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

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

Free Clothing and necessaries, quarters, meals, and lodging.

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.

GOD SAVE THE KING
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 cquire 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.
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 Ardb Blair 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 grousing, 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 counterattacked 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
April 13

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 Gebirgsjager Å 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.
April 13

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 Ie Island in the Pacific.
Roll of Honour – April 13

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+HYDE, George


+ROBINSON, T


1916

+LOVE, James


+MITCHELL, Arthur Gorman

+FLANAGAN, William Henry Murray.

Royal Irish Rifles, 12\textsuperscript{th} Btn. Rifleman. 10310. Died 13/4/1917. Age 23. Enlisted at Belfast possibly in 11 RIR and served in 12 RIR. He may have embarked for France from Bordon Camp with 11 RIR in October 1915. He was the son of Robert Henry and Martha Flanagan of 129 Dunluce Avenue, Belfast and brother of Hugh Flanagan. His brother Lance Corporal Hugh Edmond Flanagan, 41229, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, killed in action 22/11/1917. Hugh was 21 years of age and is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. (Northern Whig 16th May 1918). William is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium

+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

Hornby St., Belfast. Athies Communal Cemetery Extension, France

+HILL, Samuel George


+JOHNSTON, Thomas John


+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


1918

+ALLEN, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Bn. Rifleman. Died 13/04/1918. Age 25. Son of Mary Allen, of 55, Factory Lane, Lurgan. Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium

+ALLISON, Frederick Miles

Coldstream Guards, 3rd Bn. 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 Bn. 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
April 13

+FLANAGAN, William Henry Murray


+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


+McPHERSON, Duncan


+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

+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, Wason
Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 20/85. Died 13/04/1918. Age 23 Son of George and Henrietta Ross, of Cultra. Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Belgium

+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

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


1941
+GRAY, George


1942
+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

+WALLACE, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Bn. 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


1944

+CHAMBERS, Thomas

Royal Ulster Rifles, 1st (Airborne) Bn. 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 Bn. 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) Bn. 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) Bn. 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

1945
+ANCHAM, John

+HAMILL, Henry Benedict

**+HAZLETT, Samuel Alexander**

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, R.C.I.C. Lance Corporal. B/159256. Died 13/04/1945. Age 34. Son of Pte. Henry Hazlett, Royal Engineers (killed in action in Belgium, 1st March, 1917), and of Margaret Jane Hazlett, of Portadown. Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands

**+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**


**+SPEERS, John**

+TWEEDY, Samuel


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.
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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 aho 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.
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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

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houstonmckelvey@mac.com
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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