



Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve.

## **Coalisland Branch**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Parade & Unveiling Ceremony of  
Commemorative VC Paving Stone  
in Honour of**

**Pte. Robert Morrow VC**

**(Princess Victoria's) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers  
7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1891 - 26<sup>th</sup> Apr 1915**

\*\*\*\*\*

***Unveiling By***

***The Lord Lieutenant of Tyrone***

***Mr Robert Lowry Scott, OBE, DL, JP,***

***And***

***Major General The O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ***

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015 @ 3pm**

***Faugh-a-Ballagh***

***Rev. A Rawding, Rev. W Anderson & Rev. D Brownlow***

## **A Quiet, Disciplined and Hard Working Soldier,**

Private Robert Morrow, a quiet, disciplined, hard working soldier and small in stature, he did not look like a hero, yet when his battalion was fighting, he knew no fear. One of his typical exploits happened when he and his friends were in trenches at Messines. Everyone was very thirsty and to get water meant crossing open ground in clear view of German snipers. Private Morrow volunteered to go and, carrying a two-gallon stone rum jar, he ran to the farm and filled the jar, dodging bullets there and back. Just as he jumped back into the trench a bullet hit the jar he was holding and the water was lost. Calmly, Private Morrow grabbed some water bottles and made another trip, again dodging, and managing to escape every German bullet.

On 12 April 1915, the 1st Battalion were in trenches below Messines Ridge when Private Morrow's Company lines came under heavy and accurate shellfire, burying several of the soldiers when the trenches collapsed. Ignoring the shells landing around him, Private Morrow dug six soldiers out and carried them to safety, returning each time to see whom else he could help.

For this outstanding act of bravery, his name was put forward for a Victoria Cross. Less than two weeks later he was badly wounded at St Julien and died of his wounds the following day on 26 April 1915.

His award of the Victoria Cross appeared in The London Gazette dated 21 May 1915 and the citation read as follows

**“For most conspicuous bravery near Messines on 12th April, 1915, when he rescued and carried successively to places of comparative safety, several men who had been buried in the debris of trenches wrecked by shell fire. Private Morrow carried out this gallant work on his own initiative, and under very heavy fire from the enemy”**



*Photo by]*

*[H. Allison & Son, Armagh*

THE LATE PRIVATE ROBERT MORROW, V.C.

*Robert Morrow VC is buried in the White House Commonwealth  
War Grave Cemetery near Ypres.*



*Painted specially for this work.*

# PRIVATE MORROW RESCUING MEN FROM BENEATH THE DEBRIS OF TRENCHES AT MESSINES.

*By H. Rogers.*

At Messines on April 12th, 1915, several men were buried beneath the debris of trenches which had been wrecked by shell-fire. On his own initiative Private Robert Morrow, of the 1st Durham Prisoners' Pioneers, went to their assistance, rescuing them and taking them to places of comparative safety. Morrow carried out this gallant work under very heavy shell-fire, and for his conspicuous bravery was awarded the V.C.



Pte Robert Morrow VC Medal Group

## *Announcement by the Communities Secretary*

In August 2013, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced a nationwide campaign to honour those who received the Victoria Cross (VC), Britain's highest military honour, during the First World War. As part of this, over the next four years on the date corresponding to when they were awarded the VC, commemorative paving stones will be laid in their place of birth or where they lived following the war.

A competition was set to for the design of the stone and Charlie MacKeith from London was announced as the winner of the main paving stone competition. His circular design seeks to 'make one pause and remember' and uses the material, form and lettering of the family of memorials used by the War Graves Commission, bringing this well understood layout into cities, towns and villages across the United Kingdom

469 stones will be laid in communities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The programme will also see 35 VC recipients commemorated in the Republic of Ireland. 145 stones will be laid in the National Memorial Arboretum to commemorate those born overseas.

The first stones will be laid on 23 August because the first Victoria Crosses were awarded on this date exactly 100 years ago. The last stones will be laid in November 2018. Communities Secretary Eric Pickles today, Monday 4 November, unveiled the design of the paving stone which will commemorate recipients of the Victoria Cross during the First World War.

Each stone will include the name of the individual, the rank and regiment of the individual (at the time the VC was awarded) and the date of the action for which the VC was awarded.

The material use for the stone is York Stone Scoutmoor, weighs 46kg and measures 600 mm x 600 mm by 50 mm deep.

# Order of Service

**Welcome.**

**Mr. Drew Robinson,**

**Chairman Newmills and District VC Group**

Good afternoon everybody

On behalf of Newmills and District VC Group I want to thank you all for coming along to be part of this very historic day for Newmills. In particular, I extend a very warm welcome to all of the dignitaries present – there are too many to start naming but I especially welcome Her Majesty's representative, the Lord Lieutenant of Tyrone (Mr Robert Scott) and Major General The O'Morchoe and shortly they will jointly unveil the commemorative stone. It is great to see a number of the descendants of Robert Morrow here today and I know that this will be a very emotional occasion for them. Our VC group has worked tirelessly to mark the centenary of WW1, to encourage people to get involved in Remembrance and to tell the story of Pte Morrow VC in ways that are dignified, respectful and inclusive. We have also been to the forefront in the many physical improvements that you can see taking place in the village and I thank everyone who has helped us to reach this point, be that through providing funding or advice or by volunteering their time, skills and effort. Nothing succeeds without hard work and, in the VC Group, we are fortunate to have an abundance of determination and willingness to get things done.

Newmills and District VC Group are pledged to keeping the memory of Pte Robert Morrow VC alive and I invite you all to attend yet another special day in the life of Newmills village. The 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publishing in the London Gazette of Pte Morrow's VC award and, on that day, Newmills and District VC Group will host a triple ceremony - the unveiling of a blue plaque to Pte Morrow by the Ulster History Circle, the opening of the new VC footbridge across the river Torrent and the unveiling of a mural of Pte Morrow VC in the Orange Hall.

Today, the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015, is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Pte Robert Morrow VC and the VC group has liaised closely with Coalisland Branch Royal British Legion to ensure that this commemoration and stone unveiling is both fitting and memorable. Our best thanks go to the Royal British Legion Coalisland Branch and especially to their Chairman, Mr Adrian Murphy, who has made a tremendous effort in the organising of today's event. By working together and getting more and more people involved, we are strengthening the local community spirit and we are certain that this will not only be a day to be remembered but a day that will be recorded in the history book of Newmills village. Thank you.

**Introduction,  
Colonel Mike Murdock  
Deputy Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade**

"His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the grant of the Victoria Cross to the under mentioned for conspicuous acts of bravery and devotion to duty while serving with the Expeditionary Force:- No 10531 Private Robert Morrow, 1st Battalion Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers) ". So went the lines in the London Gazette of May 21<sup>st</sup> May 1915. Pte Morrow VC who was born and raised in Newmills was a regular soldier who had joined the army in 1911 and was 23 years old when war broke out. He was sent with his regiment as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) to stem the flow of the German Army through Belgium toward France. On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1915, Pte Morrow was with his Battalion in trenches near the town of Messines in Belgium. They were positioned south of the river Douve, when the enemy began to shell their lines. It was during this action that Pte Morrow carried several of his wounded comrades to safety. His citation reads,

*"For most conspicuous bravery near Messines on 12th April 1915, when he rescued and carried successively to places of comparative safety, several men who had been buried in the debris of trenches wrecked by shellfire. Pte Morrow carried out this work on his own initiative and under very heavy fire from the enemy".*

Robert would never know that he was awarded the Victoria Cross as he was wounded a few days later on the 25th April and died of his wounds near St Julien on the 26th. A comrade who was relating the story of Pte Morrow VC said, " He was a plucky kid, and we were proud of him, and the Regiment will be proud of him for all time; I say will be, for like quite number of heroes who have won the "Cross", Morrow has been killed".

# *Unveiling of Commemorative VC Paving Stone*

*By*

*The Lord Lieutenant of Tyrone  
Mr Robert Lowry Scott OBE,DL, JP  
Representative of  
Her Majesty the Queen*

*And*

*Major General The O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ*

*Major General (Rtd) The O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ was the last commanding officer of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) before their amalgamation on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1968 to form The Royal Irish Rangers.*

**Prayers Rev. Andrew Rawding**

Brothers and sisters, for as much as it pleased Almighty God to put into the hearts of his servants to erect this memorial, let us now fulfil the godly purpose for which we are assembled, of dedicating it to the glory of God, and in memory of Private Robert Morrow VC, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## **A Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, our heavenly father, your son our Saviour Jesus Christ laid down his own life so that we might live in the fullness of your love: bestow your blessing on us now as we dedicate this memorial to your glory, in grateful memory of the courage, compassion and sacrificial love of Private Morrow VC. Send your gracious spirit upon us at all times when we assemble here to honour his memory, that we may follow his example of love, in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, in whose name we humbly pray. Amen

**Call to worship: -**

***Psalm 46.1***

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.

***PSALM 67*** (To be read in alternate verses)

- 1 God be merciful unto us and bless us: and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.
- 2 **That thy way may be known upon earth: thy saving health among all nations.**
- 3 Let the peoples praise thee, O Lord: yea, let all the peoples praise thee.
- 4 **O let the nations rejoice and be glad: for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.**
- 5 Let the peoples praise thee, O Lord: yea, let all the peoples praise thee.
- 6 **Then shall the earth bring forth her increase: and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.**
- 7 God shall bless us: and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

## Hymn: O God our help in ages past

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne,  
still may we dwell secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting, thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night,  
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all who breathe away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come;  
be thou our guide while life shall last,  
and our eternal home

## Scripture Readings by Rev. David Brownlow

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson Old Testament Jeremiah 31, Verses 31-34

<sup>31</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: <sup>32</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

<sup>33</sup> but this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson New Testament Matthew 5, Verses 1 – 12

<sup>1</sup> And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: <sup>2</sup> and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

## **Prayers by Rev. William Anderson**

Let us pray

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

Let us pray for the peace of the world:

for statesmen and rulers, that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right ...

for all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour, and creed ...

for men and women the world over, that they may have justice and freedom, and live in security and peace ...

Most gracious God and Father, in whose will is our peace:  
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,  
that by the power of your Spirit  
the peace which is founded on righteousness  
may be established throughout the whole world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:

for the injured and the disabled, for the mentally distressed,  
and for those whose faith in God and man has been weakened or destroyed...

for the homeless and refugees, for those who are hungry,  
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security ...

for those who mourn their dead, those who have lost husband or wife,  
children or parents, and especially for those who have no hope in Christ  
to sustain them in their grief ...

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, infinite in wisdom, love, and power:  
have compassion on those for whom we pray;  
and help us to use all suffering  
in the cause of your kingdom;  
through him who gave himself for us on the cross,  
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all today as we remember and for  
evermore. **Amen**

(9) *Parade (Parade Shun) (P / Commander)*

(10) *Standard Bearers Carry Standard's (P / Commander)*

# **Act of Remembrance**

The Royal British Legion N.I Chairperson, George Black

## **Exhortation**

\*\*\*\*\*

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the year's condemn:  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

## **We Will Remember Them**

## **The Last Post**

(Buglers) David Harrison & Ronald Wilson

## **Silence**

## **Reveille**

## **The Kohima Epitaph**

*When you go home tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow we gave our today.*

## **The lament "Oft in the Stilly Night"**

Lone Piper (Royal Irish Regiment).

## **Wreaths will be laid as per list.**

- (11) *Standard Bearers Order Standard's (P / Commander)*
- (12) *Parade (Parade Stand at ease, stand easy) (P / Commander)*

## Hymn: Lord while for all mankind we pray

Lord, while for all mankind we pray,  
Of every clime and coast,  
O hear us for our native land,  
The land we love the most.

O guard our shores from every foe;  
With peace our borders bless;  
With prosperous times our cities crown,  
Our fields with plenteousness.

Unite us in the sacred love  
Of knowledge, truth, and thee,  
And let our hills and valleys shout  
The songs of liberty.

Here may religion, pure and mild,  
Smile on our sabbath hours,  
And piety and virtue bless  
The home of us and ours.

Lord of the nations, thus to thee  
Our country we commend;  
Be thou her refuge and her trust,  
Her everlasting Friend.

*During the Last Hymn: From the 3<sup>rd</sup> Verse the Union Flag and Woman's  
Section Standard will be returned and Drums collected.*

- (13) *Parade (Parade Shun) (P / Commander)*
- (14) *Standard Bearers Carry Standard's (P / Commander)*
- (15) *Parade will replace Head dress (P / Commander)*  
*Replace (Pause) Head dress.*

## **The Blessing:**

God grant to the living grace,  
the departed rest,  
the Church, the Queen,  
the Commonwealth and all the world peace and concord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

## **The National Anthem**

*God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.*

(16) *Parade Outwards Turn. (P / Commander)*

(17) *Quick March (P / Commander)*

**All Those taking part in the Parade and  
unveiling Ceremony are cordially invited for  
Tea in the Parish Hall.**

## The Victoria Cross

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military decoration that can be awarded to any member of the British and commonwealth armed forces, regardless of rank. The medal is produced from the metal of a cannon captured from the Russian army during the Siege of Sevastopol and it was first introduced by Queen Victoria on the 29th January 1856 to honour acts of gallantry during the Crimean War. The VC is always awarded to the recipient or next of kin by the reigning monarch. The medal itself is a bronze cross, 41mm high X 36mm wide, bearing the crown of St Edward surmounted by a lion. It carries the inscription "FOR VALOUR" and is suspended by a ring from a "V" to a bar which is decorated with laurel leaves. On the reverse of the bar is the recipient's name, rank, number and unit, while the reverse side of the medal has a circular panel in which is inscribed the date of the action for which the award was made.

The VC is awarded for ***"most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or, extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy"***.

During the First World War in the retreat from Mons, on the 23rd August 1914, Irishman, Lt M J Dease VC won the first of 628 Victoria Crosses that were earned in just over four years of conflict. To date **1358** VCs have been awarded, the last to 27 year old L/Cpl Joshua Leakey of the Parachute Regiment for an action in Afghanistan on the 22nd August 2013.

# The Victoria Cross



*Image of unveiling cloth used to unveil the  
Commemorative VC paving stone on the 26<sup>th</sup> April  
2015 in Newmills.*

## **(The Princess Victoria's) Royal Irish Fusiliers**



The Royal Irish Fusiliers was originally raised as the 87th (Prince of Wales's Irish) Regiment of Foot at the end of the 18th century in response to the crisis in Europe. The regiment recruited largely from across the island of Ireland and, for most of its history, was an essentially an Irish infantry unit.

The 89th (The Princess Victoria's) Regiment of Foot was also formed in the late 18th century. It combined with the 87th Regiment in 1881 to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers). This was changed in 1920 to the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's).

At the outbreak of the First World War, the 1st Battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force, and fought in many of the early battles of the war including those at Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne, and the 1st Ypres battle in 1914. Subsequent battle honours include Aubers Ridge, Festubert, the second Ypres battle and Loos in 1915, the Somme in 1916, and at Arras and Cambrai in 1917.

After being involved in resisting the German offensive of early 1918, the battalion took part in the final offensive that led to the end of the war.

On behalf of The Royal British Legion, Coalisland Branch I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have turned out here in the Village of Newmills to witness the unveiling of the commemorative VC paving stone, to commemorate the heroic act by a young man from the village over a century ago, trying to help save the lives of others with total disregard for his own safety. And we hope in the years ahead that the people of the village will care for and ensure the safe keeping of this commemorative VC paving stone in honour of Pte. Robert Morrow VC.

I would also like to thank Newmills and District VC Group Chairman, Mr. Drew Robinson, Secretary Mr. Stephen Wilson And Committee member Reverend William Anderson for all their help in making this a memorable occasion, including other previous events associated to this special day, and to all those who have helped in many other ways too numerous to mention.

*Adrian Murphy.*

*Chairman.*

*Coalisland Branch.*

### Acknowledgements

1. Information on Pte Robert Morrow VC and the Victoria Cross courtesy of:- Friends of the Somme Mid Ulster Branch
2. Unveiling Cloth Produced by:- The Pixel Factory Dungannon.
3. Pop Up Display Banner printed by:- E.S Print Dungannon
4. Order of Serviced printed by :- C.R Print Dungannon
5. Wreath holders courtesy of:- S.A Kennedy Engineering
6. Newmills Silver Band & Agharan Pipe Band (Drum Corp)
7. Superact
8. Reserve Forces & Cadet Association Northern Ireland
9. Police Service Northern Ireland:- Public Safety
10. Newmills Presbyterian Church & Tullanisken Parish Church

## **Wreaths will be laid On behalf of the following:-**

1. Her Majesty the Queen.
2. Northern Ireland Office.
3. Northern Ireland Centenary Committee.
4. Mid Ulster Council.
5. The Armed Forces
6. Royal Irish Regiment.
7. The Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland.
8. The Royal British Legion Northern Ireland.
9. The Royal British Legion Women's Section N.I
10. Royal Irish Fusiliers Association
11. Police Service Northern Ireland.
12. Army Cadet Force N.I

- .....
13. Newmills and District VC Group
  14. Carland Presbyterian Church.
  15. Newmills Loyal Orange Lodge No. 183.
  16. Bloomhill Olive Branch of Peace RBP 1147.
  17. Newmills Apprentice Boys of Derry VC Branch.
  18. Distant Relatives of Pte. Robert Morrow VC.
  19. Any other Wreaths.

### Parade arrives at the War Memorial

1	Parade Halt (Pause)	P.Commander
2	Parade inwards turn	P.Commander
3	Drum Head is assembled	Band
4	Union Flag and 1X Standard is laid	S. Bearers
5	Standard Bearers order Standards	P.Commander
6	Parade will remove Headdress	P.Commander
7	Parade stand at ease	P.Commander
8	Stand easy	P.Commander

### Service Begins ... Call to Remembrance

9	Parade (Parade Shun)	P.Commander
10	Standard Bearers Carry Standards	P.Commander

### Act Of Remembrance

*Wreath laying and The Lament*

11	Standard Bearers order Standards	P.Commander
12	Parade stand at ease	P.Commander

*During the Last Hymn: From the 3<sup>rd</sup> Verse, Union Flag and Women Section Standard will be returned and Drums collected*

13	Parade (Parade Shun)	P.Commander
14	Standard Bearers Carry Standards	P.Commander
15	Parade will Replace Headdress	P.Commander

### The Blessing and National Anthem

*Union Flag Standard Bearer, Women's Section Standard Bearer and Buglers rejoin's the parade*

16	Parade out Turns	P.Commander
17	Parade Quick March	P.Commander

