

# 'Where have all the young men gone?'

## COUNTLESS numbers of men and women lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars.

The scale of the conflict was so vast it left its mark on the rural heart of County Down, including Saintfield.

Thirty men from the town died in service dur-

ing both world wars but the soldiers, as young as 19 have not been forgotten.

According to the United Kingdom's National Inventory of War Memorials, compiled by the Imperial War Museum, there are seven memorials in the town of Saintfield for those who lost their lives in both world wars.

The respective memorials are in Saintfield

Parish Church (3), First Presbyterian Church, Saintfield (3) and Saintfield Masonic Hall (1).

The Roll of Honour in Saintfield Parish Church commemorates all "Those from Saintfield and District who gave their lives and those who served in the First and Second World Wars."

It was collated by Canon Norman Woodrow, Fred Hazel and Harry Butler prior to the closure

of the Saintfield Branch of the Royal British Legion Branch.

The list below summarises all of the information known about those from Saintfield who died during the First and Second World Wars, the names being taken from the Roll of Honour mentioned above.

## First World War 1914-18:



Private Edmund McGready



Private John Brown



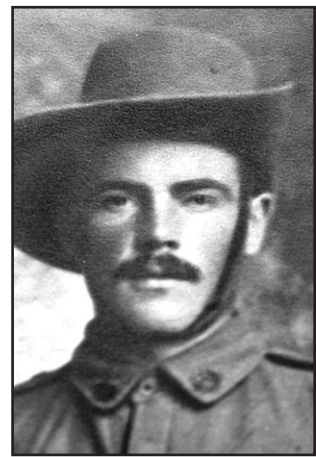
Gunner Thomas Neill



Rifleman James Brown



Corporal James Newell



Private John Wade

The names of men on the Roll of Honour in Saintfield Parish Church are Rifleman **James Brown**, 13th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died 1 July 1916, aged 33, remembered with honour in Cerisy-Gailly French National Cemetery, Somme, France. Son of William and Lizzie Brown, of Glasdrumman, Saintfield. Husband of the late Jessie Brown.

Private **John Brown**, 1st Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; died 1 July 1916, aged 29, remembered with honour in Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France. Son of William and Lizzie Brown, of Glasdrumman, Saintfield.

Private **Albert Connolly**, Royal Army Service Corps; died 25 February 1919, aged 22, remembered with honour in Tourcoing (Pont-Neuville) Communal Cemetery, France. Son of Mary E. Connolly and the late John Connolly, of Ravara, Ballygowan.

Rifleman **Robert Donnan**, 15th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died 24 July 1918, aged 35, remembered with honour in Bertencrè Military Cemetery Fletre, France. Son of William John and Mary Donnan, of Cahard.

**William Ellison** (rank unknown) Son of John and Elizabeth Jane Ellison of Tullywasnacunagh.

Husband of Anne Jane Ellison.

Rifleman **David Gregg**, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died 26 March 1918, aged 19, remembered with honour in Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France. Son of John and Elizabeth Gregg, of Cow Market, Saintfield.

Private **James Johnston** (Unknown).

Rifleman **James Kelly** (6687), 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died 1 July 1916, aged 20, remembered with honour in Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France. Son of William Kelly, of Downpatrick Street, Saintfield.

Rifleman **James Kelly** (8478), 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died 25 September 1915, aged 27, remembered with honour in Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Son of James Kelly.

**Robert Kingham**, Merchant Navy (Unknown).

Private **Alexander Leckey**, 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards; died 19 October 1915, aged 32, remembered with honour in Quatre-Vents Military Cemetery, Destrèe-Couchy, France. Son of Mrs A Leckey, Downpatrick Street, Saintfield.

Private **Thomas Magowan**, 489th Coy (Dover) Royal Army Service Corps; died 17 May 1918, aged 25, remembered with honour in Dundonald Ceme-

tery, Belfast. Formerly of New Line, Saintfield.

Private **Edmund McGready**, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regt); died 5 June 1916, remembered with honour in Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Son of John Bailie and Margaret McGready, of Ballymacaramery, Saintfield.

Private **Albert Morrison**, 8th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment; died 5 September 1918, aged 24, remembered with honour in Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Son of Robert and Mary E Morrison of Downpatrick Street, Saintfield.

**Robert Morrison**, Royal Navy (Unknown). Formerly of Downpatrick Street, Saintfield.

Rifleman **Samuel John Morrow**, 16th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died 3 April 1918, remembered with honour in St Souplet Cemetery, Cambrai France. Formerly of Lisbane, Saintfield.

Gunner **Thomas Neill**, 7th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Motors), formerly Royal Irish Rifles; died 26 February 1916, aged 19, remembered with honour in Bard Cottage Cemetery, Leper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Son of James and Agnes Neill, of Main Street, Saintfield.

Corporal **James Newell**, 2nd Battalion, Royal

Inniskilling Fusiliers; died 16 May 1915, remembered with honour in Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Son of Margaret Newell and the late James Newell. Formerly of Main Street, Saintfield.

Private **Robert William Roy**, 10th Battalion, Canadian Infantry; died on 22 April 1915, aged 25, remembered with honour in Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Son of William John and Ellen Rebecca Roy, of Main Street, Saintfield.

Private **John Wade**, 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry; died between 22 and 25 July 1916, aged 26, remembered with honour in Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France. Son of John and Mary Wade, of Craignasasonagh, Saintfield.

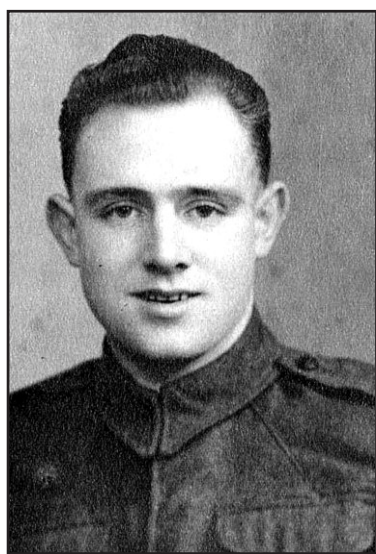
Private **William Watson**, 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers; died 12 April 1915, aged 24, remembered with honour in Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Son of William and Catherine Watson, of Bangor.

Private **David Woods**, 10th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Albert Regt); died on 22 April 1915, aged 25, remembered with honour in Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Son of Robert Woods and the late Mary Woods, of Downpatrick Street, Saintfield.

## Second World War 1939-45:



Private John George Davidson



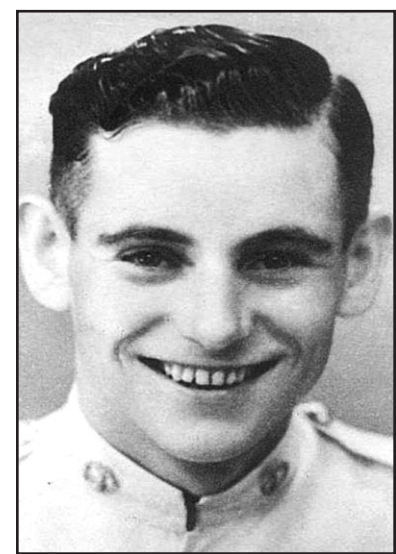
Rifleman Desmond Hull



Lance Corporal Thomas McMullan



Aircraft-man 1st Class Hugh Craig



Private Edward Morrison

Aircraft-man 1st Class **Hugh Craig**, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve; died 20 November 1942 aged 23, remembered with honour in Singapore Memorial in Kranji War Cemetery, also remembered on the family headstone in 1st Saintfield Presbyterian Church. Son of John and Catherine Craig, of Ravara, Ballygowan. Husband of Martha Carse, of Ballynichol. They had one son (Hugh Jnr.) whom Hugh (Snr.) never saw.

Rifleman **John Davidson**, 6th (HD) Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles; died 11 September 1940, aged 48, remembered with honour in Parish Church Saintfield. Son of George and Mary Jane

Davidson, of Saintfield. Husband of Mary Jane Davidson.

Private **John George Davidson**, 9th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry; died 3 September 1944, aged 23, remembered with honour in London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, Somme, France. Son of Johnny & Mary Davidson, of Downpatrick Street, Saintfield. Married Annie Martin, 24 January 1944 (Annie was the girl next door!).

Rifleman **Desmond Hull**, 2nd Battalion, London Irish Rifles; Royal Ulster Rifles; died 2 December 1943, aged 20, remembered with honour in Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. Son of

Thomas and Elisabeth Hull, of Tee Row, Saintfield. Husband of Barbara Hull, of Ivybridge, Devon.

Rear Gunner **John McMahon**, Royal Air Force; died September 1943, aged 23, remembered with honour in Malta. Son of Thomas and Lilly McMahon of Darragh Cross.

Lance Corporal **Thomas McMullan**, 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers; died on 24 June 1944, aged 33, remembered with honour in Orvieto War Cemetery, Italy. Son of Mathew and Elizabeth McMullan, of Saintfield. Husband of Alice McMullan, of Saintfield. His daughter Jean (now Poots)

and son Tommy (Thomas) were the only two war orphans living in Saintfield.

Rifleman **Andrew McVeigh**, 2nd Battalion, The London Irish Rifles; Royal Ulster Rifles, died 28 December, aged 22, remembered with honour in Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanese Republic, now Lebanon. Son of James and Lucy McVeigh, of Saintfield.

Private **Edward Morrison**, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment; died between 1 and 2 October 1942, aged 23, remembered with honour in Sai Wan Memorial, Hong Kong, China. Son of James and Lucy Morrison, of Saintfield.