



# remembrance ni



## Foundation of the Royal Air Force

### The Royal Flying Corps

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC) was formed on the 13/04/1912 and comprised a Military Wing, Naval Wing, Central Flying School and the Royal Aircraft Factory. The RFC was formed out of the balloon sections and experimental air sections of the Royal Engineers when the



progress of aviation created a need for an official Corps. During the First World War the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) were the aerial force of the British armed forces. Among other tasks the RFC provided aerial support for the British Army, flew bombing missions and engaged in aerial combat.

The RFC was a Corps of the Army, and thus had Army ranks, regulations and procedures.

All of the initial personnel of the RFC Military Wing comprised officers and men who transferred from the Army, and the Army continued to be a significant source of personnel for the RFC, either by permanent transfers, secondment or temporary attachment (the latter categories applying particular to observers).

Officers could initially enter the RFC in two ways: by transfer from an Army Unit or by joining the Special Reserve. The latter were sometimes known as 'civilian pilots' as they generally had no military experience. Early Special Reservists included well-known pre-war pilots such as Geoffrey de Havilland and BC Hucks, famous for touring the country 'looping the loop'. They were looked down upon by some military officers, some of whom had experience in the Boer War and other campaigns.

Subsequently it was possible to join the RFC directly and be entered on the 'General List'. Once the officer's service in the RFC was over he resigned his commission. There was thus an advantage in joining the Army first and applying for a transfer to the RFC, in that once the RFC service was completed the officer would return to his Army unit for continued employment.



In order to enter the RFC as a pilot it was initially a requirement that the applicant acquire a Royal Aero Club aviators certificate at their own expense. If accepted into the RFC a nominal 75 pounds would be refunded. This requirement was dropped in July 1916, although an individual could still apply for an RAeC 'ticket'.

A new officer would normally be appointed as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant or Probationary 2nd Lieutenant and enter the Recruits Depot. He would be given ground training at one of the Schools of Instruction (primarily Reading and Oxford). If destined to be a pilot he would undertake further

training at one of the private Flying Schools taken over by the RFC, the Central Flying School or one of the

ARMY FORM B 5052 C

# ROYAL FLYING CORPS

## MILITARY WING



**VACANCIES EXIST**

FOR

Men aged 18 to 30 of various mechanical trades, and others of good education.

They should apply to the nearest Recruiting Officer, or write for particulars to Headquarters Royal Flying Corps (M.W.), South Farnborough, Hants.



ARMY AIRSHIP BETA



ARMY AIRPLANE BETA

**PAY.**

2nd Class Air Mechanic,	2/- per day.
1st " " "	4/- " "
Serjeant " " "	6/- " "
Warrant Officer " "	9/- " "

Men selected to be trained as Flyers will receive in addition 2/- or 4/- per diem.

Free Clothing and necessaries, quarters, rations, fuel and light.

One month's furlough per annum on full pay.

When transferred to the Army Reserve a soldier of the Corps will receive an annual gratuity of £10 in lieu of Reserve Pay.



If, while serving in the Reserve, he is placed on the first Reserve as a flyer, he receives a further £10 per annum, subject to his performing a Quarterly Flying Test.

Men of the following trades and professions are specially required:

Blacksmiths    Electricians,  
Instrument Repairers,  
Motor Fitters  
and Riggers.



© 1917 & 1918 by the War Office

Reserve Aeroplane Squadrons ('RAS'), later renamed Reserve Squadrons ('RS'), then Training Squadrons ('TS'), and subsequently merged into Training Depot Stations

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('TDS'). Alternatively he could be trained as an Observer or Balloon Officer.

The Naval Wing split from the RFC on 01/07/1914 to become the Royal Naval Air Service, under the control of the Admiralty. On the 1st April 1918 the RFC merged with the RNAS to form the Royal Air Force (RAF).

4,365 men of The Royal Flying Corps died in service.



## General Jan Smuts' key role in establishing the Royal Air Force

August 2017 marked the centenary of the report to form the Royal Air Force (RAF). The idea of an independent Air Force from Navy or Army control is now officially 100+ years old, and one key South African statesman, General Jan Smuts, gave birth to it.

Today, if you walk into the Royal Air Force Private Club in Mayfair, London you are greeted by a bust of Jan Smuts in the foyer, it stands there as an acknowledgement to the man who founded what is now one of the most prestigious and powerful air forces in the world – The RAF.

### **So how did it come to be that a South African started The Royal Air Force and why the need to have a separate and independent arm of service?**

Simply put, during World War 1, the British Army and the Navy developed their own air-forces in support of their own respective ground and naval operations. The Royal Flying Corps had been born out of the Air Battalion of the Royal Engineers and was under the control of the British Army. The Royal Naval Air Service was its naval equivalent and was controlled by the Admiralty.

However, the use of air power in World War 1 was developing beyond the immediate tactical use of aircraft by the Navy and the Army. In Great Britain the civilian population had been on the receiving end of extensive German bombing raids from Zeppelin airships. The public



outrage and the psychological effects of this bombing was having a significant impact on British politicians.

In reaction to this, the politicians proposed the creation of a long-range bombing force both as a retaliation and also as a means of disrupting enemy war production. There were also continuing concerns about aircraft supply and priorities between the services.

The British Prime Minister, Lloyd George asked General Jan Smuts to join his War Cabinet (the supreme authority governing Great Britain and her Empire's forces in World War 1). Lloyd George then commissioned General Jan Smuts to report on two issues:

Firstly to look into arrangements for Home Defence against bombing and secondly, air organisation generally and the direction of aerial operations.

Smuts is generally accredited with improving British air defence and answering the first priority.

However it was 'Smuts report' of August 1917 in response to the second of these questions that led to the recommendation to establish a separate Air Service. In making his recommendations Smuts commented that -

***“the day may not be far off when aerial operations with their devastation of enemy lands and destruction of industrial and populous centres on a vast scale may become the principal operations of war, to which the older forms of military and naval operations may become secondary and subordinate”.***

Given this new dimension he commented that it was important that the design of aircraft and engines for such operations should be settled in accordance with the policy which would direct their future strategic employment. On these grounds he argued there was an urgent need to create an Air Ministry and that this Ministry should sort out the amalgamation of the two air services.



### **The War Cabinet during WW1, General Smuts seated front, far right**

The War Cabinet accepted this recommendation to amalgamate the two separate air forces under one single and independent Air Force. Smuts was then asked to lead an Air Organisation Committee to put it into effect. The Air Force Bill received Royal assent from the King on the 29 November 1917, which gave the newly formatted Air Force



the prefix of 'Royal' (up to that point the idea was to call it the 'Imperial Air Force'). Air Force the prefix of 'Royal' (up to that point the idea was to call it the 'Imperial Air Force').

**The RAF was officially formed on the 1 April 1918 with the amalgamation of the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps.**

Following which Lord Rothermere was appointed on 3 January 1918 as the first Secretary of State for Air and an Air Council established.

To emphasise the merger of both army and naval aviation in the new service, to appease the 'senior service' i.e. the Navy, many of the titles of officers were deliberately chosen to be of a naval character, such as Flight Lieutenant, Wing Commodore, Group Captain and Air Commodore.

The newly created Royal Air Force was the most powerful air force in the world on its creation, with over 20,000 aircraft and over 300,000 personnel (including the Women's Royal Air Force). It now qualifies as the oldest independent Air Force in the World.



## **First RFC squadron in France in WW1 was led by an Armagh officer**

Number 2 Wing RFC was the first to land in France . The Commanding Officer was Major CJ Bourke from Armagh and originally of the Royal Irish Regiment. Of the one hundred aircrew who formed this first deployment in August 1914, about 20 per cent were either Irish or from Irish regiments.

Charles Bourke was one of the earliest British Army officers to consider air power in depth.

He served in the Boer War and for three years on the West African Frontier. Captain 1909. He learned to fly in France 1910. 1911 serving as a Captain in the Army Balloon School. On 13/05/1912, Burke became the commanding officer of the Flying Corps' No 2 Squadron and was promoted to major. The squadron established the first operational military airbase in the United Kingdom.

He was mentioned in Sir John French's despatch on 08/10/1914. The following month, on 29/11/1914, Burke was appointed the first commanding officer of No 2 Wing of the Royal Flying Corps and he set up his headquarters at Saint-Omer. His wing comprised Nos 5 and 6 Squadrons.

In 1915 Burke was involved in recruiting for the RFC in Canada. As well as directly recruiting personnel, Burke suggested that training aerodromes might be established in Canada under British control.

From February to June 1916, he served as the Commandant of the Central Flying School. In the summer

of 1916 he re-joined the Royal Irish Regiment. He died commanding a battalion of East Lancashire Regiment.

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In the summer of 1916 Burke rejoined his old regiment, the Royal Irish Regiment, which was suffering a severe shortage of officers. Burke was killed in action on 09/04/1917, whilst commanding the 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment. It was the first day of the Battle of Arras and he was visiting the right, front post of B Company when it was hit by a shell. Both Burke and his orderly, Lance Corporal R Pentland were killed. He was the youngest son of Michael Charles Christopher Burke and Amy Burke, of Ballinahone House, Armagh, and husband to Beatrice O. Burke, Stoney Cockbury, Winchcombe, Glos.

Burke is buried at the Point-du-Jour Military Cemetery, Athies, France in Plot: III. C. 2. His orderly is buried next to him. Men of Thomond Memorial at St Mary's Cathedral (Church of Ireland), Limerick.



# On this Day – April 1



**1900**

The Irish Guards was formed on 1 April 1900 by Queen Victoria in recognition of the many acts of courage and  
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bravery performed by Irish Regiments during the Second Boer War.

BY AUTHORITY.

**V. R.**



**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**

having deemed it desirable to commemorate the bravery shown by the Irish Regiments in the recent operations in South Africa, has been graciously pleased to command that an Irish Regiment of Foot Guards be formed.

THE REGIMENT WILL BE CALLED THE

**“IRISH GUARDS.”**

The Age and Standard of Recruits are as for other Regiments of Foot Guards, viz.:—

**AGE: 18 TO 25 YEARS.**

**MINIMUM HEIGHT: 5 feet 7 inches for men under 20 years of age.**  
**5 feet 8 inches for men 20 years of age and over.**  
Chest Measurement varies with the height.

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**MEN OF GOOD CHARACTER ARE INVITED TO JOIN.**

They should apply to \_\_\_\_\_ or to any Recruiter, from whom the conditions of service and all particulars can be obtained.

Recruits on enlistment will be sent to join the Guards Depot at Caterham, Surrey.

A Guards' Employment Society has been established for the purpose of assisting Soldiers of the Foot Guards in obtaining work in Civil Life on their transfer to the Reserve or on discharge.

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**General Advantages of the Army.**

A pamphlet showing the conditions of service in the Army and containing full information as regards Food, Clothing, Quarters, Fuel and Light, Medical Attendance, Prizes for Good Shooting, Libraries, Recreation Rooms, Army Schools, &c., &c., will be supplied free on application at any Post Office, or from any Recruiter.

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.**



PRINTED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERS OFFICE AT PARCEL, WATERLOO & WHITE HALL, IN LONDON.

## **1915 - General Powell in Enniskillen**

Addressing the Service Squadron 6th Inniskilling Dragoons (Ulster Division) after his inspection at Enniskillen, General Powell, C.B., said he was more than surprised at the improvement made by the men and their efficiency, which reflected great credit on their commanding officer, Major Strettel, and their other officers. There was no doubt that the division would go to the front as soon as they had enough men. The division was in a peculiar position; it was full at present, but, unlike other divisions, had no territorial reserves to feed it, and they could not move till the division had formed its own reserves which would fill vacancies that were bound to occur. He appealed to all to help get recruits and thus fill up the reserve battalions.

*(Belfast News-Letter, 1 April 1915)*

## **1916**

36th (Ulster) Division. Enemy aeroplanes drop bombs on Mesnil, and they also dropped a letter about our airmen, that were either killed or captured. Patrols sent out, but no enemy encountered. Our Artillery are being relieved on the 31st Division front.

## **1918**

### **Dublin Orangemen and the War**

A roll of honour to the memory of the members of the Dublin Orange Order who joined the colours was unveiled on Wednesday evening in the Fowler Hall, Rutland Square, in the presence of a numerous gathering, under the presidency of Mr. T. H. Liddy, deputy grand master of Dublin.

Mr. Louth chairman of Committee and hon: treasurer of the fund, stated that the roll of honour was unique, inasmuch as it represented every branch of the service. Of the 340 names inscribed on the list 30 had been killed, 11 decorated, and 21 had obtained commission rank. Amongst those who had won distinction was the Rev. John Thom, who had won the Military Cross no fewer than three times.

Sir James Stronge, in unveiling the roll, expressed pride that so many members of the Order in Dublin had freely taken their place in the ranks when the call was first sounded. They did not grudge their lives and it was not for them at home to grudge them. He then unveiled the roll, "To the glory of God and in loving memory of the heroism and self-sacrifice of our brethren who fell on the field of battle in noble defense of equity, truth, and righteousness."

As the roll was being unveiled the band played the National Anthem. Sir J. Stronge, acknowledging a vote of thank, said he could give the lie to the statements which had appeared freely in some newspapers that Orangemen were opposed to conscription. The Grand Orange Lodge had never met recently without passing a resolution in favour of conscription, and county, district, and private lodges had passed similar motions.

(The roll of honour is currently in possession of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to which it was recently donated and was part of their Great War exhibition).

*(April 1918 Larne Weekly Times)*

**1918**

## **RAF founded**

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Destroyer HMS Falcon sank after being accidentally rammed and cut in two by armed trawler HMS John Fitzgerald while on convoy duty in the North Sea. One member of Falcon's crew died of injuries received.

**1940**

The British Minister of Food announces Dig for Victory campaign to encourage growing food at home.

**1941**

General Platt and his 'Northern Force' capture Asmara, the capital of Eritrea. A pro-axis coup, led by Raschid Ali seizes power in Iraq.



The Japanese force the Chinese out of Toungoo, north of Rangoon.

Japanese begin landing in Dutch New Guinea.

## **1942**

As a result of the immense loss in shipping along the US eastern seaboard, since January 1942, the US authorities instituted a partial convoying system, known as the 'Bucket Brigade'. This meant that ships would sail in convoy as close to the coast as possible during daylight hours and anchor in protected harbours at night. Due to the shortage of escort vessels, continuous convoying was not possible and the 'Bucket Brigade' system did not apply to the Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico.

HM Submarine P36 was sunk by Italian bombers in Marsamxett Harbour, Malta. There were no casualties from the bombing, but some members of P36's crew were subsequently lost in the sinking of submarine HMS Olympus which struck a mine on 8 May 1942.

## **1943**

Attempting to stem inflation in the USA, President Roosevelt freezes wages, salaries, and prices. Meat, fats, canned goods, and cheese are now rationed in the US.

## **1944**

### **General Patton in Armagh**

On 1st April 1944 at 10am soldiers of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division along with various other Units were formed up in The Mall in Armagh to be inspected by General Patton.

## **2 LIR, with 38 Irish Brigade, April 1944:**

"The Bn was sent up to relieve the French on Monte Castellone. 3 companies were almost on the crest - the 4th was in reserve. Supplies were brought up by mules. A Echelon was 8 miles away in the Rapido Valley & the supply-route was under shell & mortar fire."

## **1945**

The Battle of Comacchio took place involving 43

Commando RM. As a preliminary to the main operation, a commando assault (Operation Roast) was launched across Lake Comacchio on 1 April to secure the right flank of the Eighth Army for the coming battle to seize 'the Spit', the narrow isthmus between the eastern shore of Lake Comacchio and the Adriatic Sea.

The Battle of Okinawa commenced. The U.S. Tenth Army, with 1,457 ships in support, invades Okinawa which is 325 miles from Japan. 60,000 troops land unopposed and establish an 8-mile bridgehead. It was the last major battle and one of the bloodiest of World War II in the Pacific

The U.S. First and Ninth Armies link up at Lippstadt cutting off a third of a million German troops in the Ruhr area. The U.S. First Army enters Hamm, 40 miles Northeast of Essen.

All three battalions of **38 (Irish) Brigade** were on Castellone for most of April 1944. 6th Inniskillings, under Bala Bredin, were immediately overlooking the ruins of the Abbey while 2 LIR were farther back on the ridge with 1 RIRF on the lower slopes and around Caira village. Brigade HQ was believed to be the most shelled spot in Italy at the time.

As well as 2 LIR taking over positions on Monte Castellone, 6th Inniskillings, commanded by Bala Bredin, took over part of the ridge that overlooked the Monastery on Monte Cassino. All positions on that ridge were in turn under observation from Germans on Monte Cairo, which is 5,400ft high. Movement in daylight was impossible and the Skins and Rifles lived in sangars with flimsy covers. The top of the ridge is rocky and it is impossible to dig in but the rocks provided plenty of material with which to build sangars.

Finding that the French had not patrolled the no man's land below them, Bala Bredin decided that the Inniskillings would do so each night and dominate the ground. This they did so effectively that one of the three German re-supply routes from their logistical base at Villa Santa Lucia was cut.

In the meantime, Brigade HQ was established on the lower slopes of Monte Cairo overlooking Caira village. It became known as the 'most shelled spot' in Italy and Brigadier Pat Scott commented that it was a good HQ to be away from!

Brigadier Scott in Forli:

"We were invited to a party at the Faughs at 11am. It seemed rather an odd hour – but I had forgotten the date! It seemed that the invitation originated from the LIR, who were intent on holding a party at the Faughs' expense.

..The Faughs responded by ringing up the Town Major of Forli & told him that the LIR were leaving their billets & their accommodation would be available for anyone he liked to put there. A report was then received by the Fire Station that the Faughs' billet was blazing...."

# Roll of Honour – April 1

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

**1915**

**+BOWDEN, John**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Lance-Corporal. 18880. Died 01/04/1915 of scarlet fever at Newtownards Fever Hospital. Age 19. Buried with full military honours in Ballymena New Cemetery on 3rd April. A report of the funeral was published in the Ballymena Observer 9th April 1915 -

“The remains of Lance Corporal John Bowden, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, who died in Newtownards Hospital from scarlet fever on Thursday last after a brief illness, were interred on Saturday in the New Cemetery, Cushendall Road, Ballymena, with full military honours. Prior to enlisting the deceased, who was a native of Slatt, was a clerk in the office of Mr. John Owens, solicitor, Ballymena, and was well known in athletic circles.

“The arrival of the remains by motor hearse at Queen Street, Ballymena, shortly after three o'clock was witnessed by a large gathering. The military were under the command of Captain the Hon. Hugh O'Neill, M.P., adjutant of the 12th Battalion R.I.R., and the firing party under the charge of Sergeant Wright, also of the 12th Battalion.

“There was a large attendance of members of A, B, and C. Company North Antrim Regiment, Ulster Volunteer Force, under the command of Mr. George C. Young, Galgorm Castle, Commander of the 1st Battalion North Antrim Regiment, U.V.F.; Mr. William Stuart, C.E., Quartermaster; and Messrs J. Hillis and R. Sloan, Company Commanders.

“The deceased was an enthusiastic member of Harryville Unionist Club.”

John was a member of C Company, 1st Battalion Ulster Volunteer Force and a member of Slatt L.O.L. 475. Son of David and Margaret Bowden, of Slatt, Ballymena. Ballymena New Cemetery. Ballymena WM, First Ballymena Presbyterian Church RH

### **+DUFFIELD, Christopher**

Royal Irish Rifles, 8th Btn. Rifleman. 13143. Died 01/04/1915. (Served as McPherson). Son of Elizabeth Dougherty (formerly Duffield, nee McPherson), of 180, Woodstock Rd., Belfast, and the late Christopher Duffield. Belfast City Cemetery

### **1916**

### **+MAGILL, William**

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. (1st Co Down Volunteers). Serjeant. 18423. Died accidentally while testing a rifle grenade which exploded 01/04/1916. Age 26. A leading member of East Down (Hillsborough) UVF, a member of Masonic Lodge 66. Enlisted 1914, to France October 1915 with the 36th Ulster Division. Transferred to the 108th Brigade as an instructor at the bombing school. William

was buried at 1830 hours on 02/04/1916 with full military honours with his commanding officer and all the men from his regiment that could attend present. William's death is all the sadder because days before he was mentioned in divisional order's for a act of great courage. "The General Officer Commanding wishes to express his appreciation of the following act of courage on the part of 18423 Sergeant William Magill. At a bombing school a live bomb failed to explode after throwing, when the grenade was afterward moved it began to fuse and was dropped, Sergeant Magill observing the danger picked it up and hurled it into a trench 20 yards away, thus averting a very serious accident or even death." Son of James and Sarah Magill, of Hillsborough. Forceville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Hillsborough WM

### **+WILSON, Thomas**

Royal Garrison Artillery, 12th Siege Bty. Gunner. 17379. Died 01/04/1916. Age 38. Son of Thomas and Christina Wilson. Born Belfast. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

## **1917**

### **+BAXTER, John Joseph**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 3894. Died 01/04/1917. Age 22. Son of the late John and Catherine Baxter, of 83, Dergmoney Cottages, Omagh. Theipval Memorial, France

### **+CARBERY, Francis**

Royal Field Artillery Service, 32nd Div. Ammunition Col. Shoeing Smith. 79839. Died 01/04/1917. Aged 31. Youngest

son of Patrick and Sarah Carbery, of Dungannon.  
Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, Pas de Calais,  
France. Dungannon WM

**+CARR, Cecil B**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 28075. Died  
01/04/1917. Age 19. Born 06/02/1898 in Horton, near  
Bradford, York. Son of Cecil and Annie Carr, of Main St.,  
Maghera. Cecil's mother died on 22/04/1909 in Magherafelt.  
Roupy Communal Cemetery, St Quentin, Aisne, France

**+DOHERTY, Thomas**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 22nd Btn. C Coy. Private. 4520.  
Died 01/04/1917. Age 30. Enlisted Aug., 1914. Born at  
Londonderry. Son of John and Jane Doherty, of 15, Creggan  
Terrace, Londonderry. Roupy Communal Cemetery, France

**+FORSTER, G**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 28831. Died  
01/04/1917. Age 18. Son of Leslie and Mary Jane Forster, of  
Ballymackilroy, Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh. Savy British  
Cemetery, France

**+FULTON, William James**

RNR. Engineer. Duchess of Montrose. Died April 1917.  
Aged 40. The minesweeper, Duchess of Montrose, struck a  
mine off the coast of Belgium (18/03/1917). His relatives  
lived at Dooley, Portstewart.

**+GRAY, William Francis**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. C Coy. Private. 14346.  
Died 01/04/1917. Aged 20. Son of Hugh and Mary Jane

Gray, of 33, Wilson St, Belfast. Savy British Cemetery, Aisne, France

**+HOWE, Henry George**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Sergeant. 8828. Died of wounds 01/04/1917. Aged 27. Husband to Mrs H Howe of Marlborough Terrace, Londonderry. He was born in Rawalpindi, India, to Henry and Jane of 42, Kimberley Street, Ormeau Road, Belfast. Foreste Communal Cemetery, France.

**+MATHERS, Thomas William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 3725. Died 01/04/1917. Age 22. Son of John Mathers, of Ballymagarahan Moira. Theipval Memorial, France

**+McLEAN, A**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 7917. Died 01/04/1917. Age 31. Son of William McLean, of 21, Clune Brae, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire. Native of Coleraine. Save British Cemetery, France

**+McLEAN, R**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 19833. Died 01/04/1917. Age 28. Born at Londonderry. Son of Robert and Mary McLean, of 16, Osborne St., Rosemount, Londonderry. Ropy Communal Cemetery, France

**+MILLAR, George**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 17785. Died 01/04/1917. Age 24. Son of George and Annie Millar,



of 4, Lisabally Cottages, Coolkeeragh, Co. Londonderry.  
Roupy Communal Cemetery, France

**+MITCHELL, W J**

Royal Irish Rifles. 1st Btn. A Coy. Rifleman. 5114. Died  
01/04/1917. Age 24. Son of James and Annie Mitchell, of  
25, James St., Lurgan. Peronne Communal Cemetery  
Extension, France

**+NOBLETT, Robert James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 28188. Died  
01/04/1917. Age 27. Brother of Edward, Cheshire Regiment,  
who died 14/04/1918. Son of Edward and Mary Noblett, of  
147, The Mount, Belfast. Savy British Cemetery, France

**+PAISLEY, David Gordon**

Black Watch, 1st/16th Bn. (Royal Highlanders ). Private.  
265817. Died 01/04/1917. He was on R&R, when the  
building in which they were quartered was hit by shells. Son  
of Mary Elizabeth and the late William Campbell Paisley of  
Larne. Maroeuil British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

**+PALMER, Joseph**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. D Coy. Lance Corporal. 8712.  
Died 01/04/1917. Age 25. Son of John and Tresa Palmer, of  
Belfast. Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand, France

**+WILSON, Joseph**

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). 1st/6th Btn. Private.  
268272. Died 01/04/1917. Age 21. Joseph and Thomas  
Wilson were sons of William and Jane Wilson. Joseph was

born in Cookstown on 06/11/1895. Joseph was the youngest son and one of a family of possibly eleven children. It seems the family moved to Scotland around 1900. The family lived at 74 Grey Street, Shettleston, Glasgow. The two young men enlisted together and were both in the 1st/6th Btn Black Watch. On Sunday 01/04/1917 a shell hit a building that was being used as a billet. The Wilson brothers were killed in the incident. Son of William and Jane Wilson, of Shivey, Sandholes, Dungannon. Maroeuil British Cemetery, France. Cookstown WM

### **+WILSON, Thomas**

Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). 1st/6th Btn. Private. 268276. Died 01/04/1917. Age 21. Thomas and Joseph Wilson were sons of William and Jane Wilson. Joseph was born in Cookstown on 13/05/1892. Thomas was one of a family of possibly eleven children. It seems the family moved to Scotland around 1900. The family lived at 74 Grey Street, Shettleston, Glasgow. The two young men enlisted together and were both in the 1st/6th Btn. Black Watch. On Sunday 101/04/1917 a shell hit a building that was being used as a billet. The Wilson brothers were killed in the incident. Son of William and Jane Wilson, of Shivey, Sandholes, Dungannon. Maroeuil British Cemetery, France. Cookstown WM

## **1918**

### **+BEATTY, James Harold**

Fort Garry Horse. Trooper. 115976. Died 01/04/1918. Age 21. Born on 16/01/1896 in Killarty, a townland near Brookeborough in Co Fermanagh. Family later moved to Crossdoney, Co. Cavan, where James and his older brother

George grew up. In April 1914, now a Clerk, James emigrated to Canada on the Empress of Ireland. Going to Halifax, Nova Scotia, James was taking up a position as Bank Clerk with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. James was living in Nokomis, Saskatchewan, when, on 16/02/1916, he went to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, to enlist and was posted to the 10th Overseas Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment.

Within a month of enlisting James health had suffered coming down with a mild case of influenza and a severe case of measles. When he had recovered he embarked on the 29/04/1916 onboard the SS Olympic going to Shorncliffe, a camp near Cheriton in Kent, which was a staging post for troops destined for the Western Front. It was here in May, that James was promoted acting Lance Corporal. James health also took another setback here when, in June, he contracted a mild case of German measles.

Reverting to the ranks at own request on 10/12/1916 shortly before leaving Shorncliffe on 17/12/1916 James left to join the Fort Garry Horse in France where it was part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, arriving on the 19/12/1916. James joined his unit on 05/01/1917 and served with them for just over a year when he was killed in action. Son of James J. and Annie (nee Bamford) Beatty, of 4, Park Drive, Bangor, Co. Down. Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Family memorial in Bangor Cemetery

### **+McLAUGHLIN, S**

Royal Irish Rifles. 6th Btn. Rifleman. D/10022. Died 01/04/1918. Age 21. Son of James and Elizabeth

McLaughlin, of 93, Bridge End, Belfast. Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

**1919**

**+MONTGOMERY, Ralph Noel Vernon**

Royal Field Artillery, 88th Bde. D Bty. Major. Died 01/04/1919 in the Military Hospital in Doullens. Age 34. He is commemorated locally in Fivemiletown Parish Church. There is a memorial window which features Saint Barbara, the patron saint of artillerymen. It was unveiled on Sunday 13/03/1921. It was erected by the parents and brothers of Major Ralph Montgomery DSO. "Four brothers from the Blessingbourne family saw active service in the war," said the Lord Bishop of Clogher "Three of them were in the artillery. In the providence of God three came safely through it all, and the window will perpetuate the memory of the one who had made the great sacrifice." Son of Hugh de F. and Mrs. Montgomery, of Blessingbourne, Fivemiletown. His father was Deputy-Lieutenant (DL), Justice of the Peace (JP) and land owner. During Victorian times, the Blessingbourne estate comprised 7,996 acres. Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 2, France. Fivemiletown WM, Fivemiletown Parish Church Memorial Window

**+MOORE, Sara Mabel**

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Worker. 37102. Died 01/04/1919 of Tubercular Meningitis at the Mater Hospital in Belfast. She had been ill for 21 days. Age 19. Sara Moore was the daughter of Annie Jane Moore. Sara Matilda 'Mabel' Moore was born about 1900 in th United States of America. The 1911 census records an 11 year old Sarah living in

Mawillian, Springhill, Moneymore. Her mother was a widow. Mabel was an assumed name. Desertlyn Old Graveyard, Moneymore

**1920**

**+McGRATH, Thomas**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 6020. Transf. to (Pte. 451324) Labour Corps. Died 01/04/1920. Age 41. Served in the South African War. Son of Andrew and Bridget McGrath, of Killcontry; husband of Minnie McGrath, of Mill St., Fintona. Donacavey Old Graveyard

**1941**

**+GORDON, John Eyre Gisborne**

Royal Artillery. Captain. 71018. Died 01/04/1941. Aged 23. According to his sister, John suffered extensive wounds in the early days of the war. Medics had to amputate his leg and hospital staff could not stop the bleeding. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 28/01/1937. Born 17/05/1917. He was the son of Sir Eyre Gordon (Companion of Order of Star India / Companion of Order of Indian Empire) and Lady Liliias Edith Gordon (née Lenox Napier). Brother of Patricia Liliias Gordon. The family lived first at Florida Manor, Killinchy, Co. Down and then Delamont House, Killyleagh, Co. Down. Khartoum War Cemetery, Sudan

**1942**

### **+BOAL, Samuel McCaughey**

RAF. Wing Commander. 37713. DFC. Died 01/04/1942. 217 Sqn. He was killed whilst flying in Beaufort I, AW196 of 217 Sqn, which flew into the sea during an attack on shipping in the Skaggerak. Son of Hugh and Annie Boal, of Ballymena, husband to Joy Boal, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Runnymede Memorial, Panel 64. First Ballymena Presbyterian Church RH

### **+LUNEY, William**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner). 1059215. Died 01/04/1942. Aged 21. He died in an aviation accident north of Grove Farm, Beeston Fields, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. At 1945hrs Lockheed Hudson Mark III AE558 took off on a training flight. After 2 circuits from RAF Oulton, Norfolk, via Banbury and Hungerford, the plane had been in the air for 2 hours 50 minutes. Witnesses heard the engines running normally at a height of around 1,000 feet. Minutes later, they made a popping sound and cut out. The plane came down and burst into flames on impact killing all the crew members on board. A board of enquiry found the engines had likely starved of fuel. The cause was probably that an inexperienced pilot had not changed over from an empty fuel tank to a full one. Son of William George Luney and of Mary Ann Luney (nee) Forbes, of Walthamstow, Essex. William Luney's name is on a family memorial in Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension

### **+MITCHELL, Hugh**

RAF. 214 Sqn. Sergeant (Pilot). 525420. Died 01/04/1942. Aged 25. Son of James and Mary A. Mitchell, of Carnlough,

Co. Antrim. Middelkerke Communal Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**+STEWART, Andrew**

RN. D/SSX 18344. Died 01/04/1942. Age 22. HMS Croome. Joined as a Boy at age 17 and was within a few weeks of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. His father served with Royal Irish Rifles in WW1. Son of Andrew and Margaret Stewart, Cambrai Pk., Whiteabbey. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 10/04/1942). Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery

**1943**

**+COPPINGER, Ernest M**

Royal Artillery. 8th HAA Regt. 22 Bty. Gunner. 1174. Died 01/04/1943. Aged 52. Son of Henry John and Annie Coppinger; husband of Sarah Elizabeth Coppinger, of Great Gardens Road, Romford, Essex. Maynamati War Cemetery, Bangladesh. Named in Order of Memorial Service in St Mark's Akyab, Burma on 31/03/1945, held in memory of those in the Regiment who died in the Arakan Campaign 1942 - 45. Belfast Cathedral RH

**1944**

**+VIVASH, Christopher**

RN. Chief Engine Room Artificer. P/272124. Died 01/04/1944. Age: 54. HMS Greenwich. Son of Robert and Emily Vivash, Donaghadee. Glasgow (Cardonald) Cemetery.

**1945**

## **+McAFEE, Robert**

Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. HMCS Queen. Leading Stoker. V/32579. Died 01/04/1945 after contracting tuberculosis during service in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Age 21. His brother Andrew McAfee, Royal Canadian Army Services Corps, served in North Africa and Europe. Both born in Bushmills. Son of John and Rebecca McAfee. John McAfee 12/7542 12th Royal Irish Rifles. Enlisted Spring 1915. Wounded at Battle of Langemarck on 16/08/1917. Hospitalized for remainder of the war. Married Rebecca Johnston from Bushmills and later of Regina. Died May 1930 as a result of complications from mustard gas. Rebecca's brother Andrew Johnston, 2/8856 2nd Royal Irish Rifles, had served with 1st RIR prior to the War. He was recalled and assigned to 2nd RIR August 1914. Severely wounded at Mons Aug 1914. Hospitalized in England until December 1914. Returned to 2nd RIR in France Jan 1915. Severely wounded June 1915 near Hooge. Left leg amputated. Discharged June 1916. Robert McAfee's remains rest at Regina Cemetery, Saskatchewan, Canada

## **VETERANS**

### **BUNTING, Joseph**

RN. Telegraphist. J43379. Boy service from 19/08/1915. Enrolled 10/07/1917. Served to 16/04/1919. War service in Impregnable, Ganges, Pembroke, Attentive II and Victory. Born Lurgan 10/07/1899. ADM 188/733/43379. Re-enrolled 17/04/1919. Invalided 01/04/1920. SS120026. ADM 188/1126/120026



**CAMPBELL, Robert**

RN. Stoker First Class. SS104634. Served 18/02/1907 - 17/02/1912. Joined RFR 18/02/1912. Served 05/08/1914 - 01/04/1919 in Hawke, Pembroke, Prince Eugene, Gentian, Victorious II and Actaeon. Born Lisburn 19/09/1888. ADM 188/1110/104634

**DUNDEE, William Boyle Hill**

Royal Army Medical Corps. Captain. Dr WB Hill was born 01/04/1888 at Kilcoan, Islandmagee, He was the son of Dr Charles Dundee JP and Annie Jane Hill. Ballynure Presbyterian Church WM

**JENKINS, James Henry**

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 311340. Enrolled 12/02/1907 for 12 years. War service in St. George, Orion, Actaeon, Dido (Legion), Pembroke II, Eagle, Wallington and Hecla (Scorpion). Demobbed 01/04/1919. Joined RFR 03/04/1919. Born Belfast 30/03/1887. ADM 188/509/311340

**JOHNSTON, Albert Andrew**

RN. Leading Seaman. J29313. Enrolled 16/10/1915 for 12 years. Boy service in Impregnable. In Benbow 1914 - 18. Discharged 01/04/1928. Born Belfast 18/10/1897. ADM 188/705/29313

**LEATHEM, Joseph**

RN. Ordinary Seaman. SS9027. Enrolled 03/07/1918 for 5 and 7 years. War service in Pembroke I. Invalided 01/04/1920. Born Lurgan 116/10/1899. ADM 188/1103/9027

### **LOUGHINS, John**

RN. Leading Telegraphist. 216548. Boy service from 20/08/1901. Enrolled 28/12/1903 for 12 years. War service in Bellerophon, Vivid I and Idaho. Invalided 01/04/1919. Born Ballyrobin, Muckamore 28/12/1885. ADM 188/380/216548

### **McENARNEY, John**

RN. AB. J82217. Enrolled 21/12/1917 for hostilities. Served in Pembroke and Yarmouth. Demobbed 01/04/1919. Born Banbridge 06/05/1898. Drumnascamph, Laurencetown. Tullylish - PCI RH. ADM 188/811/82217

### **MENARY, George Herbert**

Royal Artillery. 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.. 21 Bty. Sergeant. Died 01/04/1949. Born in Belfast 22/11/1906. George Menary served in Dunkirk, France in 1940 with the 8th (Belfast) HAA Regiment. In 1940, he received a promotion to Bombardier while based in Coventry during the Luftwaffe's Blitz on major UK cities. One year later, in 1941, another promotion came, this time to Sergeant. After serving in Europe and the United Kingdom, Menary found himself in India where he was Pay Sergeant for 21 Battery. Dundonald Cemetery.

### **WILSON, James Barnett**

Major General. CB. CMG. C de G. QCB MB 1883. Captain Jan 1886. Colonel Mar 1915. Served NW Frontier, India 1897 - 98, S Africa 1901 - 02. ADMS and DDMS 1918. Born 1862. Son of William Orr Wilson, Ballymena. Husband to Kathleen. Died 01/04/1956, Broughshane. James Barnett

Wilson was born at Knowehead, Broughshane on the 17/06/1862, the eldest son of William Orr Wilson and his wife, nee Barnett. He was educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen's College, Belfast, now Queen's University Belfast, where he graduated with his MD from the Royal University of Ireland in 1883 and then opted for further study at Edinburgh University. He graduated there in 1886 and almost immediately joined the Army as a surgeon on the 30th January, 1886.

He saw service on the North West Frontier in India with the Malakand Field Force (Malakand & Buner Campaign), 1897-98, taking part in the capture of the Tanga Pass; he was awarded the Frontier medal with a clasp.

He later took part in the campaigns in South Africa in 1901-1902, being involved in the operations in Cape Colony, Orange River Colony and the Transvaal; he was awarded the Queen's medal with five clasps for his efforts there. He served in Egypt from 1904-1909 and was principal medical officer in Jamaica from 1912-14.

He was to serve in France and Flanders throughout World War 1 and it was while there that he was made a colonel in the promotion list of 01/03/1915. He was mentioned in dispatches three times – London Gazette 1st January 1916, 15th June 1916 and 24th December 1917.

Barnett Wilson was between 1914-1917 successively ADMS, Assistant Director Medical Services, of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 27th Division and the 56th Division, and from 1917-1918 he was DDMS, Deputy Director Medical Services, to the 18th Army Corps. He became DDMS of the Aldershot Command on 21/02/1918 and then

in March 1920 took on the same role in the Southern Command in India.

Wilson received his CMG in 1916, his CB in 1918 and also acquired a French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) and a Belgian Ordre de la Couronne (Order of the Crown). He won his promotion to Major-General in May 1918 and remained in the RAMC until retirement in 1921. Thereafter, he returned to Knowehead, Broughshane and settled into the life of a country gentleman.

A countryman and an excellent shot, he was a keen member of the North of Ireland Gun-Dog Society and he was President of the Mid-Antrim Anglers' Association. He was, as one would expect, Chairman of Broughshane Branch of the British Legion. He also played an active role in the life of First Broughshane Presbyterian Church.

## Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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Information about individuals who served - please forward to remembrance ni at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

# remembrance ni

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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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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