnetic mine. These types of mines have been causing an increasing number of casualties to shipping, in and around the UK.

Britain begins rationing bacon and butter.

US celebrates Thanksgiving after Roosevelt moved holiday from last to second-to-last Thursday to extend the Christmas shopping season.

Macy's parade first features Superman balloon.

1940



Margate and Folkestone were attacked by the Italian Air Force, who played a small and rather insignificant part in the

Battle of Britain. Seven Italian Caproni BR20m bombers, flying from bases in Belgium, are shot down by Fighter Command during an air attack on the UK. These raids only served to emphasise the deficiencies of the Italian aircraft and they were soon withdrawn.

Southampton is hit badly by the Luftwaffe.

The Romanian leader Antonescu agrees to join the Tripartite pact.

German submarine U-100 sinks seven Allied cargo ships in convoy SC-11 off the coast of Ireland

1941

German troops are now only 35 miles north-west of Moscow.

Axis forces destroy the 5th South African Brigade after days of tank battles round Tobruk.

U.S. troops move into Dutch Guiana to guard the bauxite mines.

1942

The Russians claim 24,000 prisoners have been taken since the start of their counter offensive.

Retreating before the British 8th Army (Montgomery), Panzer Army Afrika reaches El Agheila.

Japanese air raid on Darwin, Australia.

1943



Minesweeper HMS Hebe was sunk by a mine laid by German submarine U-453 off Bari, Italy. She capsized within five minutes of the detonation and sank very quickly. 72 of her crew were saved and 36 lost their lives.

The allies cross the Sangro in strength.



Berlin hit again by the RAF with 764 RAF aircraft, dropping over 2,300 tons of explosives, making it the worst bombed

city in Germany with 12,000 tons dropped on it this year alone. 175,000 Germans were made homeless, and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church was destroyed.



United States forces seized control of the Tarawa and Makin atolls from the Japanese after a bloody 76-hour battle.

More than 3,000 US troops were killed or wounded. Word of the casualties soon reached the U.S. and the public was stunned by the number of lives lost in taking the tiny island.

1944

Submarine HMS Stratagem was depth-charged by a Japanese destroyer in the Malacca Strait and forced to the surface, where her crew scuttled her. 38 men died and 10 survivors were taken prisoner, of whom 3 ultimately survived Japanese captivity.

The allies declare Macedonia on Greek Yugoslav border, free of Germans.

French First Army takes Strasbourg, France.



Forces of the French First Army discovered and liberated the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp. About 52,000 prisoners were estimated to be held there, 22,000 died.

1945

Butter rationing comes to an end, leaving sugar as the only item that continues to be rationed in the USA.

Roll of Honour – November 23

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+McDONNELL, The Honourable Sir Schomberg Kerr

Cameron Highlanders, 5th Btn. Major. GCVO, KCB. Died 23/11/1915. Age 54. Fifth son of the 5th Earl of Antrim and Jane his wife of Glenarm, Co Antrim. He had held the office of Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister Lord Salisbury between 1888 and 1902, fought in the Boer War in South Africa and was Chief Intelligence Officer of the London District between 1914 and 1915. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. He is remembered in St Patrick's Church of Ireland (Tickmacrevaun), Glenarm, Co. Antrim

+McCREANOR, Patrick

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 6th Btn. Saturday 23/11/1915. Son of Samuel and Isabella McCreanor of Arthur Street, Lurgan. Patrick died at sea while returning from the Dardanelles, prior to his enlistment, he had been employed as a linen weaver. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

+McKENNA, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 27927. Died 23/11/1915. Son of Catherine McKenna. Born in Kildress, Cookstown, County Tyrone. John McKenna was working in Govan, Scotland when he enlisted in the army at the

outbreak of war. In his Will, he left all to his mother, who was living in Upper Killeenan, Kildress. Thiépval Memorial, Thiépval, Somme. Cookstown WM

+WIGHTMAN, Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. Rifleman. 13852. Died 23/11/1915. Age 19. Brother of Harold T. Wightman, of 133, Ormeau Rd., Belfast. Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France

1916

+ARMSTRONG, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. Died 23/11/1916. Born in Dunmurry, Co. Antrim, he lived in Monaghan, and enlisted at Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+BRADLEY, M

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Corporal. 10511. Died 23/11/1916. Brother of Miss R. Bradley, of Abbey St., Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Couin British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

+CAIRNS, Wilson

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 3392. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 25. Son of Wilson and Maria Cairns, of 22, Beechnut St., Belfast. Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France

+DONALDSON, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Fusilier. 3853. Died 23/11/1916. He was killed in action when his unit had been ordered to attack Munich trench and succeeded in entering it but were

unable to reach their second objective. Four men were killed in this attack with forty-two wounded and nineteen missing. John Donaldson was listed as missing. Son of John and Mary Donaldson of Drumglass, Dungannon. Husband to Mary, North Street, Stewartstown. Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, France. Stewartstown WM

+FREEL, William John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 2983. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 21. Son of William and Selina Freel, of 17, Witlion Square, Belfast. Serre Road Cemetery No.2, Somme, France

+GRAHAM, James Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 3143. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 20. Son of John and Mary A. Graham, of Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

+HILL, Robert Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 3518. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 19. Son of James Henry and Sarah Hill, of 91, Matilda St., Belfast. Frankfurt Trench British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France

+LATIMER, George Albert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Corporal. 3324. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 24. Son of George Latimer and Margaret Latimer, of Hollybrooke, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France

+McBAY, PATRICK

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 3537. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 25. Son of William J. McBay, of 20, Argyle

Terrace, Londonderry, and the late Ellen McBay. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

+McCRORY, Patrick

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 3215. Died 23/11/1916. Born at Keady. It is thought he resided at Duncairn, Belfast. He disembarked at Gallipoli in May 1915 prior to serving in France. Thiepval Memorial, France

+McILVEEN, Robert

RNR. Stoker. 2092U. HMS Juno. Died 23/11/1916. Age 39. Son of William and Eliza McIlveen, Belfast; husband to Agnes McIlveen, Cherryville St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 23

+MURRAY, Samuel

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 2549. Died 23/11/1916. Age 26. Son of Samuel Murray, of Lisduff, Maguiresbridge, Enniskillen, and the late Catherine Murray. Thiepval Memorial, France

+PRESTON, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 7084. Died 23/11/1916. Aged 33. Son of Andrew Preston, of Lenadarg, Banbridge; husband of Margaret Anne Preston, of Scarva St, Banbridge. Theipval Memorial, Somme, France

1917

+ARMOUR, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th/9th Btn. Lance Corporal. 12518. Died 23/11/1917. Son of Mrs. M. Armour, of 10, Bendigo St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+ARMSTRONG, William.

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. Died 23/11/1916. Born in Dunmurry, Co. Antrim, he lived in Monaghan, and enlisted at Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+BALLANTINE, Thomas

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Serjeant. 18322. Died 23/11/1917. Age 33. Husband of Rebecca Ballantine, of Ballinahone, Armagh. Pre-war he was a bread-server. Husband to Rebecca Ballantine and father of three, living at Drumadd, Armagh. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. First Armagh Presbyterian Church WM

+BROWNE, Rennie

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th/9th Btn. Rifleman. 445. Died 23/11/1917. Age 19. Son of John Browne, of "Glenmore," Bloomfield Rd., Belfast, and the late Dessie Browne. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+BRYANS, David

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. Private. 14043. Died 23/11/1917. Age 17. He was wounded in the advances of 01/07/1916 and fell at Moeuvres. Lived with his stepfather George Camlin and his mother Martha at Lonsdale St., Armagh. The family received a letter from the Rev Samuel Mayes, a C of I minister serving as a chaplain to the forces. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. St Mark's C of I Parish Church, Armagh WM

+CAIRNS, Wilson

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. B Coy. Private. 3392. Died 23/11/1916. Age 25. Son of Wilson and Maria Cairns, of 22, Beechnut St., Belfast. Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France

+CATHCART, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Btn. Rifleman. 259. Died 23/11/1917. Aged 18. Born and living in Lisburn, he enlisted at Belfast. Son of Thomas Cathcart of 3 Longstone Street, Lisburn. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval Military Cemetery, France.

+COCHRANE, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. Rifleman. 1656. Died 23/11/1917. Age 20 years old. Son of Robert J. and Ellen Cochrane, of 172, Blythe St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+COSTLEY, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Sergeant. 7660. Died 23/11/1917. Son of William John and Margaret Jane, of Drumnakelly, Lurgan. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+DIXON, Wesley

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th/9th Btn. C Coy. Lance Corporal. 12725, Died 23/11/1917. Age 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Dixon, of 32, Mount St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+ERSKINE, Walter

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7006. Died 23/11/1917. Age 21. Son of William Erskine, of 43, Sancroft St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+FINN, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. Depot. Rifleman. 15/12781. Died 23/11/1918. Age 24. Son of William and Annie Finn, of 19, Shipbuoy St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+FISHER, Hugo Bell

Royal Munster Fusiliers. Captain. Died 23/11/1917. Age 19. Newry Intermediate School and RBAI. QUB Faculty of Science 1914 – 15. He intended to read medicine. He was a member of the Officer Training Corps. He received a commission with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1915 and he joined his unit in France on 23/11/1916. He was wounded and captured during the Battle of Passchendaele being reported missing on 10/11/1917. The 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers were taking part in the 1st Division attack on the Goudberg Ridge. They lost over 400 men that day, in which, for a time, they withheld a German counterattack on a position called Void Farm by throwing mudballs at them. The Germans mistook them for bombs and fell back. Hugo's mother received a letter from her son on 21/11/1917, sent from Limburg, a clearing station for the wounded. She reported that "he writes very badly that he is feverish and wounded in the left foot." He died in a German field hospital in Beveren, Belgium, from a shell splinter wound to his left thigh. Only son of Dr. Elizabeth Bell Fisher, and the late Dr. Hugh Fisher, a medical practitioner, College Gardens, Belfast. Elizabeth Bell Fisher was the first female student to study Medicine and Surgery at Queen's College Belfast and she received her degree from the Royal University in Ireland

in 1893. She left Belfast in July 1916 to take charge of a ward in a Malta Hospital. Harlebeke New British Cemetery, Kortrijk, West Flanders, Belgium. Fisherwick Presbyterian Church WM, RBAI WM

+FITZGERALD, David

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7356. Died 23/11/1917. Age 19. Son of Robert and Maggie Fitzgerald, of Upper Ballysillan, Ligoniel, Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+GILMORE, Alexander William Francis

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Military Cross. Died 23/11/1917. Age 19. In 1911, 12-year-old Alex was living with his grand-father, William Argue at house 67, Bailieborough. On 03/11/1914, Alex joined the Northern Bank and worked in its Head Office. Alex volunteered in 1916 and enlisted into the 19th Btn Royal Irish Rifles (Cadet Company) with Service Number 19/293. On promotion to 2nd Lieutenant he was posted to the 15th Btn. Royal Irish Rifles, British Expeditionary Force. It is reported that he went 'to the front early in the present year [1917]'. He fought in battles at Messines (1917) and Ypres (1917). The 'Belfast News Letter' of 28/07/1917 reports on his award of the Military Cross. It also mentions that he was wounded on 07/06/1917. The Military Cross citation is reported in the Northern Whig of 18/09/1917. The Northern Whig of 04/12/1917 reports that Alex had been missing since 23/11/1917. Son of Mary Jane Gilmore, of Bailieborough, Co. Cavan, and the late Isaiah Gibson Gilmore, Veterinary Surgeon and Chemist. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+HALLIDAY, Stephen

Royal Irish Rifles. 5th Btn. Rifleman. 5525. Died 23/11/1917. Age 44. Husband of Caroline Halliday, of 62, Douglas St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

+HILL, Harry

Royal Sussex Regiment. 7th Btn. Lance Corporal. G/5243. Died 23/11/1917. Age 25. Son of Samuel and Annie Hill, of 43, Thames St., Broadway, Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+HILL, Robert Henry

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 3518. Died 23/11/1916. Age 19. Son of James Henry and Sarah Hill, of 91, Matilda St., Belfast. Frankfurt Trench British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France

+HUBBARD, Percy

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Company Serjeant Major. 8864. Died 23/11/1917. Born at Peterborough. Resided with his wife in Barrack Street, Armagh. (Armagh Gazette 14/01/1918). Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+MALCOLMSON, Samuel

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. B Coy. Private. 14454. Died 23/11/1917. Age 23. Son of Joseph and Caroline Malcolmson, of 56, Jervis St., Portadown. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+MARSH, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 23/11/1917. Son of Samuel James and Annie Marsh of

Roughan, Tullyniskane, Tyrone. He was born about 1892 in County Tyrone. His father was a mechanic at the mill. Pre-war Jospeh was a spinning mill mechanic, like his father. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France, panel 10. Dungannon WM, Newmillls C of I Parish Church WM, Newmills LOL 183 RH

+MASSEY, Patrick

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6740. Died 23/11/1917. Age 21. Son of John Massey, of Plantation St., Killyleigh. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+McCHESNEY, William

Royal Irish Rifles 8th/9th Btn. Rifleman. 1941. Died 23/11/1917. Larne. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+McFARLAND (McFARLANE), George

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th/9th Btn. Rifleman. 1402. Died 23/11/1917. Born at 10 Loftus St., Belfast on 31/09/1897. He was a member of the UVF at Hydepark. He lived with his aunt and uncle Jeanette and Patrick McNeice at Ballyvessey, Carnmoney. His mother Jane died in 1902. His father Thomas also lived at Ballyvessey. His brother Robert died on 07/08/1917 serving in the same battalion. Another brother John received a serious head wound but survived. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. Royal British Legion, Hydepark Branch RH. Templepatrick Presbyterian Church RH

+McFERRAN, Walter

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 24614. Died 23/11/1917. Age 19. Son of Robert and Elizabeth McFerran, of 73, Silver St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+McMASTER, D

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18330. Died 23/11/1917. Age 20. Son of David and Annie McMaster, of Ballycran, Kircubbin. Moeuvres Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+PRESTON, John Ephraim

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Sergeant. 7984. Died 23/11/1916. Enlisted in Downpatrick. Went to France 23/08/1914. Originally listed as missin. Later confirmed as having been killed in action 23/11/1916. The 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers took part in the attack on Munich Trench at Beaumont-Hamel (1 Officer killed 3 wounded O/R 4 killed, 42 wounded & 19 missing) later a total of 23 killed in action. John was born 15/07/1881 son of Andrew & Annie Preston (nee Forsyth) 53 Lenaderg Banbridge. Andrew & Annie were married in Tullylish Presbyterian Church 23/12/1876. They had a family of 8 (6 sons & 2 daughters). Annie died 28/11/1891. John Ephraim was husband to Margaret Anne Preston (nee Sands) Scrava Street Banbridge. John and Margaret married in Scarva Presbyterian Church 12/04/1909..They had a family of 3 (1 son & 2 daughters). Sergeant Preston has no known grave. He is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial for the Missing , Banbridge WM, Gilford WM, Tullylish Presbyterian Church

RH memorial. Scarva Street Presbyterian Church RH Memorial

+RANKIN, Robert Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 23/11/1917. Age 23. Son of John A. and M. C. Rankin, of Stockmane Lane, Belfast.. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+REID, William James

Royal Irish Rifles, 9th Btn. B Coy. Serjeant. 13417. Died 23/11/1917. Age 39. Son of the late William and Annie Reid; husband to Ellen Jane Cooke (formerly Reid), of 177, Agnes St., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+ROBINSON, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles 8th/9th Btn. Corporal. 7421. Died 23/11/1917. Larne. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+ROBINSON, William

Royal Irish Rifles 2nd. Btn. Rifleman. 1941. Died 23/11/1917. Larne. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+SANDERSON, James A M

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Lance Corporal. 17/219. Died 23/11/1917. Age 23. Son of Samuel Sanderson, of 4, Chichester Terrace, Antrim Rd., Belfast. Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, France

+SLEATOR, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 41418. Died 23/11/1917 at Moeuvres during the battle of

Cambrai. Age 22. His family lived at Railway St., Armagh and near Keady before moving to Belfast. Born on 10/04/1895 at Eden Street, Enniskillen, son of sawyer James Sleator and his wife Elizabeth (nee Courtenay). By 1911 he was living with his family at Iskeymeadow, Keady, County Armagh, and working as a drapery assistant.

Sleator enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Antrim on 15/11/1915 (No.1870). On 25/08/1916 he embarked for France with a reinforcement draft. He was posted to A Squadron, which was then part of the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment, joining it in the field at Humbercourt on 23 September.

In September 1917 the 2nd North Irish Horse Regiment was dismounted and most of its officers and men were transferred to the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers – which was renamed the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion. They were joined by a number of surplus men from the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment. Private Sleator, one of the latter, was transferred to the battalion on 20 September. He was issued a new regimental number – 41418.

In November and December 1917 the 9th Battalion played a role in the Battle of Cambrai, first going into action in the attack on the village of Moeuvres on 22-23 November. The battalion war diary for those days records -wounded 6. ORs 82 casualties. Sleator was one of the 82 casualties, though whether he was killed on the 22nd or 23rd is uncertain. Sleator's younger brother Henry also served during the war, as a sapper in the Royal Engineers. The family lived at Railway St., Armagh and near Keady before moving to Belfast. Son of James and Elizabeth Sleator, of 6, Cappy

St., Ravenhill Rd., Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+STEWART, Waring

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 22775. Died 23/11/1917. Lived in Dunmurry, enlisted at Belfast Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. St. John's Church of Ireland WM, Moira

+THOMPSON, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th/9th Btn. Rifleman. 1623. Died 23/11/1917. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Sarah Thompson, of 110, Woodvale Avenue, Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+TURKINGTON, William James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th (North Irish Horse) Btn. Private. 41173. Died 23/11/1917. Age 26. Son of William James and Hannah Turkington, of 19, University Avenue, Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

+WALES, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. Rifleman. 607. Died 23/11/1915. Age 19. Son of James Wales, of 10, McIvor's Place, Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

+WIGHTMAN, Herbert

Royal Irish Rifles. 10th Bn. Rifleman. 13852. Died 23/11/1915. Age 19. Brother of Harold T. Wightman, of 133, Ormeau Rd., Belfast. Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France

+WILLIAMSON, Thomas

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 1104. Died 23/11/1915. Age 18. Eldest son of James Porter Williamson and Edith Richardson Williamson, of 7, Hazelnut St., Belfast. Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery, France

1917

+HYNES, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th/9th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 909. Died 23/11/1917. Age 21. Son of Hugh and Jane Hynes, of 36, Houston St., Ballyhackamore, Belfast. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France.

+MARSHELL, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles. 15th Btn. Rifleman. 1396. Died 23/11/1917. Age 26. Son of Robert and Sophia Marshall, of Knockans, Finvoy, Ballymoney. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France.

+McCANN, John William

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th/9th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 611. Died 23/11/1917. Age 19. Son of William and Isabella McCann, of Glenraig, Craigavad, Co. Down. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France.

+SMYTH, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Btn. Second Lieutenant. Died 23/11/1917. Age 26. Son of William and Margretta Smyth, of The Vow, Ballymoney. Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France.

1918

+COSKERY, F

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Serjeant. 164. Died 23/11/1918. Age 24. Native of Annalong. Son of William Coskery and Annie Nugent, his wife, of Upper Ballylough, Annsborough, Co. Down. Ingoyghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

+MONTGOMERY, Walter Augustus

RAF. Private (2nd Class). 286791. Died 23/11/1918. Age 19. 2nd Air Park. Born Moy 18/02/1899. Son of Thomas and Margaret Montgomery, Grange, Moy, Tyrone, later of Farlough, Tullynskane, Tyrone. Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimillie, Pas de Calais, France. Dungannon WM

1919

+HODGES, H

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th/9th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. 1823. Died 23/11/1919. Age 27. Son of Henry and Christina Hodges, of Clannaghey, Tyrella; husband of Sarah Hodges, of Rathmullan, Tyrella. Born at Clannaghey. Rathmullan C of I Churchyard

+McDONALD, E

Royal Irish Rifles, 5th Btn. Rifleman. 5607. Died 23/11/1919. Dougher Roman Catholic Cemetery, Lurgan

1939

HMS Rawalpindi

+FEE, Thomas Hugh Cecil Hickland

RNR. HMS Rawalpindi. Lieutenant(E). Died 23/11/1939. Aged 28. Thomas Hugh Cecil Hickland (sometimes Heckland) Fee was born on 01/01/1911 in *Everton*, Ballymaconaghy. Only son of David Alfred Fee JP and Josephine Margaretta Fee (nee Beck) of *Baythorpe*, Holywood. David Fee worked as an Estate Agent and Government Land Valuer and, before moving to Holywood, the Fee family lived in Cregagh, Belfast. Thomas Hugh Cecil Hickland Fee attended Campbell College from 1920 until 1921 and then the University School, Hastings in Sussex. After leaving school he worked as an apprentice manager in Harland and Wolff Ltd., Belfast and at that time he lived at 8 Pretoria Street, Stranmillis Road. Later he went to sea to gain engineering experience and he served aboard the SS *Rawalpindi*. Built by Harland and Wolff Ltd., Greenock, Scotland and launched on 26/03/1925, the SS *Rawalpindi* was a passenger ship operating on the London to Bombay route by the P&O Steam Navigation Company Ltd. She was requisitioned by the Admiralty in August 1939, converted to an Armed Merchant Cruiser (AMC) and renamed HMS *Rawalpindi*. Thomas Hugh Cecil Hickland Fee was given commissioned rank.

While patrolling north of the Faroe Islands on 23/11/1939, HMS *Rawalpindi* investigated a possible enemy sighting, only to find that she had encountered two of the most powerful German warships, the battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* conducting a sweep between Iceland and the Faroes.

HMS *Rawalpindi* was able to signal back to base the location of the German battleships *Scharnhorst* and

Gneisenau. Despite being hopelessly outgunned, 60-year old Captain Edward Coverley Kennedy decided to fight, rather than surrender as demanded by the Germans. He was heard to say, 'We'll fight them both, they'll sink us, and that will be that; good-bye'. The two German warships shelled HMS *Rawalpindi* and she sank within 40 minutes. Lieutenant Thomas Hugh Cecil Hickland Fee was one of more than 230 men who died. Captain Kennedy (father of the broadcaster and writer Ludovic Kennedy) was posthumously *Mentioned in Despatches*. Less than 50 men were rescued. *Scharnhorst* was sunk on 26/12/1943 during the Battle of the North Cape and *Gneisenau*, heavily damaged in an air raid on Kiel Harbour in Germany on 26/27 February 1942, was sunk by the Germans on 23/03/1945 as a blockship (to prevent access) at Gotenhafen in Poland.

A letter from Lieutenant Commander (E) B.J. Dyer, RNR, was published in the December 1945 edition of *The Campbellian*: 'Lieutenant Fee was in charge of the stokehold during the *Rawalpindi* action and was shut off from the rest of the ship by water-tight doors. Early in the action there was a hit in the after-stokehold. This caused a slow leak, so that the boilers were slowly put out of action. At the same time, the engine room was badly knocked about, with great loss of life and machinery put out of action. So, you can see that Lieutenant Fee had a job on his hands. However, when I paid a visit, the oil lamp was giving enough light to keep things going, so everybody was calm and collected. Of course, the gunfire was making a terrific din.

The next I saw of Lieutenant Fee was when he reported to me that the stokeholds were flooded, fires all out and that he had shut all the emergency oil valves and ordered all hands

out of the stokeholds. No loss of life up to now. Well done, Fee. What to do now? I told him to take over his boat, get it ready and put all the badly wounded in the bottom. A little later I had a minute to spare to give a hand there and we noticed some blood dripping on the deck. This led to a discovery of a big hole in the bottom of the boat. It did not matter though as a shell burst just below and blew the boat to pieces shortly after.

By this time things were in a pretty bad state, fires all over the place and a great number of casualties. But your friend was still full of beans, certainly showing no signs of the weak heart he was supposed to have. So, I told him to get in one of the other boats and clear out. There were not many left alive by then and not many boats either. It was very cold and a heavy sea running and just starting to get dark. I did not see what actually happened but I heard that the boat which carried your friend out of danger was overloaded, being one of the last boats left and a sea caught her and turned her right over, and drowned everybody in her. Wasn't that rotten luck after missing everything else?

So, you can rest assured that Engineer Lieutenant Fee was one of those that showed them that we still know how to die. I expect you have heard that there were no decorations for anybody on the *Rawalpindi*, but I expect that was because everybody there deserved a VC, with Lieutenant Fee right on the front line'. Liverpool Naval Memorial, and Campbell College, Belfast.

+QUINN, Thompson Baird

RNR. Sub Lieutenant. MID posthumously, London Gazette 08/06/1946. HMS Rawalpindi. Died 23/11/1939. Aged 23.

Son of James and Elizabeth Jane of 72 Ravenhill Park, Belfast. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 35. St Jude's Parish, Belfast WM.

1943

+MATTHEWS, Arthur James

RAFVR. Pilot Officer. 155803. Died 23/11/1943. Aged 30
630 Sqdn. Husband to Lilian Matthews, of Downpatrick.
Runnymede Memorial, Panel 132

+McNALLY, Robert William Stephen

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Sergeant. 1028538.
Died 23/11/1943. Age 26. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. Son of
Robert and Agnes McNally, of Lisburn. Rheinberg War
Cemetery, Germany. Lisburn WM

+REAY, Derek Edward

RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant. 135136. Died 23/11/1943. Aged
22. 207 Sqdn. He was in Lancaster Bomber W4959 on a
bombing raid to Berlin when the aircraft was lost with the
lives of all crew members. Portora RS. Son of William
Harrington Reay and Margretta Elizabeth Reay, of Belfast.
His brother Geoffrey Norman also died on service on
04/11/1944. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 120,
Portora Memorial gates

+TITTERINGTON, James

RAFVR. Sergeant (Flight Engineer). 1796161. Died
Between 23/11/1943 and 24/11/1943. Aged 23. 1658 RAF
Conversion Unit. The Handley-Page Halifax bomber he was
in crashed in horrific weather conditions in Yorkshire with the
loss of all on board. Six planes were sent on a navigational,
night flying, cross-country training exercise. Large fragments

of Titterington's plane remain at the crash site alongside a memorial stone erected in the 1980s by David Morris. The area is popular with walkers and the memorial lies off a hiking trail in the crags. Son of Robert and Sarah Titterington, of Belfast. Family memorial Dundonald Cemetery

1944

+DUNN, James

Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 5th Btn. Corporal. 5437164. Died 23/11/1944. Age 25. Son of Robert and Margaret Dunn. He was born about 1919. He was then looked after by his grandparents from a young age. James joined the army as a boy soldier in the 1930s. He was killed in action near Nijmegen. GroesBeek Memorial, Nijmegen, Gelderland, Netherlands. Cookstown WM

+LAIRD, Robert

Royal Army Service Corps. Sergeant. T/20729. Died 22/11/1944 whilst home on leave. Age 44. Robert, from Templemore St, Belfast enlisted in the Army Service Corps underage in 1917 and served in Mesopotamia. Discharged in May 1922, he re-enlisted in the RASC in August 1939, serving in France and in the UK. Son of James and Elizabeth Laird, husband to Hannah Louisa Laird. Ballylinney Old Graveyard, Ballyclare.

+MANN, William Church

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 174377. Died 23/11/1944. Age 22. Son of John K. and Nellie Mann, of Hillhead, Castledawson. Naples War Cemetery, Miano, Naples. Castledawson WM, Rainey Endowed RH

+McDONALD, Peter Frank

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 154199. Died 23/11/1944. Age 26
195 Sqdn. Son of Peter and Sarah Jane McDonald of
Portadown. Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

1945

+BUSH, Bertram John

Worcestershire Regiment. 2nd Btn. Private. 6029690. Died
23/11/1945. Aged 24. Son of Bertram John and Elizabeth
Bush; husband to Jane Bush, of Larne. Rangoon War
Cemetery, Myanmar

+COLEMAN, John William

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. P/K57950. Died 23/11/1945. Aged
49. HMS Danae. HMS Danae had served in the First World
War, entering the fray on 26th January 1918. It underwent
repairs and modernisation and was once again used in
World War Two. Attached to 9th Flotilla of cruisers, Danae
patrolled the waters of south-east Asia before spending 11
months in the docks. Returning in July 1943, Danae
returned to the English Channel as part of 1st Cruiser Fleet
offering support to Operation Neptune. On D-Day, 6th June
1944, HMS Danae bombarded German batteries near
Ouistreham, Normandy. It continued to support the Allies
around Caen after D-Day. In August 1944, the ship returned
to Plymouth before handover to the Polish Navy. Renamed
ORP Conrad, it joined the 10th Flotilla of cruisers on 2nd
April 1945 before returning to Royal Navy usage on 28th
September 1945. John Coleman was born in Liverpool, on
14/02/1896, he was the son of George Henry Coleman and
Frances Florence Coleman. John married Sarah Maze in
September 1922 in West Derby, Lancashire. The couple had

a daughter named Edna, born on 12/08/1929 in Belfast.
Dundonald Cemetery

1946

+HOLDEN, Sheila Mary

Auxiliary Territorial Service. Private. W/305253. Died 23/11/1946. Age 20. Daughter of Vincent Leo and Gladys Mary Holden, of Armagh and formerly of Lancashire. Her uncle Thomas Woods Holden of Abbey Street, Armagh, was the organist in St Patrick's RC Cathedral, Armagh. St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Armagh

VETERANS

BRENNAN, Jim

Jim died on 23/11/2021. He was 101 years old. He was also the last surviving member of the 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery 22Bty, also known as the 12 Mile Snipers. He was the last surviving Second World War veteran belonging to Whitehouse Presbyterian Church.

COSTELLO, John Edward Cecil

RN. Lieut. (E), 1935. DSC. 1939-45 War: Lieut. - Commander (E) 01/10/1942, Commander (E). Cadet RN Special Entry 1929. Navy List - Lieutenant 1934. DSc. CEng. Born 23/11/1911. Father of John Edmond Costello, writer and television producer for LWT and BBC in UK 1967 - 72 and USA after 1977. Son of JHS Costello, Waverley Drive, Ballyholme. Campbell College 1879. 55 Bury Crescent, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hants.

KYLE, Frederick

Royal Irish Rifles, 10th Btn. 107th Brigade. 36th (Ulster Division). Private. Served at Forelavailles, Arras. Born November 1898 in South Belfast. Moved to New York City. Husband to Elsie. Father of Gail, Mary Ann, Barbara and Judy. Died 23rd November 1973

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We will remember them

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Contributions for Roll of Honour - please send email to address below and include where possible unit, ship or formation, date of death, and number if known

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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