

MARCH 29, 2019



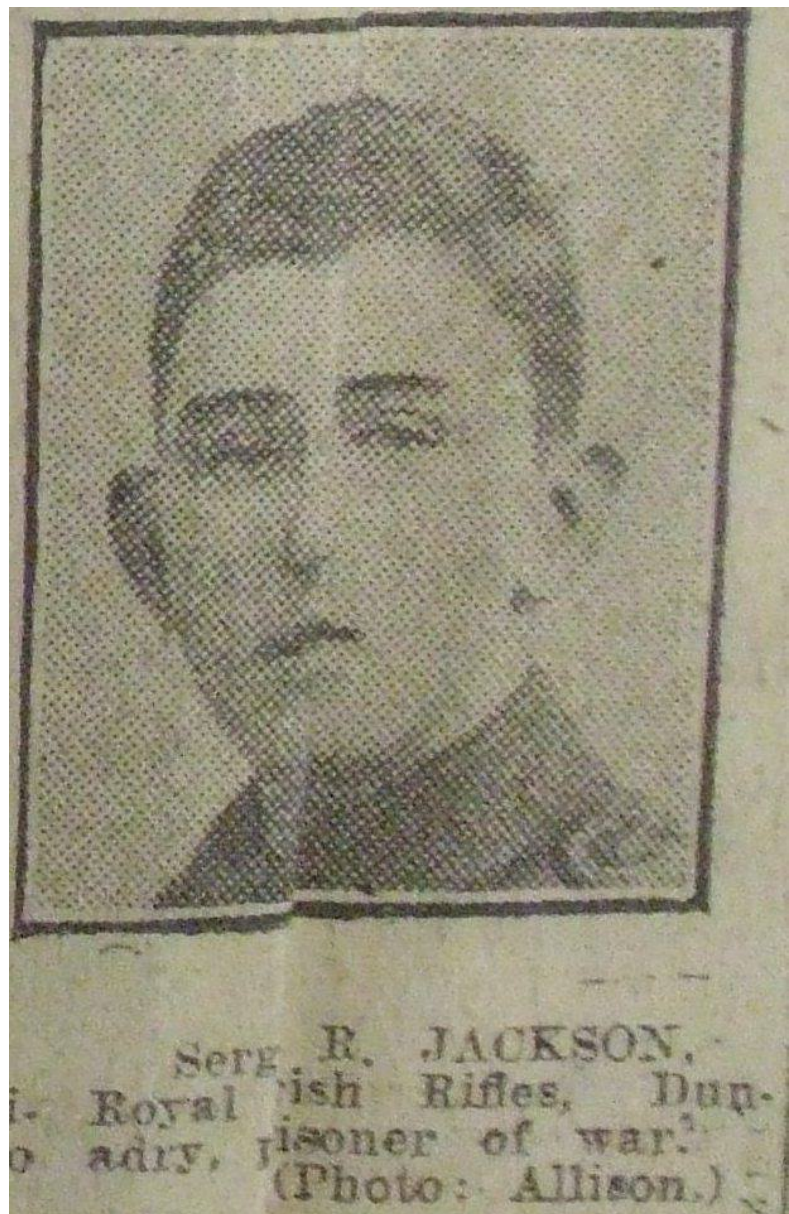
remembrance ni

Remembering courage

**Sgt Robert Jackson
DCM, MM, was
demobilised on this
date**

Sgt Robert Jackson
DCM MM 12th
(Service) Battalion
Royal Irish Rifles
(Central Antrim
Volunteers).

Robert was born at
Dunadry, Co. Antrim
in 1896 and enlisted
in the 12th Rifles at
their formation in
September 1914.



At the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916 the battalion suffered over 400 casualties including 139 killed in action.

MARCH 29, 2019

Robert was a Lance Corporal at the time and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry during the battle, being promoted to the rank of Sergeant shortly afterwards.

His award was published in the London Gazette of 9 December 1916. Robert continued to serve with the battalion and was taken prisoner during the German Spring Offensive of March 1918. He was taken to Prisoner of War Camps at Munster and Cassel and was finally repatriated on 14 December 1918.

As he had enlisted for the duration of the war, Robert was demobilised from the Army on 29 March 1919. On demobilisation, Robert initially relocated to Glengormley, but later emigrated to Canada.

In January 1920 in the New Year's Honours List, Robert was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry throughout the war, the award being published in the London Gazette of 30 January 1920.
Remembered with Honour.

Belfast Weekly Telegraph 29/03/1941

Sandy Row bar man awarded DSM for Dunkirk

RN. Telegraphist John Graham, DSM

RN. Telegraphist. DSM for gallantry during evacuation at Dunkirk. 23 years of age. 5 years service. Prior to that he was a bar man in Scarlett's of Sandy Row, Two brothers serving, one in the Irish Guards, and one in the Royal Artillery. His father was a Boer War veteran who died of

MARCH 29, 2019

wounds in WW1. Son of Mrs Graham, Charles St., South (Sandy Row), Belfast.

Pozières British Cemetery



Pozières British Cemetery is enclosed within the boundary wall incorporating the Pozières Memorial to the Missing of 1918.

Burials made during 1916, 1917 and 1918 are contained in Plot II and these were made at that time by the fighting units or field ambulances in position here near Pozières.

All other graves were brought to this cemetery after the Armistice in November 1918. Most of the graves were brought here from battlefield burials in the vicinity of this cemetery. Most of these casualties were British and

MARCH 29, 2019

Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the surrounding fields during the autumn battles of the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Some were casualties discovered in isolated burial plots and small cemeteries from the fighting in August 1918.

There are now 2,758 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,380 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There is also one German soldier buried here.

Roll of Honour - March 28

1915

+DUDDY, Private Michael

Private. 2413. Died 29/03/1918. From Londonderry

+McNAIR, Richard Isaac McNair

11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (South Antrim Volunteers). Rifleman. 18167. Died of cerebral spinal fever at the Purdysburn Fever Hospital, Belfast, 29/03/1918.. Age 37. Son of John and Ellen McNair nee Dickson ; Husband to Mary McNair nee Parker, Millbrook, Lisburn. Hillhall Presbyterian Churchyard, Lisburn.

1918

+CLARKE, Alfred James

11/13 RIR. Rifleman.17436. Born in Lisburn where he lived on the Belsize Road. He enlisted in Lisburn and embarking with 11 RIR for France from Bordon Camp in October 1915. Wounded in August 1917, he was treated in hospital in

MARCH 29, 2019

Oxford. Subsequently transferred to 11/13 RIR and attached to 22 entrenching battalion, he was KIA on the Somme on the 29/03/1918, aged 27. Son of James and Marianne Clarke of Belsize Road, Lisburn. Pozieres Memorial, France, panels 74-76

+DOUTHART, John

9th Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Private. 27685. Died 29/03/1918. Age 24. Born Coleraine. Son of Samuel and Elizabeth Douthart, Fairhill Street, Ballycastle. Noyon New British Cemetery

+HANNA, Private William.

9 RInF. Private. 13691. Died on the Somme on 29/03/1918. Born in Lisburn, he enlisted at Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, France, panels 38-40.

+LYONS, Thomas 41325,

9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, formerly 1846, North Irish Horse. Private. 41325. Died 29/03/1918. Age 22. Son of Thomas and Eliza Jane Lyons nee Smith, Donegall Avenue, Belfast. Pozières Memorial, France. (13/05/1918, Northern Whig)

+McCABE, William John

RMLI. Private. PLY/15918. HMS Foresight. Died 29/03/1919. Age 25. Enrolled Belfast 15/11/1912. Served in HMS Foresight 20/07/1914 - 29/03/1919. Son of the late

MARCH 29, 2019

James and Lena McCabe, Belfast. Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery. ADM 159/158/15918

+McMULLAN, John Campbell

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 9th Bn. Private (Signaller). 27523. Died 29/03/1918. Aged 19. Son of Mrs. Sarah Jane McMullan, of Ballywatt, Dervock, Co. Antrim. Pozieres Memorial, Panel 38 - 40. Somme, France

1940

+BOYLES, Alexander

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. C/KX 80080. Died 27/10/1940. Age 29. HM Submarine H.49. 11 years service. Son of Alexander and Mary Ann Boyles Arkwright St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 05/04/1941.). Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 39

1941

+McKEOWN, J

Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1449216. Died 29/03/1941. Aged 35. 6 Indep. Lt. A.A. Bty. Husband of Eliza Jane McKeown, of Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Ismailia War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

1942

+SMYTH, Maxwell

1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Corporal. 6977646. Died 29/03/1942 in Burma. Age 27. Son of William Smyth and Agnes Smyth of Laurencetown, Co. Down. His brother Alfred Smyth served in the Irish Guards. An older brother,

MARCH 29, 2019

John Smyth, lived in the United States of America having served in World War One. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Gilford WM. All Saints C of I, Tullylish.

1943

+McKINLEY, William Alexander

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1080089. Died 29/03/1943. Aged 20. Son of James and Elizabeth McKinley of Strabane. Strabane Cemetery

1945

+BELL Albert

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 644334. Died 29/03/1945. Aged 27. Son of George Thomas and Maria Bell, of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. Singapore Memorial, Column 452

On this day - March 28

1915

29th March 1915 Northern Whig (30ht)

Soldiers' Narrow Escape from Drowning

Comrade's timely Rescue

Six men from Ballykinlar Camp had a narrow escape on Saturday evening as they were returning to camp from Dundrum to the camp by ferryboat, which was accidentally overturned a short distance from the Dundrum leading-stage, with the result that the men were precipitated onto the water. Fortunately the accident was seen by other

MARCH 29, 2019

soldiers and fishermen on the wharf, and Lance-Corporal Armstrong, No. 3 Company 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, immediately plunged into the water to render assistance to the struggling men, one of whom was exhausted and unconscious from the effects of the icy-cold water. He was brought ashore by Armstrong, and efforts were at once made to restore consciousness, the police rendering valuable assistance. After the prolonged treatment the men recovered sufficiently to proceed to the camp. Meanwhile the other men, who had floated by means of oars, were got ashore some the worse for immersion.

1936

Italy firebombs the Ethiopian city of Harar.

1940

In German-occupied territories, only Jewish doctors are now allowed to treat Jews.

1941

A 'Commissariat' for Jewish Affairs is set up in Vichy France.

The Italians spot a British convoy escorted by 4 Cruisers and 4 Destroyers and close in. The British ships lure the Italians towards the main body of the Mediterranean Fleet which includes 3 battleships and the Aircraft Carrier HMS Formidable. HMS Formidable launches aircraft which attack and hit the Italian Battleship Vittorio Veneto with a torpedo, although it manages to limp back to Taranto. Later, they also hit the Cruiser Pola which is seriously damaged. The Italians decide to withdraw and detach 2 cruisers and 4 Destroyers to assist the damaged Cruiser Pola. However, the British intercept them and sink the Cruiser Pola and its 2 escort

MARCH 29, 2019

Cruisers Zara and Fiume as well as 2 of the escorting Destroyers. British losses total just 2 aircraft.

After 2 months and 14 separate meetings, the US and British staff conference ends with a basic framework for US-British co-operation should the USA be drawn in to the war. Most importantly an agreement was made that Germany should be defeated first.

1942

Between 14 June 1940 and 29 March 1942 the number of registered male prisoners who perished at the German Auschwitz camp was 11,025 (out of 27,415 numbers given). This means that the mortality rate in this period at Auschwitz was around 40 per cent.

Escorts of the Arctic convoy PQ13, beat off a German destroyer attack, sinking Z26.

Another sixteen Spitfires are delivered to Malta by Force H.

The Australian War Cabinet implements a 'Total Denial' policy in northern Australia should the Japanese invade. This would involve the conduct of a fighting withdrawal, with the evacuation or destruction of anything left behind. Already underway was a vast migration of sheep and cattle southwards, with those taking part are nicknamed 'Overlanders'.

1943

British and Indian troops begin to withdraw from Arakan in western Burma, under heavy Japanese pressure.

Meat rationing begins in the USA and is set at 28oz per week.

1944

On this day Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, the mastermind of the Great Escape, was murdered by the Gestapo.

The 33-year-old, known as Big X, had become a prisoner of war in May 1940 after being shot down on his first sortie over Calais during the Dunkirk evacuation – making several escape attempts over the course of the next four years.

Bushell would be one of 18 Commonwealth servicemen murdered on 29 March 1944 after being captured following their breakout from Stalug Luft III five days earlier.

He is commemorated at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery.

The U.S. Navy bombards the Palau Islands to the East of the Philippines, destroying 150 planes, six naval vessels and 100,000 tons of shipping.

1945

In Germany, US Seventh Army takes Mannheim and Heidelberg. In retreat from Heidelberg, Germans destroy historic Alte Brücke over Neckar River.

Troops of the 1st Belorussian Front finally capture the fortress town of Kastrin against desperate German resistance. The Russians seize the oilfields South of Komorn in Hungary, the last source of petroleum for the German war effort.

MARCH 29, 2019

Acknowledgments

Admiralty records

CWGC

Belfast News Letter

Belfast Weekly Telegraph

Michael J Nugent

WW1 Research Ireland

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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