



remembrance ni



## The Royal Flying Corps

**The Roll of Honour today records the deaths in service in The Royal Flying Corps of two officers from Antrim and Coleraine.**

The Royal Flying Corps was the air arm of the British Army before and during WW1, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 01/04/1918 to form the Royal Air Force. During the early part of the war, the RFC supported the British Army by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance.

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,

ARMY FORM B 2002 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.

#### 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 necessities, 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.



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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 Reserve Aeroplane Squadrons ('RAS'), later renamed Reserve Squadrons ('RS'), then Training Squadrons ('TS'), and subsequently merged into Training Depot Stations ('TDS'). Alternatively he could be trained as an Observer or Balloon Officer. Officers undertaking ground duties would generally be appointed as Equipment Officers.

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).

## **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 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. He is named on the Men of Thomond Memorial at St Mary's Cathedral (Church of Ireland), Limerick.



# On this Day – April 13

**1918**

## **Northern Whig - Lieut Colonel Blair-Oliphant Died of Wounds**

Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Laurence Kington Blair-Oliphant, D.S.O., 11th/13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, of Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, and Lisburn, has died of wounds. He was a nephew of the late Mr. Thomas Laurence Oliphant, of Gask, was educated at Harrow, and entered the army in 1888. He received the D.S.O. in 1916. He is succeeded by his eldest son, born in 1901. Colonel Oliphant was the author of several novels. Before the war he was an enthusiastic leader in the Ulster Volunteer Force. He succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Pakenham in the command of the Rifles.

Lieut.-Colonel Oliphant (then Captain Oliphant) came to Lisburn during the time the Ulster Volunteer Force was at its zenith, being specially attached by the powers that were to the 1st Lisburn Battalion of that force. He was a keen soldier, a strict disciplinarian, and a jolly good fellow, and the men were very proud to work under him. When the war broke out Captain Oliphant at once volunteered for the bigger fight, and to the great gratification of the South Antrim Volunteers, who had very soon become the 11th Battalion

Royal Irish Rifles, their old officer was appointed second-in-command with the rank of major. He went to the front with the battalion in October, 1915, and took part in all the Ulster Division fighting. On the historic 1st of July, 1916, Major Oliphant displayed great gallantry for which he was awarded the D.S.O., and subsequently, on the retirement of Lieut-Colonel Pakenham owing to ill-health, advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and was given command of the battalion. The officers and men were exceedingly proud of their C.O.—of that we received many evidences as one after another came home on leave—and while he worked them hard, there was no grumbling or grouching, for each and every man in the battalion knew that the C.O. never did, and never would, ask them to face any danger that he was not wishing to share himself. While intense regret is felt in

Lisburn and district at the loss of such a fearless and gallant soldier, our regret is as nothing compared with that of the remnant left of the South Antrim Volunteers, each of whom feel that they have sustained an irreparable personal loss.

Lieut-Colonel Blair-Oliphant who was 50 years of age died of wounds, 8th April, 1918, he was the son of Philip Oliphant Kington Blair-Oliphant and Henrietta Yaldwyn, of Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie, Perthshire and Husband of Geraldine Blair-Oliphant. Deceased is buried in St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France.

## **1918**

Battle of Bailleul - 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers forced to retire. Excellent work by Major Holt Waring (of Waringstown) collecting the stragglers and those returning



took them forward again at once and successfully counterattacked and regaining the lost ground.

## **1940**

A fierce engagement between German and British naval forces in the second battle of Narvik at Jassing Fjord, which results in the sinking of 8 German destroyers and a U-Boat whose surviving crews join Gebirgsjager units defending isolated Narvik.

HMS Punjabi was commissioned in March 1939. She fulfilled several roles and operations including being deployed off Narvik as a screen for operations during the Second Battle of Narvik. On 13/04/1940, she engaged a number of German destroyers, receiving six hits and being disabled for an hour before she could resume service. Punjabi was deployed on 26/04/1942 as part of the screen providing distant cover for the passage of Convoy PQ-15. They sailed from Hyalfjordur on 29/04/1942. On 01/05/1942, she was rammed and sunk in a collision with the battleship HMS King George V in foggy conditions

## **1941**

At Tobruk, Libya, Corporal John Edmondson counter-attacked a German breakthrough at bayonet-point. He was severely wounded but carried on saving the life of his officer and personally accounting for several of the enemy soldiers. He died from his wounds shortly after and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the first awarded to an Australian in the Second World War.

German advance spearheads capture Sollum. Rommel receives orders from Berlin that he is to consolidate on the

Egyptian frontier and concentrate of capturing Tobruk. Only then will he be allowed to push into Egypt. The result of this order is that Rommel decides to rest his exhausted troops and wait until the 15th Panzer Division arrives at the end of May before making a major assault against Tobruk.

British Naval forces, this time supported by the Battleship HMS Warspite, again engage the German naval forces located at Narvik in the Jassing Fjord. This, the 2nd Battle of Narvik, results in the sinking of 7 German destroyers and a U-boat whose surviving crews join Gebirgsjäger units that are defending isolated Narvik.

German forces launch an attack against the Greek and British positions near Mt. Olympus. The Italian 11th Army in Albania begins to push the Greek Army back.

German troops capture Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Japan and Russia sign a 5 year non-aggression pact, which all but removes any military threat to its northern borders.

The US destroyer USN Roper, sinks U-85 south of Norfolk, Virginia. This is the first success of the war by a US warship against a U-boat.

Fighting continues on Cebu Island, as the US-Filipino garrison withdraws in to the hills.

## 1943

The German radio broadcasted the news about the discovery in Katyn Forest of mass graves of Polish prisoners of war murdered by Soviet NKVD in 1940.

## 1944

Simferopol, Feodosiya and Eupatoria in the Crimea fall to Red Army.

British troops retake Nanshigum Hill.

## 1945

A local truce is declared near Celle so that the British Second Army can take over the notorious Belsen concentration camp. The U.S. Ninth Army clears the Duisberg Pocket. The US Third Army captures Erfurt and Weimar.

Troops of the Russian 2nd and 3rd Ukrainian front capture Vienna.

The Chinese launch a new offensive in Honan and Hupeh provinces of Central China.

The U.S. Fleet begins the pre-invasion bombardment of Iwo Jima Island in the Pacific.



# Roll of Honour – April 13

*Representing their comrades who died on  
this day*

**1915**

**+HYDE, George**

Army Service Corps. Driver. T3/031198. Died 13/04/1915.  
Husband of Elizabeth Hyde, of 20, Devonshire St., Belfast.  
Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

**+NESBITT, Ezekiel**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 4730. Died  
13/04/1915. Age 21. Son of Alexander and Isabella Nesbitt,  
of 183, Union St., Lurgan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial,  
Belgium

**+ROBINSON, T**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 473. Died 13/04/1915.  
Age 20. Son of John and Susan Robinson, of "The  
Cottage," Meetinghouse St., Larne. Raloo Old Graveyard

**1916**

**+LOVE, James**

Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Btn. Rifleman. 5405. Died 13/04/1916.  
Age 18. Son of William and Elizabeth Love, of 134, Balfour

Avenue, Belfast. Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery,  
France

**+MITCHELL, Arthur Gorman**

Royal Irish Rifles attached to 2nd Btn. Second Lieutenant.  
Died 13/04/1916. Age 18. Campbell College. Medical  
student QUB. Born 1890. Son of Lt Colonel Arthur and Mrs  
Mabel Mitchell, University Square, Belfast. Ecoirvres Military  
Cemetery, Mont - St - Eloi

**1917**

**+GAWLEY, Andrew**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 24906. Died  
13/04/1917. Aged 28. Son of Andrew and Lizzie Gawley, of  
Cappy, Tynan, Co. Armagh. Andrew was born about  
1890. The 1901 census records 11 year old Andrew as living  
with the family at Tannaghlane, Caledon, Tyrone. His father  
was a farmer. Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, as  
de Calais, France. Dungannon WM

**+GEDDIS, Edward Francis**

Seaforth Highlanders, 2nd Btn. Private. S/40524. Died  
13/04/1917. Age 20. Son of Samuel and Grace Geddis, of 5,  
Hornby St., Belfast. Athies Communal Cemetery Extension,  
France

**+HILL, Samuel George**

RNVR. Lieutenant. HM ML534. Died 13/04/1917. Age 36.  
Action in Adriatic Sea. Son of Thomas Hill, Hillhead,  
Mullaghduh, Islandmagee. Husband to Elizabeth Sturgeon  
Hill, Hillstead, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Tarranto Town  
Cemetery. Belfast Royal Academy WM. IMR



### **+JOHNSTON, Thomas John**

Canadian Infantry, 73rd Btn. (Quebec Regiment). Private. 454448. Died 13/04/1917. Age 25. Born Omagh 10/08/1891. Emigrated to Canada where he worked as a farmer. Son of Fleming Wilson Johnston and Mary Johnston, of Camowen, Co. Tyrone. Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Dungannon WM

### **+KIRKLAND, George**

Australian Machine Gun Corps, 4th Company. Lieutenant. Died 13/04/1917. Eldest son of James and Frances Kirkland. He was born on 07/06/1888 in Kilrea. He was one of six children. His father was a draper. By 1901, they had moved to Belfast. George was husband to May Kirkland and they had at least one child, Frances Annette Kirkland. George had served five years of an apprenticeship as a weaver in a linen factory in Belfast before emigrating to Australia. He was a labourer before enlisting. He was promoted three times and injured three times before dying of wounds two days after been captured. Hem-Lenglet Communal Cemetery, Cambrai, Nord, France

### **+STUART, James Maitland**

Royal Flying Corps. 59th Sqdn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Captain. Died 13/04/1917. Aged 20. Born in Queensland, Australia 1896. Lived at Somerset, Coleraine. Son of Annie M. Stuart, of Somerset, Coleraine, and the late James Stuart formerly of Stranocum. Arras Flying Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Macosquin Parish Church RH. Derrykeighan Parish Church RH

**1918**

**+ALLEN, Joseph**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. Died 13/04/1918. Age 25. Joseph was born in Castlecaulfield on 7th June 1891. By 1911 he was a linen weaver living in Lurgan where he enlisted. Son of Thomas (deceased) and Mary Allen, of 55, Factory Lane, Lurgan. Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium

**+ALLISON, Frederick Miles**

Coldstream Guards, 3rd Btn. Private. 13642. Died 13/04/1918. Frederick Miles Allison was born in Old Catton, Norfolk, England on 24/10/1884. After the death of his father the remainder of the family moved into Norwich, where, in 1901, Frederick, age 16, was a timber merchant's clerk. The 1911 census lists Frederick Miles Allison as 26 years old. He has been married for one year to Sophia Jane. He was employed as an agricultural labourer. They lived in Edencrannon, Castlecaulfield. Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Castlecaulfield C of I RH

**+DONNELLY, William John**

Tank Corps, 7th Btn. Private. 305510. Died 13/04/1918. Age 21. Son of Alexander and Ellen Donnelly, of 14, Locan St., Belfast. His father also served. Loos Memorial, France

**+FLANAGAN, William Henry Murray**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 10310. Died 13/4/1918. Age 23. Born 1895 at 44 Queens Street Ballymena Co Antrim eldest son of Robert Henry & Martha (Thompson) Flanagan, Holm Terrace, Dromore, Co Down.

Later living at 129 Dunluce Avenue Belfast. In 1911 he was employed as a assistant teacher at Dunmurry National School, and then Assistant Teacher at Willowfield No 2 National School Belfast. Enlisted in the 8th Royal Irish Rifles (East Belfast Volunteers). To France with the 36th Ulster Division. Transferred to the 12th Royal Irish Rifles February 1918 after disbandment of 8th. His brother Lance Corporal Hugh Edmund Flanagan, 41229, 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers, died in action 22/11/1917, aged 21, at Moeuvres. Hugh is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. (Northern Whig 16th May 1918). Another brother, Guardsman Thomas Jamison Flanagan, Irish Guards, survived the war. Eldest son of Robert Henry and Martha Flanagan, of 129, Dunluce Avenue, Belfast. William is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Dromore War Memorial

### **+McCLINTOCK, David**

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn (C.A.V.). Rifleman.16731. Died 13/04/1918. Age 29. Prior to enlistment David was a butler to the O'Neills of Tullymore House, Broughshane. Son of David and Sarah Jane McClintock (nee Austin) from Carnkeeran, Broughshane. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. 2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church RH

### **+McMEEKIN, Samuel**

Royal Field Artillery, 45th Bde. 3rd Bty. Serjeant. 32119. Transf. to 503rd Home Service Employment Coy. Labour Corps (254869). Died 13/04/1918. Age 33. Son of Joseph and Mary McMeekin, of Belfast; husband to Annie McMeekin, of 19, Geoffrey St., Belfast. Bouchoir New British Cemetery, France

## **+McPHERSON, Duncan**

West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). Private. 7464. Died 13/04/1918. Age 36. Husband to Mary McPherson, of 10, Stratheden St., Belfast. Milltown Roman Catholic Cemetery, Belfast

## **+MEREDITH, Edward Myles**

RFC. Lieutenant. Formerly North Irish Horse. Died 13/04/1918. Meredith enlisted in the North Irish Horse on 02/04/1915 (No.1470). He rose to the rank of sergeant and in 1916 applied for a commission. On 26/09/1916 he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant and posted to the General List, for duty with the Royal Flying Corps. On 13 October he was posted to Oxford and on 9 December to the Cheltenham School of Aviation. On 25/04/1917 he was posted to the No.8 Reserve Squadron. Six weeks later he was injured, taking him out of active duty for three months.

On 26/03/1918 Meredith was promoted to lieutenant and eleven days later embarked for France, where he joined 21 Squadron at La Lovie on the Ypres front. The squadron was flying R.E.8s in an artillery spotting and reconnaissance role. On 13/04/1918 21 Squadron moved to a new base at St Inglevert. On that day Meredith was killed in a flying accident at or near the Droglandt airfield while transporting an R.E.8 to the new base. His flying companion, 2nd Lieutenant Austin Edward Heyes, died of his injuries the following day.

Son of Constable Charles Henry Meredith, Royal Irish Constabulary, and Jane (nee Young) Meredith of Tankardstown, Tullow, Co. Carlow. Meredith married Annie Elizabeth Gray of Bloomfield House, Church Street, Antrim,

at the Second Antrim Church (High Street Presbyterian) on 14/12/1917. Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Antrim Town WM

### **+NEILL, Henry Close Mussen**

Royal Irish Rifles, 3rd Res. Garr. Btn. transf. to Base Depot, Horse Transport and Supply. Private. S/393090. Died 13/04/1918. Age 41 Son of James and Margaret Neill, of Banbridge. Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, France

### **+RENNIX, Edward George**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Lance Corporal. 2526. Died 13/04/1918. Age 32. Son of Samuel and Mary A. Rennix, of Ballsbridge, Dublin; husband of Mary Rennix, of 3, Maryville Terrace, Dunmurry. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

### **+ROSS, Wasson**

Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 20/85. Died 13/04/1918. Age 23. Son of George and Henrietta Ross, of Cultra, Co. Down. Wulverghem-Lindengoeke Road Military Cemetery, Belgium. Born on 04/07/1894 in Cultra. Son of George Harrison Ross and Henrietta Matilda Ross (nee Russ) who were married in 1881 in London. George Harrison Ross was an aerated water manufacturer. Brewing and glass-making feature prominently in the history of the Ross family. Wason's grandfather, William Adolphus Ross, founded the *W A Ross & Co Royal Belfast Ginger Ale and Aerated Water Manufacturing Works* in 1879. George Harrison Ross and Henrietta Matilda Ross (nee Russ) lived in Clondeboy, Helen's Bay and Cultra and they had nine children. Eight of the children were baptised in Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church. Four of their six sons were



on active service in WW1 – Melbourne, Harrison, Kenneth and Wason. Their daughter Lorna served as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse in Malta and Salonika and, during the Second World War, she served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). The Voluntary Aid Detachment was an organisation formed when the British Red Cross Society linked up with the Order of St John of Jerusalem. George Harrison Ross died on 30 September 1917 (aged 72) knowing that two of his sons, Melbourne and Kenneth, had been killed in action. Rifleman Wason Ross was killed in action some seven months after his father died. Lieutenant Harrison Ross was wounded twice during the Great War, survived and was on active service again during the Second World War. Henrietta Matilda Ross died on 6 May 1928 (aged 73). Wason Ross joined the Royal Irish Rifles and went to France in May 1917. Initially in the 8<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion, Rifleman Wason Ross was transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion and then to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Rifleman Wason Ross was wounded in the fighting at Cambrai in November 1917 and died in action 13/04/1918. Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium. Hollywood and District WM. Hollywood C of I Parish Church RH. Glencraig C of I Parish ChurchR (Holy Trinity). Portora Royal School Enniskillen WM. North of Ireland Cricket Club Memorial Plaque. Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club Memorial Plaque. Royal Ulster Yacht Club RH

### **+STEELE - NICHOLSON, William Herbert Hamilton**

Royal Engineers. West Lancashire Division. Lieutenant. Died 13/04/1918. Age 42. Born on 27/11/1875 in Falmore House, Co Donegal. Son of James and Maria Steele-

Nicholson (nee Macartney, sometimes McCartney) who were married on 30/10/1870 in Culdaff Parish Church of Ireland Church, Culdaff, Co Donegal. The Steele-Nicholson family lived in Falmore House, Co Donegal and in Ballow (sometimes Balloo) House, Bangor. They had at least twelve children at least five of which were baptised in Bangor C of I Parish Church (St Comgall's).

The Steele-Nicholson family gained military distinction through Brigadier-General John Nicholson who was on active service between 1839 and 1857 in the Anglo-Afghan and Anglo-Sikh wars and the Indian Mutiny. Alfred Francis James Steele-Nicholson and William Herbert Hamilton Steele-Nicholson were grandsons of George Augustus Chichester Macartney of Holywood House, Co Down and their great-uncles, John and Arthur Macartney, were killed in action at the Khyber Pass during the Second Afghan War.

William Herbert Hamilton Steele-Nicholson attended Bangor Grammar School and after he left school he worked as a mechanical engineer. He moved to Vancouver, Canada in 1910 where he worked as a Civil Engineer. He joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Company Canadian Engineers and returned to England with the Canadian contingent in April 1915. He transferred to the Royal Engineers, was gazetted Second Lieutenant in 1915 and later promoted Lieutenant. He was severely wounded at Guillemont on 08/08/1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He was transferred to Endsleigh Palace Hospital in London and he lived for almost two years before he died on 13/04/1918 from the effects of his wounds. Lieutenant William Herbert Hamilton Steele-Nicholson was 42 when he died and he was buried in East Finchley Cemetery and St. Marylebone Crematorium, Middlesex, England. Bangor and District WM. RBL Bangor

Branch Memorial Plaque. Bangor Parish Church RH.  
Bangor Grammar School RH.

**+QUINN, Alexander**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 18648. Died  
13/04/1918. Age 25. Son of Davidson Quinn and Susan  
Quinn, of 582, Cottage, Ballylough, Annsborough. Tyne Cot  
Memorial, Belgium

**+WARING, William Boomer**

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. Rifleman. 19286. Died  
13/04/1918. Age 20. Son of James and Margaret Christian  
Waring, of Liswyn, Lisburn. Enlisted in the 11th Btn. Aug.,  
1914. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

**1919**

**+SQUIRES, Ernest S**

Royal Engineers. Lance Corporal. 57963. Died 13/04/1919.  
Age 47. Served in the South African Campaign. Son of  
William and Lucinda Squires, of Stockport, Cheshire;  
husband to Jane Squires, of 25, Emerald St., Belfast.  
Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast

**+VANCE, William**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Private. 48563. Died  
13/04/1919. Aged 39. Son of Joseph H. Vance, of  
Drumagarner, Kilrea, Co. Londonderry. He was born in  
Greenisland, Carrickfergus or Ballyclare about 1880. The  
family moved to Drumagarner, Kilrea around 1915. William

enlisted in 1915. He died of pneumonia in hospital in Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery.

**1941**

**+GRAY, George**

RNVR. Acting Sub Lieutenant (E). HMS Rajputana. Died: 13/04/1941. Age: 26. Son of James and Emma Gray, Dungannon. Liverpool Naval Memorial, Panel 4. Dungannon WM

**1942**

**+KELLY, Patrick William**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lieutenant. 174296. Died 13/04/1942. Age 21. Royal School Cavan and Mountjoy School. Son of Rev William Kelly. Rangoon Memorial, Burma

**+MAHAFFY, William Matchett**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 969454. Died 13/04/1942. Aged 34. 158 Sqdn. He was Tail Gunner in Wellington W5525 which was on a Mission to Essen in Germany. The aircraft was lost. Son of William Irwin Mahaffy and Jeannie Mahaffy, Bangor. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany.

**+MURPHY, William James**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Fusilier. 6979365. Died 13/08/1942. Age 23. Son of William James Murphy and Mary Murphy, of Killyleagh, Co. Down. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

**+WALLACE, John**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. Died 13/04/1942. Age 27. The battalion were based in south India at the outbreak of war. The battalion was flown to the north of Rangoon to destroy oil wells. Son of Mary Ann Wallace, of Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh. Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Fivemiletown WM

**1943**

**+SIMPSON, Joseph**

Royal Norfolk Regiment. 7th Btn. Private. 5773490. Died 13/04/1943. Age 22. Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, Poland.

**1944**

**+CHAMBERS, Thomas**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Lance Corporal. 7013649. Died 13/06/1944 while leading the 5th Camerons to the forming-up point prior to the attack on Ste Honorine. Age 25. He had seven years' service. Third son of Mr Thomas Chambers and the late Mrs Chambers of Tullymore, Broughshane; husband to Sylvia Chambers and father to a baby son, of Swansea. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

**+JOHNSTON, George**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 7022762. Died 13/04/1944. Age 32. Son of William and Mary Johnston; husband of Rhoda Johnston, of Lurgan. Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy



### **+McCARTHY, Terence**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Corporal. 7013745. Died 13/06/1944. Age 29. He had transferred to the Battalion in May 1943. Son of Terence and Selena McCarthy, of Etna Drive, Belfast. His father had served in the First World War. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

### **+McCOO, John**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Btn. Rifleman. 6985059. Died 13/06/1944. Age 21. He was killed while on a patrol sweeping the woods to the rear of Battalion HQ on 13 June. Son of Michael and Emily McCoo, Richhill, County Armagh. His three brothers also served, Samuel with the RUR, Cecil in the RAF and William in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Richhill WM

### **+SCOTT, James Gilmore**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. Lieutenant. 258659. Died 13/04/1944. Age 22. Served with the Chindits. Son of William James Scott, and of Ida Mabel Scott, of Ballyrobert, Co. Antrim. Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar

## **1945**

### **+ANCHAM, John**

Hampshire Regiment, 1st Btn. Corporal. 4193876. Died 13/04/1945. Age 24. Son of James Lewis Ancham and Edith Ancham; husband of Violet Ancham, of Newtownards. Becklingen War Cemetery, Germany

**+HAMILL, Henry Benedict**

Royal Army Service Corps, attd. Royal Army Medical Corps, 187 Field Amb. Driver. T/10695341. Died 13/04/1945. Age 30. Son of Henry and Anastasia Hamill, of Londonderry. Uden War Cemetery, Netherlands

**+HAZLETT, Samuel Alexander**

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, R.C.I.C. Lance Corporal. B/159256. Died of wounds 13/04/1945. Age 34. Son of Pte. Henry Hazlett, Royal Engineers (killed in action in Belgium, 01/03/1917), and of Margaret Jane Hazlett, of Portadown. Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands. Portadown WM

**+HUGHES, Herbert**

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6979890. Died 13/04/ 1945. Age 22. Son of Edward and Susan Hughes, of Belfast. Faenza War Cemetery, Italy

**+LYTLE, Samuel Alexander**

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 154919. Died 13/04/1945. Aged 21. 298 Sqd. Son of William and Agnes Lytle; Nephew of Miss T. Lytle, Belfast. Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, Netherlands

**+SHAW, Albert Conn**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Rifleman. 7014036. Died 13/04/1945. Aged 22. Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

## **+SPEERS, John**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Rifleman.7601237. Died 13/04/1945. Aged 21. Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

## **+TWEEDY, Samuel**

Royal Ulster Rifles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Rifleman.14428101. Died 13/04/1945. Aged 19. Son of Samuel and Mary Tweedy, of Belfast. Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

## **VETERANS**

### **BATEMAN, Shawn Cato**



RAFVR. Flight Lieutenant. DFM. RAFPE. QUB, Med 1941 During the second world war he trained as a navigator/ wireless operator and did an operational tour in photographic reconnaissance Mosquitoes in the 2nd Tactical Air Force. For his bravery he was awarded the Distinguished Flying

Medal. He studied medicine after the war and, following spells as an assistant in general practice, he joined British Airways as a medical officer, looking after staff and passengers at Manchester Airport. He took part in various research projects, including a study of the effect on time zone changes on sleep patterns. He left a wife, Beryl; and a daughter. Former British Airways medical officer Manchester Airport. Born Coleraine, Northern Ireland, 1924; Son of Godfrey Bateman and Eveline Maud Bateman. Qualified Queen's University, Belfast, 1952. Died from cardiac failure on 13/04/2004. (BMJ obit 08/07/2004)

## **BURNS, Tommy**

Petty Officer. In HMS Repulse when it was sunk together with HMS Prince of Wales 10/12/1941. He was up the mast sending out the message that the ship was sinking.

Tommy from Steelstown, Londonderry, decided to join the Royal Navy rather than place a financial burden on his parents for grammar school education. When he went to Belfast to enlist he had not been out of Londonderry before save for Sunday school excursions to Fahan. From HMS Ganges where he excelled in examinations, he was transferred to the Cornwall which sailed immediately to the Mediterranean on a training exercise. They called at Gibraltar on their way to Barcelona. This was at the time of the Spanish Civil War and Tom remembered being diverted to evacuate some people to Las Palmas. On his return to England Tom was drafted firstly to HMS Revenge and then to HMS Repulse which was to be his home for the next three years.

In 1939 the Repulse was commissioned to take King George and Queen Elizabeth to America with special cabins fitted out for them. However because of the worsening situation in Europe this trip was cancelled.

An alternative trip was arranged and Tom remembers then his ship having to escort the SS Queen Elizabeth to Canada.

HMS Repulse was then sent on what was to be a fateful mission to the Far East. Sailing round the Cape as they couldn't go through the Suez Canal, Tom remembers calling at St Helena and taking photographs of where Napoleon was held captive.

They also called at Durban where General Smuts and his daughters came aboard to wish the ship's company all the best going off to war with the Japanese.

One morning as the ship was sailing up the Malaysian Coast the alarm bells went off and Action Stations was sounded.

"I saw many boys being brought down with blood everywhere. Many were wounded and some half-dead. The Japs were machine-gunning them. They were taken below to be treated by Doctor Cavanagh from Derry. He also was killed.

"The skipper shouted to abandon ship and most of the boys who got away were in the water. Bob Lee and I were fortunate to get out onto B gun deck as a reinforced steel door had been left open.

“The ship was well down in the water as we jumped over the side and Bob hit his back as he went down. I never saw him after that but I know he was saved.

“I swam around and eventually got on board a destroyer called the Electra. They had wire netting all around the side for us to climb up. All I had on was a pair of shorts, nothing else. Everybody else was the same.”

After being rescued there was no respite for Tommy who was sent to a transmission site in Singapore. They got out just before the Japanese arrived.

Later he served at Sea Eagle in Derry. During his time in Sea Eagle Tom was drafted twice to the Far East during the Korean War for a period of ten months and was now ready to settle down at home with his wife Elaine. Margery Elaine nee Struthers pre-deceased him. He was a brother of Margaret, Billy, Herbert, George, Jim and Iris. A supporter of Waterside RBL Branch. Died aged 93, 13/04/2013. Buried Altnagalven Cemetery. (BBC and Londonderry Sentinel 18/05/2013).

## **CAMPBELL, T**

RN. CERA. In HMS Bellona on Russian convoy escort when U boat was sunk and many German aircraft were downed. Lisburn. (Lisburn Standard 13/04/1945)

## **CLARKE, H L**

RM. Corporal. From Waringstown. Captain of the gun on cruiser HMS Adventure, Captain RG Bowes Lyon, MVO, RN. On 13/04/1943 off Cape Finesterre the guns of Adventure brought about the end of Silvapana, a German



blockade runner with vital raw material “sufficient to equip three German armoured divisions for a year”. It was inward bound from the Far East with a cargo of rubber and tin. Although well armed the Germans scuttled their ship. A photograph of the gun crew is held as part of the Admiralty Official Collection by the Imperial War Museum.

### **FRENCH, Herbert**

RN. Survived HMS Rajputana being torpedoed by U - boat in N Atlantic 13/04/1941. One of 277 rescued four hours after the ship went down with a loss of 40 men. Herbert was in his third year of service. Two weeks later his twin brother Albert, age 26, who had been in the navy a year was killed in HMS Diamond when the destroyer was sunk by German air attack south of Greece in the eastern Mediterranean. There were no survivors. Died 01/10/1996. Son of John and Agnes French, Randalstown

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

## ***We will remember them***

**To return to Home Page - click on Remembrance NI masthead.**

## 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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