



# ROCKPORTIANS

Remembering Their  
Sacrifice in Two World Wars

Compiled by Barry Niblock



## FOREWORD

by the Headmaster

Our intentions in producing this remembrance booklet were straightforward. Firstly, to help us to **remember**. We hope that it will serve to educate and inform those present and future Rockport pupils and to perhaps even to personalise for them more, those names listed on the school war memorial boards in the McBride Room and in the School entrance hall; names which are solemnly read out each year at our Remembrance Service. Secondly, we hope that it might provide the wider school community and beyond with what will be an interesting and for some a treasured memento of what must have been a tumultuous time at Rockport.

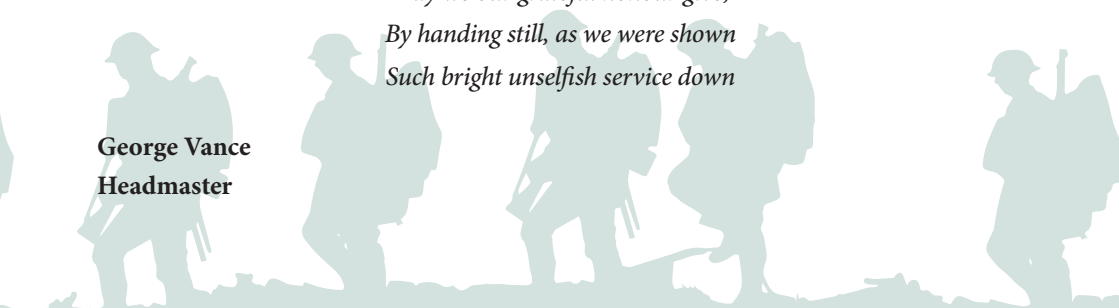
Tumultuous indeed, as one can only imagine the shock felt in the school community as news filtered back reporting the death of so many. A total of 23 Rockportians would make the ultimate sacrifice and lose their lives in both wars: 6 in the Great War and 17 in the Second World War. These are remarkable numbers, made even more shocking when we consider them as a proportion of the whole school enrolment then, which was a fraction of what it is today. To put it in context, there were fewer than 20 on the roll in the run-up to the Great War and never more than 40 pupils here in the 1930s.

This booklet has been three years in the making but the research upon which it draws goes back much further than that. All of us at Rockport are deeply indebted to editor and compiler **Barry Niblock**. Barry's painstaking research and dogged determination to trace the information and images published here are evident throughout these pages, as they are in his excellent volumes *Remembering Their Sacrifice* which commemorate the fallen in both wars in North Down and Ards. Put simply, without Barry Niblock this booklet would not exist.

Finally, this remembrance booklet is dedicated to all those young men from Rockport School who gave their lives in two World Wars. In 1918, Rockport Master and Great War Poet Willoughby Weaving (on his own return from service on the Western Front) penned the school song, the third verse of which remembers the school's own fallen and is read annually at the school remembrance service:

*Thus unto those that fought for us  
And died that we might fully live,  
And unto those that thought for us  
May we our grateful honour give,  
By handing still, as we were shown  
Such bright unselfish service down*

**George Vance**  
Headmaster



In the short biographies that follow, it will be obvious there is more information about some casualties than others. That is simply a reflection of the amount of information available at the time of writing. Similarly, the photographs used are the best currently available. The compiler will be pleased to receive additional information and/or photographs from readers and his contact details may be found at the end of this booklet.

## FIRST WORLD WAR

Six men with Rockport connections died in the First World War. Four were ex-pupils, one had been a teacher at Rockport and one had worked as an under-gardener at the School. They were all soldiers and ranged in age from 19 to 27. All six are commemorated on the First World War Memorial Plaque in Rockport School.

### **Bell, John Mercer Grimshaw (John)**

#### **Military Cross**

#### **Lieutenant**

7th Squadron, Royal Air Force and Royal Field Artillery  
Died of wounds on Friday 11 October 1918 (aged 27)

#### **Buried:**

Terlincthun British Cemetery, France (Grave V. D. 17)

#### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)

Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance

Canadian Bank of Commerce Memorial Screen

Canadian Bank of Commerce Memorial Book – *Letters From The Front*

Helen's Bay Parish Church of Ireland Church (St John the Baptist)

Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church (Holy Trinity)

Rockport School



John Mercer Grimshaw Bell, known as John, was born on 4 September 1891 at 23 Hughenden Terrace, Belfast and he was the eldest son of Richard and Annie Stewart Bell (née Grimshaw) who were married on 6 September 1890 in St James's Church of Ireland Church, Belfast.

Richard Bell was a solicitor and ex-Army Officer and he and Annie had another son, Howard Manley Stewart Bell, who was born on 5 September 1892.

When John was a pupil at Rockport, the Bell family lived in the townland of Ballygrot, Crawfordsburn and from there they moved to Canada. In Canada, the Bell family lived in *Maple Cottage*, Sooke, British Columbia and John worked as a Clerk in the Canadian Bank of Commerce which he joined on 27 June 1910.

John Bell enlisted on 24 September 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec and it was noted in his attestation papers that he was 6 feet 2 inches tall with a fair complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. His Regimental Number was 40129 and he was appointed Gunner with the 1st Battery, 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery. Gunner John Bell went to England in December 1914 and on 18 January 1915 he was discharged to a commission in Kitchener's New Army.

John Mercer Grimshaw Bell was gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery with the rank of Second Lieutenant, went to France and in July 1916 was wounded in fighting near Montauban. He was wounded again in August 1917.

Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, John Mercer Grimshaw Bell was awarded the Military Cross *'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the enemy attacked and approached in view of the battery he brought his section into the open to engage the enemy, and himself took up an exposed situation and controlled and fought his guns with the greatest coolness and determination until his ammunition was exhausted'.*

Transferred to the Royal Air Force in the summer of 1918, Lieutenant John Mercer Grimshaw Bell was 27 when he died on 11 October 1918 of wounds received on 3 October 1918. He was buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery in France and there is an inscription on his CWGC headstone which, when translated, means *For King and Country*:

### *PRO REGE ET PATRIA*

The Chaplain of his Squadron wrote of Lieutenant Bell:

*'He possessed all those qualities of character and disposition which are the foundation of true nobility. Everyone who knew him was irresistibly attracted towards him.'*

Lieutenant John Mercer Grimshaw Bell is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM); in the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance (Page 583); on the Canadian Bank of Commerce Memorial Screen; in the Canadian Bank of Commerce Memorial Book – *Letters From The Front* (Page 34); in Helen's Bay Parish Church of Ireland Church (St John the Baptist) where his date of death is recorded as 11 November 1918; in Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church (Holy Trinity) and in Rockport School.

## **Inglis, James Malcolm (James)**

### **Second Lieutenant**

9th Battalion, Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers)  
Died of wounds on Saturday 26 October 1918 (aged 19)

### **Buried:**

Terlincthun British Cemetery, France (Grave VI. D. 2)

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Holywood and District War Memorial  
Holywood Parish Church of Ireland Church (St Philip & St James)  
Rockport School



James Malcolm Inglis, known as James, was born on 6 July 1899 at *Miramar*, Cultra and he was the only child of William Malcolm Inglis and Clara Montague Inglis (née Mulligan) who were married on 12 March 1897 in Holywood Parish Church of Ireland Church (St Philip & St James). William Inglis was a master baker, merchant and company director and, for a time, he and Clara



lived with Clara's mother, Sophia Mulligan, at 10 Marine Parade, Hollywood. James was six when his father died of typhoid fever on 22 August 1905 and, after that, James and his mother lived in the townland of Ballycultra.

James Inglis attended Rockport, then the Leas School, Hoylake and then Shrewsbury School. After he enlisted, he undertook his Cadet course at Cambridge and was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Fusiliers with effect from 23 June 1918 (Supplement to the *London Gazette* dated 29 July 1918).

Second Lieutenant James Malcolm Inglis went to France on 7 September 1918 and, a little more than a month later, on 26 October 1918, he died in No. 8 Stationary Hospital of wounds sustained on 16 October at Courtrai.

Aged 19 when he died, Second Lieutenant James Malcolm Inglis was buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery in France and there is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:

*HIS HAS NOT BEEN  
A LIFE CUT OFF OR WASTED  
BUT A LIFE FULFILLED*

Second Lieutenant James Malcolm Inglis is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on Holywood and District War Memorial; in Holywood Parish Church of Ireland Church (St Philip & St James) and in Rockport School.

## **McBride, William Wilson (Wilson)**

**Second Lieutenant**

229th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

Died of wounds on Wednesday 5 December 1917 (aged 20)

### **Buried:**

Giavera British Cemetery, Italy (Plot 2 Row A Grave 9)

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Journey of Remembering Belfast Book of Honour

Rockport School



William Wilson McBride, known as Wilson, was born on 30 April 1897 at 12 University Square, Belfast and he was a son of William Durham McBride and Elizabeth Wallace McBride (née Steen) who were married on 11 September 1894 at 30 College Gardens, Belfast (the bride's residence) under special licence issued by the Presbyterian Church. The McBride family lived in University Square and then in Adelaide Park, Belfast.

William Durham McBride was a linen merchant and company director in the family firm, Robert McBride & Company Ltd., Belfast. He and Elizabeth had two children – William Wilson McBride and Elizabeth Bennett McBride who was born on 19 August 1899.

Their mother Elizabeth died on 17 May 1917 (aged 56) – some seven months before Wilson died – and she was buried in Belfast City Cemetery (Grave C2 275).

William Wilson McBride attended Rockport School from 1909 to 1912. He boarded at the school and excelled in music and drama, often playing piano solos, singing in the school choir and taking the lead in Rockport Amateur Dramatic Society (RADS) productions. He gained colours for cricket, hockey and shooting.

From 1912 he attended the Tonbridge School in Kent where he was a member of the Officers' Training Corps (OTC) and, when war was declared, the McBride family was holidaying in Switzerland. After a short course in the Belfast Technical Institute, Wilson took up a position in the family business and, in addition to manufacturing linen, their factory produced hand grenades during the war.

Wilson enlisted in Carrickfergus and joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in July 1916. He was sent to a Cadet School and, after five months of training, was gazetted to his commission and attached to a Siege Battery as Signalling Officer. He went to the Western Front and in spring 1917 took part in the fighting at Ypres. In addition to being wounded in the arm, he also required treatment for the effects of poison gas.

In December 1917 Wilson McBride was posted to Treviso on the Italian Front and there he was badly wounded by an enemy shell when he was visiting his men in a forward position. He was taken to a field hospital but died a short time after being admitted. Aged 20 when he died, he was buried in Giavera British Cemetery, Italy. Known to his comrades as *Mac*, he was commended for his bravery on more than one occasion. It is recorded in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Debt of Honour Website that *'he was in command of the signallers of the battery and, shortly before his death, owing to his ability and attention to duty, his Commanding Officer recommended him for promotion in order to qualify him to take position as Second in Command'*.

After Wilson McBride died on 5 December 1917 his father paid for the appointment of the 'McBride Memorial Room' at Rockport which is dedicated to Wilson's memory and the memory of all the Rockportians who served and fell in the Great War. A bed in the UVF Hospital, Craigavon House, Belfast was also endowed in Wilson McBride's name.



## **Noyes, Claude Robert Barton (Claude)**

**Second Lieutenant**

**15th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers**

**Killed in action on Saturday 1 July 1916 (aged 27)**

### **Buried:**

**Lonsdale Cemetery, France (Grave IV. G. 1)**

### **Commemorated:**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**Sacred Trinity Church Salford, Manchester**

**St Lawrence College Ramsgate, Kent**

**Rockport School**



Claude Robert Barton Noyes, known as Claude, was born on 6 November 1888 in Christ Church Vicarage, Kingstown (re-named Dun Laoghaire in 1921), Ireland and he was a son of the Rev Henry Edward Noyes and Katharine Mary Noyes (née Barton) who were married in 1878 in Dundalk.

They had at least six children, five of them born in Ireland before the family moved to England when the Rev Noyes was appointed Vicar of St Mary's, Kilburn – Harry Francis Golding (born 13 October 1879); Travers Edward (born 26 August 1883); Cyril Dupre (born 4 February 1885); Kathleen Mary (born 12 February 1887); Claude Robert Barton (born 6 November 1888) and then Dora Geraldine who was born in England around 1890.

Both Claude and Harry attended St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, Kent. Claude obtained a BA degree from Trinity College, Dublin and Harry obtained an MB degree from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

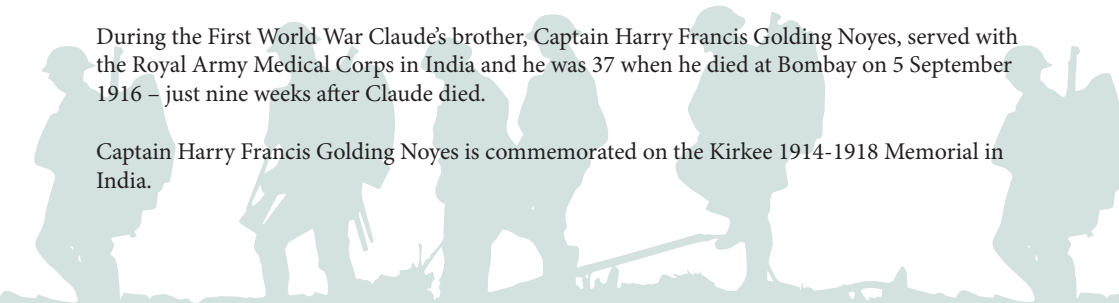
Claude Noyes was a teacher at Rockport during 1911/12 and, at the outbreak of war, he joined the Public Schools Battalion. He obtained a commission on 4 January 1915 (Supplement to the *London Gazette* 15 February 1915) and served with the 15th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers.

Second Lieutenant Claude Robert Barton Noyes was 27 when he was killed in action on 1 July 1916 whilst leading his men in an advance on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and he was buried in Lonsdale Cemetery.

Second Lieutenant Claude Robert Barton Noyes is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Sacred Trinity Church Salford, Manchester; in St Lawrence College Ramsgate, Kent and in Rockport School.

During the First World War Claude's brother, Captain Harry Francis Golding Noyes, served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in India and he was 37 when he died at Bombay on 5 September 1916 – just nine weeks after Claude died.

Captain Harry Francis Golding Noyes is commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial in India.





**O'Rorke, Daniel (served as O'Rourke, Daniel)****Lieutenant**

170th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

Killed in action on Tuesday 30 July 1918 (aged 21)

**Buried:**

Hedauville Communal Cemetery Extension, France (Grave E. 15)

**Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Holywood and District War Memorial

Helen's Bay Church of Ireland Church Credence Table

Helen's Bay Golf Club

Apprentices to Solicitors Memorial, Four Courts, Dublin

Rockport School



Daniel O'Rorke was born on 22 March 1897 at *Dunratho*, Craigavad, Holywood and he was a son of Ambrose Howard O'Rorke and Isabel Weldon White O'Rorke (nee Spinner, sometimes Whitespinner, sometimes Weldon) who were married on 14 April 1896 in Carrickfergus Roman Catholic Church. Daniel O'Rorke had one younger sister – Mary Oonagh Isabel (born 21 April 1899). Howard Ambrose O'Rorke was a solicitor and company director and Daniel was just four years old when his father died on 20 February 1902 (aged 45).

Daniel O'Rorke was educated at Rockport School and at Clongowes Wood College in County Kildare. He was a member of Helen's Bay Golf Club. Daniel O'Rorke received his commission early in the Great War and, after home training, was stationed in Gibraltar for two years.

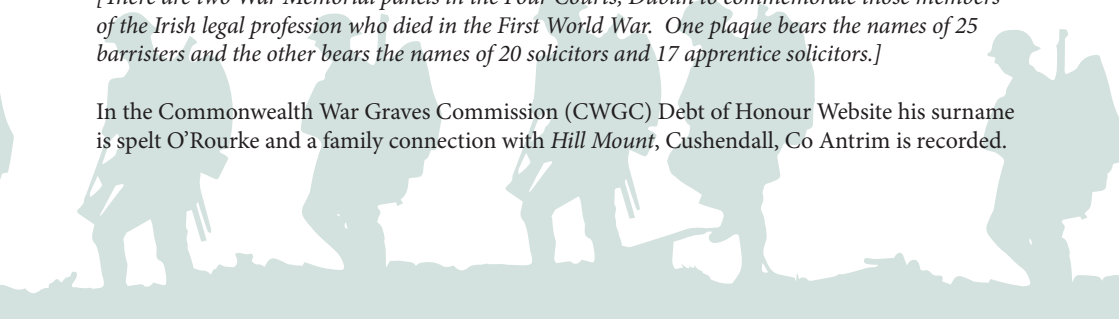
Daniel O'Rorke applied for active service and was posted to France. He was 21 when he was killed in action on 30 July 1918 whilst serving as a Lieutenant with the Royal Garrison Artillery. Lieutenant Daniel O'Rorke was buried in Hedauville Communal Cemetery Extension in France and there is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:

**THY WILL OH GOD  
NOT MINE BE DONE**

Lieutenant Daniel O'Rorke is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on Holywood and District War Memorial; on the Credence Table in Helen's Bay Church of Ireland Church (St John the Baptist); in Helen's Bay Golf Club; on the Apprentices to Solicitors Memorial, Four Courts, Dublin and in Rockport School.

*[There are two War Memorial panels in the Four Courts, Dublin to commemorate those members of the Irish legal profession who died in the First World War. One plaque bears the names of 25 barristers and the other bears the names of 20 solicitors and 17 apprentice solicitors.]*

In the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Debt of Honour Website his surname is spelt O'Rourke and a family connection with *Hill Mount*, Cushendall, Co Antrim is recorded.



## Patterson, Alexander (Alex)

### Rifleman

No. 18607, 'A' Company, 13th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles  
Killed in action on Monday 6 August 1917 (aged 24)

### Buried:

Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Belgium (Grave III. H. 14)

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Holywood and District War Memorial  
Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church (Holy Trinity)  
Rockport School



Alexander Patterson, known as Alex, was born on 23 December 1892 at Sion, Navan, County Meath and he was a son of William and Sarah Bowden Patterson (née Cooke) who were married on 16 September 1880 in Sandy Row Presbyterian Church Belfast.

William Patterson worked as a gardener for the Dunville family and in the 1880s/1890s he was working at *Sion House* in Navan. *Sion House* was one of the residences of the Dunville family and was used by them as a base for their pursuit of hunting.

*[John Dunville Dunville, father of John Spencer Dunville VC, was brought up partly at Redburn House, Holywood and partly at Sion House, Navan. John Dunville Dunville was Master of the Meath Hounds from 1911 to 1915.]*

By 1901 William and Sarah Patterson and two of their sons, Sam and Alex, were living in *Arndnalea Cottage*, Craigavad. William and Sarah Patterson (née Cooke) had seven children but by 1911 four of their seven children had died.

Prior to the outbreak of the Great War brothers Alex and Sam Patterson both worked as gardeners and they were active members of their local company of the Ulster Volunteer Force. Alex Patterson worked as an under-gardener at Rockport School. Both men enlisted in September 1914 in Holywood and then trained at Clandeboye Camp. Sam was drafted to India and Alex went to France with 108th Brigade in the 36th (Ulster) Division.

Both men were accomplished musicians and Sam played in his Regimental Band. Alex was described in Glencraig Parish Magazine as '*a splendid specimen of robust manhood*' and went into the fighting line.

Rifleman Alexander Patterson was wounded in action on 14 February 1917 and then, after two years at the Front, he was killed in action on 6 August 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres.

Rifleman Alexander Patterson was 24 when he died, and he was buried in Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Belgium. There is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:

**SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS**

Rifleman Alexander Patterson is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on Holywood and District War Memorial; in Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church (Holy Trinity) and in Rockport School.

## SECOND WORLD WAR

Seventeen Rockportians died during the Second World War; eight soldiers, seven airmen and two seamen. Their ages ranged from 20 to 41 and all are commemorated on the Second World War Memorial Plaque in Rockport School.

### **Adams, Kenneth Duncan (Kenneth)**

**Pilot Officer (formerly Captain, Royal Artillery)**

**No. 106212, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve**

**Killed on active service on Sunday 25 January 1942 (aged 31)**

### **Buried:**

**Lisbon (St. George) British Churchyard, Portugal  
(Plot G1 Front Row Grave 16)**

### **Commemorated:**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Campbell College Belfast  
Rockport School**



Kenneth Duncan Adams, known as Kenneth, was born on 2 August 1910 at 6 Eileen Gardens, Windsor Park, Belfast and he was a son of William George Duncan Adams and Wilhelmina (Mina) Adams (née Stafford) who were married on 27 April 1904 in Osborne Park Methodist Church, Belfast. The Adams family lived in Belfast, at 6 Eileen Gardens, at 15 Windsor Park and later at *The Hill*, Newforge, Malone Road. William George Duncan Adams was a linen merchant and his business was in Adelaide Street, Belfast. William and Mina Adams had at least three children: Arthur William Stafford (born 4 April 1906); Margaret Kathleen (born 10 April 1909) and Kenneth Duncan (born 2 August 1910).

Kenneth Adams attended Rockport School and Campbell College, Belfast. His older brother, Arthur William Stafford Adams, also attended Campbell College. Kenneth's father died at *The Hill*, Newforge on 3 August 1940 (aged 61) and was buried in Belfast City Cemetery (Glenalina Extension Grave H. 88). His mother was living in *Rock Cottage*, Quintin, Portaferry when she died on 15 February 1973 (aged 97) and she was buried in the same grave. Kenneth's brother, Arthur William Stafford Adams, died on 8 November 1988 (aged 82) and was buried with his parents.

Before joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Kenneth Adams was a Captain in the Royal Artillery. He and Patricia Harrison of Kings Worthy, Winchester in Hampshire were married on 7 January 1942 in St. Mary's Church, Kings Worthy. Less than three weeks later, Kenneth was killed and, after Kenneth died, Patricia lived in Prestbury, Cheshire.

Pilot Officer Kenneth Duncan Adams was 31 when he died on 25 January 1942. He was one of a crew of six aboard a Vickers Wellington IC aircraft (Z9098) that was on its way from RAF Portreath in Cornwall to Gibraltar. As they were flying over the British Armed Boarding Vessel (ABV) HMS *Loch Oskraig* near Cape Carvoeiro in Portugal, shots fired in error from the ship's anti-aircraft guns hit the aircraft. When they tried to land on a beach near Sesimbra, four of the crew were killed. Sergeant John Kevin Evans and Sergeant Leonard Francis James Harris were severely wounded.

In addition to Pilot Officer Kenneth Duncan Adams, the other three crew members who died were:

- Sergeant Noel Arnold Graystone (aged 25) from Purley, Surrey
- Sergeant Hugh Berry (aged 21) from Fishponds, Bristol
- Sergeant Thomas Patrick McBride (aged 24) from Bexleyheath, Kent

Sergeant Harris recovered from his injuries but was subsequently killed in action on 15 April 1943 and was buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany.

Pilot Officer Kenneth Duncan Adams is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and in both Rockport School and Campbell College. There is an inscription on his CWGC headstone in Lisbon (St. George) British Churchyard, Portugal:

*LET NO MAN FORGET THE SUPREME SACRIFICE MADE FOR FREEDOM  
REST IN PEACE*

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## **Campbell, Ian Alexander Calthrop (Ian)**

**Flying Officer (Pilot)**

No. 127887, 111 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died attempting to escape on Thursday 9 December 1943  
(aged 21)

### **Buried:**

Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy (Grave XI. C. 7)

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Wellington College, Berkshire  
Rockport School



Ian Alexander Calthrop Campbell, known as Ian, was born in Bengal, India on 2 November 1922 and he was the younger son of Major General James Alexander Campbell DSO (born 3 December 1886) and Violet Constance Madeline Campbell (née Calthrop). James Alexander Campbell was divorced when he and Violet Calthrop were married on 16 July 1920 in Lansdowne, Bengal. James Campbell had been in the Suffolk Regiment when he and Freda Massingberd Leith-Hay Clark were married on 1 June 1911 in the Parish Church of St. Peter, Pimlico, London.

James and Violet Campbell had two sons: Gordon Thomas Calthrop (born 8 June 1921 in Quetta, India) and Ian Alexander Calthrop (born 2 November 1922). Major General James Alexander Campbell DSO retired in 1944 and died on 3 February 1964. Violet Constance Madeline Campbell died in 1978.

Ian Campbell and his brother Gordon both attended Rockport and, at that time, the family address was *Rush Park* in Whitehouse, Co. Antrim. After leaving Rockport, Ian Campbell

attended Wellington College in Berkshire where he won the Gibson Medal for physical training and the Pender Prize for Natural History. He became a Prefect, played hockey for the school and when he left was Second-in-Command of the Air Training Corps (ATC). Ian went to RAF Valley in Anglesey and trained at Cambridge and in the United States. He served in Malta and Italy.

Flying Officer Ian Alexander Calthrop Campbell was a Spitfire pilot and he was captured after he bailed out of his aircraft when it was burning out of control over Italy. He was 21 when he died on 9 December 1943 after being shot while trying to escape from his German captors. He was buried in the Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Wellington College, Berkshire and in Rockport School. There is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:

**FEARLESS AND FAITHFUL TO HIS DUTY  
EVEN UNTO DEATH**

Gordon Thomas Calthrop Campbell MC also served during the Second World War and, after a bullet severed his sciatic nerve, he was partially disabled for the rest of his life. He followed a diplomatic and then a political career becoming Secretary of State for Scotland in Prime Minister Edward Heath's Conservative Government. He was appointed to the House of Lords as Baron Campbell of Croy and died in 2005.

## **Carr, John**

**Lieutenant (A)**

**HMS *Goshawk*, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve**

**Died as a result of enemy action on Friday 17 January 1941  
(aged 33)**

**No known grave**

### **Commemorated:**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Hampshire, England (Bay 2 Panel 6)**

**Rockport School**



John Carr was born on 16 May 1908 at *Blythswood*, 16 Deramore Drive, Belfast and he was a son of Thomas James and Mary Carr (née Workman). Thomas James Carr was a stockbroker and he and Mary Workman were married on 4 June 1907 in Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church, Belfast. They had at least three children: John (born 16 May 1908); Thomas James (born 21 September 1909) and Samuel (born 4 July 1913). John and Thomas James Carr Junior both attended Rockport.

Thomas James Carr Senior died on 20 December 1956 (aged 83) and Mary Carr died on 12 November 1974 (aged 91). Both were buried in Belfast City Cemetery (Glenalina Extension).

During the Second World War, Lieutenant John Carr was assigned to HMS *Goshawk* which was a Royal Naval Air Station at Piarco in Trinidad and he was killed when travelling to Piarco aboard the SS *Almeda Star*. The SS *Almeda Star* was built in 1926 by Cammell Laird and Company, Birkenhead and owned by the Blue Star Line in London. The SS *Almeda Star* was torpedoed on 17 January 1941 by the German Submarine *U-96* about 350 miles west of the island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides when on route from Liverpool to Buenos Aires via Trinidad.

At 7.45 am on 17 January 1941 the SS *Almeda Star* stopped after being hit amidsthips. The submarine fired two further torpedoes and then surfaced to shell the ship. Another torpedo fired at 9.55 am hit the fore section of the SS *Almeda Star* causing her to sink. The master, 136 crew members, 29 gunners and 194 passengers were lost; there were no survivors. Among the passengers were 21 officers and 121 ratings of 749, 750 and 752 Fleet Air Arm Squadrons. Lieutenant John Carr was 33 when he died and his body was never recovered. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial in Hampshire and in Rockport School.

## **Cutler, Robert Henry (Tabby)**

**Major (demobilised)**

**King's African Rifles**

Died as a result of an aircraft accident on Thursday 12 July 1945  
(aged 41)

### **Buried:**

City Park Cemetery, Nairobi, Kenya (Section 3 Lot 75)

### **Commemorated:**

Groomsport and District War Memorial

Groomsport Parish Church of Ireland Church

Rockport School



Robert Henry Cutler, known as Tabby, was born at 7 Shandon Park, Belfast on 21 June 1904 and he was the only son of Henry Albert Cutler and Julia Frances Mabel Cutler (née Atkinson). Both of his parents were born in England and his father was a civil engineer. Henry Albert Cutler and Julia Frances Mabel Atkinson were married on 22 June 1903 in Marmullane Parish Church of Ireland Church, Co Cork. The Cutler family moved to Belfast where Henry Albert Cutler held the position of City Surveyor. Robert Henry Cutler's sister, Nora Mabel Cutler, was born on 28 November 1905, also at 7 Shandon Park.

The Cutler family lived in Groomsport during the summer months and in 1913 Robert Henry Cutler attended Rockport as a day boy. He was a keen yachtsman. Later he obtained an MA degree from Cambridge University and lived in London until 1928 when he moved to Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in East Africa to take up the post of Superintendent of Education. In 1930, he and Ruth Wyckham Hewlet-Cooper were married in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika and they had two children.

At the outbreak of the Second World War Robert Henry Cutler joined the Army and served with the King's African Rifles in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) before assuming special training



duties with the askari (local soldiers). When Major Robert Henry Cutler was demobilised in January 1944 he received a letter from General Sir Bernard Paget who was 'General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, East Africa Command'. The letter included the paragraph, *'It having been found necessary in the general interest of the War Effort that you should return to civil life and duty, I wish to tell you how much I regret the severance of your connection with the troops of the East Africa Command and, at the same time, thank you very sincerely for your valuable services with the Army'*.

*[It may be of passing interest to note that Sir Bernard Paget's younger son, Lieutenant Tony Paget, died on 5 March 1945 from wounds received while serving with the 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (the 43rd) during the Battle of Reichswald.]*

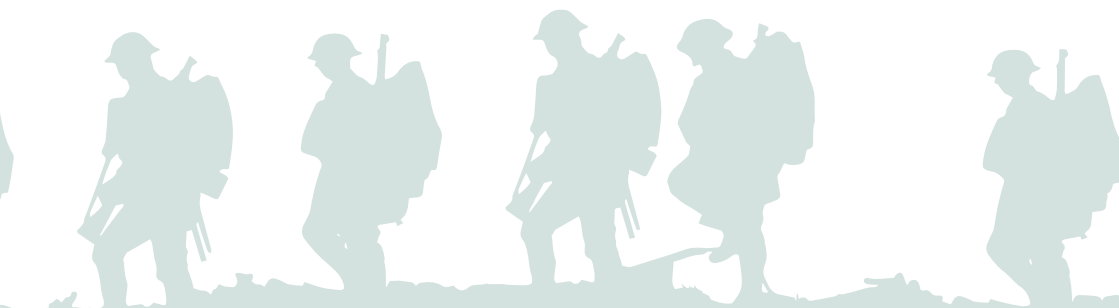
After he was demobilised in January 1944, Major Robert Henry Cutler was appointed Director of Training in Tanganyika's demobilisation scheme and he was 41 when he died in Nairobi, Kenya on 12 July 1945. He was buried in Nairobi City Park Cemetery.

In the 13 July 1945 edition of the *Tanganyika Standard* it was reported that there were no survivors when an aeroplane crashed the previous day while attempting to take off from Eastleigh Aerodrome, Nairobi. *'Amongst the eleven people who died was Mr R.H. Cutler, Director of Training in Tanganyika's demobilisation scheme and formerly Education Officer'*.

In January 1946, Major Cutler's colleagues presented eight Provincial Challenge Shields as a tribute to his memory:

*'We, the colleagues of R.H. 'Tabby' Cutler including past and present members of the Headquarters Staff, European, Asian and African, and the staffs of the Dar es Salaam, Mpwapwa, Mwanza, Tanga, Tabora, Malangali, Moshi, Kashasha and Southern Province schools, present, as a tribute to his memory eight Provincial Challenge Shields for Handicrafts, to be known as the Cutler Memorial Shields. We wish these shields to be open for competition each year by the African schools of each Province in Tanganyika Territory, and we hope that the resulting Annual Handicrafts Competitions and Exhibitions, either by themselves or through the development of similar competitions open to the schools of each District, will do much to foster the practical side of Education in which Mr Cutler took so great an interest'.*

Major Robert Henry Cutler is commemorated on Groomsport and District War Memorial; in Groomsport Parish Church of Ireland Church and in Rockport School.



## Harrison, Richard John Michael (Michael)

Lieutenant

No. 320633, 4th Battalion, Coldstream Guards

Killed on active service on Thursday 1 March 1945 (aged 20)



### Buried:

Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany (Grave 43. B. 7)

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Bangor Parish Church of Ireland Church (St. Comgall's)

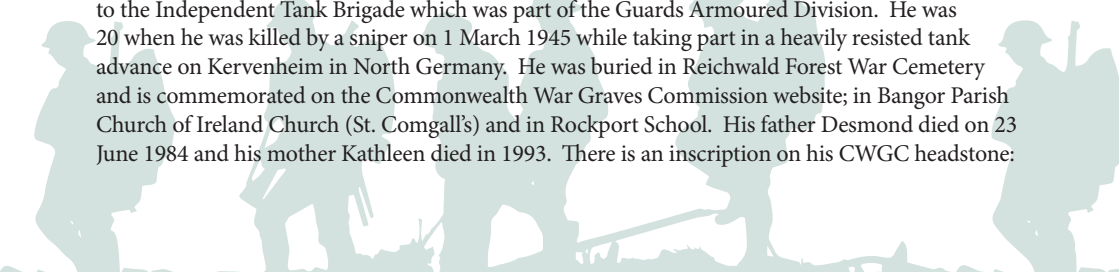
Rockport School

Richard John Michael Harrison, known as Michael, was born on 6 September 1924 and he was the elder son of Major General Desmond Harrison CB, DSO and Kathleen Frances Harrison (née Hazley) who lived at *Shalom*, 52 Bryansburn Road, Bangor. Desmond Harrison was born in County Kilkenny and served in France and Palestine during the First World War. Desmond was a Lieutenant when he and Kathleen Hazley were married on 8 December 1920 in Bangor Parish Church of Ireland Church (St. Comgall's) and they had four children: Desmond Roger Wingate; Patricia Katharine (Patsy, born 30 October 1922); Richard John Michael (born 6 September 1924) and Felicity Mary (born 17 February 1926), all of whom attended Rockport School. The two girls attended Rockport because their friend Mercy Bing, daughter of the then Headmaster, Geoffrey Bing, was being educated there.

Michael Harrison was Head Boy at Rockport and then Head of his House at Rugby School. He was a keen ornithologist and a skilled fisherman. Michael Harrison had a classical scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford but instead of going there to read Japanese (he was an accomplished linguist) he went straight into the Army and entered Sandhurst in May 1943.

During the Second World War, Michael's father, Major General Desmond Harrison CB DSO was Chief Engineer in Lord Louis Mountbatten's South East Asia Command; his mother Kathleen was the Personnel Officer in the Short and Harland Glen Works in Newtownards; his maternal grandfather, William Hazley, owned a linen business in Belfast and his maternal grandmother was a sister of Canon Bradley of Bangor Parish Church; his uncle, Richard (Dick) Harrison was Police Commissioner in Belfast; his sister Felicity Harrison (later Preedy) served with the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), first in Sydenham, Belfast then in Leeds and then in Donibristle, Dunfermline; his sister Patsy Harrison (later Dingwall) was a Land Girl in England. Michael's mother retired to Alresford in Hampshire.

Lieutenant Richard John Michael Harrison served in the Coldstream Guards and was posted to the Independent Tank Brigade which was part of the Guards Armoured Division. He was 20 when he was killed by a sniper on 1 March 1945 while taking part in a heavily resisted tank advance on Kervenheim in North Germany. He was buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Bangor Parish Church of Ireland Church (St. Comgall's) and in Rockport School. His father Desmond died on 23 June 1984 and his mother Kathleen died in 1993. There is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:



**RIVERS HE LOVED, LAUGHTER AND BIRDSONG,  
THE SEA AND THE QUIET HILLS**

Lieutenant Richard John Michael Harrison loved poetry and kept hand-written copies of some of his favourites in a small notebook – poems by W.H. Auden, Walter de la Mare, T.S. Eliot and others. He always carried the notebook with him into battle and, after he was killed, it was found and returned to his family.

## **Haslett, Colin William Horner**

**Sub-Lieutenant**

**HMS *Quebec*, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve**  
**Killed in action on Wednesday 19 August 1942**  
**(aged 21)**

**No known grave**

### **Commemorated:**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission**  
**Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, England (Panel 71 Column 1)**  
**Rockport School**



Colin William Horner Haslett was born on 8 May 1921 and he was a son of James Ross Haslett and Ethel Margaret Haslett (née Rea) of Killeague, Greenisland, Co. Antrim. James Ross Haslett was a merchant and he and Ethel Margaret Rea were married on 17 February 1909 in Whitehouse Presbyterian Church, Newtownabbey. Colin William Horner Haslett was a grandson of Sir James Horner Haslett, an Irish Conservative politician who sat in the House of Commons from 1885 until 1886. Sir James Horner Haslett was Mayor of Belfast in 1887 (the year he was knighted) and again in 1888; his statue stands outside Belfast City Hall.

Colin William Horner Haslett and his brother, James Desmond Rea Haslett (born 4 October 1914) both attended Rockport School. Colin William Horner Haslett also attended Sedbergh School in Cumbria from 1936 until 1939 and then joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Initially he was with HMS *King Alfred*, the RNVR officers' training establishment at Hove in Sussex and from there he went to HMS *Prosperine* at Scapa Flow.

Sub-Lieutenant Colin William Horner Haslett went to HMS *Quebec* which was part of the No. 1 Combined Training Centre (CTC) situated at Inveraray in Scotland.

*[The Royal Navy presence at Inveraray took the form of a Naval Staff, under a Captain RN, working directly to the Commandant. A few miles to the south was the large naval establishment called HMS Quebec, also under a Naval Captain who, because of his seniority, was also Naval Officer in Charge (NOIC) Inveraray. The primary role of HMS Quebec was to provide and maintain craft for training operations and to accommodate personnel drafted in for the training of units at the CTC.]*

Sub-Lieutenant Colin William Horner Haslett was 21 when he was killed by a sniper on 19 August 1942 during *Operation Jubilee*, the raid on Dieppe. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial in Hampshire and in Rockport School.

## Henderson, Hubert

### Captain

No. 137933, 2nd Battalion, the London Irish Rifles,  
Royal Ulster Rifles

Killed in action on Thursday 21 January 1943  
(aged 34)

No known grave

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Medjez-el-Bab Memorial, Tunisia (Face 30)

Family headstone in Alloway Parish Church Graveyard

Rockport School

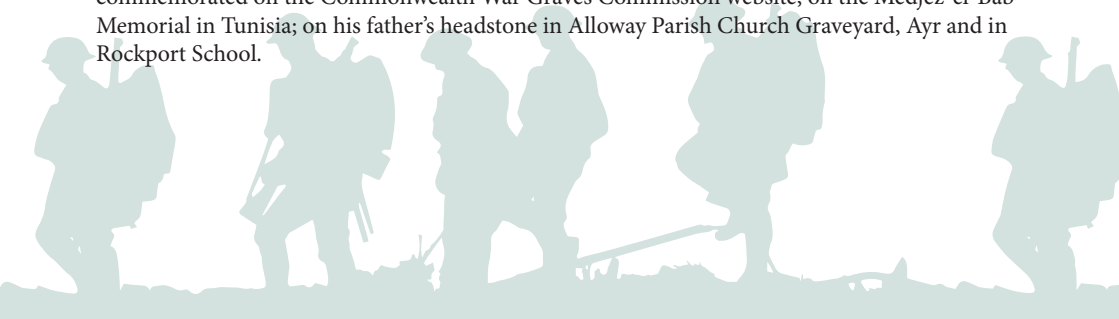


Hubert Henderson was born on 20 October 1908 in Blyth, Northumberland and his birth was registered in Tynemouth. He was a son of Ephraim McMurtrie Henderson (born in Ayr) and Sarah Henderson (née Steel) who were married on 31 January 1907 in St. Leonard's Church of Scotland, Ayr. Sarah was a daughter of Gilbert Steel who worked as a horse trainer.

Hubert was less than five months old when his father died. Ephraim Henderson was a medical practitioner and he died on 18 March 1909 (aged 35) at Newsham, Northumberland. Dr Ephraim Henderson was buried in Alloway Parish Church Graveyard in Ayr. Sarah Henderson subsequently married Robert James Adams, a linen manufacturer, and they lived at *Moyola*, 21 Adelaide Park, Belfast. Hubert Henderson attended Rockport and, after he left school, worked as a linen salesman. Between 1930 and 1932 he travelled regularly in that capacity between Belfast and New York, USA.

Hubert Henderson's marriage to Eila P. Bryce was registered in the second quarter of 1934 in Kensington, London and they lived at 49 Godfrey Street, Chelsea. During the Second World War, Captain Hubert Henderson served with the London Irish Rifles, Royal Ulster Rifles and in November 1942 the London Irish Rifles left Glasgow on route for North Africa. When they entered Tunisia, heavy rain had turned the ground into a quagmire and conditions were atrocious. Tanks got stuck in the mud and 'H' Company was involved in the task of retrieving them. Subsequently 'H' Company was ordered forward to take Hill 286 and Captain Hubert Henderson was second in command of 'H' Company when he was killed during the fighting on Hill 286. He had made a will and probate was granted to his widow, Eila Henderson, and his mother, Sarah Adams.

Captain Hubert Henderson was 34 when he died, and he has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Medjez-el-Bab Memorial in Tunisia; on his father's headstone in Alloway Parish Church Graveyard, Ayr and in Rockport School.



## King, Neville Stuart

### Flying Officer

No. 112178, 603 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Killed on active service on Wednesday 8 July 1942

(aged 29)

No known grave

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Malta Memorial, Valetta, Malta (Panel 3 Column 1)

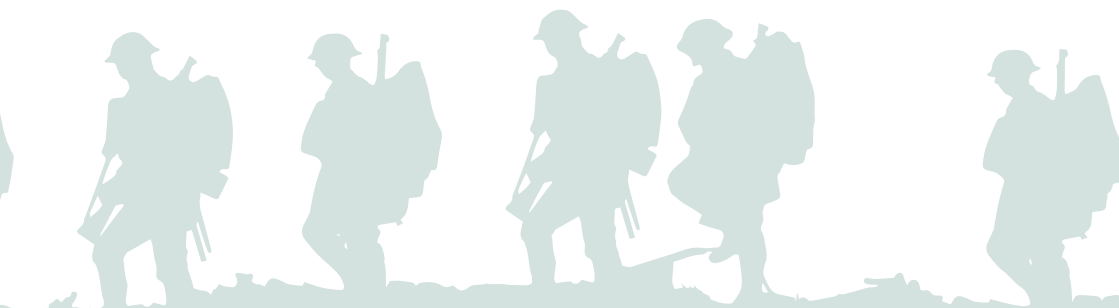
Rockport School



Neville Stuart King was born on 24 March 1913 at *Carndonagh*, Foxrock, Killiney, Dublin and he was a son of Jonas Lowcay King (named as Joseph Lowry King in CWGC records) and Charlotte Mary King (née Stack). Charlotte was a daughter of the Rev Thomas Lindsay Stack. Jonas Lowcay King, who was a son of the Rev Robert King, worked as a Local Government auditor and he and Charlotte Mary Stack were married on 4 July 1900 in Lower Langfield Parish Church of Ireland Church, Drumquin, Co. Tyrone (where Charlotte's father served for a time as Rector). They had four children: Nancie Mary Valentine (Nannie, born 14 February 1903); Harriette Doreen (born 3 October 1905); Carlotta Joan Stuart (born 22 November 1910) and Neville Stuart (born 24 March 1913).

For a time, the King family lived at Martello, Holywood and Neville Stuart King attended Rockport. Jonas Lowcay King was 60 when he died at Martello on 2 October 1927.

Neville Stuart King married Brenda Howarth of Leeds, Yorkshire and their marriage was registered in the third quarter of 1939 in Leeds. At that time, he was a policeman in the Metropolitan Police. During the Second World War, he served with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was 29 when he was killed on 8 July 1942. Neville Stuart King was flying a Supermarine Spitfire aircraft in pursuit of a German Junkers Ju 88 aircraft over Gozo and, when turning to return to base, was flying so low that a wing tip touched the water and his aircraft crashed. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Malta Memorial and in Rockport School.



## Lorimer, Robert Lawrie (Lawrie)

**Flying Officer**

No. 37731, 1 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Killed in action on Tuesday 14 May 1940 (aged 25)

No known grave

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, England (Panel 6)

Campbell College

Rockport School



Robert Lawrie Lorimer, known as Lawrie, was born on 24 June 1914 in Cleveland, Johannesburg, South Africa and he was baptised in St. Patrick's Church, Cleveland. He was a son of George Hill Lorimer and Jane (Janie) Lorimer (née Lawrie), both originally from Ireland although they were married on 3 January 1905 in Cleveland, South Africa. George Hill Lorimer was a mining engineer in a goldmine on the Rand and he died of pneumonia on 29 May 1916 in Johannesburg. During the Siege of Kimberley in 1899/1900 George Lorimer had served as a Private in the Premier Mine Town Guard.

After George Lorimer died, Janie returned to Ireland from South Africa with her two young children: Joan (born 24 July 1909) and Lawrie. They lived at *Craig Royston*, Cultra and later in College Gardens, Belfast. Lawrie's sister Joan married Lieutenant Noel Montgomery Neely who served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War (aboard HMS *Circe*). Lieutenant Noel Neely was killed on 23 April 1944.

Lawrie Lorimer attended Rockport from 1925 until 1928 and Campbell College, Belfast from 1928 until 1931. At Campbell, he was in Price's House and a bugler in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Band. When he left school, Lawrie worked in insurance from 1932 until 1933. He joined the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1933 and was bought out after three months. He then worked in the motor trade until 1935, joined the RAF in 1936 and was commissioned Pilot Officer. He underwent basic flight training at RAF Brough in Yorkshire and from 1937 until 1939 served with 87 (F) Squadron at RAF Debden in Essex where he flew Gloster Gladiator aircraft. He was part of a three-man aerobatic team that performed with the wing tips of their aircraft tied together with bunting. It is on record that one of their displays was performed at Villacoublay near Paris.

In 1939 Lawrie Lorimer went to France with 85 Squadron and in 1940 he was with 1 Squadron in Fighter Command when he was killed on 14 May 1940 near Sedan. He was flying a Hawker Hurricane Mark 1 aircraft (L1676) on a patrol mission when he was shot down in combat. His body was never recovered and a short tribute was published in the December 1940 edition of *The Campbellian*:

*'Lawrie (spelt Laurie in the report) Lorimer as a small boy had an infinite capacity for making a mess of things and getting into scrapes. But he was always eminently likeable. His first few years after leaving school were unsettled: a few months in an insurance office, out of which he walked one afternoon to join the ranks of the Ulster Rifles; two or three months as a private before he was*



*bought out; and then a couple of years as an apprentice in a motor works where, if you believed his own accounts, he spent most of his time dropping irreplaceable nuts into inaccessible places.*

*Then he obtained a commission in the RAF, and found himself. When he visited Campbell last spring it was difficult to remember the scatterbrained small boy in the self-assured, clearly competent young officer, second in command of a fighter squadron in France. But the new efficiency had not banished the old charm, that charm which made it so hard to strafe him at school and so delightful to spend an afternoon with him in a small boat on his native waters of Belfast Lough'.*

Flying Officer Robert Lawrie Lorimer was 25 when he was killed and he is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey; in Campbell College and in Rockport School.

His mother Janie lived at 8 Diamond Gardens, Finaghy and she died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast on 2 June 1943 (aged 72). Janie Lorimer was buried in Belfast City Cemetery (Grave J1 66).

## **Rothwell, Brian Thomas Stewart**

**Lieutenant**

No. 190207, 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Killed in action on Monday 19 July 1943 (aged 21)

### **Buried:**

Catania War Cemetery, Sicily (Grave II. G. 17)

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Trinity College, Dublin

Rockport School



Brian Thomas Stewart Rothwell was born in Dublin on 14 October 1921 and he was the third son of Lieutenant Colonel William Edward Rothwell DSO and Frances Violet Rothwell (née Poole) of Terenure, Dublin and later Ormeau Road, Belfast. They were married on 15 December 1915 in St Peter's Church of Ireland Church Dublin. Brian Thomas Stewart Rothwell was a grandson of Dr and Mrs Jonas Poole of 49 Adelaide Park, Belfast. Both Brian Thomas Stewart Rothwell and his brother, John Edward Desmond Rothwell (born in 1920 in Sealkote, India) attended Rockport.

During the Second World War, Lieutenant Brian Thomas Stewart Rothwell served with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and he was 21 when he died on 19 July 1943 during fighting at the Simento River in Sicily. He was buried in Catania War Cemetery, Sicily and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Rockport School and in Trinity College, Dublin. There is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:

**SPLENDID YOU PASSED, THE GREAT SURRENDER MADE,  
INTO THE LIGHT THAT NEVERMORE SHALL FADE**

## Scott, Robert Norman Cecil (Robin)

**Second Lieutenant**

No. 89740, 10 Battery, 3 Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery

Killed in action on Monday 27 May 1940 (aged 23)

No known grave

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France (Column 7)

St Bartholomew's Church of Ireland Church, Stranmillis Road, Belfast

Rockport School



Robert Norman Cecil Scott, known as Robin, was born on 26 July 1916 and he was a son of Robert Norman Cecil Scott and Alice Demaus Scott (née Vivash). Robert Norman Cecil Scott Senior was an oil and hardware merchant in Belfast and, he and Alice Vivash were married on 31 July 1915 in St. George's Church of Ireland Church, Belfast. They lived at *Eisleben House*, Stranmillis Road, Belfast and they had three children: Robert Norman Cecil (born 26 July 1916); John Arthur Stewart (born 1918) and Mary Christine (born 17 June 1928).

Robert Norman Cecil Scott attended Rockport and later played hockey for the Lisnagarvey Club. On 1 September 1937 he joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper (No. 2044463) and was based in a Territorial Army Unit in Newtownards. On 1 April 1939 he was commissioned from Sapper to Second Lieutenant and went overseas with the British Expeditionary Force on 14 December 1939.

Second Lieutenant Robert Norman Cecil Scott was 23 when he was killed on 27 May 1940 during the Dunkirk evacuation. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Dunkirk Memorial in France; on a Pulpit and Memorial Plaque in St Bartholomew's Church of Ireland Church, Stranmillis Road, Belfast and in Rockport School.

Second Lieutenant Robert Norman Cecil Scott's uncle (his mother's brother), Chief Engine Room Artificer Bernard Christopher Vivash, died in service on 1 April 1944 (aged 54).



## Shillington, Thomas (Tom)

### Trooper

No. 7942895, 8th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps  
Killed on active service on Tuesday 3 November 1942 (aged 29)

No known grave

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Alamein Memorial, Egypt (Column 24)

Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church (Holy Trinity)

Trinity College, Dublin

Rockport School

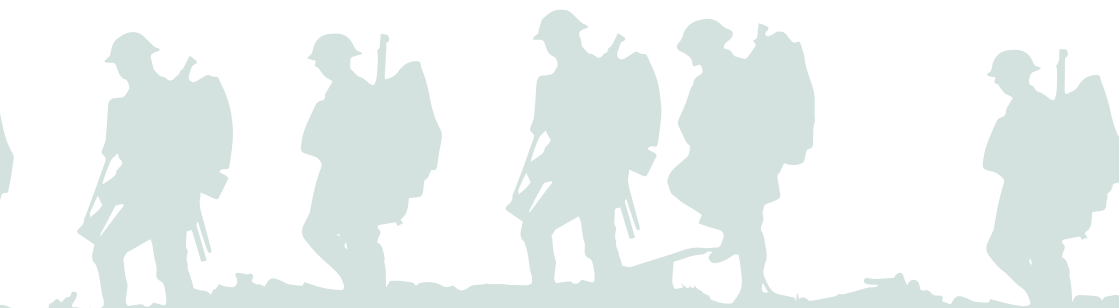


Thomas Shillington, known as Tom, was born on 27 September 1913 at 6 Deramore Drive, Belfast and he was a son of Thomas Averell Shillington (a linen manufacturer and merchant who was born in County Armagh) and Margaret Shillington (née McDougall who was born in England). Their marriage was registered in the second quarter of 1908 in Woolwich, London and they lived at *Greenoge*, Deramore Drive, Belfast; later at *Ardkeen*, Craigavad, Co. Down.

Both Tom and his brother, James Averell Shillington (born 14 August 1910) attended Rockport. After obtaining a degree from Trinity College Dublin, Tom Shillington dedicated his life to Moral Rearmament through the Oxford Group founded by Frank Buchman. His brother James was a solicitor's apprentice when he (James) obtained his pilot's licence on 14 August 1937 (his 27th birthday). Their sister, Edith Margaret Shillington was born on 23 May 1915.

During the Second World War Tom Shillington served with the 8th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps and he was 26 when he died in the Western Desert on 3 November 1942. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt. Trooper Thomas Shillington is also commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Rockport School; in Trinity College Dublin and in Glencraig Parish Church of Ireland Church (Holy Trinity).

His mother Margaret died on 19 February 1951 (aged 76) and was buried in Bangor Cemetery. His father Thomas died on 14 September 1951 (aged 77).



## Sinton, Arthur Buckby (Arthur)

**Flying Officer**

No. 119279, 515 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Killed on active service on Saturday 26 June 1943 (aged 28)

No known grave

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, England (Panel 129)

RAF Hunsdon Memorial Plaque, Hertfordshire (unveiled 22 May 2005)

Royal County Down Golf Club

Family grave headstone in Friends Burial Ground, Moyallan, Co. Down

Rockport School



Arthur Buckby Sinton, known as Arthur, was born on 3 August 1914 and he was a son of Frederick Buckby Sinton and Hannah Maria Sinton (née Woods) who lived in *Banford House*, Knockagore, Gilford, Co. Down. They were married on 6 November 1912 in Friends Meeting House, Churchtown, Dublin and they had three children: Thomas Tertius (born 13 January 1913); Arthur Buckby (born 3 August 1914) and Margaret Greville (born 12 June 1917).

Frederick Buckby Sinton had previously been married to Edith Uprichard Woods. They were married on 8 March 1899 in Friends Meeting House, Churchtown, Dublin and they had five children: Annie Dorothy (born 14 January 1900); Elizabeth Maud (born 17 February 1901); Edith Marjorie (born 13 June 1902); Frederick Maynard (born 29 March 1904) and Rosemary Buckby (born 8 August 1907).

Arthur Sinton attended Rockport and then Shrewsbury School. He was a keen golfer. After leaving school he joined his father in the Sinton linen business and, in 1938, he went with friends on a motoring trip across Europe. At the outbreak of war, he joined a Royal Artillery Searchlight Battalion.

Arthur Sinton and Vera Wilson Smyth were married on 2 May 1940 in Belfast and they had two children: David Frederick and Vera May, who was born four days before her father died. Their home address was Gilford, Co. Down, although Arthur was rarely there because of his active service.

During the Second World War Arthur was transferred to the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and he served in 515 Squadron. From October 1942, this Squadron used Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) to jam enemy radar installations. Flying Officer Arthur Buckby Sinton was one of a two-man crew aboard a Boulton Paul Defiant Mark II aircraft (AA572) that took off from RAF Coltishall in Norfolk and was shot down over Zeeland in the Netherlands by a German night fighter. Flying Officer Sinton was the pilot and the other crew member who died that night was the air gunner, Pilot Officer Leonard Arthur Johnson (aged 31) from West Bergholt, Essex.

Pilot Officer Johnson's body was recovered and buried in Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery. Flying Officer Arthur Buckby Sinton was 28 when he died on 26 June 1943 and his body was never recovered. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey; on the Memorial Plaque at RAF Hunsdon in Hertfordshire which was unveiled on 22 May 2005; in Rockport School; on the Memorial Plaque

in Royal County Down Golf Clubhouse and on the family grave headstone in Friends Burial Ground, Moyallan, Co. Down.

Flying Officer Arthur Buckby Sinton's father, Frederick Buckby Sinton, died on 25 June 1943 (aged 73), the day before Arthur was killed.

## **Steele-Nicholson, John Edwin Charles Averell (John)**

**Sergeant (Air Gunner)**

No. 1591275, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Killed in an aircraft accident on Monday 14 September 1942  
(aged 20)

### **Buried:**

Kirkinner Cemetery, Wigtownshire, Scotland (Grave 604)

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Dungannon and District War Memorial

Moy and District War Memorial

Trent College, Long Eaton, Derbyshire

Rockport School



John Edwin Charles Averell Steele-Nicholson, known as John, was born in India on 1 August 1922 and he was a son of Robert Charles Henry (Charles) and Lydia Mary Noel Amelia (Ivy) Steele-Nicholson (née Lloyd) of *Ballow House*, Bangor. John's uncles, Alfred Francis James Steele-Nicholson and William Herbert Hamilton Steele-Nicholson, were killed on active service during the First World War.

John's father was a Tea Planter in India (on the Jamirah Tea Estate in Dibrugarh, Assam) and in March 1920 he sailed from Calcutta to London aboard the *City of Marseilles* to prepare for his wedding. Robert Charles Henry (Charles) Steele-Nicholson and Lydia Mary Noel Amelia (Ivy) Lloyd were married on 18 August 1920 in Killyman Parish Church of Ireland Church (St. Andrew's), Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

Charles Steele-Nicholson (born 1 October 1897 at *Ballow House*, Bangor) was a son of James and Maria Steele-Nicholson (née Macartney). Ivy Lloyd (born 24 December 1893 in Benburb) was a daughter of Averell and Harriet Lloyd (née Irwin) and she was a sister of Richard Averell (Dickie) Lloyd who played rugby and cricket for Ireland. Averell Lloyd was agent for the Bruce Estate in Benburb and, after his father Richard died, Averell took over the Lloyd family farm at *Tamnamore House*, Tamnamore, Killyman, Dungannon.

In September 1920, the newly-weds travelled from Liverpool to Calcutta aboard the *City of Exeter*. Charles was 42 and Ivy was 26. In May 1924, Ivy and her two children, Kathleen (aged 2) and John (aged 1), sailed from Calcutta to London aboard the *Margha*. The Steele-Nicholson family travelled regularly between India and Britain; in November 1929 Charles and Ivy with Elfreda (aged 5) sailed from London to Bombay aboard the *Rajputana* and in February 1932 Ivy and Elfreda (aged 7) sailed from London to Bombay aboard the *Ranchi*.

Charles and Ivy Steele-Nicholson (née Lloyd) had four children: Harriet Kathleen (born around 1921 in India); John Edwin Charles Averell (born 1 August 1922 in India); Elfreda (born 4 August 1924 in Belfast) and Richard James Henry (James, born 5 May 1934).

After the Steele-Nicholson family returned from India to Ireland they lived in *Ballow House*, Bangor. Robert Charles Henry (Charles) Steele-Nicholson died on 16 November 1937 and, after he died, Ivy moved to *Tamnamore House*. Lydia Mary Noel Amelia (Ivy) Steele-Nicholson (née Lloyd) died on 3 September 1980.

John Steele-Nicholson attended Rockport and, from 1936 until 1941, he attended Trent College in Derbyshire. He joined the Officers' Training Corps (OTC) in 1939 and was promoted Sergeant in 1940. He was Head of Hanbury House from 1940 to 1941.

During the Second World War Sergeant John Steele-Nicholson served with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and he died on 14 September 1942. He was one of an eight-man crew aboard a Consolidated B-24 Liberator Mark II aircraft (AL624) in 1653 Heavy Conversion Unit that took off at 11.00 am from RAF Burn in Yorkshire on a cross country navigation exercise. Around noon, in low cloud, the aircraft crashed on Drigmorn Hill, Millfore near Newton Stewart in Dumfries and Galloway and the other seven crew members who were killed that day were:

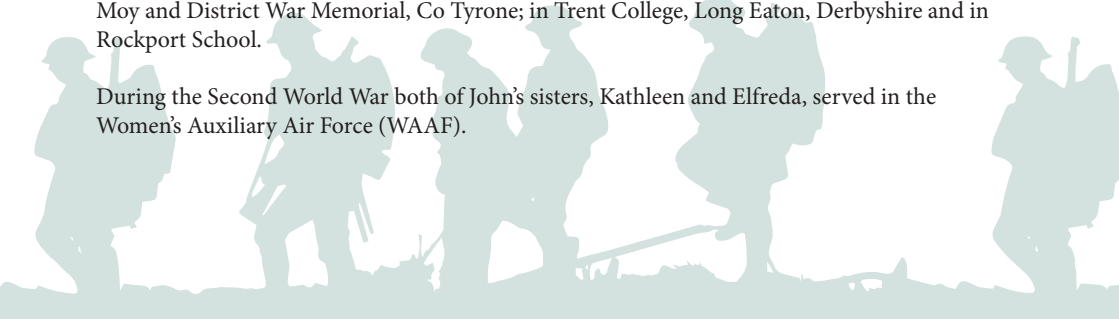
- Pilot Officer Ivan Harold Betts (aged 31) from Radipole, Dorsetshire
- Sergeant Derek Eaton Warner (aged 20) from Bromley, Kent
- Sergeant John Churley Freestone (aged 29) from Stanmore, Winchester
- Sergeant George Douglas Calder (aged 24) (RAAF)
- Sergeant Geoffrey Crisp Boar (aged 27) from Ealing, Middlesex
- Sergeant Victor Frederick Talley
- Sergeant James Bowrey from Hanham, Gloucestershire

Sergeant John Edwin Charles Averell Steele-Nicholson was 20 when he died, and he was buried in Kirkinner Cemetery, Wigtownshire. There is an inscription on his CWGC headstone:

**OF BALLOW, BANGOR, N. IRELAND  
AND THIS IS THE PROMISE  
THAT HE HATH PROMISED US,  
EVEN ETERNAL LIFE**

Sergeant John Edwin Charles Averell Steele-Nicholson is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on Dungannon and District War Memorial, Co. Tyrone; on Moy and District War Memorial, Co Tyrone; in Trent College, Long Eaton, Derbyshire and in Rockport School.

During the Second World War both of John's sisters, Kathleen and Elfreda, served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).





## Thompson, Robert Arnold

### Second Lieutenant

No. 121604, East Lancashire Regiment

Died as a result of an accident on Sunday 14 April 1940  
(aged 27)



### Buried:

Belfast (Dundonald) Cemetery, Co. Down  
(Section C 1 Grave 9)

### Commemorated:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Family grave headstone in Dundonald Cemetery  
Campbell College  
Rockport School

Robert Arnold Thompson was a grandson of John Thompson who was born in 1847, raised on a farm near Ahoghill and in 1870 opened his first grain mill in Belfast. The company motto was *Pioneers of Better Feeding Stuffs*. The company mill was destroyed in 1941 during the Blitz and subsequently rebuilt.

Robert Arnold Thompson was born on 7 February 1913 and he was a son of William and Florence Olivia Thompson (née McClure) of *Lauriston*, 15 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast and, before that, 264 Seacliff Road, Bangor. William Thompson was a grain mill manager and director in the family business and he and Florence McClure were married on 18 September 1907 in Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bangor.

Robert Arnold Thompson attended Rockport and then Campbell College, Belfast from September 1926 until July 1930. After leaving school he worked in the Sun Insurance Office and was also a director in the family firm, Messrs John Thompson and Sons Ltd., Donegall Quay Mills, Belfast. Two of his brothers also attended Campbell College: Raymond Emerson Thompson (born 30 October 1909) and William Stafford Thompson (born 21 April 1918).

During the Second World War, Robert Arnold Thompson served with the East Lancashire Regiment and he was 27 when he died in Victoria Hospital, Blackpool on Sunday 14 April 1940 as a result of an accident.

Second Lieutenant Robert Arnold Thompson is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Rockport School; in Campbell College and on the family grave headstone in Dundonald Cemetery where he himself was buried. His father died on 27 January 1938 and his mother died on 3 April 1970.



## Weir, James Kenneth

**Flying Officer**

No. 133093, 15 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Killed on active service on Thursday 15 June 1944 (aged 31)

No known grave

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, England (Panel 209)

Campbell College

Rockport School



James Kenneth Weir was born on 20 July 1912 and he was a son of William and Mabel Florence Weir (née Edwards) of *Roseneath*, Cranmore Gardens, Malone Road, Belfast and then *The Cottage*, Glenavy, Co. Antrim. They were married on 23 February 1911 in Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast. William Weir was one of the first pupils to attend Campbell College, Belfast in 1894 (the year the school was founded) and he worked as a master cotton spinner before becoming Managing Director of the Springfield Spinning Company Ltd., Belfast and later the Standard Finishing Company Ltd. James Kenneth Weir's mother, Mabel Florence, died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast on 12 July 1936 (aged 51) and his father William died in Whiteabbey Sanatorium on 7 January 1944 (aged 64). Both were buried in Dundonald Cemetery (Grave D3 414).

James Kenneth Weir attended Rockport and Campbell College and after he left school he worked as an inspector for the Beacon Insurance Company, Belfast. James Kenneth Weir joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and in 1943 he visited Campbell College, then located at Portrush (because the school premises in Belfast had been requisitioned by the War Office for use as a hospital). He served with Bomber Command and died on 15 June 1944. He was one of a seven-man crew aboard an Avro Lancaster Mark I aircraft (LL889) that took off at 11.31 pm from RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk on a mission to bomb E-boat facilities in Le Havre.

*[E (Enemy) boats were fast attack craft of the Kriegsmarine (Nazi German Navy).]*

Their aircraft crashed and all but one were killed. Flight Sergeant R.M. Gilleade survived and managed to evade capture. In addition to Flying Officer James Kenneth Weir, the other five crew members who died that night were:

- Flight Lieutenant Ronald Leonard Purry aged 21 (RAAF)
- Sergeant Ronald John Rolfe aged 21 from Slough, Buckinghamshire
- Pilot Officer Noel Goodridge aged 20 (RAAF)
- FS Thomas Lowry Nixon aged 19 from Omagh, Co. Tyrone
- Sergeant Christopher Felix Cantwell aged 24 from Liverpool

Flying Officer James Kenneth Weir was 31 when he died and he has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey; in Rockport School and in Campbell College.

## Young, Robert Neville Desmond (Desmond) Mentioned in Despatches

**Captain**

No. 137409, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards

Killed in action on Wednesday 23 February 1944 (aged 27)



### **Buried:**

Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy (Grave XX. C. 1)

### **Commemorated:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Culdaff Church of Ireland Church, Co Donegal

Tonbridge School, Kent

Rockport School

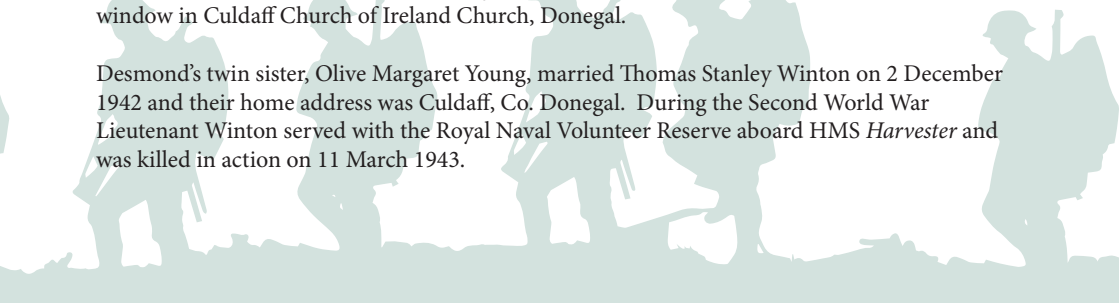
Robert Neville Desmond Young, known as Desmond, was born at 8.10 am on 16 August 1916 in Castle Street, Ballymena and he was a son of Robert Chichester Young and Amy Isabel Young (née Stuart) from Culdaff, Co. Donegal who later lived at *Millmount*, Randalstown, Co. Antrim. Successive generations of the Young family lived in *Culdaff House* from about 1608. Robert Chichester Young was a Barrister-at-Law and he and Amy Isabel Stuart were married on 30 September 1913 in Kirkinriola Church of Ireland Church Ballymena.

They had at least four children: George Stuart (born 23 September 1914); twins Robert Neville Desmond and Olive Margaret Lawrence (born 16 August 1916) and Mary Vivien Barbara (born 31 January 1922). Amy Isabel Young was the author of the book *Three Hundred Years in Inishowen*. Robert Chichester Young died on 25 December 1941 (aged 54) and Amy Isabel Young died on 17 October 1949 (aged 64).

Robert Neville Desmond Young attended Rockport and then Tonbridge School in Kent before going to London to train as a solicitor. When war broke out he joined the Army and in 1940 was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Irish Guards. He and Mary Cunningham were married on 19 February 1941 and in 1943 he was promoted to the rank of Captain. Their home address was Sanderstead in Surrey. Desmond and Mary Young had one child, a daughter named Jane.

From March 1943, the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards fought in North Africa where they suffered heavy casualties. Early in 1944 the Battalion moved to Italy and again suffered heavy losses in the intense fighting at Anzio. Aged 27, Captain Robert Neville Desmond Young was killed by machine-gun fire on 23 February 1944 and was buried in the Beach Head War Cemetery at Anzio. In the 11 January 1945 Supplement to the *London Gazette* it is recorded that Captain Young had been Mentioned in Despatches. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; in Tonbridge School, Kent; in Rockport School and on a memorial window in Culdaff Church of Ireland Church, Donegal.

Desmond's twin sister, Olive Margaret Young, married Thomas Stanley Winton on 2 December 1942 and their home address was Culdaff, Co. Donegal. During the Second World War Lieutenant Winton served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve aboard HMS *Harvester* and was killed in action on 11 March 1943.



All contributions of information and photographs for this booklet from family members, newspapers, schools, colleges and organisations are gratefully acknowledged.

Barry Niblock has compiled three Books of Honour commemorating around 2,000 men and women with North Down/Ards connections who died in the First and Second World Wars:

*Remembering Their Sacrifice in the Great War – North Down*

*Remembering Their Sacrifice in the Great War – Ards*

*Remembering Their Sacrifice in the Second World War – North Down and Ards*

Collecting further information about all casualties is ongoing and Barry would be grateful for any additional details and/or photographs that readers can provide.

Updated details may be found on the website [www.barryniblock.co.uk](http://www.barryniblock.co.uk)

Barry's email address is [info@barryniblock.co.uk](mailto:info@barryniblock.co.uk)





