Men of No 3 Plt, 'R' company, 1st Parachute Battalion, 1st British Airborne Division armed with Bren gun and no.4 rifles defend a large shell hole outside Arnhem, The Netherlands during operation Market Garden, September 1944.

NI men at Operation Market Garden

After the success of the invasion of Normandy on 6th June 1944 the Allied Forces pressed further and further into the occupied countries and herein was a considerable problem.
All supplies were landed in Normandy and had to be brought along ever lengthening supply lines to where they were needed.

Something had to be done.

The Market Garden plan was simple. – The Allied XXX Corps planned to push 60 miles from the Belgian border (Code-name “Operation Market”) and link up with airborne troops (Code-name “Operation Garden”) of the 101st U.S. Airborne Division in the area to the north of Eindhoven and the 82nd U.S. Airborne Division in the Nijmegen area before reaching the British 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem.

The Airborne troops were to have been parachuted behind enemy lines to take and secure the bridges at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem – Which as history now tells us was “A Bridge Too Far”

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**Market Garden Roll of Honour**

**+BOYD, James Frederick**


**+BRACKSTONE, Charles Thomas**

Glider Pilot Regiment, A.A.C. 2nd Wing. Serjeant. 2083005. Died 17/09/1944. Age 23. Son of Rupert and Lily Ada Lydia Brackstone; husband of Winifred Ethne Brackstone, of
Dundonald. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

+Cameron, James
Parachute Regiment, ACC, 21st Independent Company. Private. 6982743. Died 26/09/1944. Age 22. Son of Thomas Cameron and Ellen "Nellie" Cameron (née Armstrong) of 64 Davy's Street, Carrickfergus. Thomas Cameron served in 12th Btn Royal Irish Rifles during the First World War. James enrolled in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1940. He volunteered for airborne training in 1942 and saw action in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. In Operation Market Garden he sustained gunshot wounds during house-to-house fighting at Stationweg 6-8, Oosterbeek, Netherlands. Before transfer to the hospital at Apeldoorn, James received treatment inside the house from Sergeant Gerry Thompsom and Private Harry Bruce. His death at St. Joseph’s Mental Hospital, Apeldoorn came on what would be the final day of the Battle of Arnhem. Temporary burial took place at Heidehof General Cemetery before reinterment in Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands. Family memorial Victoria Cemetery, Carrickfergus

+Cassidy, Samuel Patton

+Clarke, Anthony Leslie
Parachute Regiment, A.A.C. 1st Btn. Corporal. 1806655. Died 24/09/1944. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Clarke,

+CLARKE, Thomas George


+DOLAGHAN, Francis George

Army Air Corps. H.Q. 4th Parachute Bde. Private. 64880. Died 20/09/1944. Aged 21. He was Batman to Shan Hackett and was killed in action near Arnhem Bridge. Son of James and Maria Dolaghan, of Belfast. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

+DOUGAN, Robert Alexander


+ELLIS, Sidney

Parachute Regiment, A.A.C. 1st Bn. Private. 6974976. Died 18/09/1944. Aged 38. Known as "Fighting Sid" he was from the Sandy Row area of Belfast and had served six years in India with the Royal Irish Fusiliers before spending over two years with the Palestine Police. His next job was as a Prison Warder in Crumlin Road Gaol before rejoining the Royal Irish Fusiliers at the start of the Second World War and then moving to the Royal Armoured Corps with which he stayed until 1943 when he moved to Airborne Forces. Son of
William and Clara Ellis, Belfast; husband to Elizabeth Ellis, of 204 Blythe Street, Belfast. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands

**+HAMILTON, John Mallon**


**+HOUSTON, James Ivor**

Parachute Regiment, 3rd Bn. HQ Coy. AAC. Essex Regiment. Major. 53748. Died 20/09/1944. Age 32. From Londonderry. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dick Houston; husband to Lorna Houston, of Weyhill, Hampshire. Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

**+HUNTER, John**


**+LYNAS, Ernest**

+MALLON, Norman


+MALTBY, Ralph Alexander


+McCLUNE, John


+MOORE, William Gill

Irish Guards, 2nd Bn. Guardsman. 7020985. Died 17/09/1944 during 2nd Battalion’s push on to Valkenswaard, Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden. His M4A4 Sherman Mark V came under fire on the main road, which became known as “Hell’s Highway”. The Commander of the Sherman tank was Lance Sergeant Dave Roper of No. 1 Troop. Moore was the Wireless Operator on board. The remaining crew members were Gunner A. Saunders, Driver...
O’Riley, and Co-Driver G. Dowd. O’Riley and Dowd escaped unhurt, Roper and Saunders sustained injuries in the attack. Known as Bill, he was the son of Mr. E.S. Moore and Mrs. Moore of 45 Sandymount Street, Belfast. Bill’s father served with 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles in The Great War. He suffered severe injuries and received the Military Medal for his contribution. Bill’s wife was from Yorkshire, England and in 1944 she was serving with the Auxiliary Territorial Service. When news broke of Bill’s death, his wife was on leave in Belfast. Valkenswaard War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Fitzwilliam PCI WM

+MURDOCK, Frederick

+PARKES, William John
Irish Guards, 2nd Bn. Warrant Officer Class II (S.S.M.). 2717391. Died 17/09/1944. Aged 33. Operation Market Garden. Serving in the Armoured 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards, he was shot and killed after his Sherman tank had been destroyed and whilst he was trying to escape his stricken vehicle. Born 07/06/1912 in Belfast, He enlisted into the army in 1931, initially seeing service in Egypt. In 1938 he became an army reservist joining the Belfast Harbour Police. He was a Constable before being recalled into the army in 1939. Son of Joseph and Esther W. Parkes (nee McGibney), of Belfast. Billy wrote a last letter home to his mother the night before he was killed. Valkenswaard War
Cemetery, a few miles south of Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

+PERCY, Robert

+POWER, Sydney

+SMELLIE, John Frederick
AAC. Captain. 158421. Glider Pilot Regiment, 1st Wing. Flew glider on D-Day (Wave 3) and at Arnhem with B
Squadron 1 Wing GPR. Killed in action 23/09/1944 aged 30. On the 17/09/1942 he was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery and later transferred to the Glider Pilot Regiment-Army Air Corps in 09/1944 where he became Officer Commanding 4 Flight (B Squadron, No 1 Wing.) A graduate of QUB in law, he became a solicitor. Son of N.S.H Smellie and Ileen Smellie, Brookeside Manor, Holywood. Arnhem (Oosterbeek) War Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands. Royal Courts of Justice Belfast WM, Holywood Parish Church WM. QUB RH

+TANSLEY, George
Parachute Regiment. 156th Btn, Army Air Corps. Private. 6981799. Died 25/09/1944. Aged 29. WM St Mary’s Church, Melton Mowbray, “In memory of the officers and men of the 156 Battalion of the Parachute Regiment who left their station in this parish to fly to Arnhem, and there died in the cause of freedom”. Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Arnhem, Netherlands.

+WALKER, Joseph

+WATSON, Thomas Crowe
and Thomas Watson from Dunmurry. Valkenswaard War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. In September 2019, Dutchman Han Maas attempted to get in touch with surviving members of Crowe’s family. He had looked after the grave since 2018 and wanted them to know it was in safe hands. WartimeNI helped Han get in touch with surviving descendants of the Crowe family still living in Dunmurry.

+WATTERS, William John

+WHITE, Robert Graham (Bertie)

Parachute Regiment, 156 Btn. AAC. Sergeant. 6977506. Died 19/09/1944. Age 30. Shot down when parachuting onto Ginkel Heath on the second day of the Battle of Arnhem. He enlisted with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers aged 16 (he falsified his age), before transferring to the Parachute Regiment. Son of Abraham and Elizabeth White. Born 26/05/1914. Oosterbeek War cemetery, Arnhem, Gelderland, Netherlands. Dungannon WM. Moy WM.

+WINKWORTH, Charles William

Army Air Corps, Glider Pilot Regiment. Sergeant. 5110811. Died 17/09/1944. Age 22. As part of No. 6 Flight, C Squadron, he was the Pilot of Hamilcar GAL 318 that left R.A.F. Tarrant Rushton, Dorset, England. On landing, the glider overturned killing the Pilot and injuring Co-Pilot D.A. White. Husband to Mary Elizabeth Winkworth of 114 Alliance Drive, Belfast. His parents resided in Birmingham. Charles William Winkworth has no known grave. Records suggest removal of his body from the glider wreckage was not possible. The German army set fire to all destroyed gliders when they retook the landing zones. Groesbeek Memorial, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Fighting Sid from Sandy Row stayed at Arnhem

“Two of the men of Arnhem arrived in Belfast on Friday on leave. They were Paratroopers Samuel Hillis, of Spruce Street (Donegall Pass), and James Ussher, Sydney Street West. But the joy of homecoming was tempered with sadness because they had left behind
them at Arnhem their Sandy Row pal, Sidney Ellis, of Blythe Street.”- a contemporary newspaper report.

"Poor Sid was killed on the second day at Arnhem - by a sniper's bullet," said Paratrooper Hillis to a "Belfast Telegraph" reporter. "We were engaged in street fighting at the time, and were being pushed back when a bullet struck him on the chin bone and was deflected through his heart.

"Jimmy and I were fighting beside him at this time, and thinking it was only a wound we proceeded to give him first aid, but when we turned him over he was dead. That's why it hasn't been such fun coming home this time. We three were the only Belfastmen in our battalion, and we were in many a tight corner together. Strictly speaking he shouldn't have been in the Paratroops at all because he was 38 and too old, but a little thing like that didn't trouble Sid. He liked to be wherever there was trouble, and he certainly was in plenty of trouble at the last. All three of us have been in many a 'big show' in the last few years, but we were never in anything like Arnhem. It was like going through hell. Sid, however, was in his element and he died fighting like a lion."

His friend, Jimmy, said Paratrooper Hillis, had removed their pal's red beret and Airborne badge, and had brought them home as keepsakes for the widow.

Paratrooper Hillis, who is only 23, has himself borne a "changed life" since he joined the Army four years ago. He was a year in the Inniskillings, but the infantry wasn't exciting enough, so he transferred to the Paratroops. He has got more excitement than he bargained for since then, but it's "a great life," he says.
Altogether he has made 46 drops, including three operational, and has also been in one of the biggest seaborne landings of the war. After his first big drop in Africa his unit were utilised as infantry and had a hand in some of the most sensational victories of the African campaign.

Then over to Sicily, where he took part in the historic landing at Catania, and was one of the survivors of the heroic 600 who held the bridge there in July of last year. It was in Sicily that he had his "narrow shave," as he calls it - a mortar bomb burst on a parapet a few yards away "and I don't know yet how on earth I escaped."

At Arnhem, said Paratrooper Hillis, the Division thought it was going to be easy after all when no flak came up at them, but it wasn't long until they discovered their mistake. His battalion, which made the first descent, dropped four miles from the town, and launched their attack almost immediately. The Germans, however, attacked with tanks the same night, and the battalion had to withdraw owing to their losses. They retreated to a village on the banks of the Rhine and dug in wherever they could to begin their long ordeal.

The rest, said Paratrooper Hillis, was not history but although they had spent nine long and anxious days at Arnhem and few of them expected to get out alive, they had their amusing moments. As for instance, when the Germans on the other side of the river got their loud-speaker going and entreated them to "give it up."
"They spoke across to us in perfect English, promising us good food and comfortable beds, and telling us that we hadn't an earthly of getting out alive, but we only laughed at them, and enjoyed the records they used to play for us."

Then there was the comedy of the prisoners cage at Divisional H.Q. There were about 150 Germans held in this, and owing to the peculiar conditions of the Arnhem operation it was impossible to move them to a place of safety. Thus the Germans, like their beleaguered captors, were right in the front line with cannon and mortar shells and machine-gun bullets flying around them.

"We didn't feel any too happy ourselves," remarked Paratrooper Hillis, "but those Germans were the limit. They were running about their prison cages, simply gibbering with fear and trying to burrow down out of sight. One of their own officers, a major, was so disgusted that he let them have it, telling them they were a disgrace to the German Wehrmacht and Hitler's Reich, but it didn't do them a bit of good. Those fellows were scared out of their wits - and no wonder."

Paratroopers Hillis and Ussher are now on 14 days' leave. A big part of it, they say, will be spent sleeping to make up for "all the sleep we lost at Arnhem."

Paratrooper Ussher, who has 10 years' Army service, formerly belonged to the Oxford and Bucks Regiment. He has received a presentation of a wallet of notes from the neighbours of Sydney Street West. This was handed over by Messrs Mullen and J Spratt.
On this Day – September 18

1916

South of the Ancre, the British advance, taking ground between Bouleaux Wood and Ginchy, on a mile front to a depth of 1,000 yards.

1918

The Australian 5th/6th Infantry Brigades advance on a 16-mile front North-West of St. Quentin, extending from Holnon Wood to Gouzeaucourt. A reported 6,000 prisoners and a number of guns captured.

1939

The infamous Nazi propaganda announcer William "Lord Haw Haw" Joyce takes to the airwaves for the first time. His show, 'Germany Calling,' is broadcast in English and beamed into Great Britain.
1942 - Britannia Royal Naval College In Dartmouth is damaged by a German Bomb resulting in the trainees being evacuated to Eaton Hall in Cheshire for the rest of the war. There were several local civilian casualties but only 1 at the college. PO Wren Whittall.
1944

This day in 1944, forces of the US 101st Airborne Division liberate the city of Eindhoven (Photo above).

Around noon the 101st Airborne were met by the lead reconnaissance units from the British XXX Corps.

1500hrs

At this point John Frost and approx. 740 men hold the northern end of the Arnhem Road Bridge.

The remainder of the Troops from the 1st Lift are either trying to fight through to the Bridge or holding the Drop or Landing Zones

German Major-General Friedrich Kussin, the Stadtkommandant of Arnhem, was ambushed and killed by men of 3rd Parachute Battalion after he visited German HQ in Wolfheze. He was warned by his men that the road was probably already captured by British paratroopers.
Roll of Honour – September 18

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+BRUCE, Robert

Canadian Infantry, 24th Btn. Private. 124459. Died 18/09/1916. Age 22. He was born in Lanark, Scotland on 22/10/1893. Robert emigrated to Canada / USA. Prior to enlisting, Robert was living at 30 Cameron Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, USA, and was working as a Dye Repairer. Son of William and Isabella Bruce. At the time of Robert’s death, his father was living in Duneane, Toomebridge. Vimy Memorial, Arras, Pas de Calais

1917  Q Ship HMS Stonecrop

HMS Stonecrop was one of the disguised identities of the Q Ship, Glenfoyle, a former collier built in 1913 and sunk in 1917 by a U Boat off the west coast of Ireland. The ship sank quickly and before an signal could be sent. The U boat surfaced and its gun was manned. “What ship is that?” he demanded.“The `Salient’, Cardiff to Scapa, cargo coal, 2,000 tons”, replied the navigator. Apparently satisfied with this information the submarine commander turned his boat round and made off to the S.W., securing his gun as he went. This was the last the ‘Stonecrop’s’ crew saw of him.
The survivors were in a boat and on a raft. The boat set off to notify the land based authorities. The raft under Lieutenant Smiles spent four stormy nights at sea with rationed water and a tin of biscuits. Three ships searching for them failed to see them in the difficult sea state over a six day period.

“O” Boat Adventures – by Lieutenant Commander Harold Auten V. C., R. N

+GAWN, John

+WATSON, J G

1917

+MILLS, Thomas

+MOORE, William
Royal Irish Rifles. 6th Bn. Rifleman. 6/2577. Died 18/09/1917. Age 18. Son of Margaret Moore, of 18,
Clonavon Rd., Ballymena, and the late Andrew Moore.
Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

1918

+PAISLEY, William
Born Belfast. Son of John and Catherine Paisley, Oak Terr.,
Beech St., Liverpool. Freetown (King Tom) Cemetery

1920

+SEELEY, James Edward
East Lancashire Regiment, Depot. Lance Corporal. MM.
Seeley, 11 Shankill St., Lurgan. Lirgan (Dougher) Roman
Catholic Cemetery

1940

+HARRISON, Henry Herbert
RAF. Sergeant. 538889. Died 18/09/1940. Aged 23. 149
Sqn. Lost on operations over La Havre. Son of Henry and
Annie Harrison, of Belfast. Runnymead Panel 15

1942

+McKENNA, Francis
Pioneer Corps. Private. 7011079. Died 18/09/1940 in
Belfast. Age 30. He enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment
later transferring to the Pioneer Corps. Military records show
him living in Armagh in 1941 with wife Eileen McKenna as
his next of kin. Records suggest the couple had a daughter named Eileen Teresa McKenna. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

1944 - Operation Market Garden Roll of Honour -
See article and Roll above

1944

+CRORY, William Samuel

VETERANS

McCULLY, Andrew Lowry


WRIGHT, Peter Paul

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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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