

Annual General Meeting of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association 2022

Secretary's Report

Annual General Meeting 2022

The Association held its 2021 AGM by zoom on 8 January 2022.

I am pleased to report that your committee has endeavoured to keep the Dubs Association vibrant and met many times throughout the year by zoom, but in October we held our first committee meeting in person for the first since the start of Covid 19

The Committee members are Brian Moroney, (Chairperson) Paul Appleby, David Buckley, Seamus Greene, George Jones, Sally Copeland Keogh, Philip Lecane, Thomas Murphy, John O'Brian, Suzanne O'Neill, and John Sheehan, and Paul Taylor.

The committee has a number of sub committees which are

- the Editorial Committee,
- The membership committee
- St Patricks centenary of the disbandment of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and five Irish regiments committee
- The Mount Jerome Cemetery remembrance committee
- Governance Committee,

2022 has been the first year in a long time, that we could hold and attend events in person

Some of which are the following

- Remembrance Event in Clonmel, Co Tipperary, on Saturday, 9 April 2022
- a Remembrance Event in Clonmel on Sunday, 10 April, organised by the Royal Irish Regiment (18th Regiment of Foot) Association, which included lectures, a parade of standards and a wreath-laying ceremony;
- the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Ceremony at dawn on ANZAC Day, 25 April, in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, which was followed that evening by a Service of Remembrance held in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin;
- a tour in early May 2022 to the battlefields of Salonika where the Royal Dublin Fusiliers served in 1916 and 1917.
- the current Royal Irish Regiment's Old Soldiers' Day in Belfast on Saturday, 4 June. Our acceptance of the Regiment's invitation demonstrates our continuing desire as an Association to contribute to the process of reconciliation on the Island of Ireland;
- a Remembrance Service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on 12 June 2022 to mark the centenary of the disbandment of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the five other Irish Regiments;

- On Saturday, 9 July, the Association was well represented at the Royal British Legion's Annual Remembrance Ceremony in the War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin.
- Sunday 10 July 20 Association members attended the National Day of Commemoration in Collins Barracks, Dublin, to all Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations.
- Saturday, 16 July, in Ennis, Co Clare, a delegation of nine RDFA representatives attended a Commemoration Event at which the Associations representing the six disbanded Irish Regiments each received a complimentary commemorative gift box containing six regimental coins pertaining to each disbanded Regiment. Only 100 copies of this specially commissioned
- the Connaught Rangers Association's Centenary Event in the Mayo Peace Park, Castlebar, on Sunday, 31 July.
- the Leinster Regiment Association's Remembrance Ceremony in Birr on Sunday, 7 August
- The Association was represented at a Remembrance Service in Dungarvan, Co Waterford, on 28 August.
- September 17th our president Association Tom Burke OBE and the national library of Ireland organised a a day long Seminar on Irish WW1 Ex-Service Men and Women in Post-War Ireland held in Dublin City Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, to mark the centenary of the disbandment of six Irish Regiments (including the Royal Dublin Fusiliers) in 1922.
- The Association expressed its condolences to the British Embassy on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th of September . Her legacy includes an outstanding contribution to reconciliation on the island of Ireland in recent years.
- A number of Association representatives attended the Annual Dinner of the Irish Guards in Dublin on 1 October. The theme of the Dinner was the disbandment of the Irish Regiments in 1922.
- On Sunday, 16 October, the Committee of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association travelled to Kilkenny on the invite of the Kilkenny War Memorial Committee to visit various locations in the City which commemorate the loss of over 800 Kilkenny lives during WW1. The number of impressive memorials which now exist for visitors to Kilkenny is a legacy of the Decade of Commemorations.
- on the evening of Saturday, 5 November a number of the association attended the Military Ball in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry,
- the following day Sunday, 6 November at 3 pm the Association was represented at Royal Irish Regiment's Annual Service of Remembrance in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on, which will particularly honour in this Centenary Year those in the disbanded Irish Regiments who lost their lives during WW1. Our representatives were also been invited to a reception in the Royal Ulster Rifles Museum in Bedford Street before the Service;
- On the same day (6th November) a Commemoration Ceremony organised by Woodenbridge Village Development Associations was held at the Woodenbridge WW1 Memorial Park, Co Wicklow, which the Association was also represented
- Friday 11 November a remembrance mass was held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary, city quay at 7.00 to remember the passing of our Association members and family members this

is the second year that the Association has organised this remembrance mass and will continue to do so.

- Saturday, 12 November, a walking tour of Killester Garden Village, which was led by members of the Killester WW1 Memorial Campaign. This village of 289 homes was built for WW1 veterans (including Dublin Fusiliers) after the War;
- The association was also represented over the weekend of the 11th to 13th November at various locations such as

Oldtown Co Dublin
St Patricks Cathedral Dublin
Glencree Co Wicklow
and many other location

The Association thanks all of its members for attending these and other events throughout the year to remember the dead of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and other regiments.

The Treasurer's Report, See attached
The Editorial Committee Report , See attached
Governance Committees report, see attached

Correspondence

Most of the correspondence to our web-site and gmail account were from members and interested people who were looking to join our Association, we now have over 100 members and climbing this is due to our new membership committee.

Association Merchandise

Association members may purchase our ties, lapel badges, blazer badges, poppy badges and remembrance CDs. Unfortunately the ladies' scarves are out of stock at present. Printed copies of some of our older Blue Caps are also available for purchase. Contact our Treasurer, Sally Keogh, at rdfa1918+Treasurer@gmail.com for further details.

social media

Our use of Facebook and Twitter has created a platform to allow contact to a wide range of interested people from the four corners of the world, looking for information on relatives who were in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and information on events happening. The pages are intertwined and reach out to nearly 2,000 'friends' or like-minded people who engage with the platforms.

Association Website (www.greatwar.ie)

For over 12 months, some users of our website have experienced security alerts when trying to download certain Association documents uploaded to the site. This has been frustrating for both members and researchers in general.

Thankfully this problem has been resolved, and recent editions of our Blue Cap journals and Old Tough newsletters have now been added to the site. We hope that you will take the opportunity in the coming weeks to re-acquaint yourselves with our web site

Finally we must not forget our members who have passed in the last year these were the following

Michael McGovern RIP

Lest we forget

Thomas Murphy

Hon. Secretary