remembrance ni

There's something particularly moving about Commonwealth WGC cemeteries like this one in Amiens where complete aircrews lie in a single plot.

It feels very fitting that men who in many cases trained, lived, flew, fought and died together, remain together too.

On this Day – February 3

1933

Hitler directs his generals to plan for the “ruthless Germanisation” of Eastern Europe. His long-standing goal of achieving ‘Lebensraum’ or ‘Living Space’ will now be the official foreign policy of Nazi Germany.

1940

Flight Lt. Townsend in a Hurricane of No. 43 Squadron RAF shot down a German Heinkel He 111, which crashed at Whitby, North Yorkshire. It was the first enemy aircraft to be brought down on English soil in the war.

1941

33 Italian Fascist Party leaders are dispatched to bolster morale on the Albanian front.
Hitler reviews the plans for Operation ‘Barbarossa’, as German intelligence estimates that 155 Red Army divisions are deployed in western Russia against just 116 German and Axis divisions. The starting date is again confirmed as the 15th May 1941.

La Targette British Cemetery in Neuville-St. Vaast, Pas de Calais, France is dwarfed by the neighbouring French one. Sobering image.

The British ‘Northern Force’ bumps into the Italian defenses at Keren, but fail to crack them open. General Platt decides he must build up his forces for a major assault.

1942

German forces of Army Group Centre launch a counterattack at Vyazma, cutting off and encircling several Red Army divisions.
Japanese air raids on Port Moresby.

President Quezon of the Philippines proposes to President Roosevelt that his country should be granted total independence from the USA so that it could declare itself neutral, but Roosevelt dismisses this idea. General MacArthur warns Roosevelt that the Bataan garrison has suffered over 50 per cent casualties and it was 'near done'. MacArthur was given permission by Roosevelt to surrender Filipino, but not US troops who were to fight until the end. Irish Prime Minister Eamon de Valera predicts the war will continue for at least 4 more years.

1944

An attempt to breakout of the Anzio Beachhead ends after an advance of just three miles in three days. The German begin their first counterattacks against Anzio.
The Japanese open their counter-offensive against the British in Arakan, Burma.
The United States shells the Japanese homeland for the first time at Kurile Islands.
The United States captures the Marshall Islands.

1945

The Russians capture Landsberg, 80 miles Northeast of Berlin.

The US 8th Air Force, with 937 bombers and 613 fighters, carries out the heaviest attack to date against Berlin which

levels large areas of the city and kills more than 25,000 civilians.

Roll of Honour – February 3

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+BARR, H J

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 3566. Died 03/02/1916. Husband of Mrs. E. Barr, of 55, Hardinghe St., New Queen St., Belfast.Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery, France

+CANAVAN, James Patrick

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 2364. Died 03/02/1916. Age 18. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Canavan, of Belfast. Abbeville Communal Cemetery, France

+McCLUSKEY, Thomas

Connaught Rangers, 6th Btn. Private. 2730. Died 03/02/1916. Age 25. Born in Caledon area. In 1911 he was working as a spiner in a mill. Enlisted Omagh. Son of Thomas and Catherine McCluskey, of Tullyvar, Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. Loos Memorial, France

1942

Rome War Cemetery

+NEWELL, John Edward Newell
Royal Artillery, 57th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment,169th Battery. Gunner. 1064497. Died 03/02/1942. Age 37. 169th Battery saw action in the Middle East and during heavy fighting in the Western Desert Campaign. Armed with Bofors Guns, the battery took on the Luftwaffe during Operation Crusader. Husband to Esther Newell of Belfast. Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya.

1943

+AUSTIN, Stanley Maurice
RAFVR. Flying Officer (Pilot). 1016802. 243 Squadron. Died

03/02/1943. Age 20. Shot down near Kaiarouan, Tunisia, with co-pilot Sgt. John Gilmore McAteer (1143473), flying Supermarine Spitfire VC (EE770, EN336 or ER851), while providing fighter escort for day bombers. Served as Leading Aircraftman (LAC). British Flying Training School (BFTS) #4 Course 1, Falcon Field, Mesa, Maricopa Co., Arizona, USA [6/18/1941-10/31/1941]. Graduated as Pilot Officer (P/O) [10/31/1941]. Promoted to Sergeant (SGT) [11/1/1941] (The London Gazette, 02/10/1942, p. 666). Official No. 113412. Assigned 243 SQDN. Promoted to Flying Officer (F/O). Based at "Paddington" at Souk-el-Khemis, Tunisia. Student in QUB Faculty of Law 1939 - 1941. The University administers The Stanley Maurice Austin Prize, in his memory. Son of Glover E Austin and Mary Austin, Londonderry. Brother of Campbell, Claude and Cecil WS Austin. Cecil “Bunny” Austin, a Spitfire pilot, took part in the Battle of Britain and was President of QUB Services Club in 1973. Enfidaville War cemetery, Sousse, Tunisia

+KEOWN, Frederick James
RAFVR. Sergeant. 1079113. Died 03/02/1943. Aged 22. Frederick was a Wireless Operator / Air Gunner on Vickers Wellington BK241 with RAF No. 27 Operational Training Unit. He died when the Mark III bomber came down near Derby. The crew took off from RAF Church Broughton on a night-time cross-country exercise but the plane spun into the ground near the airfield. There were no survivors. Born in Monaghan. Son of Frederick and Margaret Matilda Keown of Belfast. Dundonald cemetery

1944

+MAWHINNEY, James
RAFVR. Sergeant. 1494278. Died 03/02/1944. Aged 25.

Son of Robert and Sarah Mawhinney, of Belfast. Oxford (Botley) Cemetery

+McCAUGHEY, Henry
RM. Corporal. PLY/X 101290. 43 RM. Commando. MiD London Gazette 23/01/1940 ‘for outstanding services while operating with the Allied Armies in Italy’. Died 03/02/1944. Age 22. Cpl. McCaughey was killed during operations in Italy. After fighting at the Anzio beachhead, at the time of his death his Commando were engaged in fighting at Monte Ornito and Monte Faito. Born 17/07/1922 in Belfast. Son of Henry and Jane McCaughey, Templepatrick. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 102. Ballynure Presbyterian Church WM

1945

+McAFEE, John
RAFVR. Sergeant (Flight Engineer).1037806. Died 03/02/1945. Aged 21. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. Son of Vernor and May McAfee, of Lisburn. Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

1946

+KAVANAGH, Leo Ambrose
Royal Artillery. Gunner.146000. Died 03/02/1946. Aged 42. 24 Battery, 9 H.A.A. Regt. Son of Edward and Catherine Kavanagh; Husband of Elizabeth Kavanagh of Londonderry.

VETERANS

MUSSEN, Robert Walsh
RN. Surgeon Rear Admiral. CBE(1949) CB(1945) MRCS LRCP(1922) MB ChB BAO(1922) MRCP(1935) FRCP(1949). Entered the Royal Navy in 1922. His early

years in the Navy were spent at sea and he had a number of foreign commissions: the East Indies, the Persian Gulf, and twice in the Mediterranean. His ships included HMS Birmingham 1923, Dido 1926, Danae and Calliope 1928, Shropshire 1937-37, Maylaya, Barham, and Hood in 1938-39, as squadron medical officer. Served extensive periods in RN Hospitals and by attachment to Charing Cross Hospital, with the opportunity to obtain his MD and MRCP.

In 1939 he was appointed to the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar as the medical specialist, and remained there during the early years of the war. In 1942 he was selected for a newly created wartime job with attachment to the surgeon general of the United States Navy in Washington DC. In this prestigious appointment he forged most valuable links between the RN medical service and the USN medical service; not only did his work prove invaluable to both navies during the war but it also established a special relationship with the United States Medical Service which continued after the end of hostilities. He was made a surgeon captain (acting) in 1943 and was confirmed in this rank in 1944.

In 1945 he took over as medical officer in charge, RN Medical School, Clevedon, Somerset. Later he moved this establishment to Alverstoke; it became the Institute of Naval Medicine and it always gave him great satisfaction throughout his later years to know that he had laid the foundation for this Institute, which does so much to support the modern Navy in teaching, training and research.

Robert Mussen was promoted to surgeon rear admiral in 1952, for duty as medical officer in charge RNH Chatham and as command medical officer on the staff of commander-

in-chief Nore. This was a very happy period, not only for him and his family but for all who served in this hospital. He maintained high standards himself and expected the same of others, in whom he inspired admiration and loyalty.

In 1932, at RNH Chatham, Robert Mussen married Mary, daughter of Surg.Rear Admiral and Mrs HER Stephens. They had three children who married and lived in England.

On retirement from the Navy in 1955 he was pressed to stand as the MP for County Down, but finally settled for a second career with the Ministry of Health where he had a special interest in polio cases and the provision of respirators. He retired from the Ministry in 1965. In retirement he wrote his autobiography “The Story of a Naval doctor”, 1983, and was involved in local government, being chairman of Chailey Rural District Council 1972-74.

Robert Mussen, who retired from the Royal Navy as a surgeon rear admiral, was the son of a distinguished Ulster solicitor and was brought up at Bangor, County Down. After attending Campbell College, Belfast, he received his medical education at Queen’s University, Belfast, and Charing Cross Hospital, London. Born 03/05/1900. Son of HH Mussen, Princetown Road, Bangor. Campbell College 1248

REID, Daniel

RAF. Aircraftsman. He volunteered for active service in September 1918. Dan (junior) was born on 30/08/1899. Son of Mr. Daniel (building contractor) and Mrs. Margaret Ann (nee McIlreavy) Reid, Heathmount, Portstewart. He was one of the first secretaries of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and was awarded the Gold Badge of the Legion

about 1965. In 1940 he was appointed Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Portstewart. Dan (junior) was living at Heathmount when he died on 03/02/1967 and his funeral was to Agherton Cemetery. Portstewart Presbyterian Church RH, PCI - RHRoll. (Coleraine Chronicle of 21/09/1918).

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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Please forward - information about those who served - names, regiment, ship or unit, date of death to houstonmckelvey@mac.com