

MAY 17



remembrance ni



Derry's Dambuster

Flight Sergeant Richard "Dickie" Bolitho was born in Londonderry in 1920.

He was the only child of William, a commercial traveller in seeds, and Jeanie nee Cuthbertson.



Painting of Richard 'Dickie' Bolitho by Dan Llewelyn Hall marking the 75th anniversary of Operation Chastise

William was originally from Cornwall. Richard was brought up at Jeanie's family home, "Braehead" in Londonderry. The family also had strong links with Portrush and a residence there. In 1927 the family moved to England, buying a hotel on Castle Boulevard in Kimberley, Nottinghamshire, and Richard moved in with his aunt Emily who owned a fruit and vegetable shop. He attended the Church Hill School

RAF service

He joined the RAF at the end of 1940 and qualified as an air gunner. After completing his training he was posted to No. 9 Squadron, which flew Avro Lancaster four-engined heavy bombers from RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, and then to No. 57 Squadron at Scampton.

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In March 1943 Richard Bolitho was posted to the newly-formed No. 617 Squadron, also at Scampton. This unit had been created under Wing Commander Guy Gibson for the attack on the Ruhr dams which was planned for May.

Two New Zealanders flew in the Dambusters raid, they were Flying Officer Leonard Chambers DFC (later Flight Lieutenant) and Flight Lieutenant John Leslie Munro DSO, DFC (later Squadron Leader)



His last leave was spent with P/O Wile, W/O Garshowitz and Sergeant Kinnear at home in Kimberley, Nottinghamshire.

The last flight

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Their aircraft piloted by by Flight Lieutenant William Astell DFC left Scampton at 2159 hours. Its target was the Mohne Dam.



In the early hours of Monday, May 17, 1943 as it crossed from the Netherlands into Germany the Lancaster was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Astell continued to fly on.

Along with two planes flown by Pilot Officer Knight and Squadron Leader Maudslay and crews, they proceeded into Germany. The other two crews altered course but F/L Astell became slightly off course and on reaching a canal crossing, which was actually the correct place, turned South down the canal as though to search for the correct position.

However, the aircraft then caught fire before crashing into a high-tension mast carrying 1000,000-volt wires near the village of Marbeck in Germany. It burst into flames, crashed into fields behind some farmhouses; it's bomb on fire, and

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rolled onwards before exploding. At the same time its machine guns continued to fire into the burning aircraft.

All of Astell's crew, including Richard Bolitho, were killed in the crash. The Lancaster was the first of No. 617's aircraft to be lost that night.

Eyewitnesses who ran to the crash scene were unable to get close owing to the ammunition still discharging. A very deep bomb crater about 12 meters wide was left.

Many buildings nearby had roofs torn off and windows smashed but miraculously a statue of St. Joseph holding the baby Jesus, on the edge of the crater remained untouched.

A memorial stone and plaque lie at the site as a permanent memorial to Flight Lieutenant Astell and his crew.

In 2018 on the 75th anniversary of the raid portraits by Dan Llywelyn Hall of all 133 members of 617 Squadron have been unveiled in two ceremonies, one at the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln and the other at the Dambusters Inn in Scampton.

+BOLITHO, Richard

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1211045. Died 17/05/1943. Age 23. 617 Sqdn. Richard Bolitho was serving as Rear Gunner on board Lancaster Mk.III ED-864 coded AJ-B during Operation Chastise on May 16/17/1943. The plane flown by Flight Lieutenant William Astell DFC was part of the main force of No. 617 Squadron which was to bomb the Mohne dam. Son of William Bolitho and Jane Bolitho, Portrush. Reichswald Forest War Cemetery. Kimberley WM, Nottinghamshire, and in 2008 a special plaque was commissioned.

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A family memorial in Derry City Cemetery bears the following inscription -

In Loving Memory Of.

Jane Cuthbertson

Braehead

Died on 25 Nov 1915 Aged 67 years.

Also her Husband Robert Cuthbertson Died on 24 Feb 1927

Aged 81 years

Also their Grandson

Richard Bolitho

Flight Sergeant R.A.F VR

Killed in Action

Rhur Dams

17th May 1943 Aged 23 years

Interred in City Cemetery, Borken Germany

Their Daughter Jane Bolitho Died on 13th Nov 1964 Aged

89 years and her Husband William Bolitho Died on 9th May

1953 Aged 73 years

Richard Bolitho's Service history

Joined RAF in 1940, No2 RC 25/11/1940. No 4 RC. (.
12/1940, RAF Calshot.10/01/1941. No 1 RW.26/04/1941,
No7 ITW.10/05/1941. 51 Group Pool.28/06/1941, ADRC.
05/08/1941. RDU.06/10/1941, No 14 ITW.10/01/1942.
No9.AGS.05/06/1942, No19.OTU.27/08/1942.No1654.CU.
15/10/1942, 9 Squadron.23/12/1942. 57 Squadron.
22/01/1943, 617 Squadron.25/03/1943.

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Overview of Operation Chastise

Operation Chastise was an attack on German dams carried out on 16–17 May 1943 by Royal Air Force No. 617 Squadron, later called the Dam Busters, using a purpose-built "bouncing bomb" developed by Barnes Wallis. The Möhne and Edersee Dams were breached, causing catastrophic flooding of the Ruhr valley and of villages in the Eder valley; the Sorpe Dam sustained only minor damage. The operation was given to No. 5 Group RAF, which formed a new squadron to undertake the dams mission. It was initially called Squadron X. The squadron was based at RAF Scampton, about 5 mi (8 km) north of Lincoln.

The targets selected were the Möhne Dam and the Sorpe Dam, upstream from the Ruhr industrial area, with the Eder Dam on the Eder River, which feeds into the Weser, as a secondary target. The loss of hydroelectric power was important but the loss of water to industry, cities, and canals would have a greater effect and there was potential for devastating flooding if the dams broke.



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The aircraft were modified Avro Lancaster Mk IIIs, known as B Mark III Special (Type 464 Provisioning). The squadron was divided into three formations.

Formation No. 1 was composed of nine aircraft in three groups. Formation No. 2, numbering five aircraft. Formation No. 3 was a mobile reserve consisting of 5 aircraft.

The Operations Room for the mission was at 5 Group Headquarters in St Vincents Hall, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The mission codes (transmitted in morse) were: Goner, meaning "bomb dropped"; Nigger, meaning that the Möhne was breached; and Dinghy, meaning that the Eder was breached.

The Dams Raid was, like many British air raids, undertaken with a view to the need to keep drawing German defensive effort back into Germany and away from actual and potential theatres of ground war. Air Marshall Harris regarded the raid as a failure and a waste of resources. .

Some 19 Lancaster bombers flew from RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire for the daring mission on May 16/17, 1943, to shatter dams in Germany's industrial heartland and cut off vital supply lines in the Ruhr Valley.

A total of 133 Allied aircrew left for the raid aboard the bombers, led by Wing Commander Guy Gibson, but 53 men were killed and another three were captured.



On this Day – May 17

1915

Press photos on this day showed mass grave of victims of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania, Cobh, Ireland.

The sinking of the Cunard ocean liner RMS Lusitania occurred on Friday, 7 May 1915 during the First World War, as Germany waged submarine warfare against the United Kingdom who had implemented a naval blockade of Germany. The ship was identified and torpedoed by the German U-boat U-20 and sank in 18 minutes.

A little fishing boat, The Wanderer, from Peel Isle of Man was the first boat on the scene and witnessed the explosion. The fishermen took on over 200 survivors many of them unclothed and set sail for land. By the time they neared the coast they were met by boats going out to the scene. Low in the water they transferred their precious cargo to one of these boats who brought them inland and who were then hailed heroes. The Peel fishermen knowing there were little survivors still left and that the other boats would return to the scene quicker than they would...they made their way to their fishing grounds to retrieve their pots and catch before the sabbath. It took 2 months for their efforts to be formerly recognised in a quiet ceremony at home and for over 50 years this was hailed as a military rescue.

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1916

The Germans capture the British mine crater on Vimy Ridge.

1917

The King of the Belgians visits the Somme, Ancre and Arras battlefields.

1918

Northern Whig newspaper

Rifleman Robert James Gray, 1125, 22nd Entrenching Battalion, formerly 11th/13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 30th March, 1918. Son of Mr. John and the late Margaret Gray nee Thompson, Stepson of Francis Elizabeth Gray, of 16a Church Street, Bangor, Co Down. (Deceased was 22 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France).

Private Arthur Robinson, 28250, 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, killed in action 29th March, 1918. Son of Arthur and Margaret Robinson, of 11 Langley Street, Belfast ; Husband of the late Louisa Robinson, of Midland Street, Shankill Road, Belfast. (Deceased was 39 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France).

1940

Biggest RAF attack on Germany to date as the oil tanks at Bremen and Hamburg are blown up. British claim 1,000 German aircraft lost in a single week.

Brussels, Louvain and Malines in central Belgium all occupied by troops of the 6th Army. Germans attack further

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into N-E France; General Gamelin, French Commander-in-Chief, gives allied troops 'conquer or die' order. French prime minister Pierre Laval is replaced by Paul Reynaud who forms a new government. Charles de Gaulle's newly raised 4th Armoured division launches a counter-attack near Laon, which is easily repulsed by the Germans.

Twelve Blenheims attack enemy tanks and troops near Gembloux. Ten are shot down by fighters and one by ground fire.

1941



First US pilot volunteer with RAF Eagle squadron killed in action, Mike Kolendorski.

The German battleship Bismarck and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen leave Gotenhafen in the Baltic to begin operations against British convoys in the Atlantic (Operation RheinÃ¼bung).

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The Italian Army joint is forces in Amba Alagi, but at May 17 they collapse and surrender. The British Army captures 230.000 prisoners.

1942

Air Marshal Harris is given permission by Churchill for a raid on Germany by 1000 bombers. This was in spite of the fact that the RAF's operational strength at this time was only 500 aircraft. However, it was believed that by enlisting RAF Coastal Command and the RAF's training squadron's, then the magical 1000 bombers could be found. Harris believed that the only way to get a commitment for strong bomber force, was to demonstrate what could be done with one. He planned to launch operation 'Millenium', before the end of the month.

The Russians continue to evacuate their forces across the Kerch Straits, leaving behind vast amounts of artillery and heavy equipment, which the Germans then turn upon the besieged fort of Sevastopol.

1943

Dambusters - Take the right combination of secrecy, daring and inventiveness and the likely result is an enduring legend. And none is more enduring than the Dambusters raid on 16/17 May 1943. Bomber crews used Sir Barnes Wallis's revolutionary bouncing bombs, releasing them 60ft above ground, to try to breach three huge dams in the Ruhr Valley. The plan was not a total success but those who executed it became heroes.

The Memphis Belle completes 25th and final mission against Nazi Germany and the occupied territories.

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The Luftwaffe carries out a night raid involving 89 aircraft against Cardiff in Wales.

The Germans launch a fifth offensive to destroy Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia.

1944

38 (Irish) Brigade - 1 RIrF at Piumarola:

0730 Major Franklyn-Vaile OC, C Company killed by shelling.



Lawrie's friend, Lt Douglas Room, would write a moving letter of condolence to his widow on the following day:

"Dear Olive, I have very sad news to give you.

Yesterday morning, about quarter to eight, Lawrie died..."

Lawrie Franklyn-Vaile is the only Australian buried at Cassino CWGC cemetery who had served in an infantry Regiment.

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2 LIR at Casa Sinagoga/Colle Monache:

1000 Very heavy shelling of Bn HQ farm. .

1005 Bn warned for move forward.

1135 Rifle coys move forward to defensive area.

1300 Bn heavily shelled. No casualties



17th May 1944, 1 RIrF near Sinagoga:

0700 Attack on Fernie commenced. Objective is Massa Cerro.

0730 Major Franklyn-Vaile OC C Coy killed by shelling.

0950 Objective captured.

1900 Patrol D Coy, Lt JV Baker, with 9 men to illuminate Route 6 with three 2" mortars from railway.

Kesselring orders the evacuation of Cassino. The French breakthrough is now 25 miles deep.

6 Innisks:

1510 A Coy to advance & capture Piumarola. C Coy to follow & to pass through. The whole attack went in with great vigour & prisoners started to come in.

1855 The CO, Lt Col Bredin, had been hit fairly badly by shrapnel but refused to be evacuated.

Merrill's 'Marauders' take Myitkyina airfield after a three-week, 100-mile, Jungle march.

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U.S. troops land on Wake Island and the northern coast of New Guinea, 125 miles to the West of Hollandia.

1945

38 (Irish) Division - Cassino

H Coy led the advance of 2 LIR through the German Gustav Line defensive lines at Sinagoga & onto Colle Monache. In a moving testimony, Major Desmond Woods described the actions of Cpl James Barnes who he recommended for a posthumous Victoria Cross. QS

CQMS O'Sullivan 2 LIR in Austria:

"We arrived at Wolfsberg. The men spent their time cleaning uniforms & polishing boots. The next day E Coy paraded & they were allowed out but told not to fraternise with the population. They of course had never heard the term before."



**6 Inniskillings
advance and capture Piumarola.1944**

Roll of Honour – May 17

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+COLLINS, David McC

6 Black Watch (Perthshire Territorial Battalion). Private. 265756. Died 17/05/1915. Age 20. Born in Belfast, he enlisted at Perth. Son of Mr. R. and Mrs. J.A. Collins of “Maryburn”, Andersontown, Belfast. Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy, Pas de Calais, France

+CORKIN, Henry

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Btn. Lance Sergeant. 17480. Died 17/05/1915. Age 23. Drowned while bathing, probably in the River Ancre a tributary of the Somme. Born in Lisburn, he was “a musician of rare promise” who played the soprano cornet in the Lisburn Temperance Silver Band in which Francis Neagle (below) also played. A carpenter by trade he also belonged to the UVF. He had completed his apprenticeship with James Shortt just before he joined up, enlisting at Lisburn and serving in 11 RIR along with his two brothers Rifleman John and Lance Corporal William (Willie) Corkin, the latter being in the same platoon. They all embarked for France from Bordon Camp with their battalion in October 1915.

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According to Captain E.F. Smyth who wrote to his parents, he had been in command of a guard detail on a bridge and had gone in for a swim after dinner along with Riflemen J. Hillis and W. Wright, neither of whom could swim. "He told them he was going out to see how deep the pool was and then swam out about 15 yards. It would seem as if he got caught up in the weeds, and Wright tried to get him out but failed while Hillis ran for help. He had some distance to come; we ran down and Rifleman A. Larmour and Corporal Dunlop went in and swam around. Larmour found him in about ten feet of water and they brought him in. Everything possible was done by the medical officer, but he had been under too long". Son of Elizabeth and Henry Corkin of 83 Gregg Street, Lisburn. His brother Rifleman John Corkin also died in the war.

Of those involved at the time of Henry Corkin's death only one, Wright, seems to have survived the war. All the others, Edmund Smyth, John Hillis, Alex Larmour and Quinton Dunlop died. Of his two brothers, John was to die the following February shortly after being discharged, William was wounded on 01/07/1916 and was fortunate to survive. On the opening day of the Somme he had been shot through the chest. Taken back to an overcrowded CCS, like countless others he was left outside on a stretcher awaiting treatment. He was found there by Charlie M'Cahey another Lisburn man who was a Driver with the 36 Division RASC. M'Cahey had volunteered to go down and help at the CCS after going off duty. Seeing that Corkin was bleeding heavily, he carried him to the operating table where he was treated and shipped back to the military hospital in Hampstead. On hearing the news, Henry Corkin senior, William's father, who was employed at the Island Spinning Mill, wrote to the

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Lisburn Standard so that, “the people of Lisburn know that Mr. M’Cahey’s action saved my boy Willie’s life”. Henry Corkin was buried with many of his friends in attendance in Authuille Military Cemetery, France. In Memoriam notice in the Herald on the 17/05/1919.

+FINLAY, D

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Private. 7755. Died 17/05/1915. Age 28. Brother of Mrs. Elizabeth A. Irwin, of 63, Seaview St., Belfast. Bethune Town Cemetery, France

+McCRACKEN, S

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1st Btn. Private. 9481. Died 17/05/1915. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli) Seapatrick Parish Church RH, Banbridge

+NEAGLE, Francis

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman. 11327. Died 17/05/1915. Age 21. He enlisted at Lisburn early in the war and served with 2 RIR in Gallipoli. Slightly wounded, he returned home to Lisburn on sick leave where, “his parents made an attempt to claim him off as he was not nineteen years of age, but young Neagle point-blank refused to leave the army”, and on his recovery was posted to the Western Front. On the 11 December 1914 he wrote to the Rev. R.W. Hamilton thanking the members of Railway Street Presbyterian Church for a parcel they had sent him. In his letter he remarked that, “I am proud and willing with the Lord’s help to do my part in helping to bring this war to a satisfactory end”.

Born in Blaris, Co. Antrim, he lived in Lisburn where he had been a member of the Boys Brigade, worked at the Island

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Mill with his brother William James (see below) and played second trombone in Lisburn Temperance Silver Band, in which Henry Corkin (above) also played. He was the son of James and Mary Neagle of 39 Mercer Street and 13 Canal Street, Lisburn and brother of Lance Corporal William James Neagle, who, before the war, had been employed as a flax dresser at the Island Spinning Company. Arras Memorial, Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, France

1916

+ALLEN, William

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Rifleman. 6530. Died 17/05/1916. Age 19. Born on 17/08/1896, son of Samuel and Ellen Allen, of Dunyvadden Kells. Prior to enlistment he worked on his father's farm. He was also a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force. His death was recorded in a number of letters sent by officers in his Battalion. Captain J. E. Jenks sent a letter to Mrs Allen on the 13th May 1916. (Captain Jenks died of wounds on the 4th July 1916 and is buried with honour in Puchevillers Military Cemetery, Somme). He wrote -

Dear Mrs Allen ,

I much regret to inform you that your son, No. 6530, Rfn. W. Allen, was rather severely wounded in the leg this afternoon. He was a sentry in the front line trench when a heavy high explosive shell struck close to where he was standing, a fragment of it striking him above the ankle. I am afraid I shall not be able to give you any news of how he is getting on as once a man is sent back from the line we don't know to which hospital he is sent and can't communicate.

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I am very sorry to lose him, even if it is only for a time. He was a quiet, good lad and always did his work well."

Captain Jenks also sent another letter on the 17th May.

Dear Mrs. Allen,

I deeply regret to inform you that your son, 12/6530, Rfn. W. Allen, who was wounded on the 15th inst., has since died. Although his wounds did not at first appear grave, it seems they were and combined with the severe shock of the bursting shell, he succumbed to their effect. I deeply sympathise with you on your sad loss.

Your boy was a great favourite with the others of his platoon and a good soldier - which, after all is the best one can say of anyone in these trying times and is the proudest way one can live, or die if need be. I am so sorry to be the bearer of this ill news.

Lieutenant T. G. Haughton writing on the 17th May recorded that Rifleman Allen was on sentry duty in the front line trenches when a heavy shell exploded beside him. He was severely wounded in the lower leg but was so cheerful about it. I felt certain he would recover in hospital but I have now just received the sad news of his death. For a year I have been his platoon officer and have always found him to be a splendid and most promising soldier at various duties. He was ever hard-working and willing and recently made fame for himself in the handling of grenades. I am quite unable to express my deep regret at losing him and he will always live in my memory as a brave and good soldier. I hope it will be some little comfort to you to know the high esteem which I held him with the rest of the men in my platoon and he died the finest death a man can. (Lieutenant

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T.G. Haughton was killed on the 1st July 1916 and is buried with honour in Hamel Military Cemetery, Somme.)

William Allen was buried with honour in Forceville Communal Cemetery, France. He is also commemorated on the roll of honour in First Ballymena Presbyterian Church. Family notices in the Ballymena Observer on the 26/05/1916 included -

We mourn the loss of our loved one
Who was slain on the battlefield
It is sad to think that he left us
But we to God's will must yield

His fighting days are over
He'll study war no more
God thought it was best to call him home
To a happy peaceful shore

Quis Separabit
Lest We Forget

+CLARKE, Francis

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman.5855. Died 17/05/1916. Son of John and Mary Clarke, of 20 Albert Street, Lurgan. Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+CRUMLIN, William Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Rifleman.11143. Died 17/05/1916. Husband to Ellen Frances Crumlin, of 52, River Terrace, Ormeau Rd., Belfast. Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont St Eloi, France

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+POOTS, Robert.

Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Btn. Corporal.5381. Died 17/05/1916. Age 19. Son of William John and Eliza Poots, of Banbridge. Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St. Eloi, Pas de Calais, France. Seapatricks Parish Church RH, Banbridge

1917

+JOHNSTON, James

Machine Gun Corps, 108th Coy. Private. 19518. Died 17/05/1917. Aged 24. Son of Mrs. E. Johnston of 26 Charlotte Street, Donegal Pass, Belfast. Dranoutre Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

+KANE, P

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. Serjeant. 5985. Died 18/05/1917. Age 28. Son of Peter Kane; husband of Caroline Kane, of Mosside, Stranocum. Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

+McIVOR, Samuel

Machine Gun Corps, 108th Coy. Serjeant. 17693. Died 17/05/1917. Aged 26. Brother of Mrs. Susan Stevenson, of Clady, Dunadry, Co. Antrim. Dranoutre Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. LOL 1422 WM, Muckamore Orange Hall

1918

+CHAPMAN, Edward

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Btn. C Company. Rifleman. 6459. Died 17/05/1915. Age 19. Born in Aghalee or Megaberry, Moira, he enlisted at Lisburn. Son of Joseph and Susan

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Chapman 722 Mulvey Avenue, Fort Rouge, Winnipeg, Canada. Roye New British Cemetery, Somme, France

1919

+BOAL, James

RN. Petty Officer Stoker. 287397. HMS Valerian. Died 17/05/1919. Aged 41. Born Belfast. Husband to E. Boal, 4, Warwick Row, Carrickfergus. Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Kent. Memorial plaque St Nicholas' Parish Church, Carrickfergus.

1940

+GILDEA, Thomas James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Sergeant. 6976636. Died 17/05/1940. Aged 28. It is believed that Sgt. Gildea was killed close to the Senne Canal at Halle in an action to support Royal Engineers who were demolishing bridges. Son of Robert and Hester Gildea, Cookstown; husband to Sally Gildea, 12 Sandhurst, Cookstown. Thomas James Gildea worked as a printer and also worked in Luton, England. Halle Communal Cemetery, Halle, Vaalms - Brabant

+McCLENAGHAN, Thomas

RAF. Aircraftman 1st Class. 621224. Died 17/05/1940. Aged 20. John and Mary McClenaghan, Enniskillen. Caversfield (St. Laurence) Churchyard

+O'REILLY, John Patrick

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 535507. Died 17/05/1940. Aged 20. 16 Sqdn. Son of James and Sarah O'Reilly, Cliftonville,

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Belfast. Oingt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

1942

+BOYLE, William Columba

RAF. Flight Sergeant. 651585. Died 17/05/1942. Age 26.
RAF 86 Sqdn. Son of James and Mary Rebecca Boyle;
Husband to Christina Boyle, Belfast. Sola Churchyard,
British Plot, Norway

+CROZIER, Cyril Johnson

RAFVR. Sergeant (Observer).1061583. Died 17/05/1942. 86
Sqdn. BA 1935. MA 1937 QUB . Sola Churchyard, Norway.
QUB RH

+ESLER, John Acheson

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Pilot). 64903. DFC. Died
17/05/1942. Age 27. 86 Sqdn. Son of Logan and Margaret
Esler, of Ballymena. Bergen (Mollendal) Church Cemetery,
Norway

1943

+BOLITHO, Richard

RAFVR. Flight Sergeant. 1211045. Died 17/05/1943. Age
23. 617 Sqdn. Richard Bolitho was serving as Rear Gunner
on board Lancaster Mk.III ED-864 coded AJ-B during
Operation Chastise on May 16/17/1943. The plane flown by
Flight Lieutenant William Astell DFC was part of the main
force of No. 617 Squadron which was to bomb the Mohne
dam. Son of William Bolitho and Jane Bolitho, Portrush.
Reichswald Forest War Cemetery. Kimberley WM,
Nottinghamshire, and in 2008 a special plaque was

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commissioned.
See article above,
page 1

The
granddaughter of
Major Franklyn-
Vaile at his grave
at Cassino - See
On This Day 1944

**+McCREADY,
Herbert George
Horatio**

RAFVR. Sergeant
1024867. Died
17/05/1943. Aged
26. Son of James

and Margaret McCready, Cullybackey. Runnymede
Memorial, Panel 157

1944

+WILLIAMS, John

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Corporal. 6981913. Died
17/05/1944 in the assault on Piumarola. Age 30. Son of
William and Alice Williams; husband of Annie Williams, of
Newtownards. Cassino

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1945

+CAMPBELL, Hugh

RAFVR. Warrant Officer. 977546. Died 17/05/1945. Aged 33. 355 Sqdn. Son of Hugh Campbell, and of Elizabeth Campbell, Belfast. Singapore Memorial, Column 448, Singapore

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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Information about individuals who served - please forward to remembrance ni at

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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