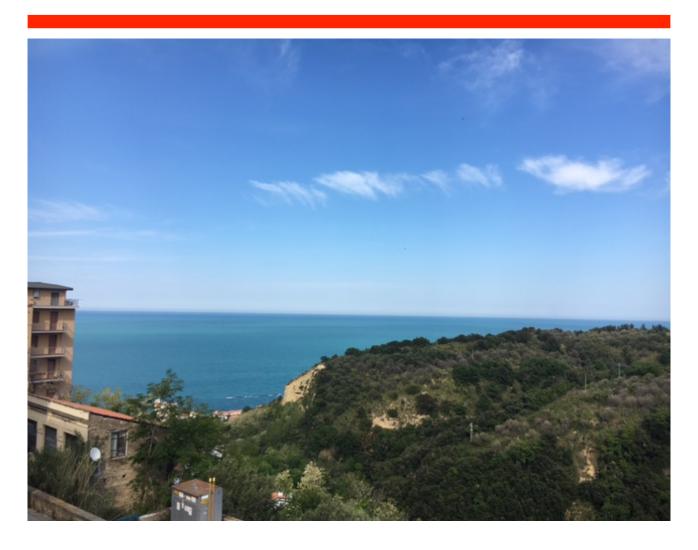


remembrance ni



Faughs were five miles behind enemy lines in Italy today in 1943

On 2nd December 1943, 1 Royal Irish Fusiliers were at San Vito.



Lieutenant John
Terence Gordon
Day of the Royal
Irish Fusiliers was
20 years old. He
was the son of the
late Richard and
the late Agnes Day;
nephew of Mrs. C.
N. O'Brien, of
Epsom Downs,
Surrey. Sangro
River War
Cemetery

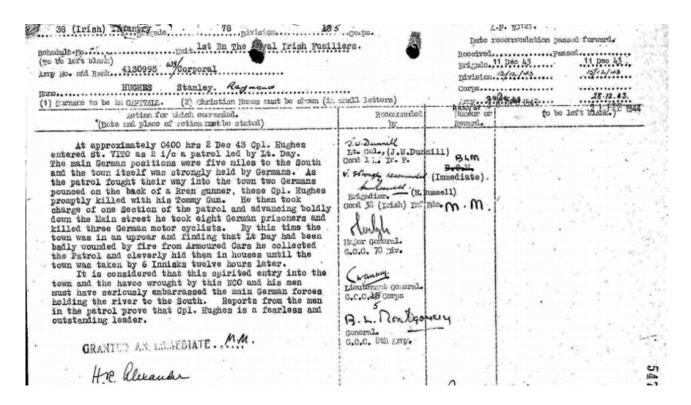
"The Faughs sent two Companies, A & D, under Jimmy Clarke, to upset the Bosche Line of Control, 5 miles behind enemy lines.

"Lt John Day got into the town with his Platoon, & there, for about 20 minutes, they had no ordinary party...

"They shot up troops, transport, MCs & armoured cars. When the hornets' nest was really roused, they went into houses & continued the good work. But it was too good to last & this brave little band, lost more than half their chaps – amongst them the gallant Day."

Remembrance Ni, December 2

"Jimmy Clarke had established the remainder of his 2 Companies about 300 yards from the town. They faced 5 counter attacks during the day. I felt anxious about these chaps & told them they could pull out any time. But the Faughs did not want to come back."



Report and submission for the immediate award of the Military Medal to Corporal Stanley Hughes

The text states -

"At approximately 0400hrs 2 Dec 1943 Cpl. Hughes entered St. Vito as 2i/c a patrol led by Lt. Day. The main German positions were five miles to the south of the town and the town itself strongly held by the Germans. As the patrol fought their way into the town two Germans pounced on the back of a Bren gunner, these Cpl. Hughes promptly killed with his Tommy Gun. He then took charge of one section of the patrol and advancing boldly down the

main street he took eight German prisoners and killed three German motor cyclists. By this time the town was in an uproar and finding that Lt Day had been badly wounded by fire from Armoured Cars he collected the Patrol and cleverly hid them in houses untill the town was taken by 6 Innisks twelve hours later."

Russian decorations

As well as the award to Cpl Stanley Hughes, Fus. John Toland received a gallantry award. In his case this was a Soviet award, the Medal for Distinguished Battle Service. At the time a Red Army delegation (one of whom was killed and is buried in Italy) was visiting HQ Eighth Army and presented a box of Soviet decorations and medals. Two of these were assigned to 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, an officer's decoration and a soldier's medal. Since Fus. Toland had distinguished himself in battle, he was awarded the soldier's medal. His family believed this to be the Russian equivalent of the Victoria Cross when they offered his medals to the Ulster Museum over 30 years ago.

The officer's award was 'written up' by the Adjutant, Captain Brian Clark, modified by the CO, Lt Col James Dunnill DSO, and further modified as it ascended the chain of command so that, at some point, it was decided that the officer concerned really deserved the DSO and not 'some Russian bauble'. The DSO was accordingly gazetted but sadly the awardee had been killed by then.

Lt John Day was also recommended for the Victoria Cross but there was no supporting officer's evidence and no award was made.

On this Day - December 2

1914

The Germans are defeated in their attempt to cross the Yser on rafts south of Dixmude.

1939

Russian troops capture Petsamo in the extreme north of the Finland.

The German liner Watussi is scuttled after her interception by South African Defence Force bombers.

1941



A German reconnaissance battalion reached the town of Khimki, some 30 km (19 mi) away from the Kremlin in central Moscow. Germans patrols are just five miles from the Kremlin.

Soviet troops evacuate the last territory in Karelia, taken from Finland in the 1939-1940 war.

Hitler issues Directive No.38 which tasks Kesselring as C-in-C South, with gaining air superiority and naval supremacy over the area between southern Italy and Libya in order to deny British supplies to Malta and Libya. To assist with this, he was reinforced by Fleiger Korps II, which was transferred from Russia. This, together with the existing air units of Fleigerkorps X were to form Luftflotte 2 and give the axis a significant numerical superiority over the RAF.

The Battleship Prince of Wales and the Battle Cruiser Repulse arrive in Singapore.

Churchill introduces a new National Service Bill, including compulsory service for women.

1942

At the University of Chicago the first controlled, selfsustaining nuclear chain reaction is realized by Professor Fermi and a team of scientists working under the name of the "Manhattan Engineering District."

The Allies repel a strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.

1943

Allied bombers resume the 'Battle of Berlin' dropping 1,500 tons, but losing 41 aircraft.

A Luftwaffe raid against the Allied naval base at Bari in Italy, hits an ammunition ship which explodes, sinking 17 other ships.

Ernie Bevin announces the conscription to mines as coal output continues to flag in Britain.

Remembrance Ni, December 2

Hitler orders the conscription of German Youth for active service.

German forces in Yugoslavia begin a major operation against Tito's partisan's.

The first transport of Jews from Vienna arrives at Auschwitz.

1944



General George S. Patton's troops breaks through Germany's Siegfried Line and enter the Saar Valley "Fixed fortifications are a monument to man's stupidity."

The British 11th East African Division takes Kalewa and advance to the Chindwin from India.

1945

59 Japanese are arrested on suspicion of war crimes.

1946

The United States and Great Britain merge their German occupation zones.



Roll of Honour - December 2

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+ADAMS, James William

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Sergeant. 9554. Died 02/12/1917. Born on 01/01/1894. Son of Catherine McCulloch McArthur (formerly Adams), of 8, Bellsdyke Place, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, and the late Matthew Adams. James was born and lived at Garvaghy, Portglenone and enlisted in Ballymena. The couple had married on 05/04/1893 in Castledawson Presbyterian Church, Co Londonderry. Catherine remarried after Matthew's death. Labourer and widower Daniel McArthur of Airdrie, Scotland married widow Catherine in 2nd Ahoghill (Trinity) Presbyterian Church on the 30/09/1913. Catherine McArthur later lived at 8, Bellsdyke Place, Airdrie, Lanarkshire. Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+McKINSTRY, James McNeill

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion. Second Lieutenant. Died 02/12/1916. Age 21. He joined the Training Corps, on 29/09/1914. James wrote this letter to his mother on 19th June 1916: "Dear Mother, I am going up to the trenches and what happens to me is in God's hands. If I am knocked out, do not mourn for me for this is the fire through which we must pass to a happier world. May God comfort and keep you from all harm and give you length of days to see your children's children. I want everything to go on as usual no matter what happens and I would rather nobody should go in black for me. I commit you to God who is a safe rock in time of storm and who guards and watches over us all. With deepest love and affection to yourself and the rest

of the family. I remain, sweet Mother, your affectionate son, James. PS Do not have any regrets about me as you gave me everything a Mother can give and you were the one person I admired and loved most in this world." James' battalion were in the front line near Beaumont Hamel from 18/11/1916. On 23/11/1916, a party of 80 men of the battalion, in conjunction with three companies of the Lancashire Fusiliers took part in an attack on Munich Trench. Their objective was to rescue a party of the 97th Infantry Brigade located in dugouts and to return them to their own lines. The attack commenced at 3.30pm and they succeeded in entering Munich Trench but were unable to rescue the missing men, and returned. One officer of the battalion was killed, three wounded, including James, and over 60 other ranks were also casualties. James subsequently died of his wounds in Warlov Special Hospital. Born on 09/05/1895 in Cookstown, he was the son of Robert and A.R. McKinstry, Rugby Road, Belfast. Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, RBAI WM

1917

+ADAMS, James William

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st.Btn. Sergeant. 9554. Died 02/12/1917. Age 23. Son of Catherine McCulloch McArthur (formerly Adams), of 8, Bellsdyke Place, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, and the late Matthew Adams. Eldest son of Matthew and Catherine Adams. James was born 01/01/1894. He was the first of three sons. His father and his grandfather were both blacksmiths. His father died when he was young. By 1911 James was serving with the Royal Irish Rifles. Sergeant Adams was killed in action on Sunday 2nd December by a

trench mortar. Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+BROWN, S

Royal Irish Rifles. 11th/13th Btn.Rifleman. 6861. Died 02/12/1917. From Lisburn. Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery British Extension, France

+DAVISON, Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 10th Btn. Private. 15452. Died 02/12/1917. Age 21. Son of Robert and Sarah Jane Davison, of Lisalbanagh, Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry. St John C of I Graveyard, Desertlyn, near Moneymore, Co Londonderry. Union Road Presbyterian Church, Magherafelt RH

+McDOWELL, Matthew

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Rifleman. 2017. Died 02/12/1917. Age 21 years old. Brother of Mrs. Jennie McChesney, of 99, Mounteallyer Avenue, Belfast. Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery, France. LMS Railway Company WM

+NEILL, James

Royal Irish Rifles, 16th Btn. Rifleman. 5259. Died 02/12/1917. Age 23. Son of James Henry Neill, of 68, John St., Lurgan. Hermies British Cemetery, France

+NORMAN, Charles

North Irish Horse. attd. 5th Reserve Cavalry. Captain. Died 12/02/1917. Age 37. He was commissioned in the North of

Remembrance Ni, December 2

Ireland Imperial Yeomanry in 1903. The yeomanry became the North Irish Horse in 1908 when it became part of the Special Reserve. During the war he was attached to 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers and then to the 5th Reserve Cavalry Regiment. He died in action while on attachment to the Royal Horse Artillery. A member of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, he was was a relative of Alderman Samuel Norman who served the city of Londonderry in the Great Siege of 1689. He served as the High Sheriff of Donegal and as D.L. and J.P. His brother-in-law, Lt Joseph Miller RIR is also among the fallen His wife died on 19/09/1918 aged just 27. Son of the late Thomas and Annie Norman, of Glengollan. Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France. St Columb's Cathedral, Derry, WM

1918

+GRAY, T

Irish Guards, 2nd Btn. Private. 8583. Died 02/12/1918. Age 40. Son of John and Mary Ann Gray, of Dublin; husband to Ellen Gray, of 2, Stephen St., Belfast. Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+NICHOLL, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman.18/952. Died 02/12/1918. Robert Nicholl was taken prisoner during the Spring Offensive of 21/03/1918. Son of Robert and Eliza Nicholl of Islandmore, Portrush. Berlin South-Western Cemetery. Holy Trinity Parish Church, Portrush WM

1939

+BOYD, Thomas Wesley

Royal Artillery. Bombardier.1542601. Died 02/12/1939. Aged 48. 316 Battery, 102 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment. Son of Robert and Ann Jane Boyd of Belfast; Husband to Margaret Boyd of Cliftonville, Belfast. Had served In The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Holywood cemetery

1940

+BARRE, James Gordon

RNVR. Sub - Lieutenant (E). Died 02/12/1940. Age 23. HMS Forfar. The Barre family lived at 11 Hamilton Road in Bangor where Robert Barre worked as a chemist. Later the Barre family moved to 18 Parkside Drive, Barrie in Ontario, Canada. Gordon Barre was educated at Trinity Public Elementary School, Bangor and, from 1929 until 1930, at Bangor Grammar School. His brother, Robert Frederick Barre, also attended Bangor Grammar School. After he left school Gordon Barre worked as an engineering apprentice at the Mackie Engineering Works in Belfast. He was an active member of the Boys' Brigade Company of Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church in Bangor and he was also a member of Ballyholme Yacht Club where he sailed in the Leander. Gordon Barre joined the Canadian Pacific Line, a company under the Canadian Pacific Railway Line and he sailed in many of their ships. He also participated in the evacuation of British Forces from Dunkirk. HMS Forfar was formerly the passenger ship SS Montrose built by the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company Ltd., Govan, Glasgow. Launched in 1920, the SS Montrose was operated by Canadian Pacific Steamships Ltd., until she was requisitioned by the Admiralty, converted to an armed merchant cruiser in November 1939 and renamed HMS Forfar. On 2 December 1940 HMS Forfar was on her way

to join Convoy OB-251 when she was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine *U-99* some 500 miles west of Ireland. The convoy was on route from Liverpool to New York. Sub-Lieutenant (E) James Gordon Barre was one of more than 170 men who lost their lives. Gordon's elder brother Robert Frederick Barre was a farmer in Canada and, after Gordon died, Fred joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. Fred Barre visited Bangor when he was on leave in 1943 and, early in 1944, he was taken prisoner while engaged in air operations over enemy territory. He was held for 17 months in Stalag 4 until he was released by the Russians in May 1945 and returned to Canada. Son of Robert J. and Esther C. Barre, of Barrie, Ontario, Canada. Liverpool Naval Memorial, Panel 4, Col 1. Bangor WM, Bangor Grammar School, Hamilton Road. PCI

+CLYDESDALE, Samuel

RM. Marine. PLY/13833. Died 02/12/1940. Age 51. HMS President III. Husband of Kate Clydesdale, Devonport. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 43. There was also a Samuel Thomas Clydesdale who served in the RMLI in WW1.He was born in 1898 and lived at 41 Douglas Street, Belfast. He died on 19/02/1917. He is remembered at McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

+CROOKS, James

Pioneer Corps. Serjeant. 13024572. Died 02/12/1940. Aged 48. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Crooks; husband of Hannah Crooks, of Dungannon. Aberdeen (Allendale) Cemetery. Aberdeenshire. Newmills C of I Parish Church WM, Dungannon WM

1942

+CARLISLE, James

RNVR. AB. P/UD/X 1425. HMS Caroline. Died 02/12/1942. Age 23. HMS Quentin. Notified as missing within days of his daughter's third birthday. He was called up after two years service in the reserve. Son of James and Sarah J. Carlisle; Alliance Rd., Belfast. Husband to Elizabeth Carlisle, Godfrey St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 01/01/1943). Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 71

+McCLEMENT, Donald

RN. ERA Fourth Class. P/MX 60352. Died 02/12/1942. Age 23. HMS Quentin. Having attacked an Italian convoy in the Mediterranean, Quentin and accompanying vessels in Force Q, at 0630 the following day off Tunisia, Quentin was struck by a 500 kg bomb which made the crew believe they had been torpedoed. Her conditions appeared immediately to be desperate, the crew was removed by HMAS Quiberon under attack by the planes, which damaged her with near-misses. Quentin sank within 4 minutes (at 0640 hrs) in position 37°32'N, 08°32'E. There were 20 dead. Son of Hugh and Florence Caroline McClement, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, formerly of Kircubbin. Nephew of Thompson Donald, Townhall St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 18/12/1942).

+WEST, John William Edward

Royal Artillery. Lance Serjeant. 897157. Died 02/12/1942. Aged 24. 64 (The Glasgow Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regt. Son of John William and Edith Clare West; husband of Martie West, of Portstewart. Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia

1943

+BEST, Derek

Royal Ulster Rifles, London Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 7020131. Died 02/12/1943. Aged 21. One of seven men of the London Irish Rifles to be killed on the same day fighting in the Adriatic Sector. More than 300 men died with the LIR during their battles in Tunisia, Sicily and mainland Italy. Member of Christ Church CLB, Lisburn. Son of Joseph Best and of Margaret Best (nee Nelson), of Lisburn; husband to Georgina Best (nee Dodds), of Lisburn. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+BINGHAM, William

Royal Ulster Rifles, London Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 7022214. Died 02/12/1943. Aged 20. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bingham, of Belfast. Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

+MAWHINNEY, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Lance Corporal.13053095. Died 02/12/1943. Age 25. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Mawhinney, of Greyabbey, Co. Down. Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy

+SARGENT, Walter Leonard

RAF. Sergeant. 1321977. Died 02/12/1943. Age 23. 103 Sqdn. He was an air bomber in the squadron. From October 1942, RAF 103 Squadron operated Avro Lancaster BI and BIII craft. Their base was RAF Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire. His plane, Lancaster BIII JB401 PM-P, was shot down near

Berlin. German authorities anticipated a night raid that evening and night fighters were out in strength. Walter Sargent and his crew in JB401 came under attack as they approached the target. His remains rest alongside other men from his crew. In an unusual move, the headstone on Sargent's grave makes reference to the RAF air bomber's hometown of Rostrevor. Born in Rostrevor. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sargent, Rostrevor, 1939-1945 Cemetery, Charlottenburg, Berlin, Germany.

+WINTERS, John Owens

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner).1796389. Died 02/12/1943. Age 19. Died at RCAF Station, Croft Darlington, Northallerton. Aboard Handley Page Halifax V, DJ982 of 1664 Heavy Conversion Unit on a fighter affiliation exercise when the aircraft spun into the ground and exploded on impact near Northallerton killing all seven men on board. Son of Thomas and Sarah Winters of 5 Banbury Street, Belfast. Dundonald Cemetery

1944

+TOUGH, Albert Jason

Royal Engineers. Corporal. 2929432. Died 02/12/1944. Son of Albert James Tough and Helen Tough of Forres, Morayshire Scotland. Husband to Jean Tough of Millvale, Co. Armagh.Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands. Bessbrook WM

+VAUGHAN, Wilfred John

Died 02/12/1944. Age 26. Son of Alfred and Mary Jane Vaughan; husband to Jeane Vaughan, of Bessbrook.

Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands/ Bessbrook WM

VETERANS

BURROWS, Norman Ferguson Elliott

RNVR. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander 1939 - 45. Campbell College 2014. Worcester College, Oxford. B.A. 3rd Class, (Hons.). Middlesex Hospital, 1936-39. M.A. B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.C.H. (Eng.). Post-war Paediatrician. Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street, London. Born West Derby, Lancashire 19/08/1912. Son of Rev. Augustus Elliott and Mrs Burrows (nee Ferguson), The Manse, Knock, Belfast. Husband to Nancy (nee Ford). Died 02/12/1997 Kensington, London.

+DAVIDSON, Alan

RNVR. Lieutenant. CMG. After gaining a double first in classics at Oxford, served in the RNVR in World War II. From there he joined the Foreign Office, and made a distinguished contribution in posts held in Washington, DC, The Hague, Cairo (where he was involved in property negotiations arising from the Suez crisis), Tunis, Brussels and Vientiane (around the time of Saigon's fall to the North Vietnamese). He was Ambassador to Laos. He became a food writer when in Tunisia, his wife needed help buying local produce at the fish market. She in turn provided the "voice of the practical cook" when required, and his three daughters were all variously enlisted as researchers, testers and tasters. Born Londonderry 30/03/1924. Died 02/12/2003. (The Economist and Wikipedia)

GILES, John William Fraser

RNVR. Sub. Lieut., 1945-48. Born 02/12/1926. Son of WHPF Giles, Provincial Bank House, Omagh. Trinity College, Oxford, 1944-45 and 1948-50. Campbell College 2965

KERR, Cyril Davidson (David)

RNVR. Sub. Lt. BSc, 1948 QUB. Navy List 1944. Temp. Sub.Lt.. Died 02/12/2023. Husband to the late Wena, and father of Pamela and Ian, Funeral Service in Stormont Presbyterian Church. Roselawn.

MONTGOMERY, Henry

RNVR. FAA. Lieutenant (A). BA (Emmanuel, Cantab), MA (Toronto), PhD (Washington, Seattle). Born 02/12/1916. Campbell College 3493. U.VI, April, 1936. School Prefect. McNeill Medal. Bennett Memorial. Niall Nelson Prize. Undergraduate, Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Nat. Sc. Trip., Part 1. Class 2. Son of Rev WE Montgomery (Campbell College 130), Formosa. Address: 966 Gladstone Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (1938 Address: c/o Dr. F. P. Montgomery, 56 Osborne Park, Belfast)

ODDIE, Eric Roland John

RN. Commander. DSC. Served mainly in submarines 17/07/1929 - 04/1947. Commanding Officer HM Sub Narwhal, HM Sub Triad, HMS Maidstone (submarine depot ship). Senior Officer Submarines HMS Elfin. Commanding Officer HMS Ambrose (submarine base Lerwick), Admiralty (HMS President). Exec Officer HMS Charybdis (cruiser) - torpedoed and sunk by German torpedo boats off France. HMS Nabthorep (mobile air base Schofields, New South Wales). HMS Indomitable (aircraft carrier). Commanding

Officer HMS Queensferry, (Reserve Fleet, Rosyth). Born Dunmurry 10/04/1903. Died Australia 02/12/1980.

ROBINSON, James

Royal Army Veterinary Corps. Sergeant. 334. James was born at Termon St, Londonderry in January 1891 and enlisted in the Army in 1908, transferring to the Army Veterinary Corps in 1910. He embarked for France with the BEF on 13/08/1914 and served throughout the war, being discharged with the Silver War Badge due to sickness in December 1918. James' service and that of his younger brother, John is commemorated on the Roll of Honour at All Saints Parish Church, Londonderry.

SHORTT, James Alexander Dickson

RNVR. Sub-Lieutenant. Joined Northern Bank at Head Office 01/04/1937, served at several branches prior to naval service 30/12/1939 - 1946. Served on an armed cruiser. In 1941 he was gazetted as a Temporary Paymaster Sub-Lieutenant (RNVR). Born 02/12/1917. MCB. Son of James Shortt, Stranmillis Road, Belfast. Post war Group Secretary, Western Hospital Management Committee. Orchard Road, Sion Mills, Co.Tyrone. Northern Bank WM

TWINNING, Kathleen Elizabeth

WRNS. Born Carrickfergus. Served as a signaller in North of England communicating with vessels entering or leaving harbour. There she met Ted. Married 03/05/1953 in St Nicholas Parish Church, Carrickfergus. Lived in Newry. Emigrated to Canada 1957 to North Vancouver. Born 25/06/1922. Died 02/12/2013

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI masthead.

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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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