

The Melinka

Polka



The Melinka: named for one of the fishing boats of my grandfather, Robert Buchan of Inverallochy. She was the one they had during the Great War when the government requisitioned her, fitted a gun on her, made him a group skipper in the R.N.V.R. with brass buttons and a sword (he was the only one who could navigate scientifically, and who therefore knew where he was going when south of Yarmouth) and sent her to the Dardanelles loaded with tatties. There they spied many fairlies, and brought some of them home, including a genuine swordfish's sword, and stories—some hilarious, others not--of the war.