



remembrance ni

MM for Ballymena man in Canadian forces for action at Vimy Ridge



The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is dedicated to the 3,598 Canadian soldiers who died in the Vimy battle in 1917 during the First World War. The monument was designed by Canadian architect Walter Seymour Allward. A total 3,598 Canadian Corps troops were killed and 7,004 were wounded over four days of fighting.

Private Arthur Holmes, of the Canadian Scots, had left his job as a farm labourer in the Ballymena area for a new life in Canada in the years just before the outbreak of war.

On April 9, 1917, during the epic Canadian attack on German positions at Vimy Ridge, Arthur won the Military Medal while serving as a company stretcher bearer.

The particular act of bravery which merited the award was described as follows:- “This man went forward as a company stretcher bearer. He displayed conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in dressing wounded men under shell fire. This work was so remarkably done that the most serious cases did not require a second dressing at the aid post.”

Just a few days after his exploits, Arthur Holmes was killed in action whilst tending more wounded men. The Holmes family later received a letter from Captain J. P. S. Cathcart, Medical Officer to the Canadian Scots:- Dear Mr. Holmes, you have no doubt before this received notice of your son Arthur’s death. He was killed during the operations of April 28th while at his duty tending to the wounded. We had his body removed and buried along with some of his comrades in the left of a small village. His grave is marked and I think as soon as they receive the particulars the Record Office will inform you of the map location.

“Arthur was without doubt the best boy in my medical section. It may be of interest to you to know that he was recommended for a decoration for his wonderful work under heavy fire in the battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9th.

Unfortunately he was killed before he received it. We all feel his loss keenly and I myself feel as if his position cannot be filled. I extend to you my heartfelt sympathy in your sad bereavement and also that of my section.”

The Ballymena Observer recorded:- “Mr. David Holmes, Hugomont, Ballymena, has received intimation that his son, Private Arthur Holmes, Canadian Scots, has been killed in action on 28th April 1917. The information came by a letter from a friend soldier stating that Private Holmes had been killed in action by shell fire. “We did all we could for him but he only lived a few minutes. It is very sad news but it is my duty to inform you of his death. We all feel the loss of him very much and God help you to bear the sad news.”

“He enlisted in Winnipeg and came over with the first Canadian Force. He had been previously wounded and on three occasions was buried in shell holes. His last leave was spent at home 12 months ago. His young brother Private David Holmes (later killed in action), is on active service at the front with the Ulster Division.

The Ballymena Observer on May 11, 1917 reported - “Arthur Holmes was killed by shell fire and he would have been well aware that the vast majority of deaths and wounds during World War One were inflicted by artillery.

“It truly was a war dominated by high explosive as the sinister poem

‘We are the guns’ makes plain:-

We are the guns, and your masters! Saw ye our flashes?

Heard ye the scream of our shells in the night, and the shuddering crashes?

Saw ye our work by the roadside, the shrouded things lying,
Moaning to God that He made them---the maimed and the
dying? Husbands and sons, Fathers and lovers, we break
them.

We are the guns! - *Gilbert Frankau*”

On this day – April 28

1940

Allied reinforcements arrive in Andalsnes, Norway.

1941

The British evacuation of Greece is completed

A clampdown is made in Norway against degenerate literature, with large-scale book burnings being held.

1942

Coastal “dimouts” go into effect along a fifteen-mile strip on the Eastern Seaboard, in response to German U-boat activity of the U.S. Atlantic coast.

At what turns out to be its last meeting, the puppet Nazi Reichstag passes legislation proclaiming Hitler “Supreme Judge of the German People,” formalising the Fuhrer’s position as being above the reach of the law.

1943

British forces repulse a last, desperate, Panzer counter blow in Tunisia.

1944

The South African and Rhodesian Prime Ministers arrive for the imperial Conference. Chinese forces retreat in central China.

1945

Adolf Hitler briefly emerges from his bunker beneath the ruins of Berlin to survey what's left of his "Thousand-Year Reich." A photographer snaps this final image of the German Führer. Russian forces are



fighting in the Wilhelmstrasse and reach the Anhalt Station which is just half a mile of the Fuhrerbunker.

German U-boats sink 8 Allied ships, 3 destroyers and 2 corvettes in the English channel.

The Canadian First Army captures Emden and Wilhelmshaven, while the U.S. Seventh Army takes Augsburg and reaches the Austrian border to the South. Hitler marries his mistress, Eva Braun, and dictates his political testament in which he justifies the political and

military actions of his 12-year-rule, blaming the war on international Jewry and exhorting the German people even after defeat to adhere to the principles of National Socialism, especially its racial laws. Grossadmiral Dönitz is appointed as his successor.

The U.S. Fifth Army take Brescia, 30 miles East of Milan. The British Eighth Army reaches Venice.

Italian Partisans capture Mussolini, his mistress Clara Petacci and 12 of his cabinet members in a German convoy trying to reach Switzerland. All are shot in nearby village.

1946

The Allies indict Tojo with 55 counts of war crimes.

Roll of Honour – April 28

**Representing their comrades who died on
this day**

1915

+BOGUE, John Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 10307. Died 28/04/1915. Age 22. Son of James and Mary Bogue, late of Eshthomas, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+BUTLER, William James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9499. Died 28/04/1915. Born Whiteabbey 20/10/1887. Enlisted Belfast. His brother Martin Butler and half-brother John Butler also died during the war. Son of John and Jane (nee Gormley) Butler. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+ENSOR, George Clarke

Canadian Infantry. 7th Btn. Private. 16323. Died 28/04/1915. Died 28/04/1915. Born at Ardress, Loughgall on 11/07/1880 to Charles and Elizabeth Ensor. As a young man he served seven years in the Royal Irish Fusiliers. He emigrated to Canada and like his brother served for two years in the Canadian Mounted Police. He and Harriett married and when war broke out they were living at 22nd Avenue, East Vancouver. He had been working as a conductor when he enlisted with Canadian Infantry on 18/09/1914. On 22/04/1915 the Germans attacked and for the first time used poison gas. George was seriously wounded and evacuated from the trenches. He transported to No 18 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died from his wounds. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+FRAIN, J

Connaught Rangers, 1st Btn. Private. 3851. Died 28/04/1915. Age 22. Son of James and Catherine Frain, of Charlestown, Co. Mayo. Native of Bellaghy, Co. Londonderry. La Brique Military Cemetery No 2, Belgium

+GILLILAND, William Millar

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Bn. attd. 1st Bn. Lieutenant. Died 28/04/1915. Aged 20. He went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1914, serving in the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He was wounded in the Battle of Le Cateau in August 1914 (receiving a bullet in his right wrist, a shattered hand, and a shrapnel wound on the leg) but recovered and served with the Inniskilling's 1st battalion at Gallipoli where he in action. He was a member of the Apprentice Boys of Derry. Son of the late William Louis Gilliland (of the firm of solicitors, Messrs. Knox, Gilliland & Babington), of Eshcol, Londonderry. Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles, Turkey (including Gallipoli). All Saints Church Clooney WM, Londonderry

+GREER, Arthur Joseph

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 9680. Died 28/04/1915. Age 24. Son of Samuel R. and Mary Greer, of 159, Donegall Rd., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+HAMILTON, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 8823. Died 28/04/1915. Born in Bessbrook. In 1901 Thomas (6) was living with his parents Hugh and Mary Jane Hamilton at Fountain St., Camlough. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+MALCOLM, Arthur

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Lance Corporal. 8848. Died 28/04/1915. Age 28. Son of James Malcolm, of 4,

Fourth St., Belfast, and the late Frances Ann Malcolm.
Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+McCAFFERTY, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. A Coy. Lance Corporal.
9571. Died 28/04/1915. Age 24. Son of John and Mary
McCafferty, of Ballynacally, Blackhill, Coleraine. Helles
Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

+McCONVILLE, Matthew

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 5726. Died
28/04/1915. Age 21. Son of James McConville, of Kilmain
St., Lurgan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+McGEOWN, Edward

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 13206. Died
28/04/1915 during the first Battle of Krithia. Aged 20. In
1913 Edward joined the 4th Hussars. but after one year of
service he was considered unfit for cavalry work through
illness. He re-enlisted with the Inniskillings in Cookstown at
the outbreak of war and was sent to the Gallipoli Peninsula.
Born in Derryloran, Co. Tyrone. Son of James and Mary
Jane McGeown of of Killymoon Street, Cookstown and 27
Milfort Avenue, Dunmurry. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including
Gallipoli). Cookstown WM, St Lurach's Church WM,
Dunmurry Parish Church WM

+RAMSAY, Thomas Laing

Cameron Highlanders, 2nd Btn. Private. 8358. Died
28/04/1915. Age 24. Military Telegraphist at Bangalore,
India. Re-joined his Battalion in India Oct., 1914. Son of
Jessie McMillan Ramsay, of 37, Harrybrook St., Belfast, and

the late Thomas Alexander Ramsay. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

+SMITH, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 10390. Died 28/04/1915. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Agnes Smith, of 4, Belgrave St., Belfast. Helles Memorial, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

1916

+KILGARIFF, Henry

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 8680. Died 28/04/1916. Age 34. Son of Mary and the late Patrick Kilgariff, of Belfast. Aubingy Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+RIDDLES, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 8132. Died 28/04/1916. Age 27. Son of James and Elizabeth Riddles, of Londonderry. Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery, France

+WILSON, W

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 7th Btn. Private. 27041. Died 28/04/1916. Age 31. At the outbreak of war, William had been working and living in Scotland, with his sister Mrs. McGlade, 94 Aitchison Street, Airdrie, and William enlisted in the ranks of the Inniskilling Regiment there. Born in Ballyronan, County Londonderry. Son of Samuel and Mary Ann Wilson, of Church St., Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France. Cookstown WM, St Luran's Church

1917

+ADAMS, Thomas

Gordon Highlanders, 1st/7th Btn. Lance Corporal. S/14324. Died 28/04/1917. Age 42. Son of John and Mary Adams of Claragh, Kilrea. Native of Claragh. Etaples Military Cemetery, France. Kilrea WM

+DONNELLY, Samuel.

Royal Scots, 15 Btn. Private. 24748. Died 28/04/1917. Born Lisburn and enlisted there. Listed in the Lisburn Standard as a "Lisburn Casualty" when the paper reported that he had been wounded in May or June 1916. Arras Memorial, France, bay 5.

+HOGG, William

Canadian Infantry, 8th Btn. Private. 875269. Died 28/04/1917 during the Battle of Arras. Age 36. Royal School Dungannon. As a young man he emigrated to Canada where he worked as a farmer. He enlisted at Winnipeg. William Hogg was born on 12/10/1883. Son of Thomas Hogg, of Tullyconnell, Tullyhogue, Dungannon; husband to Margaret A. Hogg, of Tullyconnell, Tullyhogue, Dungannon. Vimy Memorial, France. Cookstown WM, First Cookstown Presbyterian RH

+KILPATRICK, Henry James

Northumberland Fusiliers, 25th (Tyneside Irish) Btn. formerly 20th (Tyneside Scottish) Btn. Northumberland Fusiliers. Private. 20/420. Died 28/04/1917. Age 38. He enlisted at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he was working. He joined the Northumberland Fusiliers. He had been wounded at the

Battle of the Somme and returned home to recover from his wounds. After returning to the front line he was killed in action during the Battle of Arras. Born at Moymore, Pomeroy. Son of Benjamin Kilpatrick and of Jane Kilpatrick (nee Miller), of Moymore, Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone. Canadian Cemetery No 2, Neuville-St Vaast. France. Cookstown War Dead Book

+LINTON, Robert

Canadian Infantry, 8th Btn. Private. 829281. Died 28/04/1917. Age 36. Born Randalstown 18/09/1882. Enlisted Winnipeg, Canada on 01/12/1915. Blacksmith and brother of Henry. Son of Robert and Mary Jane (nee Bell) Linton, of Ballygrooby, Randalstown. Vimy Memorial, France. Crumlin WM, Glenavy Protestant Hall RH

+McALINDEN, John

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Able Seaman. Clyde Z/ 5173. Anson Btn. R.N. Div. Died 28/04/1917. Age 19. Son of Joseph McAlinden, of 5, Majorca St., Belfast. Arras Memorial, France

+McCAMMON, Thomas Valentine Plaisted

Royal Irish Rifles. 5th Btn. attd. 2nd Btn. Hampshire Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel. Died 28/04/1917. Age 42. Served in the South African War. Born on 27/10/1874 at 77 Pembroke Road, Dublin and he was a son of Colonel Thomas Andrew McCammon (5th Royal Irish Rifles and in civilian life a barrister) and Maria Theresa McCammon (nee Valentine) who were married on 04/10/1873 in Holywood C of I Parish Church (St Philip & St James). Thomas Valentine Plaisted McCammon was educated at Cheltenham College

and he entered his father's regiment shortly after his 17th birthday. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1895 and became a Major in 1902. He also worked as a stockbroker. He served with the Royal Irish Rifles in the South African Campaign and was awarded the Queen's Medal with two clasps. Thomas Valentine Plaisted McCammon and Charlotte Amelia Garratt (sometimes Garrett) from Helen's Bay were married on 11/02/1903 in Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church. They had at least two children.

Thomas Valentine Plaisted McCammon was a member of the Ulster Unionist Council and a prominent figure in the Loyal Orange Institution (Deputy Grand Master of Down). He was a member of Holywood Masonic Lodge No. 381 and he took a keen interest in the town of Holywood where he was a member of the Urban District Council. He was also a member of the local contingent of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

On 22/01/1913 Thomas Valentine Plaisted McCammon succeeded Colonel R.H. Wallace in command of the 5th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and, following the illness of Lieutenant Colonel James Craig MP in 1915, he acted for a period as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of the Ulster Division. He was involved in recruitment and raised the 20th (Reserve) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He applied to be sent to the Front and this request was granted in April 1917 when he was attached to a Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment overseas. On 28/04/1917 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Valentine Plaisted McCammon died in hospital as a result of a shell wound.

In Down C of I Cathedral Downpatrick there is a memorial which takes the form of an entablature close to the east window. The inscription reads: *'To the glory of God and in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Valentine Plaisted McCammon, 5th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles (the Royal South Downs) who died on 28 April 1917 of wounds received in action at Monchy. This tablet is erected by his brother officers, past and present, of the Royal South Downs, as a token of their love and esteem for a gallant soldier and staunch friend'.*

Commemorations - Holywood and District WM. Holywood C of I Parish Church (St Philip & St James). Holywood Masonic Hall (the hall is named the McCammon Memorial Hall); Memorial Plaque in the McCammon Memorial Hall; Holywood Orange Lodges Memorial Plaque; Memorial Plaque in Cheltenham College Chapel. Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club Memorial Plaque. Royal Ulster Yacht Club, Bangor. Royal County Down Golf Club, Newcastle, Co. Down

+McCARTHY, John.

8 COR, Canadian Expeditionary Force. CSM. 150154. Died 28/04/1917. Aged 28. Born in Hillsborough, Co. Down on the 21/09/1888, he was a policeman with 3 years service in the RIC. A single man with no previous military experience he joined up at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada on the 24/07/1915. 6'2" tall, he had a 39 1/2" chest, fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. Passed fit for overseas service on the 01/09/1915 he was posted to the 79 Overseas Battalion, CEF and later to 8 COR. Son of Jane McCarthy and the late

John R. McCarthy of Corcreeny, Hillsborough. Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+McFADDEN, James A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 10th Btn. Private. 15822. Died 28/04/1917. Age 21. Son of Archibald and Margaret McFadden, of Enagh Lough, Waterside, Londonderry. Pond Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+QUINN, John

RMLI. Sergeant. 14226. Plymouth Division. 2nd Marine Battalion. RND. Died 28/04/1917. Age 28. Enlisted 10/10/1907. Plymouth Battalion at Dunkirk & Defence of Antwerp 1914 ; Landed at Ostend 27 to 31/08/1914 ; Defence of Antwerp 19/09/1914 - 12/10/1914 ; Promoted Paid Lance Sergeant at Malta 14/02/1915 ; Promoted Acting Sergeant at Mudros 09/03/1915 ; MEF 06/02/1915 - 27/04/1915. Sprained ankle (slight) to Hospital Malta ; From Malta to Alexandria 06/09/1915 ; Rejoined Battalion Cape Helles 17/09/1915 ; To 11th Casualty Clearing Station 16/10/1915 Enteritis ; To Stationary Hospital Mudros Dysentery 17/10/1915 ; To Convalescent Depot Mudros 26/10/1915 Dysentery ; To ANZAC Base W.Mudros 11/11/1915 ; Rejoined Battalion Cape Helles 02/12/1915 ; Embarked Mudros 07/05/1916, disembarked Marseille 12/05/1916 ; 10 days Leave to UK 21/09/1916 ; Rejoined Battalion France 01/10/1916 ; To 1st (RN) Field Ambulance 08/10/1916. Abscess right thigh ; Rejoined Battalion 14/10/1916 ; Attached to Town Major, Bernaville 20/11/1916 for Clerical Duties ; Rejoined Battalion 16/12/1916 ; To 2nd (RN) Field Ambulance Abscess right thumb and Reverted to Corporal 30/01/1917 & on to 3rd (RN) Field Ambulance

Divisional Rest Station same date ; Rejoined Battalion and promoted Acting Sergeant 19/02/1917, 2nd Royal Marine Battalion 'B' Company. Born Comber 16/05/1888. Son of David and Jane Quinn, The Cottages, Comber. 1914 Star issued to father 25/08/1919. Arras Memorial. First Comber - PCI RH. Comber WM. ADM 159/155/14226

+SMYTH, William

RMLI. Private. 960(S). Chatham Division. 1st RM Btn RND. Died 28/04/1917. Enlisted 25/08/1915 ; Embarked RM Brigade 16/02/1916 per HMT Olympic and arrived Mudros 24/02/1916), joined 1st RM Battalion at Stavros 28/02/1916 - 03/10/1916. Sick. Rejoined 1st RM Battalion 25/11/1916 - 16/12/1916 sick, rejoined 1st RM Battalion 23/02/1917-28/04/1917. Born Belfast 25/11/1891. Son of John Smyth. Husband to Annie Smyth, Mackey St., Belfast. Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. ADM 159/144/960

1918

+BENNETT, William

Irish Guards. 2nd Btn. Private. 12813. Died 28/04/1918. Age 24. Son of William and Alice Bennett, of Gortmullin, Ballyconnell, Co. Fermanagh. Brompton Cemetery, London. Seapatricks C of I Parish WM, Banbridge

+GULSTON, Walter Charles

Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Btn. Serjeant. 17775. Died 28/04/1918. Age 23. Son of Henry and Ellen Gulston, of 10, Brookhill Avenue, Belfast. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

+MARSHALL, David

Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Btn. Serjeant. 16865. Died 28/04/1918. Age 28. Son of James and Jessie Marshall, of "Ardenlee," Ravenhill Rd., Belfast. Native of Gourrock, Renfrewshire. Berlin South-Western Cemetery, Germany

+McMANUS, James

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 9th Btn. S Coy. Private. 14504. Died 28/04/1918 from wounds received at Cambrai. Age 25. Enlisted September 1914. Born Beragh, Co. Tyrone. The family lived for a time at Vicars Hill. Son of William and Mary Ann McManus, of 18, Lonsdale St., Armagh. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France. Armagh WM

+POLLOCK, William James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 15944. Died 28/04/1918. Age 23. Son of Samuel and Mary Pollock, of 29, Windmill Terrace, Londonderry. New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium

+TAYLOR, A

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 21207. Died 28/04/1918. Son of James S. Taylor, of Tyboe, Donemana, Co. Tyrone. Duhallow ADS Cemetery, Belgium

+WYLIE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 13837. Died 28/04/1918. Age 34. Brother of Mrs. Jane Boyd, of 107, East Bread St., Beersbridge Rd., Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

1940

+BECKETT, Robert

Royal Artillery, 3 Searchlight Regt. 11 Bty. Gunner.1473523.
Died 28/04/1940. Age 20. Dunkirk Memorial, France

1942

+ALDERDICE, William Yarr

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1056825. Died 28/04/1942. Age 24. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. He was serving in Bomber Command with 408 which is known as "Goose Squadron". On 28/04/1942 he was a Wireless Operator / Air Gunner in Hadley Page Hampden Bomber AE 426 which had flown from R.A.F. Balderton on a mission to Keil, Germany when it was shot down. Son of George and Mary Alderdice, Belfast. Ohlsdorf Cemetery, Germany

1945

+MARTIN, George Alexander

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1006035. Died 28/04/1945. Aged 27. Died at City Hospital in Nottingham. Son of Frederick George and Bertha A. M. Martin of Khandahar Street, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

1946

+McKENZIE, John

RAFVR. Aircraftman 2nd Class. 4005062. Died 28/04/1946, aged 31. Died at RAF Padgate Hospital, Lancashire. Last address: 54 Teutonic Street, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

remembrance ni

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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