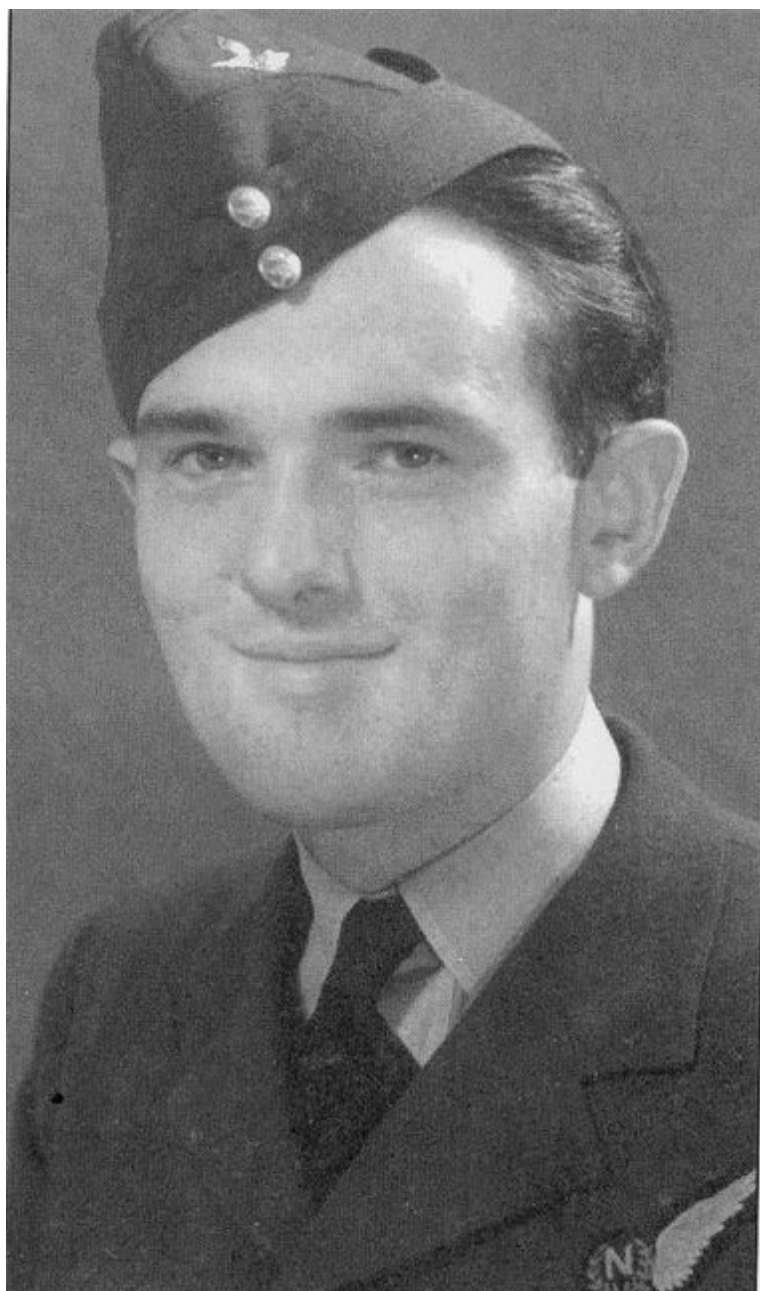




remembrance ni



Ligoniel man was navigator for Guy Gibson VC

James Warwick was born in Belfast in 1921 at "Avonlea" 986 Crumlin Road, Ligoniel. He attended the Belfast Boys Model School which at that time was on the Cliftonville Rd, and later Oranges Civil Service Academy near Queen's University. In late 1938 aged 17 he moved to London and in December of that year was selected for the Imperial Civil

Service and worked in the Air Ministry in Berkeley Square. Whilst there he met another Ulsterman Tony Smith and they

became quite good friends. On 13/09/1939, ten days after the outbreak of war they travelled to Harrowgate by train. Their office had been relocated due to the threat of air raids.

In March 1941 soon after St Patrick's Day, Jim joined the RAF and on 26/12/1941 met with Tony, prior to leaving for Canada to start his navigational training. From Canada he was posted to Florida for six months advanced navigational training.

At the start of February 1943 he returned to England to 1661 Conversion Unit. On 29/04/1943 he was posted to 49 Squadron, at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire. Jim completed two operational tours with 49 Sqdn. Targets included Bochum, Oberhausen, Turin, Hamburg, Essen, Mannheim, Milan, Peenemunde, Munchen Gladbach, Berlin, Munich, Hannover.

Having completed two tours on 14/01/1944 he was posted to 1485 Bombing and Gunnery Flight at Bardney, and on 04/02/1944 was promoted to Flight Lieutenant. The next day he was posted to 1661 Heavy Conversion Unit for instructional duties and on 15/02/1944 awarded the DFC and promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader. On 25/08/1944 Jim was posted to 54 Base at Coningsby as Station Navigational Officer. This meant he was now screened off operational duties.

A fateful day - 19/09/1944

Following the Dams Raids W/C Gibson was to carry out a number of non-operational duties. He gave the impression that he was desperate to return to operational duties. He was attached to 54 Base, Coningsby on 04/08/1944 as Operations Officer.



The joint grave of Walker and Gibson

Sometime during 19 September, Gibson was told the Navigator assigned to him, Pilot Officer D. Thomas, was not available.

On hearing this Gibson was not well pleased and immediately went to the Officers' Mess where he met Jim Warwick. How Jim was recruited for this operation, nobody knows. Gibson had in fact no proper authority over any individual crew at Coningsby. But as Operations Officer, he was Jim's immediate superior.

In 1992 Warrant Officer Alan B Webb, one of 627 Squadron Engineering Officers, recalled -

“ I was given the task by Wing Commander Gibson to take Squadron Leader Jim Warwick to their aircraft and to give him some instruction on the Mosquito cockpit. I had met Warwick for about ten minutes and did my best to show him around the cockpit and explained to him the routine to operating the fuel cocks. Warwick told me that he had never flown a Mosquito.

“During my instructions I was rudely more or less thrown out of the aircraft by Gibson and being a Warrant Officer I did not argue with a bad tempered Wing Commander.

“Wing Commander Gibson gave brakes Off at 1940 hours and took off for his target Munchen Gladbach and the adjacent town of Rheydt”.

During a reunion of 617 Squadron in Holland in September 1994 Flight Lieutenant George Laing DFC, 97 Path Finder Force,, who flew on that night as mlluminator, recalled -

“On arriving over the target they found it was shrouded in mist. After the first markers were dropped, King Commander Gibson dropped in to the mist to check where they had fallen, and being completely dissatisfied asked for a second lot of markers to be dropped. This was done and again Gibson dropped in to the mist to check the positions of the markers, but during that time contact was temporarily lost although after some time it was resumed. Twenty minutes after the last markers were dropped the last bombs went down on Munchen Gladbach and Rheydt, whereupon the boys went home.”

Whilst returning home tragedy was to strike Gibson and Walker over the town of Steenberg in North Brabant, Netherlands. The Van der Riet family was asleep in their farmhouse. About midnight they were awakened startled by a terrible noise, followed by a dreadful bang. They could see a reddish glow and a tongue of flames. They assumed it was a bomb and went back to bed.

Mr Van der Riet in the morning was going to collect tools from a small shed when he saw a human body slumped against a wall. In fact it was limbless.



He notified the Chief of Police of Steenbergem who intern notified the local German commander who immediately sealed off the farm.

Local police auxiliaries recovered the body on which were identification plates with the name of JB Warwick and his number.

After a length search they eventually found two legs and two arms and then realised there was a second flyer when they found a third foot. There was a gold ring on one of the fingers and to prevent the Germans from removing it, they hid it.

A few days later they sent the identification plates and the ring to the International Headquarters of the Red Cross at The Hague, where they were later lost during an air-raid.

Meanwhile preparations were being made for the funeral. An honour party of Air Raid Wardens was to act as pall bearers and the coffins to be draped with the Netherlands national flag. The German authorities were upset and demanded the funeral take place immediately.

A grave was made available in the local Roman Catholic cemetery. Wood to make a coffin was obtained and a copper smith provided a plate on which was engraved 156612 JB Warwick and unknown soldier.

The Deputy Mayor, Town Clerk, a local priest and a minister were present at the ceremony where the Lord's Prayer was said in English.

About the same time as the ceremony in the Netherlands, Jim's mother in Belfast received the telegram that her son was reported as missing. She had lost another son to an incurable illness.

In November 1944 just behind the advancing Allied troops came the Identification Squad. In the cemetery a wooden cross had been erected with the same information as had been on the coffin plate. Due to a profound investigation by the CO of the Identification squad, Captain ST Watson, Wing Commander Gibson's name was added to the cross.

Some years after the war the Commonwealth War Graves Commission replaced the cross by two headstones.

James Walker's sister Elly lived the rest of her life at the Ligoniel family home. She was present at the unveiling of the plaque in Steenberg in memory of her brother.

Acknowledgments - 49 Squadron, RAF, Wings to Victory, NL

On this Day – September 19

1918

British and French gains in the direction of St. Quentin. Heavy fighting round Gouzeaucourt and Moeuvres, all Germans attacks finally repulsed.

1944

Irishman Flt Lt David Lord was awarded the Victoria Cross. Born in Cork, Lord was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions in Burma. He was a member of 271 Squadron when he was tasked with resupplying 1st Airborne Division troops on the third day of Operation Market Garden.

Lord's Dakota was hit twice by anti-aircraft fire from the ground while approaching the drop zone near Arnhem. Despite having an engine on fire, Lord continued to fly the aircraft and drop their supply canisters. Discovering that they still had two canisters remaining, Lord piloted the burning aircraft on a second run, dispatching the supplies before ordering his crew to bail out. He made no attempt to leave the aircraft himself and it crashed shortly afterwards. Only one member of his crew survived.

Lord's VC citation reads: "By continuing his mission in a damaged and burning plane, twice descending to 900 feet to ensure accuracy, and finally by remaining at the controls to give his crew a chance of escape, Flt. Lieut. Lord displayed supreme valour and self-sacrifice."



The tanks were on their way – but not making the progress expected. Cheering Dutch civilians gather around a Sherman OP tank of ‘C’ Troop, 55th Field Regiment RA, Guards Armoured Division, as Eindhoven is liberated,



Captain John Killick's patrol in Arnhem. Killick had been sent out to see if he could make contact with other British airborne troops. The patrol was photographed by Dutch Jewish photographer Sem Presser who was hiding in Arnhem.

Roll of Honour – September 19

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1914

+NEILL, George

2nd Bn. Royal Irish Rifles. Rifleman. 7231. Died 19/09/1914. Aged 32. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Neill, of 9, Surrey St., Belfast; husband to Margaret Neill, of 67, Abingdon St., Donegall Rd., Belfast. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France

+SPEDDING, Charles Rodney

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Major. Died 19/09/1914. Age 43. Son of Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Spedding, of Belfast; husband to Mrs. C. M. E. Spedding, of "Hawani", Totland Bay, Isle of Wight. La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, France

1915

+CARROLL, Patrick

Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 16236. Died 19/09/1915. Born about 1869 at Mullavilly, Co. Armagh. He went to Scotland where he enlisted. The Ayrshire Post stated he left a wife and seven children. Brandhoek Military

Cemetery, Belgium. Dalmellington War Memorial, Ayrshire, Scotland

+RODGERS, George

Royal Garrison Artillery, 59th Siege Bty. Gunner. 32466. Died 19/09/1915. Age 25. Son of Joseph and Mary Ann Rodgers and the brother of James, William, Isaac, John and Jane Rodgers from Ballygargan. Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Family headstone Knocknamuckley (St Matthias) Graveyard

1916

+CLULOW, T

South Lancashire Regiment. Private. 6829. Died 19/09/1916. Age 30. Husband of Elener Clulow, of 10, Renfrew St., Sandy Row, Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery.

+WILLIAMSON, Francis

48th Bty. Royal Field Artillery. Serjeant. 16745. Died 19/09/1916. Francis Williamson was born in Rochdale, England. Francis Williamson enlisted in Dungannon. Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France

1917

+CORDWELL, Frederick Thomas

North Irish Horse. Trooper. 2284. Died 19/09/1917 accidentally drowned while watering the horses. Born on 19/03/1887 at Horfield, Bristol, England, son of Thomas Cordwell, a retired sergeant of the 28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment of Foot, and his wife, Gibraltar-born Anne Jane Cordwell (nee Hearson). In twenty-one

years of service with the 28th, Sergeant Cordwell had seen service in many locations across the world, including in Ireland, where two of Frederick's older siblings were born. By 1911 Frederick Cordwell was living in Ireland, boarding at Magdala Street in Belfast and working as publishing office clerk. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse between 30 September and 5 October 1916 (No.2284), and was sent to France as a reinforcement for the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment the following year. On 19/09/1917, while the regiment was billeted on farmland west of Poperinghe in Belgium, Cordwell was accidentally drowned while watering the horses. Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+MAGUIRE, William John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 2715. Died 19/09/1917. Aged 22. Son of William Marshall Maguire and Eliza Anne Maguire (formerly Young); husband to Mary Anne Maguire of Belfast. Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

1918

+GEDDIS, Samuel McKee

Leicestershire Regiment, 1st Battalion. Lieutenant. Died 19/09/1918. Age 25. Before he enlisted Samuel worked as a Solicitor's Clerk with the firm of Messrs Moorhead & Wood, Rosemary Street, Belfast. Widely known amongst the members of the legal profession, Samuel was also well-known as a member of the North Down Cricket and Hockey Clubs. In July 1915 he obtained his commission through the QU Training Corps. In November 1915, he went to France

where he saw considerable service during which he was wounded twice and gassed once. Sam Geddis was engaged to be married to Jeannie McBurney of Comber and, after Sam died, Jeannie never married. Two of Jeannie's brothers, James and Teddy also died in the war. Son of Mrs. M. Geddis, Tullynakil House, Comber, and the late Mr. Andrew Geddis. Trefcon British Cemetery, Caulaincourt. Second Comber Presbyterian Church, Killinchy Presbyterian Church, Comber WM, QUB RH

+McCRACKEN, George

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 9th Btn. D Coy. Private. 27419. Died 19/09/1918. Age 21. Enlisted in Cookstown. Born on 27/11/1897 in Castledawson. The family lived in Tamniarn, Castledawson. Eldest son of Joseph and Elizabeth McCracken, of Castledawson. Elizabeth died on 04/02/1917 in Castledawson. She was 41 years old. Three months later, their eldest daughter Mary died on 06/05/1917, age 18. La Kreule Military Cemetery, Hazebrouck, France

+MULHOLLAND, John

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 12/18524. Died 19/09/1818 from cardiac disease for which he had been admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, England on 30/08/1917. He was discharged 13/30/1917 as no longer being physically fit for service. Born in Hyde Park, Mallusk on 20/12/1891. He was a tailor by trade having served a five-year apprenticeship to James Gordon of Belfast. His mother Lizzie lived at Hyde Park, Mallusk. Hyde Park Presbyterian

Church, Mallusk RH. Royal British Legion, HydePark Branch
RH

1919

+McFETRIDGE, Robert

RNR. Trimmer. 8708.TS. (PO). HMS Satellite. Died
19/09/1919. Born Coleraine 01/01/1890. Son of Matthew
and Ellen Jane McFetridge, Ballymacilvennon, Portrush.
Ballywillan Cemetery, Portrush

+WRIGHT, Samuel

RAMC. Captain. Medicine QUB 1906 - 12. DPh. Served on
Western Front. Injured at Neuve Chapelle, but remained in
service until 1918. Married. Died Portrush 19/09/1919

1939

+LAMONT, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Serjeant. 6977978.
Died 19/09/1939. Age 22. He was a despatch rider and
involved in an accident. Possibly the first serving soldier
from Northern Ireland to die during the Second World War.
His parents received notification by telegram on 26/09/1939.
Subsequent letters from the Adjutant of the battalion and the
regimental Chaplain state that a funeral took place on
21/09/1939 but there was no further information on the
accident. In civilian life, John was employed at the scutch
mill of Mr. R. White at Kenbally, Broughshane. He enlisted in
the Army in 1934 and served in Palestine before returning to
England in 1937. When home on leave, John would attend
Ballymena Baptist Church, Ballymena, along with his

parents. Son of Hugh and Ellen Lamont, of Broughshane.
Le Mans West Cemetery, France

1943

+McGIVERN, Robert

Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 12th Btn. Private. 5115146.
Died 19/09/1943. Age 42. Husband to Mary McGivern of
Belfast. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

1944

+McKIBBIN, William John

Irish Guards, 3rd Btn. Lance Sergeant. 2720351. Died
19/09/1944 of wounds received during Operation Market
Garden. Age 27. Born on 19/09/1917, he was the son of
Lantry McKibbin and Agnes McKibbin, and stepson of
Martha McKibbin. Husband to Sarah Jane Duff of
Waterside, Londonderry. The couple had a young daughter
Elizabeth McKibbin. Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg,
Belgium.

+WALKER, David

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st Btn. The London Irish Rifles.
Rifleman. 6980337. Died 19/09/1944. Age 24 years old. Son
of David and Helen Walker, of Coleraine. Gradara War
Cemetery, Italy

+WARWICK, James Brown

RAFVR. Squadron Leader (Navigator). DFC. 156612. Died
19/09/1944. Mosquito (KB 267 AZ-E) of 627 Sqdn. Piloted
by Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC. JB Warwick flew 27

operations on Lancasters with 49 Squadron between June and December 1943. He had been on Operations to locations including The Ruhr, Hamburg, Peenemunde and Berlin. He was killed flying as Navigator with Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC in a Mosquito of 627 Squadron on a raid to Rheydt and is buried in the Steenberg General Cemetery. When Sqn Leader Warwick and Wing Commander Gibson's Mosquito (KB 267 AZ-E) crashed Sqn Leader Warwick's body was immediately identified by the Germans. On the other hand documents found near the crash site may have identified Wing Commander Gibson but were retrieved by civilians and hidden. Gibson was identified in German records as an 'Unknown' Airman. His name was only added to his grave after the War. JB Warwick was from Ligoniel, Belfast. His grave is beside that of Wing Commander Gibson in Steenberg en Kruisland Roman Catholic Cemetery Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

+McKIBBIN, William John

Irish Guards, 3rd Btn. Lance Sergeant. 2720351. Died 19/09/1944. Age 27. Operation Market Garden. Born on 19/09/1917, he was the son of Lantry McKibbin and Agnes McKibbin, and stepson of Martha McKibbin. Husband to Sarah Jane Duff of Waterside, Derry/Londonderry. The couple had a young daughter Elizabeth McKibbin. Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium. Oldpark Presbyterian Church RH

+WHITE, Robert Graham (Bertie)

156 Btn. Parachute Regiment Sergeant. 6977506. Died 19/09/1944. Age 30. Shot down when parachuting onto

Ginkel Heath on the second day of the Battle of Arnhem. He enlisted with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers aged 16 (he falsified his age), before transferring to the, Parachute Regiment. Son of Abraham and Elizabeth White. Born 26/05/1914. Arnhem Oosterbeek War cemetery, Arnhem, Gelderland, Netherlands. Dungannon WM. Moy WM.

1946

+OSWALD, William Henry

RN. CPO. Engine Room Artificer 4th Class. D-MX 508604. H.M. Submarine Scotsman. Died 19/09/1946. Age 26. Son of Samuel George and Jane Oswald, of Belfast. Carnmoney Cemetery East.

VETERANS

FIELD, Claude Marcus Beresford

RNVR. Surgeon - Lieutenant. QUB 1937 - 42. MB, QUB 1942. MD DCH FRCP (Edin). Born 19/09/1918. Son of Claude Field, St Jude's Ave, Belfast. Consultant paediatrician NI Hospitals Authority 1943 - 85. Osborne Gds., Belfast. Campbell College

McCULLOUGH, Robert Davis

HMS Ulysses. During the early years of WWII Robert was a sheet metal worker at the shipyards in Belfast, helping in the construction of ships to aid the war effort. There was a bar on workers such as he joining the armed services because of the necessary work they were doing. However, it was lifted and he went to a recruitment office in North Street early in 1944 and signed up for the Royal Navy. Bob became a crewman on the HMS Ulysses, a ship that acted

as protection for the convoy for merchant ships which brought war material to Russia to assist in the Eastern Front. A photo of the Destroyer hung proudly among family photos and mementos in his living room. He said he was on her for three years and that the twin-engined ship "could shift". He was in HMS Ulysses when she sailed with Convoy FR77 to Murmansk. This convoy is featured in Alistair Maclean's book "HMS Ulysses". Bob recalled the ship was called 'The Useless' and the Ulster was called 'The Ulcer'. He received his Arctic Star at Theipval Barracks on 18/09/2013 when he was aged 90 and the Ushakov medal was presented to him in the Belfast Harbour Commissioners' building when he was 92. Robert was present at D-Day, part of an effort to defend Allied troops by bombarding the Germans with Naval artillery. He was also "down in the tropics" in the Pacific Theatre, attached to the US Navy. (Belfast Telegraph 19/09/2013).

NORTON, David Barton

RNVR. Served 02/1941 - 1945. HMS Forte (RN base Falmouth) 10/1941 - 04/1942. HMS Troubadour 06/1942 - 12/1942. HMS Spartiate (RN base Glasgow) 15/02/1943 - 10/1943. British Naval Liaison Officer Gloire 12/1943 - 02/1944. HMS Hannibal (RN base Taranto, Italy) 04/1945. B1898. Son of Richmond and Annie Moon Norton, Rostrevor. M Norah J Waller in London 1926. Died 19/09/1958. Farm M'Teni Plains, Port Shepstone, Natal, South Africa.

WRIGHT, Samuel

RAMC. Captain. Medicine QUB 1906 - 12. DPh. Served on Western Front. Injured at Neuve Chapelle, but remained in service until 1918. Married. Died Portrush 19/09/1919

YOOL, William Munro

RAF. Air Vice-Marshal. CB, CBE. 2nd. Lieutenant, The Prince of Wales' (North Staffordshire) Regiment.

Whilst he was at Queen's, he joined the OTC and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant with 11th (Reserve) Battalion, The Prince of Wales' (North Staffordshire) Regiment on 11/01/1915, but he was later attached to the Indian Army and saw service in Egypt.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 05/01/1917 and was transferred to the Garrison Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, before joining the Royal Flying Corps in May 1917. On 12/11/1917, the Belfast Evening Telegraph carried a report that William Munro Yool had been admitted to hospital following a flight during which "he got very badly numbed and landed in a frozen condition".

He resigned his Army commission in April 1918 to take up a commission in the Royal Air Force, which was to become his career.

In 1934, Yool flew one of two Vickers Valentia aircraft (from No. 70 Squadron RAF based at Hinaidi in Iraq) which supported four Wapitis of 84 Squadron in the first reinforcement flight to Singapore. During this flight, his aircraft suffered an oil leak which forced him to make an emergency landing on the only beach for 300 miles. He was able to repair the leak with chewing gum and take off before his aircraft was engulfed by the incoming tide.

As he rose through the commissioned ranks, Yool occupied operational, administrative and training posts and, in September 1940, as a Group Captain, he was Staff Officer to the Chief of the Air Staff.

In January 1941, he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire and received a Knighthood (Companion of the Order of Bath) in January 1946. In the same year his portrait, now in the National Portrait Gallery, was painted by Walter Stoneman.

Sir William Munro Yool CB CBE retired from the Royal Air Force with the rank of Air Vice-Marshal (HQ RAF Mediterranean and Middle East) in June 1949. However, he continued serving in a reserve capacity and, in 1951, was the Director of Auxiliaries, Reserves and Air Cadets. William Munro Yool was born on 26/05/1894, the son of Mr William Munro Yool, Caleot's House, Elgin, the proprietor of Milnonduff Distillery. He was educated at RBAI and Glasgow Academy before matriculating at QUB. He died on 19/09/1978. Crescent PCI WM, PCI RH

**Every day is a Remembrance
Day**

We will remember them

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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

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