

Brave Report



Sailors in the trenches - 1. The formation of the Royal Naval Division

At the outbreak of World War 1 the newly-mobilised Royal Navy had too many men, and too few crew places or other duties for them. This was a situation which

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Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, soon took advantage of at a time when the army's recruitment had not yet delivered the numbers needed for the land war in Europe.

These unused sailors were formed into battalions, joined with the Royal Marine Light Infantry (RMLI) and Royal Marine Artillery and thus formed the Royal Naval Division (RND). The RND was dubbed "Winston's Little Army".

The Division was disbanded in 1919 after an inspection and address by the Prince of Wales. Its deeds would be described with some self-justification and self-promotion by its sponsor Winston Churchill, then briefly out of Parliament, in a foreword to the 1923 official account of the RND's actions -

“By their conduct in the forefront of the battle, by their character; and by the feats of arms which they performed, they raised themselves into that glorious company of the seven or eight most famous divisions of the British Army in the Great War.” - Churchill

The RND served in three distinct areas - in the defence of Antwerp, and later on the Western Front and in the Dardanelles campaign. The RND fought in every one of the very worst battles the British Army contested between 1914 and 1918 - Gallipoli, The Somme, Arras, Passchendale, the March offensive, and the 100 days to victory. Men from Northern Ireland served in each of

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these areas. The RND's activities would cost it nearly 48,000 casualties throughout the war.

Over sixty men from Northern Ireland died serving with the RND in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. They included career men like Methodist College Belfast former pupil, William Leigh Maxwell, Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Marines, who was Brigade Major at Antwerp, and Jack Caton of Muckamore. He was a textile worker who enlisted and became a sergeant in the army and was commissioned as an RNVR Officer to serve with the Brigade. Maxwell was killed in action serving with the Division in the Dardanelles on 12/05/1915. Caton was killed on 27/03/1918 on the Western Front.

2. Baptism of fire - The defence of Antwerp

The BEF was being hard-pressed in France and there was a danger that Germany in a "race for the sea" could break through to the Channel ports and thus cut off any possible reinforcements to the BEF and prevent its retreat. The distance east from the end of the British line to the channel coast was approximately fifty miles. After less than six weeks basic training the RND was thrown into action in Belgium to hold the crucial port of Antwerp.

The Division hastily formed in August 1914, was equally hastily deployed in October 1914, for its first engagement in the defence of Antwerp. It was deployed without artillery, ambulance and other support. Many of the men did not even have canteens or packs. Many were not

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equipped with bandoliers and these men marched with their pockets stuffed with ammunition. Basically they had rifles, two million rounds of ammunition, food for five days, and not much else.



The Naval Division getting ready to receive the Germans outside Antwerp

Their baptism of fire at Antwerp was in support of the Belgian army whose tenacity had been under-estimated by the Germans. The Belgians had fought with great courage for eight weeks, dislocating the German battle plan. The RND's role was to help the Belgian army retain a string of forts around Antwerp.

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The trains and railway system which was meant to deliver them to Antwerp from Calais and Ostend during the 4th/5th October, were seriously dysfunctional to the extent that London buses with their civilian staff had been taken across the channel and were used to move some of the RND to the threatened city.

The RM Brigade arrived in the requisitioned London buses on 04/10/1914. Two naval brigades arrived to reinforce them on 06/10/1914 but were diverted to another section of the line of forts which was being threatened by German forces.

They were introduced into a scenario where the Germans had indeed underestimated the tenacity of the small Belgian army whose continuous fighting over eight weeks had dislocated the German battle plan which was to by-pass forts like Namur and Leige and sweep through neutral Belgium, passing to the west of Paris and thereby cutting off the French capital and the Channel ports, thus making a direct threat on the UK.

The RND, under-strength and under-trained, enabled the Belgians to hold a superior, professional, trained, German force which was surprised at the fighting spirit of the Naval Division. The Germans however had artillery - 17 inch howitzers - which took a terrible toll of the defenders of Antwerp, its citizens and the city itself. Parts of the city were ablaze, and many refugees, helpless men, women and children were killed. The shelling wrecked Antwerp's water mains and more importantly, the resolve of the Belgian troops holding the forts and they began to abandon their positions.



During the siege Winston Churchill made several visits to the frontline. The British forces under the command of Major-General Archibald Paris, were ordered by Winston Churchill to continue the defence for

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as long as possible and to be ready to cross to the west bank of the Scheldt rather than participate in a surrender.

Paris' Brigade Major was a former pupil of Methodist College, Belfast, Lt. Col. William Maxwell of the Royal Marines, who had served in the South Africa war 1900 - 01, China 1901 - 1903, India 1902 - 1909. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice - for his service at Antwerp and in Gallipoli. He was killed in action the following year serving with the Division in the Dardanelles on 12/05/1915.

The allied commanders decided to continue the defence of Antwerp with the garrison troops and to move the Belgian 2nd Division and the British troops across the Scheldt. It was decided that if forts 1 and 2 were lost, the RND would withdraw at dusk.

News arrived that the forts had fallen at 5:00 p.m. and orders were sent to the Belgian 2nd Division and the British to retire. It was a disorderly withdrawal. The British began to withdraw at 7:00 p.m. but the orders failed to reach all of the 1st Naval Brigade, only one battalion of which withdrew.

At 9:30 p.m. the mistake was realised as the rest of the division began to cross the river from 10:00–11:30 p.m. and moved west, parallel to the Dutch frontier. The 1st Naval Brigade reached the Scheldt at midnight, only to find that the bridges were being demolished and under a German shrapnel bombardment. The troops crossed using barges and boats and set out for a rendezvous at Zwijndrecht, which was reached at 4:00 a.m. on 09/10/1914.

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The British moved on to Sint-Gillis-Waas, where information arrived that the Germans had cut the railway at Moerbeke and any possibility of retreat to Ostend was cut off. The British commander Commodore Henderson, decided to head for the Dutch border to the north and at 10:00 p.m. about 1,500 men, half the original complement, were interned in the neutral Netherlands. About forty stragglers managed to sneak along the border and escape.

In the event, the sailors' land battle for Antwerp only lasted several days during which 196 of their number were killed or wounded, 936 were captured and made prisoners of war as well as the 1,500 who had crossed the border into neutral Holland to be interned for the rest of the war in a camp near Groningen which was nicknamed 'HMS Timbertown' by its reluctant inmates.

The Admiralty did not think much of this "tuppenny untrained rabble" despatched by Winston Churchill. First Sea Lord Jacky Fisher was all for disbanding it, whilst staff officer Herbert Richmond bemoaned not the loss of sailors but "2,000 invaluable marines" sent on a useless mission.

Churchill never doubted his decision to dispatch the division was correct. His only regret was that the sailors never had a chance to grapple properly with the Hun. The British press were rather less forgiving regarding the loss of a good portion of one of the brigades and chastised the First Lord of the Admiralty for wasting good men on a senseless adventure.

Without a doubt the RND did not stand a chance at Antwerp. Whilst the battle lasted only a few days, it did influence the early stages of the war. It allowed the French and British allies time to reorganise and eventually hold the Germans along the Western Front where for the next four years the war stagnated.

One of the RND men at Antwerp from Northern Ireland was Samuel Mooney Gourley from Portglenone who had been called up at the outbreak of war.

The Ballymena Observer reported on his experience stating, "Samuel M Gourley, Portglenone, son of Mr. James Gourley, senior Postmaster in Portglenone, was with the Royal Naval Volunteers in the trenches at Antwerp. He returned to Portglenone on a few days furlough on Thursday October 15 and he left Ballymena on Sunday last to report himself at Dublin on Monday morning.

"Before going he received a presentation of a beautiful Bible from Miss Young, Portglenone House, and a presentation of cigarettes and money from several of his companions in Portglenone.

"The Naval Marine was one of a party of the defenders (of Antwerp) who, mud-stained, dirty and unshaven, returned to Dover from Ostend. Only a week previously he had left Dover and with his comrades embarked for a port unknown. They landed and were sent direct to the trenches where they were under fire at once.

"Several chaps around him were struck but he escaped. On the retreat he experienced many thrilling adventures.

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At one time they were almost led into the German lines but through the intervention of a Belgian officer they were put on the right track and the treacherous guide was shot. Most of them got back to England safely after about eight days but some strayed into Holland and were interned there and a few, alas, were left lifeless in the trenches.”

Sadly, Samuel Mooney did not survive the war. He was lost in HMS Viknor which sank off Trory island on 13/01/1915.

The RND after its return to UK was based at what is now the RHQ of the Royal Corps of Signals at Blandfold where road names still reflect the Division's naval origin and where trenches dug in training can be observed. It went on to fight in every one of the very worst battles contested by the British Army between 1914 and 1918 : Gallipoli, the Somme, Arras, Passchendaele, the March offensives and finally the 100 days to victory.

3 Gallipoli

At Blandfold the Division regrouped and re-formed. In January 1915 the RND was informed of the plans for the Dardanelles. The Marine Brigade was ordered to leave immediately. In February 1915, the RND embarked and sailed to the Greek island of Lemnos in Mudros Bay in the eastern Mediterranean to take part in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

The Dardanelles campaign had three major challenges :

- The fortresses at the end of the Gallipoli peninsula

- The mines and enemy shipping in the passage to Constantinople
- Putting ashore men and munitions at various locations on the peninsula, establishing a mobile force to obtain an increasing amount of territory and thus prevent the stalemate of entrenched warfare as had happened in Europe.

Naval vessels led by HMS Queen Elizabeth bombarded the forts. Much of this activity was wasteful. Shells designed to attack warships were unsuited to the destruction of well-established earthworks. Three battleships were sunk. The RND was returned to Egypt and then to Lemnos.

Eventually on Sunday 25th April landings were made on five beaches. There were errors in arriving at two of the selected beaches, the limited access inland along well enfiladed gullies led to a loss of life of epic scale.

Despite gallant attempts the post-landings situation was of a static front line. After eight and a half months the RND was withdrawn and returned to Lemnos. The cost of the RND's involvement in Gallipoli was high - a combination of battle and infections, dysentery being rife. The RND lost one-third of its force committed - 372 officers and 7,198 other ranks.

Operations: June–July 1915.

In the Helles sector, which had been extensively entrenched by both sides, the Allies attacked Krithia and Achi Baba again, in the Third Battle of Krithia on 4 June,



with the 29th Division, Royal Naval Division, 42nd Division and two French divisions.

The battle plan for this Third Battle of Krithia included The Royal Naval Division which would attack up Achi Baba Nullah (also known as Kanli Dere or Bloody Valley), supported by the armoured cars on Krithia Spur.

The Royal Naval Division's advance was led by the 2nd Naval Brigade which managed to reach and capture the Ottoman trenches. When the second wave—the Collingwood Battalion—attempted to continue the advance, they were caught in enfilade fire from Kereves Dere to the right where the French advance had failed. The battalion, one of the newly arrived reinforcements,

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was utterly annihilated and was never reformed. Further attempts to reach the second objective were successful, but the position was untenable, so within a couple of hours the RND units had retreated to their starting positions.

After this Third Battle of Krithia failure, the possibility of a decisive breakthrough was gone and trench warfare resumed, with objectives being measured in hundreds of yards. Casualties were approximately 25% on both sides; the British lost 4,500 from 20,000 men

4 The Western Front

In the Commonwealth War cemeteries along the Western Front, the serried ranks of army corps and regimental badges are broken by the symbols of furled anchors marking the resting places of the remains of the members of the Royal Naval Division.

One of the most distinctive actions of the RN Division was on the 13th November 1916 at Beaucourt when 12,000 sailors went over the top and in two days in winter went further and took more prisoners than the army had done in a day.

By the end of the Division's part in the Gallipoli campaign, very few men with sea service remained. The RND was always regarded as being different to the rest of the army and although they were subsumed into the army in 1916 to become the 63rd (Royal Navy) Division, they were the only formation to wear both Navy and Army badges of rank. Attempts to convert the RND to conform

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to army practices were tried but were generally unsuccessful, especially an attempt to disband the RND in 1917 which was thwarted by the influence of the First Lord of Admiralty, Sir Edward Carson.

The Division transferred from the authority of the Admiralty to the War Office on 29 April 1916 and was redesignated as the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division on 19 July 1916.

The Division moved to France, arriving Marseilles 12-23 May 1916, after which it remained on the Western Front for the rest of the war and took part in the following engagements:

1916

The Battle of the Ancre, a phase of the Battles of the Somme 1916 (13-18 November 1916)

1917

The Operations on the Ancre (January-March 1917)

The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23-24 April 1917), a phase of the Arras Offensive, in which the Division captured Gavrelle

The Battle of Arleux (28-29 April 1917), a phase of the Arras Offensive

The Second Battle of Passchendaele (26 October - 10 November 1917), a phase of the Third Battles of Ypres 1917

The action of Welsh Ridge (30 December 1917), subsequent to the Cambrai operations

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1918

The Battle of St Quentin~ (21-23 March 1918)

The Battle of Bapaume~ (24-25 March 1918)

~ the battles marked ~ are phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

The Battle of Albert (21-23 August 1918), a phase of the Second Battles of the Somme 1918

The Battle of Drocourt-Queant (2-3 September 1918), a phase of the Second Battles of Arras 1918

The Battle of the Canal du Nord^ (27 September - 1 October 1918)

The Battle of Cambrai 1918^ (8-9 October 1918)

^ the battles marked ^ are phases of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line

The passage of the Grand Honelle (5-7 November 1918), a phase of the Final Advance in Picardy

This unique Division was demobilised in France by April 1919.

ROLL OF HONOUR

ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

BARR, Joseph Jubilee

RND. Stoker 1st Cl. SS/108937. Hood Btn. 2nd Naval Brigade.

Died 27/5/1915. Former service on HMS King Edward VII.

Sancroft St., Belfast. Obituary notice in Belfast Telegraph

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19/6/1915. Photo in Belfast Telegraph 25/6/1917. Special Memorial A7. Skew Bridge Cemetery. Dardanelles.

BEATTY, David

RNVR. RND. Second Lieutenant. Drake Battalion. Died 25/03/1918. Aged 23. Son of David Beatty, of Ballyearl, Carnmoney. Arras Memorial. Carnmoney - PCI RH



BEGGS, William J

RMLI. RND. 16347 (Ply). 2nd RM. Battalion. Died 30/10/1916. France. Aged 21. Born 10/07/1895. Enlisted 15/08/1913. Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel, France.

BENSON, Wiliam Francis

RNVR. RND. Sub - Lieutenant. Drake Battalion. Died 08/10/1918. Aged 23. France. Son of Mary Gray, Sherries Hill, Caledon.

BEW, John Vincent

RN. RND. Chief Petty Officer. Dev/167694. Anson Battalion. Born Carrickfergus 19/05/1876. Died 06/05/1915. Aged 39. Son of late Charles and Elizabeth Ann Bew. Helles Memorial, Turkey

BUNTING, William James

RN. RND. Stoker 1st Class. SS1077140. Hood Battalion. Died 6/05/1915. Gallipoli. Lurgan WM

BURT, Alfred John

RNVR. R/2786. Anson Battalion RND. Died 19/06/1918. Aged 22. Born Bessbrook. Son of Alfred B and Eleanor M Burt, Wrensbury, Nantwich. Mont Huon Military Cemetery, France. Bessbrook WM

CATON, Jack

RNVR. Sub-Lieutenant. Anson Btn, RND. Died 27/03/1918. Enlisted 1 Royal Irish Rifles. Promoted Sergeant. Commissioned RNVR. Killed in German offensive of March 1918. Born Bury. Family moved to Muckamore. Worked York Street Flax Spinning Co. Only Son of John and Elizabeth Caton, Abbeyview, Muckamore. His only child was born after his death. His wife and son moved from Railway St, Antrim to Northampton after the war. His son Jack Sydney Caton served in the RAF in World War II, and was a PoW in Germany after being shot down. A teacher, he died in Northampton in 2006. Mesmil Communal Cemetery Extension

COLLINS, George

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RMLI. Private. PLY/16508. Plymouth Battalion RND. Died 02/07/1915. Aged 19. Enlisted in 1913. Son of John and Elizabeth Collins, Fortuna St., Belfast. Skew Bridge Cemetery.

DOHERTY, William

RN. Stoker 1st Class. 300914. Nelson Btn. RND. Died 13/07/1915. Husband of Nellie Doherty, St Patrick's Street, Londonderry. Helles Memorial, Turkey. Londonderry, The Diamond WM

EDMONDS, William Barnewall

RMLI. Private. CH/483(S). 1st RM Battalion RND. Died 13/11/1916. Age 28. Son of William Edmonds, Roden St., Belfast. Varennes Military Cemetery. Family Memorial Dundonald Cemetery

FERGUSON, William James

RN. Stoker 1st Class. 308717. Nelson Battalion RND. Died 17/05/1915. Age 29. Born Keady 06/05/1886. Son of Leah Ferguson and late James Ferguson, Bryson St., Belfast. Died of wounds received in Gallipoli in hospital in Alexandria. Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

FISHER, John

RMLI. Private. PLY/12264. 1st RM Bn RND. Died 13/11/1916. Age 30. Son of Mrs. Isabella Fisher, Baltic Avenue, Belfast. Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 1A

FORBES, Neill

RNVR. AB. Z/1595. Nelson Btn RND. Died 15/6/1915. Age 30. Born John Street, Ballymoney, Son of John Forbes, Greenock. Skew Bridge Cemetery. Dardanelles. [Ballymoney WM](#)

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GALLACHER, Charles

RNVR. RND. Clyde Z 1876. Collingwood Battalion. Died 04/06/1915 Gallipoli. Londonderry, The Diamond WM

GAMBLE, Thomas

RNVR. AB. Clyde Z/4951. Anson Btn. RND. Died 13/11/1916. Born Coleraine. Second Avenue, Clydebank, Glasgow. Cayeux Cemetery, France. Coleraine WM

GORDON, Mick

RND. Private. Annette St., Belfast

GRAHAM, William

RMLI. Private. Died 13.11.1916. France. Snugville St., Belfast

GRAY, John

RMLI. Private. CH/298(S), Chatham Battalion. Enlisted Belfast 15/08/1886. He served on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, and died on 03/06/1915 in hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, of wounds received at the Dardanelles. Age 29. Son of James and Sarah Gray, Burnside, Portstewart, and brother of Mrs. McKee, Donegall Road, Belfast. Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery (Egypt). Portstewart WM, Agherton Parish Church RH, Portstewart Presbyterian Church WM, PCI RH. Donegall Road - PCI RH

GUINEY, R

RMLI. Private. CH/1505(S). 1st RM Battalion. RND. Died of illness 09/02/1917. Templepatrick. Aveluy Wood Cemetery, Mesnil - Maartinsart.

HANNON, Malachy

RNVR. RND. Able Seaman. Hawk Battalion. Died 13/11/1916. Age 23. Born 14/06/1893. Enlisted 12/04/1915. Served with

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Hawk Battalion (RND) from 21/09/1915 to 18/11/1915 in Gallipoli, where he was injured. Rejoined Hawk Battalion on the 09/12/1916. Listed as missing, killed in action on 13/12/1916. Drafted to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on 9/9/1915, he served with Hawk Battalion RND from 21/09/1915 to 18/11/1915 in Gallipoli, when he was injured. He received shrapnel wounds to the right side of his face and shoulder and was subsequently hospitalised in Malta. He rejoined Hawk Battalion at Mudros on the island of Limnos, in the Aegean Sea on 09/02/1916. Son of James Hannon, Railway Cottage, Stewartstown and later of Grove Street, New City Road, Glasgow. Thiepval Memorial MR 21. Stewartstown WM

HAYES, J L

RMLI. PO/18251. 1st RM Battalion RND. Died 09/10/1918. Age 21. Son of Charles and Lilian Hayes, Roberts Rd., Leicester. Born Belfast. Delsaux Farm Cemetery, Beguny.

HEANEY, James

RNR. RND. Leading Stoker 299814. Howe Btn. Died. 4/6/1914. "Leading Stoker Heaney - a member of Waterside Presbyterian Church and Churchhill Loyal Orange Lodge 871 - had twelve years' service on the navy, and served with the naval division at Antwerp. His name was read aloud during a special memorial service held in First Derry Presbyterian Church, on Friday, August 4, 1916, to pay tribute to the Presbyterian soldiers of the city of Londonderry, who had died during the first two years of the Great War." Son of William and Annie Heaney, Benvardeen Avenue. Helles Memorial, Turkey. Londonderry, The Diamond WM. Waterside - PCI RH

HILL, George

RMLI. Private. CH/430S. Chatham Battalion RND. Died 12/12/1915. Age 21. Son of George and Sarah Hill, Dundee St., Belfast. Redoubt Cemetery, Helles.

HILL, Leonard

RMLI. Private. Signaller. PLY/1335(S). 2nd RM Battalion. RND. Son of Charles Edward and Annie Hill, Donaghadee Rd., Bangor. Tynecot Memorial. Bangor Purple Star LOL No. 677 RH. First Bangor - PCI RH

HOLLOWAY, George Alexander

RMLI. CH/416/S. Chatham Btn RND. Died 19/8/1915. Age 20. Son of George and Ada R. Holloway, Jameson St., Belfast. Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli).

JOHNSTON, F

RMLI. Private. PLY/15664. 1st RM Battalion RND. Died 27/09/1918. Age 23. Son of Frederick Johnston, Hornby St., Belfast. Moeuvres Communal Cemetery extension.

JOHNSTON, James Barlow

RNVR. RND. Sub - Lieutenant. Hawke Btn, 63rd Naval Division. Died 8/10/1918. Age 21. Son of Philip and Edith Elizabeth Arden Johnston, of Denarden, Strandtown, Belfast. Cambrai East Military Cemetery, France. Strandtown WM. QUB WM.

LONG, Samuel

RMLI. Private. PLY/471(S). Plymouth Battalion. RND. Died 03/50/1915. Tower St., Belfast. Gallipoli. Helles Memorial.

MAXWELL, William Leigh,

RM. Lieutenant Colonel. Headquarters Staff , 2 Brigade RND. Served in the Antwerp Expedition as Brigade Major and was mentioned in despatches. He was killed in action at the Dardanelles 12/05/1915. Son of Mr David A Maxwell formerly of Belfast. Methodist College, Belfast. Skew Bridge Cemetery

McALINDEN, J

RNVR. AB. Clyde Z/5173. Anson Battalion RND. Died 18/4/1917. Age 19. Son of Joseph McAlinden, of 5, Majorca St., Belfast. Arras Memorial, Bay 1

McGOWAN, David

RNVR. RND. AB. KX/432. Howe Btn. Died 6/5/1915. Age 24. Son of John McGowan, Ringclare, Donaghmore, Newry, Helles Memorial, Gallipoli. Glascar - PCI RH.

McGOWAN, Henry

RMLI. Private. PLY/17670. Plymouth Contingent, RND. Volunteered for active service, enlisting in Belfast in November 1914, giving a false date of birth. He served on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in 1915 and later in France. He was killed in action, aged 17 years, in France on 21/06/1916. Son of Daniel (fisherman) and Hannah McGowan, Mullaghacall, Portstewart. Bois-de-Noulette British Cemetery, Aix-Noulette, France. Portstewart WM. Agherton Parish Church WM. Agherton Parish Church RH

McILWRATH, James

RMLI. Private. PLY/18372. 1st RM Bn RND. Died 6/4/1918. Age 19. Son of Alexander and Sarah McIlwrath, Queen Victoria St., Connswater, Belfast. Pozieres Memorial, Panel 1. Megain Memorial - PCI RH

McINTEE, Charles

RMLI. Private. PLY/647(S). 2nd RM Battalion RND. Died 26/10/1917. Age 25. (Served as McCarty), Son of Edward and Mary McIntee, Park St., Belfast. Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

McLAUGHLIN, Thomas

RNB/RND. Chief Petty Officer. Clyde Z/245. Nelson Btn. Died 28/12/1915. Age 27. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. He was killed in action, at Achi Baba, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. Had completed six years service in RNVR and re-enlisted 17/9/1914. His father James McLaughlin from Coleraine lived in Glasgow; and his uncle and aunt, Thomas and Kathleen Millar, lived in the Orange Hall, Portstewart. Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Panel 8. Coleraine WM.

McMASTER, James Andrew

RMLI. Private. PLY/17781. 2nd RM Battalion RND. Died 17/09/1916. Age 20. Son of Thomas and Mary Jane McMaster, Wayland St., Belfast

McQUILLAN, William

RN. Tenth St., Belfast. Shankill Rd Mission - PCI RH. Only one of this name in CWGC records. Stoker 1st Class. SS/100594. Hood Btn. RND. Died 4/6/1915. Age 36. Husband of Sarah A. McQuillan. Helles Memorial.

MILLS, Frederick James Greer

RMLI. Private. PLY/16454. Plymouth Btn. RND. Died 15/09/1915. Age 22. Son of John and Annie Mills, of Marino, Holywood. Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles. Holy Trinity, Glencraig Parish, WM

MILLS, Thomas Alexander

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RM. Private. PLY/16717. Plymouth Btn. RND. Died 03/05/1915. Aged 17. A member of Ebrington Presbyterian Church, and Murray Parent Club of Apprentice Boys of Derry, he joined the colours a few weeks before the declaration of war, being then engaged as an apprentice cutter in the factory of Messrs. Lowry & Porter. He formed part of the 29th Division engaged in the landing operations at the Dardanelles. Private Mills was initially reported missing at the Dardanelles, and his father, having written to the Admiralty inquiring about his son, received the following communication from the officer in charge of records, Royal Naval Division: 'The very great number of the enquiries received in this office in respect of members of the Royal Naval Division on active service renders it impossible to reply personally in each case. Correspondents, therefore, receiving this form are asked to be so good as to understand it to signify that the Record Office has no news (or, in cases where a previous report has been made, no further news) of the subject of their inquiry. In all cases where information is received a personal communication will be made at once to the next of kin. With reference to men reported wounded, it is to be observed that a telegram from the base office at Alexandria states "all wounded can be assumed progressing satisfactorily unless reported seriously ill." These reports as to serious condition are telegraphic, and are communicated immediately to the relatives by this department.'

The name of Thomas Alexander Mills was read aloud during a special memorial service held in First Derry Presbyterian Church, on Friday, August 4, 1916, to pay tribute to the Presbyterian soldiers of the city of Londonderry, who had died during the first two years of the Great War. Son of Alexander and Margaret Mills, Orchard St., Londonderry. Alexander served with the 1st Inniskillings through the South African War,

and held the King's Medal, with two clasps, the Queen's Medal, with five clasps, and the Distinguished Service Medal. Helles Memorial. Ebrington - PCI RH. Londonderry, The Diamond WM

MORGAN, D

RND. Londonderry, Foyle College RH

MORRISON, Alexander Thompson

RMLI. Corporal. PO/16397. 1st RM Battalion, RND. Died 06/10/1918. Age 24. Son of James and Emily Morrison, My Lady's Rd., Belfast. Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas de Calais

MORRISON, Thomas

RMLI. Private. PLY/17545. 2nd RM. Battalion. RND. Tobergill St., Belfast. Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, Somme, France

ORR, David Edward

RMLI. Private. CH/340 (S). Chatham Btn RND. Died 08/05/1915. Son of the late William John and Margaret Orr, Channing Street, Belfast. Cadet QUB OTC 1913 - 15. Helles Memorial. McQuiston Memorial - PCI RH. QUB WM

PAUL, Joseph

RMLI. Private. PLY/17320. Plymouth Btn RND. Died 14/7/1915. Age 18. Son of Agnes Paul, Bann St., Old Park Rd., Belfast, and the late Robert Paul. Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey (including Gallipoli)

PITMAN, George

RMLI. Private. PLY/17041. 1st RM. Battalion. RND. Died 28/04/1917. Craigmore St., Belfast. Arras Memorial.

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QUINN, John

RMLI. Sergeant. 2nd Marine Battalion. RND. Died 28/04/1917. Age 28. Son of David and Jane Quinn, The Cottages, Comber. Arras Memorial. First Comber - PCI RH. Comber WM

QUINN, Henry

RMLI. Private. PLY/17909. 1st RM Btn. RND. Died 13/11/1916. Age 19. Newry. Theipval Memorial

ROCKS, Joseph

RNVR. Petty Officer. Clyde Z4397. Drake Battalion, RND. Died 19/05/1917. France. Edward St., Lurgan. Arras Memorial, Bay 1, Pas de Calais. Lurgan WM

SCOTT, James

RMLI. Private. PLY/16410. Plymouth Btn. RND. Died 4/3/1915. Age 19. Son of William and Margaret Scott, Cheviot Ave., Belfast. Helles Memorial. McQuiston Memorial - PCI RH

SCOTT, T

RMLI. Private. Hydepark, Mallusk. Church of the Holy Evangelists CarnmoneyWM.

SEYMOUR, Andrew

RMLI. Private. PLY/17738. 2nd RM. Battalion, RND. Died 14/6/1916. Coolbeg St., Belfast. Bois-de-Noulette British Cemetery, Aix - Noulette, Pas de Calais

SLOAN, John

RMLI. PLY/177737. 2nd RM Battalion, RND. Died 13/11/1916. France. Ballycarry St. Belfast

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SMYTH, William

RMLI. Private. CH/960(S). 1st RM Btn RND. Died 28/4/1917.
Son of John Smyth; husband to Annie Smyth, Mackey St.,
Belfast. Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

SPRATT, Thomas

RND. Stoker 1st Class. 298606. Nelson Battalion. Died
15/07/1915. Born Banbridge. Brother of Mrs. Patterson,
Witham St., Belfast. Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey

STANFIELD, William Hughes

RMLI. Private. CH/282(S). Chatham Battalion, RND. Died
14/05/1915. Age 30. Son of the late William and Mary
Josephine Stanfield. Born Belfast. Gibraltar (North Front)
Cemetery

STERLING, J

RMLI, Private. PLY/13644. 2nd RM Battalion, RND. Died
03/08/1916. Age 30. Son of Elizabeth J. Sterling, Well St.,
Woodstock Rd., Belfast, and the late Robert Sterling. Tranchee
de Mecknes Cemetery, Aix - Noullette, Pas de Calais

SWAIN, William Steadman

RNVR. RND.AB. Mersey Z/57. Howe Btn. Died 5/7/1915.
Age 23. Son of Henry and Annie Swain, of 70, Monfa Rd.,
Orrell, Bootle, Liverpool. Native of Belfast. Skew Bridge
Cemetery, Turkey.

WAUCHOPE, George William Alfred

RNVR. Sub-Lieutenant. Anson Btn. RND. Died 13/11/1916.
Age 32. Oakland Avenue, Belfast. Son of the late Joseph J. J.
and Mrs. J. Wauchope, Daisy Hill, Newry. Theipval Memorial,
Pier 1A. Belfast Central Station WM. McQuiston Memorial -
PCI RH. First Newry - PCI RH

WARNOCK, R

RMLI. Private. PLY/16727. Plymouth Battalion, RND. Died 04/03/1915. Age 18. Son of the late Hugh and Margaret Warnock, Westcott St., Connswater, Belfast. Helles Memorial

WILSON, G

RN Brigade. Private. Died in hospital. Woodbine Terrace, Coleraine. Terrace Row - PCI RH

YOUNG, Henry

RMLI. Private. PO/1339 (S). 2nd RM Btn. RND. Died 6/4/1918. Pozieres Memorial, Panel 1, Somme. Ballygowan - PCI RH

ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION THEY SERVED

BRADBURY, William

RN. Surgeon. Press report: Lisburn Surgeon wins DSO. "Surgeon (acting Staff Surgeon) William Bradbury, MB., RN., in recognition of his services with the Royal Naval Division in Gallipoli and France. As medical officer of the Hawke Battalion, Royal Naval Division, in Gallipoli, he did exceptionally good work, often under the most taxing circumstances.

"Surgeon Bradbury is the younger son of Mr. Samuel Bradbury, Pear Tree Hill, Lisburn. He is an old Queen's man, and after taking his degree in 1908 entered the Naval Medical Service. He went to China in 1912, and for his services during the rebellion of 1913 was decorated by the Chinese government. Early in the present war he served on a mine-sweeper, and subsequently with the Royal Naval Division at

the Dardanelles (where he was wounded in June, 1915) and in France.” - Lisburn Standard 28/06/1918

KEERY, James

RMLI. Serjeant. Prior to the war he worked in the netting department of Hilden Mill. He enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war and landed in the Dardanelles unhurt. He was reported missing on 24/03/1918. Later his mother was notified that he was well and was a prisoner of war in Germany. Wesley St., Lisburn. - Lisburn Standard 05/07/1918

LOGAN, William

RMLI. Private. Volunteered for active service in 1914 and served on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. He was seriously wounded in the chest in 1915 and subsequently discharged from military service on medical grounds in January 1917 (aged about 20 years). After the War he was employed as the postman for Portstewart town. His parents, Mr. James (fisherman) and Mrs. Violet Logan, lived at The Cottages, Coleraine Road, Portstewart. Portstewart Presbyterian Church RH and PCI RH

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HELP REQUESTED

Please send names of Ex RN/RM/WRNS who served in either of the world wars. Details also appreciated.

CIRCULATION - Please share 'Brave Report' with your former service colleagues - and we will post direct to them if they simply send an e-mail to: houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com, placing Brave Report

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in the message bar, and give their name and former arm of service, and if they are members of the RNA or RBL, having knowledge of their branch would be appreciated. There are specific areas where we need information from!

PUBLICATION NOTES

Please note all the material in Brave Report is copyright.

Brave Report is collated and published by The Very Rev. Dr Houston McKelvey, OBE QVRM TD.

Dr McKelvey served as chaplain for 29 years with 102/105 (Ulster & Scottish) Regiment, Royal Artillery TA; for 20 years as Chaplain to the RBL - Northern Ireland Area, and for a period as chaplain to the Belfast Branch of the Burma Star Association. He was involved in the life of HMS Caroline and HMS Hibernia. He was appointed an Honorary Chaplain to the RNR. He is a Past President of QUB Combined Services Club.

