



remembrance ni



The Belfast Cenotaph

The Belfast Cenotaph is in Donegall Square West, to the west of Belfast City Hall. Like the City Hall, it was designed by Sir Alfred Brumwell Thomas. The cenotaph was unveiled in 1929. It became a Grade A listed building in 1984.

The memorial includes a central Portland stone monument about 30 feet (9.1 m), with bronze brackets on either side supporting flagpoles. The top of the monument has carved laurel wreaths, symbolising victory and honour.

It bears several inscriptions: on the north side:

“PRO DEO / ET /
PATRIA //
ERECTED BY /
THE CITY / OF /
BELFAST / IN
MEMORY OF /
HER / HEROIC
SONS / WHO
MADE / THE
SUPREME /
SACRIFICE / IN /
THE GREAT WAR
/ 1914–1918 //
THROUGHOUT
THE LONG
YEARS OF
STRUGGLE
WHICH / HAVE
NOW SO



GLORIOUSLY ENDED THE MEN OF ULSTER / HAVE
PROVED HOW NOBLY THEY FIGHT AND DIE / GEORGE
R.I.” and on the south face: “THEY DEDICATED THEIR
LIVES TO A GREAT CAUSE AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
BY LAND, SEA AND AIR WON UNDYING FAME”.

The monument stands on three steps. To the south is an arc of paired Corinthian columns forming a 25 feet (7.6 m) high colonnade. To the north is a sunken garden of remembrance, which since 2011 has been the location for



Shrouded figures were placed in the grounds of the City Hall leading to the Cenotaph. They represented the men from the 36th (Ulster) Division and other Irish formations who have no known graves.

an annual Field of Remembrance. The paving of the garden was renewed in 1993.

The memorial was completed in 1927 and officially unveiled by Viscount Allenby on 11th November 1929.

No Catholic organisations participated in the formal unveiling ceremony, but veterans from the 16th (Irish) Division laid a wreath after the ceremony ended, and participated the following year.

In addition to the Remembrance Sunday services, there is also an annual ceremony to remember the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July.

Nearby are memorials the service of Irish regiments in the Boer War, the Korean War memorial, to US forces who arrived in Northern Ireland in 1942, and to Op Banner.

On this Day – November 9

1914



HMAS Sydney won the Australian Navy's first battle honour destroying the German ship Emden in the Indian Ocean. Her Royal Navy Captain, John Glossop ran Emden aground after the battle. Sydney's mast (photo of present HMAS Sydney base) and Emden's deck gun are now Australian monuments.

1916

Minesweeper HMS Fair Maid (paddle steamer ordered by the North British Steam Packet Co. and requisitioned on the stocks by the #RoyalNavy in 1915) sank with the loss of five of her crew after striking a mine off Harwich.

1918



Kaiser Wilhelm II gives up the German throne and goes into exile. He dies in the Netherlands in 1941 at the age of 82.

HMS Britannia was torpedoed and sunk off Cape Trafalgar, by the German U-boat UB-50 (Cdr. H. Kukat). 2 torpedoes missed her, but the 3 one struck her amidships and made the cordite explode. 40 from 777 lost their lives. It

took her 3 hours to sink. Britannia was the last Royal Navy ship lost in the war. Britannia was one of eight King Edward VII class battleships. She entered service in 1906.

The British enter Maubeuge, approach Mons and capture Tournai.

1937

Japanese troops invade Shanghai, China.

9-10. November Pogrom. Kristallnacht – a pogrom against the Jews throughout Nazi Germany. Hundreds killed and died by suicide, 30,000 men arrested, over 1,000 synagogues burnt, over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

At the annual Beer Hall Putsch speech, Adolf Hitler claimed that the war with Soviet Union was effectively won, citing 3.6 million prisoners taken, and by conjecture the Soviet forces must have suffered 8 to 10 million casualties thus far.

Germans capture Yalta in Crimea.

Royal Navy Surface Force K from Malta annihilates an Italian convoy of seven supply ships and sinks two destroyers.

1942

Naval battles off Oran and Casablanca, result in three French destroyers being sunk.



Corvette HMS Gardenia sank off Oran, Algeria, in a collision with minesweeping trawler HMS Fluellen. Three men from Gardenia died.



Minesweeper HMS Cromer struck an Italian mine off Mersa Matruh, Egypt, and sank with the loss of 46 officers and men.

US troops advance on both sides of Oran, taking 2,000 French prisoners after stiff resistance. German paratroops are landed in Tunisia without opposition from the French.

German planes transport troops to El Aouina Airfield in French Tunisia to combat Allied landings in Algeria.

Germans force Danish King Christian to appoint pro-Nazi Erik Scavenius as prime minister.

German spy Werner Janowski is landed by U-boat at New Carlisle, Quebec, but is arrested within hours on a tip from a suspicious hotel clerk.

1943

General Charles de Gaulle is named president of the French Committee of National Liberation, the “Free French,” in the wake of the resignation of General Henri Giraud.

1944

The last Germans on Walcheren surrender. German forces evacuate the Moerdijk bridgehead across the Meuse river.

Total U.S. war casualties are now reported to have passed the 500,000 mark



Roll of Honour – November 9

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+CORDNER, Thomas

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Private. 11254. Died 09/11/1914. Aged 18. From Foundry Street, Portadown. Thomas lost his life at the battle of Ypres on the eve of his nineteenth birthday, in a gallant endeavour to save a comrade, Private Wm. Hanvey, who also belonged to Portadown. Strand Military Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium

+GARDNER, Aaron Wason

Army Service Corps, 3rd Cav. Div. Supply Col. Private. SS/1503. Died 09/11/1914. Age 25. Son of Joseph and Margaretta Gardner, of 39, Hattan Drive, Woodstock Rd., Belfast. Railway Chateau Cemetery, Belgium

+IRVINE, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7587. Died 09/11/1914 as a result of wounds received in action at Neuve Chapelle on 03/11/1914. Age 29. Born 17/07/1884 in Georges Street, Newtownards. Son of Samuel and Margaret Irvine (nee Dunn) who married on 04/04/1868. Samuel Irvine was a soldier who served for a time in India and in civilian life he worked as a weaver. The Irvine family lived in Newtownards in South Street, East Street, Greenwell Street, Georges

Street, Movilla Street, Dobbin's Row and at 24 Upper Movilla Street. Samuel and Margaret Irvine had at least seven children. John Irvine was a Reservist who had previously served with the 1st Btn Royal Irish Rifles in India. At the start of the Great War he was called up to the 2nd Btn and went to the Front at the outbreak of hostilities. Ironically, Rifleman John Irvine had sent a postcard dated 3 November 1914 to his brother Samuel intimating that he was well. Samuel Irvine lived at 152 Leopold Street, Belfast. Uncle of Lance Corporal Robert Russell Irvine (5852). Around the time of John Irvine's death news came through that his brother, Rifleman James Irvine, had been wounded in action. In civilian life James Irvine served his time in watchmaking and repairing in the firm of Robert Stoupe, Jeweller, Newtownards. Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery, Belgium. Newtownards and District WM. 24, Upper Movilla St., Newtownards. Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery, Belgium

1915

+COLEMAN, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 3rd Btn. Private. 6940. Died 09/11/1915. Londonderry City Cemetery

+MURRAY, Charles

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 29153. Died 09/11/1915 of enteric. Aged 19. Charles' brothers Francis and Patrick also died in World War One. Charles was born about 1896 in Mullinbuoy, County Tyrone. Son of Francis and Teresa Murray, of Lurganbuoy, Dumnoyle, Sixmilecross.

Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery,
Egypt.

1916

+ACHESON, Vincent Andrews

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 6TH. Btn. Captain. Died 09/10/1916, Salonika Campaign. Age 28. On the outbreak of the war, he had at once volunteered and had joined the 6th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as a private. He soon obtained a commission in January 1915, was appointed Captain, and in the succeeding autumn, gained his company. Born 13/12/1887. Son of David and Sarah Acheson of Drumreany, Castlecaulfield. Vincent had an older brother Frank D Acheson, who was born around 1880. Vincent studied at Lurgan and then at St Andrews College, Dublin. He captained Dungannon Rugby Club. On the death of his father in 1912, he took charge of the Castlecaulfield factory, of the linen manufacturing firm trading as Acheson & Smith Limited. He later married Agnes Swan, of Broughty Ferry (near Dundee), Scotland. They had a son, David. Struma Military Cemetery, Kalokastro, Greece. Dungannon WM. Castlecaulfield Presbyterian Church RH

+KYLE, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. (The Derrys). Private. 19870. Died 09/11/1916. Age 21 He volunteered for active service in September 1914. The Derrys trained at Finner Camp, County Donegal, and Seaford, Sussex, and arrived at the Western Front in October 1915. Son of Mrs. Eliza Kyle, Roselick, Portstewart. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Portstewart WM, Agherton Parish Church WM and RH, IMR.

1918

+ADDIS, William John

Royal Irish Rifles. 1 Btn. Private. 2362. Died 09/11/1918. Ballinderry. Ballinderry Parish Church War Memorial; Ballinderry Memorial Hall. Unable to check military details with CWGC

+EVANS, R

North Irish Horse. Private. 71586. Died 09/11/1918. Age 27. Son of Thomas Evans, of Suffolk, Dunmurry. Christ Church C of I Churchyard, Derriaghy

+HOLMES, William

RN. CERA II. HMTB 7. Died 09/11/1918 in RN Hospital Chatham from influenza and broncho pneumonia. Age 36. Enrolled 30/08/1909 for 12 years. War service in Egmont, Blenheim (Renard), Pembroke II and Actaeon (TB 7). Born Belfast 13/05/1882. Son of Captain Charles Holmes, Master Mariner, and Mary Jane Holmes (nee McKibbin), Downshire Road, Holywood and later of Killiney, Bangor. Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent. Bangor Purple Star LOL No. 677 RH. First Bangor memorial window and PCI RH. ADM 188/1020/1152

+KANE, Patrick

Leinster Regiment, 2nd Btn. Died 09/11/1918. Age 25. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. Kane, of Portloughan, Raholp, Downpatrick, Co. Down. Cement House Cemetery, Belgium

+McLEAVY, Charles Edwin

Canadian Infantry. 50th Btn. Private. 883446. Died 09/11/1918. Age 35. Enlisted on 19/06/1916 at Cremona,

Alberta, Canada, where he had been working as a farmer. He embarked Canada with 187th Overseas Battalion on S.S. Olympic on 15/12/1916. Disembarking in England 26/12/1916. The battalion was then conveyed to Canadian Army Training Camp at Witley, Surrey. The battalion was transferred to 202 Battalion and again transferred to 50th Battalion 27/05/1917.

On 05/09/1917 whilst at the front he wounded by shrapnel in the right buttock. He was treated at 6 Casualty Clearing Station the same day, then transferred on 8 September to 26 General Hospital, Etaples. Invalided to England he was admitted on 19 September into Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, London for further treatment. On 10 / 11/1917 he was transferred to Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Uxbridge formerly in 1914 Hillingdon House. London. He was then transferred to Manor County of London War Hospital, Epsom the 12 /12/1917. Again, he was transferred 24/01/1918 to Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Woodcote Epsom where he was discharged fit for war service on 15/02/1918.

He was admitted on the 16/09/1918 into 20th General Hospital, Camiers, France suffering from a complaint to his right foot. On 22/09/1918 he was transferred to No 6 Convalescent Depot, Etaples. The next day he was transferred to No 10 Convalescent Depot, Ecault, France.

He was discharged fit for war service 03/10/1918. While at the front on 01/11/1918 the Germans attacked his position with mustard gas. It appears that he was unable to get his gas mask before being affected. He was dangerously ill with gas poisoning at 26 General Hospital, Etaples, France. He died there on 09/11/1918. Charles Edwin McLeavy was born on 18/07/1883 at Corcreeny to John William and Lilian Mary

(nee Barber) McLeavy, of Kilwarlin, Hillsborough, Co. Down. At the time of his death his mother, his next of kin, was residing at 44 University Road, Belfast. Etaples Military Cemetery, France



Hamburg cemetery where the remains of Royal New Zealand Air Force Flight Sergeant Isaac Kennedy from Ahoghill rest.

+SMYTH, G

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 91. Died 09/11/1918. Age 20. Son of Mrs. J. Smyth, of 20, Sloan St., Lisburn. Berlin South-Western Cemetery, Germany

1919

+REID, Benjamin

Royal Irish Rifles. 4th Btn. Rifleman. 7334. Died 09/11/1919. Age 27. Son of Robert Reid; husband of Annie Reid of Belfast. UK Book of Remembrance

+SHIELDS, R

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 33242. Died 09/11/1919. Age 23. Son of Mrs. C. J. Shields, of 4, Cliftonville St., Belfast, and the late Robert Shields. Kut War Cemetery, Iraq

1941

+Robinson, Hugh Wilgar Robinson

RAFVR. Pilot Officer (Pilot). 63492. Died night of **09/10** November 1941. Age 30. 9 Sqdn. Flying Wellington III aircraft X3280 on a mission from RAF Honington. The target was Hamburg however the aircraft was hit by flak or attacked by enemy fighter aircraft and crashed off Vlieland with the loss of all six Crew. Son of Hugh and Annie Wilgar-Robinson, of Belfast. Vlieland General Cemetery, Netherlands. Family memorial at Holy Trinity Church cemetery, Ballylesson.

1942

+ALLEN, Samuel

RAF. Corporal. 521623. Died 09/11/1942. Age: 28. Japanese PoW. His capture took place on 20/03/1942. Samuel and Annie Allen, Cullybackey Road, Ballymena. No known grave. Singapore Memorial, Col. 426

+CRABBE, James Douglas

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Pilot). 119539. Died 09/11/1942. Age

20. Son of John Miller Crabbe and Jean Crabbe, of Belfast; husband to Irene Joan Crabbe. Collection plates in Stormont Presbyterian Church donated as a memorial by his parents. Dundonald Cemetery

+KENNEDY, Isaac

Royal New Zealand Air Force. Flight Sergeant (W.Op./Air Gnr.). 403012. DFM. Died 09/11/1942. Age 23. 142 (R.A.F.) Sqdn. Isaac undertook training on Course 1, Class 3/K at R.C.A.F. No. 2 Wireless School in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, graduating on 17/04/1941. He then trained at No. 2 Bombing and Gunnery School at Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Canada, and R.C.A.F. 1 Manning Depot at Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He joined R.A.F. 142 Squadron on 13/05/1942. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Medal.

He died while serving as a wireless operator / air gunner on Vickers Wellington BJ711 QT-Z. The crew took off from R.A.F. Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England bound for Hamburg, Germany.

On 09/12/1942, one month after the attack, The Evening Post issue 139 reported a reclassification in Kennedy's status. First reported as missing, he was now missing believed killed. The Auckland Star issue 292 carried the same notice the following day. So too did Issue 25095 of Air Force List and Issue 23817 of C.Z.E.F. Casualty List on 10th December 1942.

Several months later, on 16/08/1943, issue 24027 of Air Casualties declared Kennedy's death presumed. The Evening Post of the same date carried the notice. It is worth noting that all lists and local press still referred to the Flight Sergeant as hailing from Northern Ireland.

Son of Robert and Margaret Anne (née McNeilly) Kennedy, of Limnaharry, Ahoghill, Co. Antrim. Hamburg Cemetery. Hamburg, Germany. Ballymena WM

+McKEE, John

RN. CPO – ERA Fourth Class. HMS Kongoni. – A naval base near Durban. Died 09/11/1942 of wounds received on active service. He had five years' service. Formerly a fitter at AW Hamilton, Prince's Dock, Belfast. Son of George and Rhoda McKee, English Row, Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 20/11/1942). Johannesburg (West Park) Cemetery, Gauteng, South Africa

1944

+BELL, James Hogg

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1537760. Died 09/11/1944. Aged 20. On 09/11/1944 he was in a Vickers Wellington bomber on a Night Navigation Exercise when a fire started in the starboard engine. Having broadcast distress calls the crew were provided with a course to Barford St John where the aircraft was seen in the circuit of the airfield before it dived suddenly and crashed on a railway embankment. Son of John Hogg Bell and Hester Bell, of Portrush. Ballywillan New Cemetery, Portrush

1946

+COLEMAN, Elizabeth Joyce

WAAF. Aircraftwoman 1st Class. 2145035. Died 09/11/1946. Age 23. Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force during World War Two. Born in 1923, she was the daughter of Robert Coleman and Mary Madeleine (Daisy) Coleman (née Franks) of Rathfarnham, Dublin, Ireland. While serving in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, Joy contracted

tuberculosis. She underwent treatment in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, but would die from the disease. Glenalina Extension, Belfast City Cemetery

VETERAN

EPSTEIN, Arnold Leonard (Bill)

RN. Served 1944 – 47. Born in Liverpool, the son of a draper from Galicia, he grew up in Belfast. RBAI and QUB where he read Law and was called to the Bar. He then joined the RN. Post-war he took a degree in social anthropology at LSE. He did field work in Africa. Held professorship at ANU and University of Sussex. President of the Association of Anthropologists 1977 – 81. He had strong links with Ben-Gurion University and with Hove New Synagogue. Born 13/09/1924. Died 09/11/1999

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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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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