

## **First World War Service Record of Reginald Henry Neil**

The following is from the National Archives Ref WO 339/14586

This Form is to be used for a candidate who is neither a cadet or ex-cadet  
 of the Senior Division, Officers Training Corps, nor a member of a University.  
 Form M.T.  
392 should be used for an Officers Training Corps (Senior Division)  
 or University candidate.

Form M.T.  
393 ✓

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A TEMPORARY COMMISSION IN THE  
 REGULAR ARMY FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR.

The candidate will complete the following particulars and obtain certificates below as to character and educational qualification.

1. Name in full	Surname. Christian names.	Neill Reginald Henry ✓
2. Date of birth.		16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1894 ✓ <span style="color: red;">Ne 107</span>
3. Whether married.		No ✓
4. Whether of pure European descent.		Yes ✓
5. Whether a British born or a naturalized British subject.		British Born ✓
6. Permanent address.		Collie Grove Dunnington Co. York ✓
7. Present address for correspondence.		Ditto ✓
8. Whether now serving, or previously served, in any other Government Department (Home, Indian, or Colonial). If so, give particulars.		No ✓
9. Whether able to ride.		No ✓

Accepted candidates will be gazetted to a general list. They may, however, state here—

10. The Branch of the Service (Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, or Army Service Corps) in which desirous of serving

Infantry

11. The unit (if any) to which desirous of being appointed

New Unit of Master Volunteer Force

but no guarantee can be given that they will be appointed to any particular unit.

I certify the above statement to be correct, and I request that I may be appointed to a temporary commission in the Regular Army for the period of the war.

Date 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914

R. H. Neill

Usual Signature of Candidate.

Signature of parent or guardian, if the candidate is under 21 years of age

H. Neill

Certificate of moral character during the past four years. If the candidate has been at school, college, or other educational establishment during any portion of the period the certificate should be signed by the head of the establishment, otherwise it may be signed by a responsible person (not a near relative or connection), e.g., the minister of the parish or other local clergyman, a magistrate, a senior officer of the Army or Navy who has been well acquainted with the candidate in private life during the period.

If the above-mentioned person cannot certify for the whole period of four years, a second certificate for the period not covered by the first should be signed by a similar person.

I hereby certify to the good moral character of Reginald Henry Neill for the last ten years

Signature W. J. Ferrar

†Rank, office or occupation Major Reserve 2nd Officer

Date 5<sup>th</sup> September Address Torwood Windsor Belfast

To be filled in when the above certificate does not cover four years.

I hereby certify to the good moral character of

from to

Signature

†Rank, office or occupation

Date

Address

Evidence that the candidate has attained a good standard of education.

If the candidate has:—

(a) obtained a leaving or qualifying certificate as required of a candidate for admission to the Royal Military College under the regulations in force up to 1st April, 1912, the Certificate should be attached;

(b) qualified at an Army Entrance Examination, the date of examination should be stated,

(c) passed the matriculation examination of a University, or a test accepted in lieu thereof, the Certificate should be attached.

Failing one of the above, the following certificate must be signed by the Headmaster of a secondary school or other competent educational authority.

I certify from personal knowledge that

M. R. H. Neill  
C. J. Appin

has attained

State here educational position, e.g.,  
Head of a College or School, etc.

House master at Malvern College.

†Here state whether Tutor, Head of School or College, Minister of Parish or other local clergyman, or Magistrate, &c



REPORT of a Regular Officer of the R.A.M.C. at Belfast on 5th Sept 1914, as to  
 the physical fitness of the undermentioned candidate for a commission in { Regular Army,  
 Special Reserve of Officers,  
 Territorial Force.

Name	Age last Birthday	Height inches	Chest girth inches		Weight lbs.	Hearing	Teeth	Vision	Colour Vision	Remarks as to fit or otherwise.
			Max.	Min.						
Reginald H. Neill	19	68 1/4	35	33	124	Good	Fair	R. R 6/6 6/6	-	Fit

This report should be forwarded to the War Office by the first available post.

A<sup>o</sup>  
Prefix

Code

POST OFFICE

(Inland Official



TELEGRAPHS.

Telegrams only.)

No. of Telegram

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Words.

Sent

I certify that this Telegram is sent on the service of the

O. H. M. S.

M. S. 3.  
C. A. S.

At

To

By

(Signature)

Attention is called to the Regulations printed at the back hereof

Dated Stamp.

TO

Neill Collin Grove  
 Sunnyside Co. Antrim

SECRET TO INFORM YOU THAT

R. H. Neill 1st Royal Irish Rifles reported wounded on 1st July is now reported missing. Details will be forwarded when received. This does not necessarily mean killed.

FROM

SECRETARY, WAR OFFICE.

Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the space provided at the Back of the Form.

We remain, de

July 6<sup>th</sup> 1916. 670/12

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ (Inland Official) \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words. Sent

O. H. M. S. At \_\_\_\_\_ M.

To \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Telegram \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that this Telegram is sent on the service of the \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) R. H. Wade

Attention is called to the Regulations printed at the back hereof

Dated Stamp.

TO {Neill. Collin Broome Lunnemury. Co. Antrim. Lieut. R. H. Neill

SECRET TO INFORM YOU THAT

11<sup>th</sup> Irish Rifles is reported wounded July 1<sup>st</sup> details will follow when received.

FROM { SECRETARY, WAR OFFICE.

Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the space provided at the Back of the Form.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

R.151283  
A.X.46.F.A.

AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

ER ARMA CARITAS

Prière de rappeler dans la réponse le N° ci-dessous :

Genève, 191

NEILL Reginald Henry, Lieut. 11th Batt., "B" Coy., R. Irish Rifles

Concerning the above-named, we have received from Capt. Charles C. CRAIG, 11th Batt., same Rgt., interned at FREIBURG, the following statement, dated, 15.11.17 :

"This officer is almost certainly dead. He was last seen alive by Lieut. SALTON of same Coy., immediately before a counter-attack by the Germans and although not actually seen wounded or dead, has never been heard of since."





INTER ARMA CARITAS

Prière de rappeler  
dans la réponse le  
N° ci-dessous :

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

R.151367.  
A.X.46.F.A.

AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Genève,

191

NEILL Reginald Henry, Lieut., 11th Batt., Royal Irish Rifles.

Concerning the above-named, we have received from Rfmm.  
Samuel James SEMPLE, 15893, 11th Batt., "D" Coy., same Rgt.,  
interned at HEUBERG, the following statement, dated, 24.11.17:

"I saw him shot in the breast, death instantaneous,  
on July 1st 1916."

[00]

H.M. Secretary of  
Affairs

Sept 21st

COLLIN GIBSON  
DUNMURRY  
Co ANTRIM

Mrs R. Neill  
Sends enclosed inquiry  
Hoping that it may  
be possible to have  
it forwarded to  
"The American Embassy"  
at Berlin =  
Mrs Neill is in great  
anxiety over the fate  
of her son who has  
been reported "Missing"  
since July 1st -

(M.S.3. Cas.)

26th September, 1916.

The Military Secretary presents his compliments to Mrs. R. Neill, and, in reply to her letter of the 21st inst., begs to inform her that the name of every Missing Officer, together with such details as are permissible, is forwarded to the German Government through the United States Embassy.

These lists are circulated in all camps where there are British Prisoners, and to such Societies that endeavour to trace Missing Officers.

The Military Secretary, however, would add, that in the event of an Officer being a Prisoner of War, the information would most probably be received from that Officer, by means of a letter or post card, some considerable time before it could be obtained through diplomatic channels.

The system of individual enquiry has been found far less satisfactory than the system described above, and has, in consequence, been discontinued some months ago.

The Military Secretary therefore, returns the letter forwarded by Mrs. R. Neill.

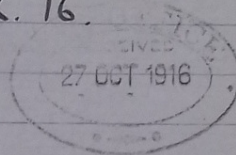
closed for F.O.



c/o M<sup>rs</sup> Andrews.  
at Torwood.  
Belfast.

26. X. 16.

To the Secretary,  
War Office.  
Whitehall S. W.



Sir,

I should be very glad if you could give me any information about my son Lieut R. Neill "B" Coy 11<sup>th</sup> R. Irish Rifles. missing since July 1<sup>st</sup>. I enclose copies of two letters received, one from Captain Craig also of "B" Coy, & one from the Mother of Lieut Satter who is a P. of War in Germany. My son was wearing his identity disc on his arm, and I understand that the junior officers, of whom my son was one, wore 'privates' clothes on 1<sup>st</sup> July, so that, if he is a Prisoner of War, he may have been placed in a camp with the men & not with the Officers.

Yrs faithfully.  
R. Neill.

(R. Neill)



Register No.       

Extract from Letters of Administration.  
Probate of Will.

Dated

4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917.

Granted at

D.R. at Belfast.

Residence in England

19/9/17

1. Estate of

Reginald Harry Nield late of Gollin Grove,  
Dunmurry, Co. of Antrim, Lt. 11<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
R. Irish Rifles.

2. Date and Place  
of Death

1<sup>st</sup> July 1916.  
at Thiepval in France a bachelor and  
intestate.

3. Grantees

Reginald Nield of Gollin Grove, Dunmurry  
aforesaid. Capt. the lawful Father and  
sole next of kin of the said intestate.

4. Gross value, £

1,430 - 0 - 7.

5. Disposal of Medals

lost.

Produced by

Messrs L'Estrange & Bred  
4, Richester St. Wm.  
Belfast  
Ireland.

(and)

to whom returned

by R P 26/9/17

Reginald Neill, Esq.,  
Collin Grove,  
Dunmurry,  
Co. Antrim.

a distance of 3<sup>rd</sup> German line,  
with about 1/2 dozen men they  
separated to try to get back  
to British line, my son was  
never seen or heard of after war.

Yours truly  
Reginald Neill



**COLLIN GROVE  
DUNMURRY  
CO. ANTRIM**

(2 Casualties. 30906/2 April 9<sup>th</sup> 114

Sir I am replying to your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> inst  
I regret to say that the only  
news I have of my son R. Neill  
is through a brother officer, now  
prisoner of war in Germany.  
His statement was to the effect  
that he & my son were together  
at 3<sup>rd</sup> German line in a shell hole in

Havre

Oct. 9th 1916

IRISH RIFLES 11

NEILL Lt. R.H.

W. & M. July 1/16

The Lieutenant was in B Co. 2nd in command and took over  
when Capt. Craig was wounded. I saw Lt. Neill wounded at  
Thiepval on July 1/16; he was in a communication trench  
between the first and second German lines. He was lying  
down; his wound had been dressed; we held the ground.  
It was being heavily shelled all day.

Informant L/Cpl. M. Griffin 16536

11th Irish Rifles A Co. III pltn.

Harfleur

R.D.M.



Havre

16th Aug. 1916

11th IRISH RIFLES

NEILL Lieut. R.M. *H. or W.*

W. & M. July 1/16

The Lieutenant was in B Coy. I saw him at Thiepval on July 1/16 in the third German line trench. We had just got order to advance to the 4th about 3 p.m. I did not see him again; he was all right at the time. We lost the ground and were back in our own lines at 4.30 p.m. Under shell fire all the time.

Informant Rifleman J. Lavery 18068  
11th Batt. B Coy. VIII Pltn.  
Harfleur Camp

Home address Soldiers Town  
Aghalee

Lurgin, Co. Antrim  
R.D.M.

Mr. Cassius C.C. Craig M.P.  
Commanding "B" Company 11<sup>th</sup> Batt  
Royal Irish Rifles. now a prisoner  
in Germany.

Copy

Gütersloh  
Westphalia

24 Aug. 1916

Dear Reggie

I have delayed writing you  
till now hoping to hear from my  
wife that Rex was safe. But as  
to Aug 10. you have apparently heard  
nothing. I confess I am very anx-  
-ious as to his fate. All I know of  
him <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ that he was alive & well  
when the Crunier attack was made  
in the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> July -  
& L. Corp Spiers told me afterwards  
in Hospital that Rex, Salter, & some  
of my men held a position until  
surrounded & had to surrender  
according to Spiers. Rex was then

TO BE LEFT BLANK.



He wounded, unfortunately  
is all I know as after I was  
I did not see a Surgeon Officer & a  
Quite ignorant as to what  
More over it is quite impossible  
to obtain information as we cannot  
write to other Camps, I shall cling  
to the hope that you have heard from  
him. Tho' I have serious misgivings  
as the time is more than sufficient  
to have heard - We were all very  
fond of Rex and his last words  
to me as we were advancing  
over the open thro' a very severe  
fire were "I would not have  
missed this for a thousand  
pounds" If he is dead  
he died fighting very  
bravely Yours

(Signed) C. C. Craig

---

Belleville

Skubbereen

25/9/16

Cover

Dear Madame

As I had a letter to day from my son, written 31<sup>st</sup> Aug the day he got his first letter from home, he asked me to write and tell you that he could give no news though

TO BE LEFT BLANK.



they were together till  
was surrounded, but  
he was hoping for the  
best until my Enquiries  
came. He heard Captain Craig  
was wounded and asked me  
to send him on his address  
I do pray that you have heard  
some news of your son by this  
time as I know what you are  
doing thro' & may God give  
you strength to bear this gr-  
t suspense

Yours truly  
(Signed) L L Salter  
To  
Mr R. Neill -.

11th Royal Irish Rifles. W & M 1/7/16. Neill Lt. R. W.  
9th Royal Irish Rifles. E. 1/7/16. Jenkins Major. A.P.

A letter was published in the "Lisburn Herald" from Major Jenkins saying that he was a prisoner of war. He stated that he had been wounded and was losing an eye. He wrote to Lt. G.M. Devoto and I saw the letter. He said that no news was to be obtained of Rex Neill among the many prisoners who came into the same camp.

Reference:- Sergt Reithwait. GRR.  
No. 223. H.Q.  
No. 35 General Hospital.  
Calais 5th September 1916.

Note:- Several of the men of the 11th Battn were present and seemed to me quite clear that there was a Major A.P. Jenkins in the Battn and that his initials were very well known. It is possible that the Major Jenkins they referred to and the Major A.P. Jenkins in No 9 Battn in the enquiry list may be the same man, and that he may have been attached temporarily to the Battn that he did not belong to. CR.