



remembrance ni



## **Anniversary of memorable Royal Marines' effort on Operation Infatuate**

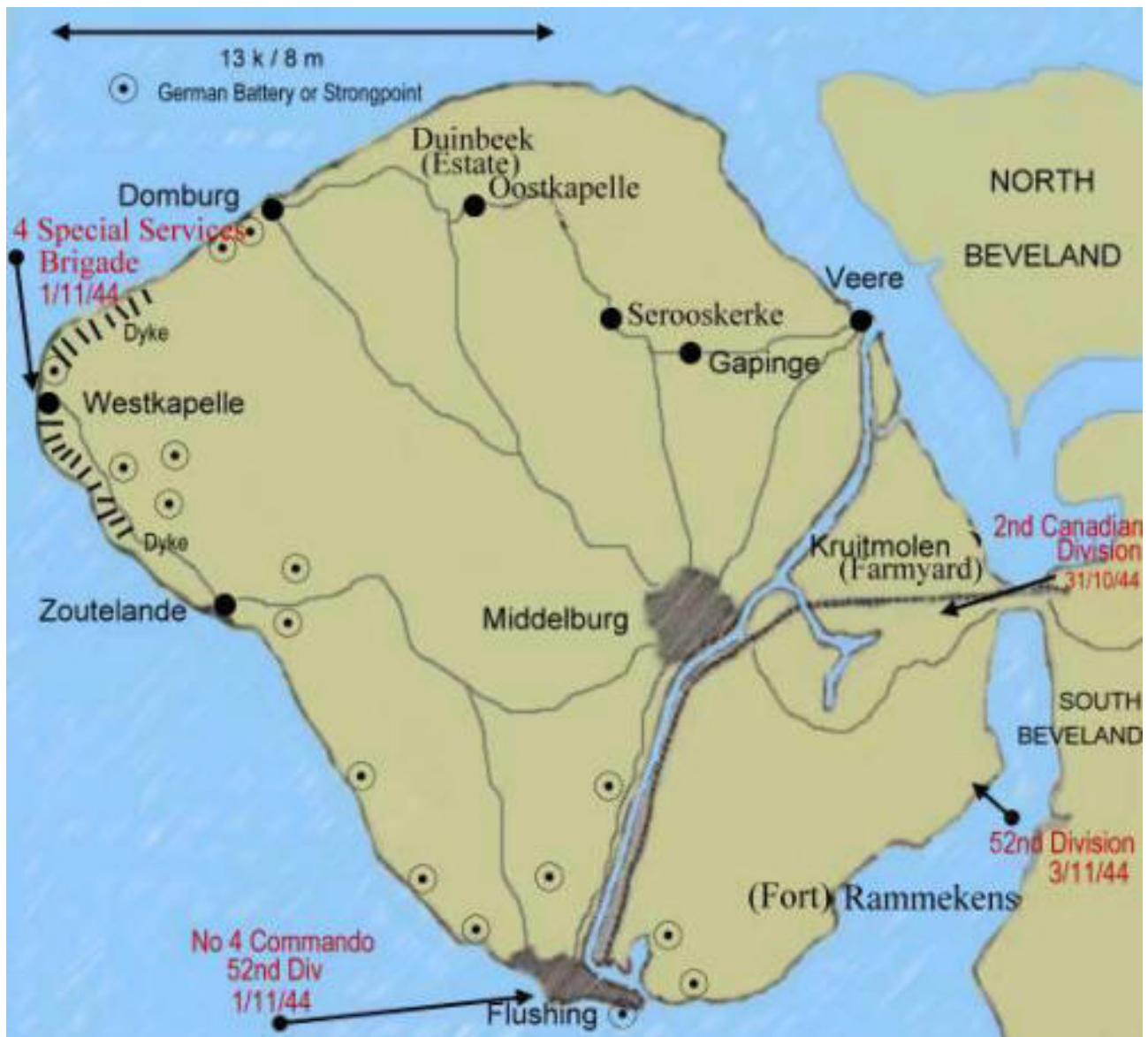
**November 1 – 8 marks the Anniversary of Operation INFATUATE in 1944 – the Assault on Walcheren and one of the Royal Marines Memorable Dates. This landing gave the Allies access to the port of Antwerp.**



The Dutch island of Walcheren stands at the mouth of the River Scheldt and controls access to the Belgian port of Antwerp, which was still in German hands.

With the Allies still being supplied mainly through the Mulberry Harbour in Normandy, the importance of Antwerp close to the line of advance was critical to the Allies.

With the failure of Market Garden, Montgomery issued a directive on the 9/10/1944 giving priority to opening the River Scheldt to Allied shipping. Some 10 days later the Canadians began attacking along the isthmus breaking into the Breskens pocket. By the end of the month the Germans had been cornered in Zeebrugge, surrendering on November 2. Both south and north Beveland had been



virtually cleared and the time was right for the assault of Walcheren itself. Operation Infatuate was activated.

A three pronged assault was planned with Commandos landing at Westkapelle in the west of the island and at Flushing in the south. The Canadians were to cross by a water channel close to the causeway in the east. However, it soon became clear that the tidal flats around the water channel were virtually impassable, leaving the Canadians with the exceedingly hazardous option of a direct assault along the well defended causeway – an exposed stretch about 30/40 yards wide and 1200/1500 yards long. The Canadians were to establish a bridgehead on the island





### **One of the many German gun emplacements in Walcheren**

through which the British 52nd Lowland Division would pass to continue the assault. Against much scepticism and opposition, General Simonds' plan to breach the island's dykes and flood the interior was adopted.

After the ill fated 'Market Garden' operation on October 20, No. 2 Dutch Troop of 10 IA (Inter-Allied) Commando moved to Brugge in Belgium and were incorporated under the command of No. 4 Brigade. They split up and were attached to other fighting units where, in the case of some officers and men, their native language skills helped Allied liaison with the local population, while others fought alongside their comrades in arms.

### **Operation Infatuate gets Underway**

The force sailed from Ostend at 0315 hours and by 0930 hours they reached Walcheren. The heavy ships bombarded

the German defences with the 15inch guns of HMS Warspite, the guns of LCGs, the rockets of LCT(R)s and a squadron of rocket-firing Typhoons. However, the German defences held fire until the assault landing craft and support craft made for the shore. Several were hit, including a LCT(R), which received a direct hit. Thirty landing craft from the Close Support Squadron were lost and over 300 men were killed in the action.

The landing force in the successful seaborne attack on Walcheren were from 4 Special Service Brigade (Brig B W Leicester, Royal Marines) consisting of 41, 47 and 48 commandos and No.4 Army Commando.

The three RM Commandos assaulted West Kapelle with little air support, owing to the weather, other than the close support of Support Squadron Eastern Flank and Force T. Most of the craft were manned by Royal Marine Crews.

The success of the landing was in no small measure due to the self sacrifice and gallantry of those crews, and after some days hard fighting ashore, the batteries covering the mouth of the Schelft were captured.

Of this operation Winston Churchill wrote 'the extreme gallantry of the Royal Marines stands forth...' 108 Royal Marines were killed.

Acknowledgments – Combined Operations

# On this Day – November 6



## **1917**

Amid blood, mud and horror the Canadians prevail and capture Passchendaele. Nov 6th 1917.

## **1939**

The Gestapo rounds up 183 professors of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and sends them to Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin. In Soviet occupied Poland, Ukrainian peasants murder 200 Polish refugees after offering them food and accommodation.

First big air battle on Western Front.

## **1940**

Britain promises financial assistance to Greece, starting with £5 million advance.

Royal Canadian Navy destroyer Ottawa and Royal Navy destroyer Harvester sink Italian submarine Faa di Bruno off Ireland.

Under-Secretary for War announces measures to give Home Guard more permanent shape and better equipment without changing its 'local and friendly character'.

## **1941**

Stalin claims Axis casualties on Eastern Front now 4.5 million, when actually less than 700,000. The first cases of frostbite in the German Army are recorded.

The German blockade runner 'Odenwald' which is disguised as a US merchant is captured by the US cruiser Omaha and the destroyer Somers.

The Japanese Southern Army is ordered to prepare detailed operational plans for the up and coming offensive.

US gives Russia \$1,000m interest free loan.

## **1942**

Halted before Ordshonikidse in the Caucasus, the 13th Panzer Division is fighting to prevent itself being cut off by superior Soviet forces attacking its flanks and rear. In a speech to the Congress of Soviet Deputies, Stalin warns the United States and Britain that 'the absence of a second front against Fascist Germany may end badly for all freedom loving countries, including the Allies themselves'. He declares that 'the aim of the coalition is to save mankind from reversion to savagery and mediaeval brutality'. Further progress made by the Eighth Army with 20,000 further Axis prisoners being claimed.

## 1943

The Russians take Kiev and split the Fourth Panzer Army into three.

The Japanese land reinforcements North of Empress Bay. Middelburg is surrendered by the 2,000 Germans.

## 1944

Tito's forces take Monastir in southern Yugoslavia and now control the whole border with Greece.

The Chinese 22nd Division crosses the Irrawaddy in northern Burma. 1945 Foreign Commissar Molotov announces that Russia will soon have the atomic bomb. The first landing of a jet on a carrier takes place on USS Wake Island when an FR-1 Fireball touches down.

# Roll of Honour – November 6

*Representing their comrades who died on this day*

## 1914

### **+ARMSTRONG, Thomas**

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 1200. Died 06/11/1914. Aged 29. Thomas Armstrong moved to Scotland. He joined the Glasgow Police. He enlisted with 1st battalion of the Irish Guards. Son of Thomas Galbraith Armstrong and Sarah Jane Armstrong, of Benburb, Moyard, Co. Tyrone; husband to the late Isabella Armstrong, of 1616, Maryhill Rd.,



Maryhill, Glasgow. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**+COOKE, Richard**

Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 6698. Died 06/11/1914. Age 40. Veteran of the Second Boer War. Born in Kirkham, Lancashire, and lived in Whiteabbey. Son of John and Ellen Cooke, of 38, Main St., Greencastle, Belfast, Co. Antrim; husband to Catherine Cooke, of 4, Ballygollan Terrace, Whitehouse, Belfast. They had three children. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

**+DUNWOODY, Robert Andrew**

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 2805. Died 06/11/1914. Age 22. Son of Agnes Dunwoody, of 61, Gaffikin St.; husband to Mary Ellen Dunwoody, of 61, Gaffikin St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**+FENNING, Thomas**

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Private. 3143. Died 06/11/1914. Age 23. Son of George J. and Ann Jane Fenning, of 113, Northumberland St., Belfast. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**+McCLUSKEY, Joseph**

Irish Guards, 1st Btn. Private. 1959. Died 06/11/1914. Enlisted Stirling. Born at Granemore, Keady, son of Michael and Margaret McCluskey. In 1911 they were living at Crossdened, Keady. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

### **+McPARLAND, Peter**

Royal Irish Rifles. Private. 8080. Died 06/11/1914. He disembarked in France in September 1914. Served under the alias of James Galway. He is shown to be born at Mullatrea, Armagh. Husband to Edith Smyth (formerly McParland), of Magherknock, Ballynahinch. Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool

### **+O'NEILL, MP, The Honourable Arthur Edward Bruce**

Life Guards, A Sqdn. 2nd. Captain. Died 06/11/1914 at Klein Zillebecke Ridge. Educated at Eton College. He was an Ulster Unionist Member of Parliament for Mid-Antrim. He joined the army in 1897. He was the first of 22 MP's to be killed in the war. Son of the 2nd Baron Edward O'Neill and Lady Louisa Katherine Emma (nee Cochrane) O'Neill, of Shane's Castle, Antrim. Husband to Lady Annabel Hungerford (nee Crewe-Milnes) O'Neill. Their son Lieutenant Colonel Shane Edward Robert O'Neill fell on 24/10/1944. Their youngest son, Terence, became Prime Minister of Northern Ireland in 1963. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. House of Commons Book of Remembrance 1914-1918, House of Lords Memorial Panel, Westminster Hall Memorial window. Drummaul C of I Memorial

### **+SLOAN, William**

Inniskilling Dragoons, 6th Btn. Private. 21205. Died 06/11/1914. Aged 27. Son of Robert Sloan, of Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone, and the late Mary Sloan. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Dungannon WM

**1916**

**+MULHOLLAND, Michael Patrick**

Royal Munster Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 4231. Died 06/11/1916. Enlisted with the Munsters in Glenavy. He had formerley served with the Royal Irish Regiment (2787). Born in the parish of Camlin (Crumlin) on 25/06/1882. He and Annie O'Neill married in Glenavy Roman Catholic Church on 07/07/1907. They lived in Glenavy. Voormezeele Enclosure No.3, Belgium

**1917**

**+BLACKWOOD, James Alexander**

Canadian Army Medical Corps, 5th Field Ambulance. Private. 782320. Died 06/11/1917. Age 29. Emigrated to Canada in 1912. Brother of Joseph Blackwood, Irish Guards, who died 30/03/1918. Son of George and Elizabeth Blackwood, of Ballinarea, Altnamackin, Castleblayney, Ireland. Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium. Clarkesbridge Presbyterian Church WM

**+COLEMAN, Thomas**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 95th Btn. Serjeant. 7730. MM, MiD. Died 06/11/1917, at Passchendaele in the attack on the Polderhoek Chateau. Born in Carnteel, County Tyrone. In 1914 he was living in Hamilton, Scotland and joined the Army at Holytown, Lanarkshire. His first regiment was the Gordon Highlanders. He then transferred to the Machine Gun Corps In May 1917 he was mentioned in dispatches. In July 1917 Sergeant Coleman was awarded the Military Medal. Tyne Cot Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**+HERRIOT, George Hodges**

RNAS. Flight Sub Lieutenant. Died 06/11/1917. Age 20. Air crash off Westgate-on-sea. Brother of Thomas Hunter Herriot MBE, DSC, served as a pilot in both world wars. In the first war he was a Flight officer in the Royal Naval Air Service, and in the second he was a squadron leader in the RAF's Pathfinder Force. Son of John Scott Herriot and Jane Herriot, Belfast. Faculty of Medicine QUB 1914 – 1916. Campbell College. Minster cemetery, Kent. QUB WM. IMR

**+KILPATRICK, Charles**

Seaforth Highlanders, 1st Btn. Private. 3/3667. Died 06/11/1917. Age 25. Son of James and Susan Kilpatrick, of Dreen, Cullybackey. Basra Memorial, Iraq

**+YARR, William John**

Canadian Infantry, 31st Btn. Private. 696100. Died 06/11/1917. Age 36. Born Crumlin 01/04/1887. Enlisted 01/02/1916 whilst living in Alberta, Canada. He was a member of Glenavy LOL and while in Canada belonged to LOL 2589, Medicine Hat. Husband to Annie Yarr, of 1, Nook Cottages, Crumlin, Co. Antrim. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Crumlin WM. Glenavy WM, Glenavy Protestant Hall RH. St Catherine's C of I, Killead, WM

**1918**

**+BROWN, Francis**

Royal Engineers. Q Depot Coy. Lance Corporal. 57412. Died 06/11/1918. Age 41. Son of the late Robert Brown; husband to Margaret Brown, of 5, Ambrose St., Belfast. Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Chatham, Kent



## **+DUGGAN, W**

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Depot. Private. 27655. Died 06/11/1918 of wounds. Disembarked France Born Armagh. In 1901 he was living with relatives at 30 English Street Lower, Armagh. He disembarked in the Balkans on 08/11/1915. He died in a military hospital in Tipperary. Husband to Ellen. St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Armagh

## **+HOUSTON, Robert Francis**

Army Service Corps. Serjeant. T3/030955. Died 06/11/1918 at the 22 Canadian Field Hospital, of Bronchial Pneumonia. Six days before the Armistice. Born at Gilkey, Tullintrain, Claudy, Co. Londonderry. Y Farm Military Cemetery, Bois - Grenier, Nord, France. No CWGC record

## **+McCRACKEN, James**

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). 6th Btn. Private. 8748. Died 06/11/1918. Age 29. Son of the late William John and Jane Julia McCracken, of Belfast. St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

## **1940**

### **+HAIRE, John Keatinge**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Pilot). 748611. Died 06/11/1940. Aged 20. 145 Sqdn. Battle of Britain. John was born in Belfast on 25/09/1920, one of three children to Sidney and Nora Haire of 122 Earlswood Road, Belfast. Educated at RBAI. During the summer of 1939 he enlisted in the RAFVR and in December was sent initially to No 1 Elementary Flying Training School at Hatfield. He completed his operational training in early September 1940 and, in the rank of Sergeant, was posted to No 145 Squadron at Dyce, the

squadron being transferred to Tangmere in early October. On 27 October, his Hurricane was damaged in combat with 109s over the Isle of Wight but he managed to ditch it off Bembridge and wade ashore, unhurt. Tragedy came during combat 10 days later when his Hurricane was shot down, on fire. He was seen to turn it away from the village of Arreton before baling out at too low an altitude for his parachute to fully open and he died where he had fallen, close to the village, beside his burning aircraft. That same night Reverend Edward Burbidge composed a letter to Squadron Leader AH Boyd, the Commanding Officer at Tangmere.

“Dear Sir,

I understand that a pilot named Haire who crashed and was killed near here about 3pm today came from your command. I managed to reach the spot just before he died. He had apparently jumped when near the ground as he was lying some distance from his plane. He never regained consciousness but I was able to say a commendatory prayer and give him the Blessing as he died. The men around joined in the Lord's Prayer. We cannot but feel grateful to him for bringing his machine down clear of our village. Perhaps it may be of some comfort to his relatives if you could pass some of this on.”

John had an elder brother, Sidney Sedgewick Haire, who had joined the Army and served as a Major with the Indian Army Ordnance Corps attached to 161 Motor Brigade in Egypt. He was killed in action aged 28 years on 23rd July 1942 and is buried at the main cemetery in El Alamein. John Haire's family presented the JK Haire Fighter Memorial Cup to RBAI scouts for yearly competition. Son of Sidney Hume Haire and Nora J. Haire, of Belfast. Dundonald

Cemetery, Belfast. RAF Fighter Memorial, Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel-le-Ferne, near Dover. RBAI WM

## **1942**

### **+McCLOUD, Thomas James**

RAFVR. Sergeant. 1066739. Died 06/11/1942. Aged 24. 18 Sqn. He was flying in Bristol Blenheim V BA818 when it crashed with the loss of the crew of three. Son of Samuel and Martha McCloud, Comber. Comber Cemetery. Memorial window First Presbyterian Church Comber

## **1943**

### **+HUTCHINSON, John G**

RAFVR. Leading Aircraftman. 1051676. Died 06/11/1943. Age 22. Son of John And Sarah Hutchinson, Banbridge. Battleford Cemetery, Canada

## **1944**

### **+ADAMS, Joseph Edward**

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Pilot). 178513. Died 06/11/1944. Aged 29.207 Sqn. He took off from R.A.F. Spilsby in Lancaster III ND555, EM-D on a Mission to Gravenhorst. He was lost with the rest of his Crew. Son of Joseph Edward and Margorie Adams, of Belfast; husband to Maude Adams, of Belfast. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

### **+CLYDE, William**

RAFVR. Sergeant (Air Gunner). 1798065. Died 06/11/1944. Aged 20. 106 Sqn. He was in Lancaster LL953 ZN-O which took off from R.A.F. Metherringham at 16.30 on 6th November 1944 on a mission to Gravenhorst. The aircraft

was lost over Gravenhorst and is believed to have been shot down by Hauptmann Modrow of 1 Nachtjagd Force at 1924 hours. Son of William and Frances Maud Clyde, of Bushmills. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

**1947**

**+CLEMENTS, Charles**

Royal Army Service Corps. Driver. T/7043429. Died 06/11/1947. Age 24. Son of Joseph and Ellen Clements of Banbridge. Banbridge First Presbyterian Cemetery (Non Subscribing)

**VETERANS**

**JAMISON, Robert**

Royal Irish Rifles, Rifleman. 9042. Born: May 1877. Northern Ireland. Lived at 12 Ravensdale Street, Belfast. In August 1896, enlisted for 12 years with Royal Irish Rifles, Private attained rank Lance Corporal No. 4843. Demobbed 1908. He re-enlisted 1914. Worked as a builder's labourer after WW1, suffered badly as a result of gassing in the trenches. He died: 6th November 1942. Funeral to Dundonald Cemetery

**COLHOUN, James. 06/09/1945**

James Colhoun MC, soldier and newspaper proprietor - James was born in Londonderry and educated at Foyle College. His father William Colhoun was the owner of the Londonderry Sentinel newspaper.



In the years before the First World War, James volunteered as a dispatch rider for the UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force). In 1913, at a special ceremony he was presented with a silver cup by Lord Edward Carson, in recognition of his invaluable service during that time.

When war was declared in 1914 he was commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (2nd Batt) and went with them to France in 1915. He was promoted to temporary captain and transferred to the 3rd Batt in 1916. During the Battle of the Somme he was in charge of the machine gun section. From August 1916 until May 1918 he was Acting Major (and Battalion adjutant). In July 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross and promoted to Major.

After the war he took over the Sentinel (his father had died a few years earlier). In 1927 he was High Sheriff of Derry and in 1935 and 1936 he was President of the Derry Chamber of Commerce. He was a prominent member of the Apprentice Boys of Derry and the Orange Order. He was also an active member of the Masonic Order.

He was a member of Culmore Parish Church and served on the Select Vestry. He also served on the board of governors of Foyle and Londonderry College. Other organisations in which he was involved was as a trustee of the Londonderry Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and he acted as President of the local British Legion from 1930 until his death.

In November 1939 he was commissioned as major in the 102nd Anti Aircraft Regiment (Royal Artillery) and he was also sub district commandant in the Ballyarnett district of the Ulster Special Constabulary.

During the Second World War he was the Army Welfare Officer for Londonderry and in 1944 he was elected President of the Londonderry and Foyle Unionist Association and served on the Ulster Central Council of the Unionist Association.

He had two younger brothers, Colonel William Albert Colhoun M.C.(and Bar), and Colonel Jack Colhoun. In September 1919 he married Florence Victoria Rodden, a well known hockey player. The family home was at Grianlagh, Park Avenue, Derry. The Londonderry Sentinel reported on 08 September 1945 that Major Colhoun had passed peacefully away in a Belfast Nursing Home on 06/09/1945. He shares his grave in Londonderry City Cemetery with his wife Florence Victoria Colhoun (nee Rodden) who died on 10/10/1964 and their two sons, James Cyril Sproule Colhoun (died 20/10/1939) and William Rodden Colhoun (died 14/01/1943 - aged 20, after a long illness).

### **OLDHAM, Edward Garr Wesley**

10th Royal Irish Rifles. Private 0/15717. His first theatre of war was recorded as France from 05/10/1915. He was later promoted to Lance Corporal. Promoted 2nd Lieutenant in August 1917. Born on 27/05/1887 at 43 Prospect Terrace, Belfast to Edward Garr Oldham (Clerk) and Agnes Rebecca Oldham nee Mulholland. Edward joined the Belfast Banking Company around 1905 and worked in Markets branch and Head Office. On 28/09/1912, Oldham's father signed the Ulster Covenant at Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast, giving his address as 184 Lisburn Road, Belfast. On 15/09/1917 Edward married Emily (Emmie) Victoria Nicol of Belfast at Duncairn Presbyterian Church. Edward is

described as a military officer. Following his demobilisation after the Great War, Oldham returned to work. The Belfast Banking Company 'Roll of Honour' records Oldham as having been 'previously wounded' with his last known address as 'in France'. As an officer, Edward had to apply for his medal entitlement. He was awarded the 14/15 Star, the Victory medal and the British War Medal. The address recorded on his Medal Index card was 6 Chichester Avenue, Belfast. He is remembered on the Balmoral Golf Club Roll of Honour along with his brother John Byers Oldham. John served in the Army Service Corps (T4/149974); North Irish Horse (2665) and the North Irish Horse/Royal Irish Fusiliers (41346). Retirement came in 1948. Died on 06/11/1949, aged 63 in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. His last address was 19 Rosetta Avenue, Belfast.

### **PIGGOTT, John**

RN. Chief Petty Officer. 209184. Enrolled 06/11/1901 for 12 years. Re-engaged 11/11/1913 to completion of hostilities. Served to 30/08/1927. War service in Pembroke, Shannon and Marshall Ney. Born Limavady 06/11/1883. Victoria Terrace, Coleraine. ADM 188/365/209184

### **SHEANE, Eric Livingstone**

RADC Captain LDS 1935 QUB. Born Newry 1913. Post war he travelled across the UK for work. Husband to Annie Elizabeth Kerr, a farmer's daughter. Father of author and historian Michael Sheane - Antrim Guardian 06/11/2018.

# Every day is a Remembrance Day

***We will remember them***

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**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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