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The Lion of Houplines.

By Dr. John Krijnen
Coevorden, Netherlands.

Readers of *Old Soldiers Never Die* written by Frank Richards (1883-1961) DCM, MM and of 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, may remember his story in Chapter V about the lone British soldier who came across six Germans drinking in a pub.

A café near the cotton factory in Houplines was the scene of a remarkable fight, with only the lady of the café and her daughter as witnesses. When our troops drove the enemy out of Armentières one man who, I expect, was on the scrounge, wandered into Houplines, which was joining Armentières, and entered this café. He came on six Germans drinking: they had their rifles leaning against the wall by them. He recovered from his surprise first and attacked them before they knew where they were. Finally he killed the six but received a very bad wound himself. The old lady and her daughter carried him upstairs and laid him on the bed, dressing his wound the best way they could, but he died within an hour, she told me. They buried the seven in the garden behind the café, the six Germans side-by-side and the British soldier a few paces from them. The old lady had the man's identity disc and pay-book, which she was keeping as souvenirs. He belonged to the Buffs (the East Kents) who were in the 6th Division. The old lady wouldn't allow anyone to sleep in that bed. She used to say that a grand soldier had died in it; and she was right: the man of the Buffs must have had the heart of a lion, and if ever a man won the Victoria Cross, he did. In the early days of open warfare, where a man fell so he was buried. (1)

Accepting Richards's description, 'He belonged to the Buffs' as a fact, while preparing the footnotes for the annotated edition of *Old Soldiers Never Die*, I tentatively identified this man as Private Charles Edward Whittingham, L/8811.

But the identification has always bothered me, not in the least because Whittingham died on 14 October 1914, three days before British troops entered Armentières. Although he was the only man of the 1st Buffs in that period who could conceivably have some claim to be the lone soldier of Houplines, the date of his death in retrospect makes him an unlikely choice and one which I now regret. Let us therefore assume that Frank Richards got the name of the man's regiment wrong. The error is excusable, as he probably only saw the identity disc and pay-book for a fleeting instant in late November or December 1914 and did not write the story down until 1932. But if he did unintentionally mislead his readers, it is clearly time for me to have a fresh and more methodical look at the Lion of Houplines.

The Scene.

Armentières, abandoned by the Germans, was occupied by the 10th Brigade of the 4th Division in the morning of 17 October 1914, the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders leading. The Germans, in the process of pulling back to a defensible line on slightly higher ground, were beginning to dig in on the Pérenchies Ridge, in front of Frélinghien on the road northeast from Armentières along the Lys. Small parties of Germans had remained behind to slow down the British advance, firing from the houses, but they were easily dislodged. At the end of the day, the 4th Division held Armentières and Houplines, while the 6th Division, also in III Corps, continued the line south to la Boutillerie. (2)

On 18 October 1914, the 4th Division tried to take Frélinghien but was held up just outside the village. The 6th Division, with 1st Buffs and 2nd Yorks and Lancs on the right flank, reached the line Radinghem – Epinette. This, incidentally, put the 1st Buffs at Radinghem, at least four miles south of Houplines, a dangerously long distance to go for a man on the scrounge, and suggests that

Richards's memory may indeed have been faulty. (3) So when did the incident happen? From the preceding paragraphs it is clear that it could only have been on 17 October, when the 10th Brigade was in the process of occupying Armentières and, beyond it, Houplines while small groups of Germans were still active in the town. When Richards wrote: '*When our troops drove the enemy out of Armentières...*' he obviously meant the very same day, and not the day after. According to Richards, the incident happened in Houplines, but he was only partially correct. The village of Houplines was a small farming community, and thus an unlikely candidate, but between Houplines and Armentières, '*joining Armentières*' as Richards correctly stated, is the industrial suburb of Nouvel Houplines. He probably thought that the two were one and the same. In 1914 Nouvel Houplines boasted a station on the line from Armentières to Menin, two churches (St. Charles's and Sacré-Coeur) and several large *filatures* (factories producing cotton fibres or thread) next to each other between the Lys and the main road, fronting the latter over a distance of some 1000 yards. These cotton factories, one of them very large, commanded the road northeast to Frélinghien which the 4th Division would have to take and they and the houses opposite them were therefore eminently suitable as blocking positions for small groups of Germans trying to interfere with the British advance. (4)

It is quite conceivable that one of these groups would have considered a pub off the main road as good a place as any to set up a temporary strongpoint and equally plausible that the men, once inside, could not resist sampling the available merchandise. Perhaps the beer and wine made them forget the war for a moment. Richards's story certainly suggests that they were less alert than their situation warranted. Enemy parties holding buildings on the main road were no doubt all flushed out in passing by the two leading battalions of the 10th Brigade. A position away from the main road, however, manned by soldiers drinking instead of fighting and thus not attracting any attention, would have had a good chance of remaining undisturbed for several hours, only to be discovered by accident by a soldier on the scrounge.

The Soldier.

Logic dictates that our man's unit must have been one of the battalions of the 10th Brigade (1st Royal Warwicks, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers and 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers) or, somewhat less likely, one of the divisional support units. The Seaforths and The Irish Fusiliers (commonly known as The Faughs), which led the advance, can probably be disregarded, as they would have had little opportunity for scrounging. The 1st Buffs of 6th Division as we have seen were miles away (and lost no men killed on 17 October), while the 11th and 12th Brigades of the 4th Division were on the other side of the Lys, as was the 1st Cavalry Division operating with III Corps.

A study of the casualties for the 10th Brigade and the 4th Divisional Troops on 17 October 1914 using *Soldiers Died* (5) gives us only five men who died that day, all belonging to the infantry battalions of the 10th Brigade. The possible candidates can now be listed, with information from the searchable database of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on the Internet, see Table 1. Additional details on two of these men were obtained from the CWGC archives. If we examine the admittedly scanty information we have about these five men, we can try to determine if and how far the fate of each one fits the facts as Frank Richards related them.

Private Batchelor of the 1st Royal Warwicks is buried in Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension. His remains were relocated there after the Armistice. He was originally buried in Houplines Communal Cemetery, which probably means that he was killed when the village was occupied in the evening of 17 October. As Richards put it, '*...where a man fell so he was buried*' and Batchelor was buried behind and very close to the firing line.

Privates Grahame (*Soldiers Died* calls him Graham) and Hutcheson of the 2nd Seaforths both died of wounds and were buried in cemeteries adjoining hospitals far behind the lines. We can safely assume that neither of them is the man we seek. They must have been victims of earlier fighting.

Private Sculley (*Soldiers Died* calls him Scully) of the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers died and was buried in Nantes, on the Loire. This is so far away from Houplines that he too must be rejected as a possible candidate. The location suggests that he was somehow serving on detached duty or either arriving from or on his way to Britain. The expression "died" instead of "killed" shows that his death was due to disease or an accident.

Private McCann of the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers is buried in Strand Military Cemetery, just north of Ploegsteert and also some way from Houplines on the other side of the Lys, but the section number of his grave, IX, indicates that it was moved there after the Armistice. According to the archives of the CWGC his remains were recovered from an isolated grave in Nouvel Houplines, at map reference 36.C.26.d.9.4. That must also have been the place where he was killed.



William McCann during his Colour service.
(Ms Kathleen McCann)

The Evidence.

Privates Batchelor, Grahame, Hutcheson and Sculley can be crossed off our list for the reasons described, leaving only Private McCann. The little we know fits this '*identification by default*' amazingly well. His battalion was not in direct contact with the enemy, a situation that would have afforded an enterprising and experienced soldier ample opportunity for scrounging (Frank Richards, himself a master in the art,

demonstrated that many times). Although the circumstances of his death have not been recorded, the fact that initially he was found buried in an isolated grave, 600 yards down an unpaved side street opposite the largest of the cotton factories, would certainly fit the story as told. Additional evidence has recently reached me from Houplines, where a search of the available records and interviews with several of the most senior citizens have established that before the Great War there was indeed a *Café St. Joseph*, of which now only a short brick wall remains, on the corner just south of St. Charles's Church, with a big garden stretching further south. That was without a doubt the garden from which McCann's remains were recovered after the Armistice, but were there also any German bodies at the time?

Unfortunately the CWGC Grave Concentration Report for Private McCann does not contain any information on the possible presence of German graves in the immediate vicinity. That does not necessarily mean that there were none: records of relocated graves are organised by concentration cemeteries, not by original locations, and without knowing a name or a destination it is virtually impossible to find the information. Moreover, most CWGC records of German graves were later handed over to the German authorities. The archives of SESMA (the *Service pour l'Entretien des Sépultures Militaires Allemandes*) at Pérenchies hold a document from c.1928 (the *Hauptgräberliste*) listing all isolated gravesites (*Geländegräber*) for the Houplines area. There are only two: one close to the railway halt of la Fresnelle at map reference 26.I.12.d.1.8 and one in the fields between la Fresnelle and Epinette at map reference 36.I.5.b.9.0. Of the twenty-three men buried in these two graves twenty-one were unidentified British soldiers, one was an officer of the North Staffs and one was an unidentified German soldier who was transferred to the *Cimetière Militaire allemande de Lille-Sud*. The list is therefore unfortunately useless as corroborating evidence.

The Conclusion.

With the exception of the six German graves, which will probably remain untraceable, all evidence points to the same man as the hero of Frank Richards's story. He died on the expected

date and was buried in an isolated grave in the garden of the *Café St. Joseph*, down a side street opposite the largest of the cotton factories. Of course we can never be completely certain, but, considering the evidence presented above there now appears to be little doubt that Private William McCann 6735 of the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers was the man with the heart of a lion.

We know a little about him. William McCann was the third of eight children of Edward McCann and Jane Carvin (also spelled 'Kerwin') of 4 Clonard Street, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, and was born on 29 March 1880. After a few years working for the Post Office as a telegraph engineer like his father, he had enlisted at Naas, Co. Kildare in 1901.

Following his Colour service he and his elder brother Patrick, also a telegraph engineer, moved to Glencarse, Perthshire, looking for work. He found not only work but also a wife, marrying Jane Band, a domestic servant, at Chance Inn, Glencarse, on 4 November 1910, two weeks before her 19th birthday. A son, William, was born in 1911 but sadly died in January 1912. Later that year, a second son was born, David Band. Now the head of a family, when his years with the Reserve ended in 1913 he chose to become a Section D reservist, thus for four more years augmenting his income by sixpence a day paid quarterly. He was called up on 4 August 1914 and landed in France with 2nd RDF on 22 August. His daughter Jean Williamina Kerwin was born in 1915, when he was already dead.

The personal inscription on his headstone, which must have cost his next of kin 17/6, reads:

AT REST
WITH LOVED ONES FAR AWAY
J & D McCANN

The text was chosen by Mrs J Don of Chance Inn: Jane had remarried in August 1919, her new husband being David Don. The 'J & D McCann' are believed by the family to be Jean and her brother David.

William McCann is mentioned on the family grave at Balcadden, near Balbriggan, where he is simply described as 'WILLIAM KILLED AT ARMETIERS [sic] 17TH OCT^R 1914'. That inscription

and the headstone in Strand Military Cemetery might have been his sole memorials. The old lady of the café and her daughter were the only ones who witnessed his death and it is more than likely that the story never reached his Battalion. It is not recorded in any official document. His next of kin only received a cap badge, said to have belonged to him, and a photo of his grave with an ornate cross in the French style inscribed:

M^CCAUN [sic]
SOLDAT DU ROYAL DUBLIN FUS [?]
TUE EN ACTION 17.10.14

followed by his father's name and address and that was all. They never knew what had happened to him. But fortunately I can now at last set the record straight.

Private Frank Richards, DCM, MM, late of the Second Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, without doubt a man in a position to judge, gave William McCann his final – and finest – epitaph: '...if ever a man won the Victoria Cross, he did'.

Acknowledgements.

I received invaluable help from Britain and France. Mr Roy Hemington, CWGC Archive Supervisor, provided essential and detailed information on the relocation of wartime graves. Monsieur Bernard Cousin mobilised the Mayor and citizens of Houplines on my behalf. Madame Odette Schlatter of the *Société Historique* traced the pub. Madame Laurence Creton of SESMA found the *Hauptgräberliste*. I cannot thank them

References.

1. Richards F.: *Old Soldiers Never Die*, annotated edition by H.J. Krijnen and D.E. Langley (Krijnen & Langley, 2004), page 39-40.
2. Edmonds J.E.: *Military Operations – France and Belgium 1914*, Vol.2 (Macmillan, 1929), page 106-107.
3. Edmonds J.E., *Military Operations – France and Belgium 1914* (Vol.2); Macmillan, 1929; page 111-114 and Map 10.
4. 1:10,000 trench map 36NW2 – 1915.
5. *Soldiers Died in the Great War CD*; Naval & Military Press 1998.

Table 1.

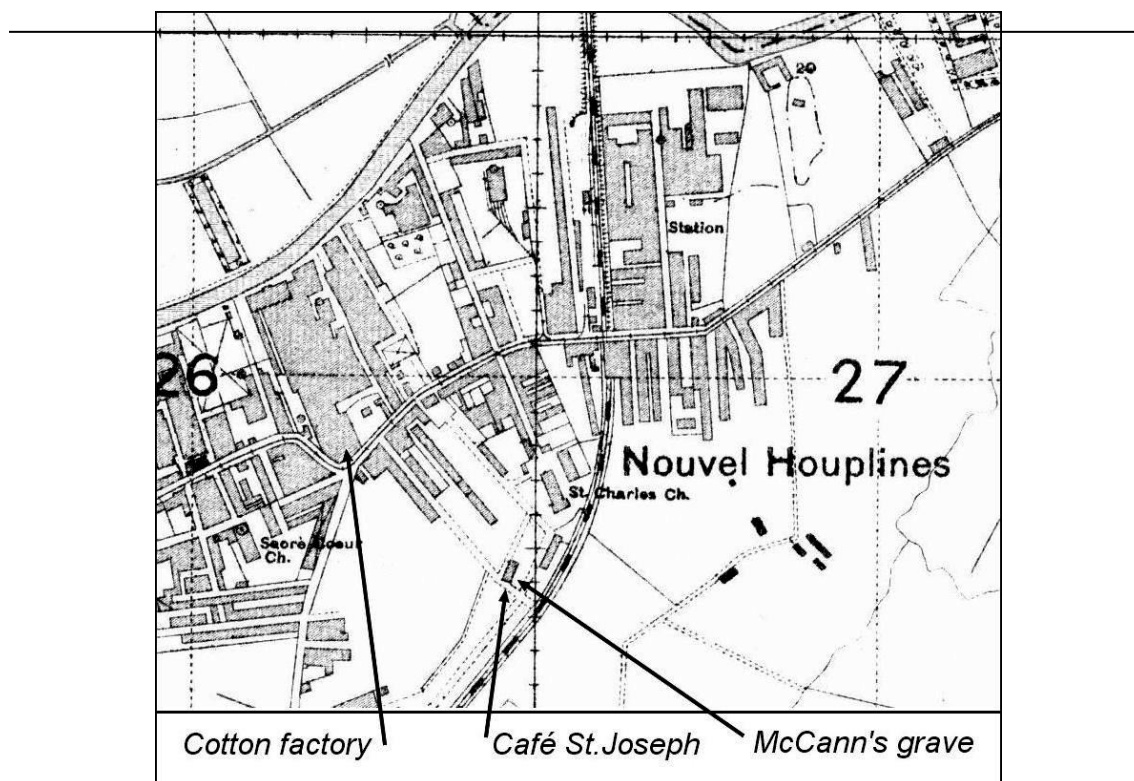
Battalion	Name	Fate	Buried	Grave
1 st R Warwicks	Pte. Fred Batchelor 626	Killed	Houplines Comm Cmty Extn *	II.D.27
2 nd Seaforths	Pte. Murdo Grahame 6480	DoW	Hazebrouck Comm Cmty	III.A.22
2 nd R Dublin Fus	Pte. John Hutcheson 8821	DoW	Longuenesse (St. Omer) Cmty	I.A.6
	Pte. Martin Sculley 7465	Died	Nantes (la Bouteillerie) Cmty	H.3.9
	Pte. William McCann 6735	Killed	Strand Military Cmty **	IX.G.8

Men of the 10th Brigade who died on 17 October 1914. Source *Soldiers Died* and CWGC records.—

* After the Armistice the remains were recovered from Houplines Communal Cemetery and reburied in Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension.

** After the Armistice the remains were recovered from an isolated grave in Nouvel Houplines (Trench Map reference 36.C.26.d.9.4.) and reburied in Strand Military Cemetery.

Nouvel Houplines on a 1918 trench map.



The article above was published in the January 2008 edition of *Stand To*, the journal of the Western Front Association and is reprinted with the author's permission. William McCann's brother, Tommy, served with the Royal Irish Fusiliers during the First World War. A noted athlete, he died in 1919 from the effects of gas poisoning and is buried in Balscadden Cemetery, near Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. The

late Pat Hogarty, in "The Old Toughs", quoted a newspaper report that a Sergeant R. E. Burkett of the 2nd RDF claimed to have shot six German soldiers near Cambrai in September 1914. Pat also quoted another report of a "young lad of the Dublin Fusiliers" who was surrounded by Germans but used his bayonet to kill "half a dozen" before he was mortally wounded.

Brothers-in-Arms.

Jon Toohey.

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

As the eldest grandchild, I was privileged to hear my grandfather tell of his early life in Dublin and the lives of his brothers, both of whom were killed serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in The Great War of 1914-1918.

With his accent still strong after fifty years away from Ireland, he recounted dramatic tales of the events at V Beach, Gallipoli, where his eldest brother died. (1) This so enraged the next brother that he deserted the Royal Navy (in which he had served at the Battle of Jutland) and joined the RDF. He was killed during the massive German offensive that shattered the Allied lines in the spring of 1918. I was entrusted with the family medals and a curious bronze Turkish gun mounting with Arabic lettering and pockmarks where it had been hit by bullets. (2)

Over the years I have gradually researched these stories and remarkably, apart from one possible inconsistency, have confirmed their accuracy. The elder brother was Private Thomas Toohey who enlisted prior to the outbreak of the Great War (possibly as a result of the general lock out of 1913 and lack of jobs). He was aged twenty-three and based in India at the outbreak of the war. The RDF made their way back to Europe to join the 29th Division – the last formed from the regular army. They set out for Gallipoli and had their first experience of conflict at dawn on 25 April 1915 at ‘V’ Beach at the southern tip of the Dardanelles Peninsula. The facts are well documented (3) ... of the *River Clyde*, an old collier packed with troops, being rammed on to the beach ... of the troops spilling out of doors cut into the ship’s sides only to be mowed down ... of the heroic efforts to keep the gangway to the beach in place ... of the storming of the village and successful capture of the brooding fort the next day (first in the fort was a private of the RDF, Tom Cullen from Old Kilmainham in Dublin. He was killed in action later in Salonika) ... of the nine Victoria Crosses won in those two days and of the two fine Irish regiments decimated.

On the first day, 25 April 1915, the RDF, who had been in open tows, suffered many casualties, one of them being Thomas Toohey.

When did the news of the tragic loss of life hit the streets in Dublin? Would it have been known nine days later on the 4 May 1915 when Thomas’ younger brother Joseph enlisted with the Royal Navy? In a rage to avenge the life of his brother, maybe. (4) In any event he joined *HMS Yarmouth* as a stoker. The *Yarmouth* was a light cruiser and was present at the greatest armoured battleship action of all time – Jutland. This took place over two days commencing 31 May 1916 and involved some 250 ships in total. The *Yarmouth* was very much in action and fired the second highest number of shots by a light cruiser in the battle, some 160 - six-inch shells. However, being a stoker deep in the grimy bowels of a ship’s boiler room was probably not a satisfying way of engaging the enemy and avenging a brother’s death. Furthermore, sea warfare at the end of Jutland was limited to stalemate – one can only imagine the frustration and disillusionment of Joseph – this is not what he had enlisted for. His naval records show that he spent ten days in the cells in May 1917 and then on 6 June 1917 he deserted (simply noted as “run” in his service sheet) to join the RDF.

It is not known when Private Joseph Henry Toohey joined the 2nd RDF. However, it may well have been soon after the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) began on 31 July 1917. This battle was to epitomise the suffering of trench warfare and the regiment suffered grievously. What is certain is that he was serving in the front line on 21 March 1918. If he had been frustrated with not seeing enough Germans during his two years with the Royal Navy this was now to be rectified. On that misty morning some sixty-two German infantry Divisions, headed by carefully trained storm troops, hurled themselves at the Allied lines and fell on the exhausted 5th Army. As is well known, they punched a hole deep into the Allied line and literally overran the regiments of the 16th (Irish) Division, which never recovered. This day is also well documented (5).

On the first day, 21 March 1918, the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers suffered a near wipe-out of the battalion and one of them was the ex-HMS *Yarmouth* navy man Joseph Toohey now of the 2nd RDF.

The bodies of neither brother were identified and both have their names commemorated on memorials, Thomas at Cape Helles in Gallipoli and Joseph at Pozieres in France.

References.

1. In 1922, at the age of seventeen, he immigrated to South Africa and only visited Ireland twice thereafter.
2. I still don't know how this found its way back to their mother in Dublin.
3. Most general accounts of the campaign cover V Beach in detail but I recommend the accounts focusing on the Irish regiments, namely the regimental histories such as *Neill's Blue Caps*, Vol III, Schull Books, Co. Cork. Johnstone, T. *Orange, Green & Khaki*. Gill and Macmillan, Dublin, 1992.
4. My grandfather's version had it that Joseph, seeking revenge, deserted the Royal Navy when he heard of his brother's death – however this was two years after he actually deserted.
5. Connolly, S. *A Forlorn Hope – The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Kaiser's Battle March 1918*. Published by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association 2008.

Ernest McCullough
36514, 1st / 6th Battalion
Northumberland Fusiliers.

Sean Connolly.
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

In August 2007, Steve Lowes wrote to the RDFA seeking assistance in tracing any descendants of a Dubliner, Pte. Ernest McCullough, who was killed in the Battle of Arras on 25 May 1917 while serving with the 1st / 6th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Steve's great grandfather was killed on the same day. Here is Steve's story:

In February 2007 we visited Arras. At that time, I did not know of any relatives who fought in The Great War. We took a photograph of my children at the Arras Memorial next to the name of a soldier with the same name as my father and my son. When I went home and researched the family tree, I found out that that man was not related, but, on the same photo was the name of William Holliday, my great grandfather who had died exactly the same age I was when my grandmother was exactly the same age as my daughter. The timing was also very strange as it was just in time for the ninetieth anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Arras. Between February and April, I researched some details and found out that he had probably died somewhere near Croisilles. We went back with my father for the commemorations in April and took part in a special event that lit the Western Front with torches. During this event, we headed to Croisilles and were befriended by a French farmer's wife. By a strange coincidence, I was sent to Paris by the company I work for on the day before the anniversary of his death and I was able to go back to Croisilles on exactly the ninetieth anniversary and plant a rose. The next day I flew into London and went to the National Archives at Kew in London. To my surprise, I found that William had died in the field where we had been standing, probably at the location where the bus had dropped us off, and, that the husband of the lady we had been talking to owned the land. I also found that he and Ernest McCullough had been manning advanced positions and had died when they were fired on by mistake by their own troops. I have the feeling that these were things I was meant to discover and now my aim is make sure that all the descendants of the Holliday, McCullough and Chateaulain families can come together if they want to commemorate the 100th anniversary. Anything that you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

The RDFA wrote back to Steve informing him that Ernest was the son of Robert A. McCullough

of No. 2 Carlton Terrace, Rathmines, Dublin and the husband of Mary Wheeler formerly McCullough of 37 Charleville Avenue, North Strand, Dublin. There is no trace of Carlton Terrace in the 1911 Census but there was a McCullough family living at 2 Castlewood Park, Rathmines. The father, Robert, was born in Armagh City and was a widower. There were four children: Agnes, age thirty-three, Rachel a shop assistant age thirty-two, Ernest an unemployed Clerk age twenty and Arthur apprentice compositor age nineteen. They were all Church of Ireland. The Ernest that Steve discovered was twenty-six when he was killed in 1917. We have no references as to why Ernest served in the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Those who died in the Battle of Arras have not been forgotten. On 9 April 2007, the ninetieth anniversary of the battle was commemorated on the old battlefield itself. Volunteers made a line of 10,000 torches stretching over twenty kilometres marking the old front line from Bullecourt through Arras to Vimy.

“Let those who come after see to it their names are not forgotten.”

Developed from a talk by Michael Lee remembering the First World War dead of the parishes of St. Philip & St. James and Carysfort, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Philip Lecane.
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

On Remembrance Sunday 9 November 2008, I attended service at St. Philip and St James Church in Blackrock, Co. Dublin with my friends, the Lee family. The Lee party consisted of RDFA member Michael, his wife Sally, sons Nicholas and Stephen, and Michael's brother, Edward. Michael and Edward Lee are the great-nephews of Lieutenant Joseph Bagnall Lee, 6th Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers and Captain Robert Ernest Lee, Royal Army Medical Corps. Joseph was killed in action on Kiretch Tepe Ridge in Gallipoli on 7 August 1915. Aged twenty-seven, he has no

identified grave and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. Robert Ernest was a pre-war doctor. Known to his family as Ernest, he was thirty-seven years old when he was lost in the sinking of the “*R.M.S. Leinster*” on 10 October 1918. His body was recovered on the Wexford coast and buried in the Lee family grave at S. D1. 47, Deansgrange Cemetery, Co. Dublin.

As there are no surviving war veterans in the parish, Rector Gillian Wharton asked Michael Lee to speak at the service about the World War 1 casualties from St. Philip & St. James and Carysfort parishes. Casualties from St. Philip & St. James Parish – including Joseph and Ernest Lee – are commemorated in the church. Some years ago the Carysfort Parish Memorial was moved to the grounds of St. Philip & St. James Church.

The following is the text of Michael Lee's talk:

“Ninety years ago this week, the Great War, as it was then known, finally ended. Four years of futile slaughter, carnage and utter waste of young lives were over. It was the end of the killing but just the beginning of grieving for the families of the fallen. On the two memorial tablets in this church, there are thirty names. Outside, on the Carysfort Parish memorial, there are another seven names – thirty-seven fathers, sons, brothers, uncles and boyfriends who would not be coming home. Each one a life snuffed out, each one leaving families who loved them to mourn.

Some families paid an even higher price. Arthur and William Crawford. Arnold and Donald Fletcher and Joseph and Ernest Lee – all brothers who died. This tragedy of epic ferocity happened only ninety years ago in these two small parishes. (No doubt the same tragedy was played out all over the country.)

The Great War had a huge and lasting impact. Ireland, as we know, would change utterly from this time. Now it was not so easy to mourn in public, although privately and in our churches we continued to honour their memory. Poppies were still bought and worn, at least in the church precincts, but not openly. And in time, as the immediate family members died off, the names on

the memorial tablets began to be forgotten. As a child, I was always fascinated by the two sepia photos of the two handsome young men in uniform, which hung in our house. When I asked my father who they were, he told me that they were his uncles, Joe, who was killed at Gallipoli in 1915 and Ernest, who was drowned when the Leinster mailboat was torpedoed off Kingstown in October 1918. Nothing more was said and I didn't ask again. Only years later did I realise that, obviously for my dad and his father particularly, the memory was far too painful. Out of a family of four brothers, two had been killed. Life in our family and for all the other families who had lost loved ones, would never be the same again.

There is a house, just up the road from this church, about two hundred yards away, called Bellvue. I'd like to quote a few lines from a letter written on 10/11/18, one day before the Armistice, from this house to another serving son who survived the war.

'My dear Tennyson,

Just a month ago today, our dear boy Ernest lost his life so tragically. Oh, we do feel so terribly poorer for the loss of our brave boys – THEY DIED AS THEY LIVED, BRAVELY AND UNSELFISHLY, GIVING INSPIRATION TO US ALL – BUT THEIR SPIRIT LIVES ON AND CAN NEVER DIE. We are very proud but very, very sad.

Your very affectionate father, Edward Lee'

Well, Edward was my great grandfather and Joe and Ernest were his sons, my two great uncles. I think the words written by my great grandfather, although about his two sons, are extraordinarily appropriate for how we feel about ALL the thirty seven names on the memorials, in fact, how we feel about all the 35,000 Irish men who lost their lives in the Great War. They died as they lived, bravely and unselfishly, giving inspiration to us all – But their spirit lives on and can never die.

After the service today, take the time to look at each name on the memorials and remember them and what they did for us and heed the words

behind me – "Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten."



Lieutenant Joseph Bagnall Lee
6th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers.

After the service was over Michael, Edward, Nicholas, Stephen and I went to the Lee family grave in Deansgrange Cemetery. There we laid poppy crosses on the grave and Michael repeated the words used by his great grandfather. *"They died as they lived, bravely and unselfishly, Giving inspiration to us all – But their spirit lives on and can never die."* Had Edward Lee been able to speak to his great grandson I feel sure that he would have used part of another line from his letter. *"We are very proud..."*

Annie and Edward Lee were the parents of Joe and Ernest Lee. Annie (née Shackleton) was a relative of Polar Explorer Ernest Shackleton. Edward was owner of a large drapery firm, with branches in Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire), Rathmines, Dublin, and Bray, Co. Wicklow. Edward Lee was a very progressive employer. He

was the first in Ireland to introduce half-day working on Wednesdays, for which his employees presented him with an engraved scroll. During the 1913 industrial dispute in Dublin Edward Lee was one of only two employers to publicly break ranks with the tactics used by employer leader William Martin Murphy. He served on a committee chaired by Tom Kettle that tried to promote peace between employers and unions. The high Victorian infant mortality rate affected even well-off families like the Lees. Three children, including the family's only girl, died before reaching the age of six months. Four sons survived into adulthood. On the outbreak of war Ted, the eldest son, stayed at home to work in the family business. The three younger brothers joined the army. A newspaper photograph early in the war, captioned "*Three sons serving at the front,*" showed the three in uniform.

Joseph Bagnall Lee, the third son, was educated privately and at Trinity College Dublin. Called to the Bar in 1909, he practised on the North East and North West Circuits. With John Moloney he wrote "*The law relating to compensation for criminal injuries to person and property*" (Dublin 1912). He was also the author of "*Shop Acts, 1912, and Irish regulations, notices and forms*" (Dublin, 1912). He enlisted in the army in September 1914, being commissioned through the Officer Training Corps, Trinity College Dublin of which he had previously been a member. He and his older brother, Alfred Tennyson Lee, were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the 6th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers. The battalion went to Gallipoli as part of the 10th (Irish) Division. There, on 7 August 1915, Joe was killed in an attack which secured the position on Kiretech Tepe Ridge later known as Jephson's Post.



Captain Robert Ernest Lee
The Royal Army Medical Corps.

On 6 September 1915 *The Irish Times* published an article entitled "*Suvla Bay Landing: Co. Down Chaplain's Narration*". The article was based on a letter written to the *Methodist Recorder* by Robert H. Spence, Wesleyan Chaplain to the 10th (Irish) Division. The following is an extract from the article.

"Sometimes we stumbled over the lifeless form of a brave fellow who had given his life for his country. One such incident brought home to me with tremendous force the gigantic tragedy of war. We were nearing the firing line and somewhat apprehensive, when close by, in the gathering light of the early dawn, I saw a man lying face downward, motionless, lifeless. There had been all too many such incidents earlier. But the forms could not be recognized. On looking closely at the features I found it was my good friend Lieutenant Lee, a young fellow whose successful college career promised a future of

rare brilliance. He had laid all on his country's altar. Twenty four hours before we were laughing and chatting together on the troopship, where he was so full of life and spirit. Now I was looking through tears on his lifeless body. A grave having been dug on our return from the firing line, later we laid his broken body in its last resting place on a rocky slope overlooking the Aegean Sea. Confident that by his very willingness to die for the cause of right he had proved his title to that unending life 'when eternal morn shall rise and shadows end.'

In the confusion that occurred during later fighting and the Allied evacuation of Gallipoli, the location of Joe Lee's grave was forgotten.



Michael Lee showing the location of Jephson's Post to Ali, the Turkish guide, using a copy of a drawing done by an officer in 1915.

In September 2005, Michael Lee and I were among a group from the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Royal Munster Fusiliers and Connaught Rangers Associations who climbed Kiretch Tepe Ridge. At Jephson's Post, we remembered Joe Lee and those who died with him.

Ernest Lee, the second eldest son, was a graduate of Medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. He served as a student doctor at the Royal City of Dublin Hospital (now Baggot Street Hospital.) He later became Resident Medical Officer of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, Dublin and Senior House Surgeon *"in one of the principal hospitals in England."* He joined the army on the outbreak of war. On 15 August 1914, he was

appointed Lieutenant in the R.A.M.C. On 10 September 1915, *The Freeman's Journal* published an article headed *"Captain Ernest Lee: How he won promotion at Hill 60."* The lengthy article told how Lee and Methodist chaplain O.S. Watkins had gone to a first aid post under heavy fire. At the post, Lee tended to the wounded. The chaplain and he then went back under heavy shellfire, in an attempt to get stretcher-bearers. Ernest Lee spent the rest of the war serving on the Western Front. He appears to have been on leave at the time the *"R.M.S. Leinster"* was sunk. Family tradition says that he was travelling to England to stand as godfather to the child of a friend, before returning to France. In the aftermath of the sinking, a grief stricken Edward Lee wrote a number of letters to his youngest son Tennyson, the only survivor of the three brothers who had joined the army.

In June 2007, on a trip to the Western Front with the RDFA, Michael Lee and I clambered over the uneven ground of Hill 60, following in the footsteps of his great-uncle Ernest.

Edward Lee died on 14 February 1927, at the age of seventy-three. The Lee family home at Bellvue, Cross Avenue, Blackrock was subsequently bought by Eamon de Valera. In his book *"A Memoir,"* the late Terry de Valera spoke about growing up in what had been the Lee family home. Annie Lee became friendly with Sinead de Valera and often spoke to her about her sons who had been lost in the war. Annie died on 6 March 1938, at the age of seventy-nine. When Edward and Annie Lee died, it's as if they wanted to ensure that all their children were included in their embrace. The Lee family plot in Deansgrange Cemetery has two headstones. The left headstone, in the form of a cross, is inscribed *"In loving memory of Robert Ernest Lee, Captain R.A.M.C. Lost in the sinking of R.M.S. Leinster. Oct 10 1918. Aged 35 years. Faithful unto death."* The headstone is inscribed on the base: *"Edward Lee J.P. (Father) Died 14th February 1927. Aged 73 years."* The other headstone, commemorating children who died in infancy and Joseph who was killed at Gallipoli, is inscribed at the base: *"Annie Lee, (Mother), Died 6th March 1938, Aged 79 years."*

What was the Kingstown branch of the Lee chain of stores is now occupied by Dunnes Stores on Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire. A crest bearing the letters "EL" stands on the top of the building on the corner where Georges Street intersects with Northumberland Avenue. When I pass by I sometimes pause, look up, and think of one Irish family that was devastated by the First World War.

My good friend Michael Lee works as a cameraman for RTE. Recently he was in front of the camera for once when he was interviewed for the "Nationwide" programme on the ninetieth anniversary of the end of World War 1. Mike spoke with great passion and eloquence about the sinking of the "R.M.S. *Leinster*" and his great uncle Ernest who was lost when the ship was torpedoed. Sometimes over a whiskey, Mike and I reminisce about the day we climbed Kiretch Tepe Ridge beneath a blazing Turkish sun. We've promised ourselves we won't let too much time pass before we go back again to remember Mike's great uncle Joe and all the Irish who lie in Gallipoli with him.

Men of Brookfield.

Liam Dodd

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

Brookfield Buildings, at the start of the twentieth century, was an urban Council housing estate of approximately one hundred small houses, in the coastal village of Blackrock, County Dublin, five miles south of the city of Dublin. The Blackrock Urban Council had applied to the Local Government Board seeking sanction for the erection of artisans' dwellings on the site at Brookfield and requested a loan of £14,500 for the erection of the houses. Permission was granted and the building of the houses commenced around 1899-1900.

During the period of 1914-18, the Great War and the 1916 Easter Rebellion had a major affect on this small and well-knit community. A large proportion of men from Brookfield volunteered for one cause or the other during this time, with

the main regiment of choice for those who enlisted into the British Army being the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Most of the families mentioned were long established in the Blackrock area and many of their descendants still live in the district. Inevitably some of these men never returned to their homes and the village of Blackrock, "The Rock".

W. Alexander was a volunteer in the 1916 Rising. He was arrested and was one of 203 prisoners deported from Richmond Barracks, Dublin arriving at Stafford Detention Barracks in England on 9 May 1916. He resided at 4 Brookfield Avenue.

Private Jeremiah Allen was born in Blackrock Co. Dublin. He enlisted on 7 September 1914 into the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, aged twenty-four years, and was given the regimental number 13105. He was discharged after the war in 1919. Married to Mary Anne Masterson, he resided at No. 63 Brookfield Buildings



Corporal Michael Archbold
9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Corporal Michael Archbold was originally from Wicklow but moved to Blackrock with his family. He was employed in a dairy shop as a messenger before he enlisted in the army. His first regiment was the Army Cyclist Corps but was later transferred to the 9th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers with the service number 27247. It was while serving with the 9th Battalion that he was

awarded a Military Medal for bravery in action at Ginchy on 9 September 1916. He served with the battalion until 16 August 1917 when he was killed in action at the Battle of Langemarck. He has no known grave and his name is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, panel 144. He resided at No. 60 Brookfield Buildings with his widowed mother Mary, two brother's John & Edward and sister Mary.

Private Patrick Browne was born in Clane, Co. Kildare, moving to Dublin with his family at a young age. He also served in the 9th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was killed in action on the 14 August 1916. He is buried in Philopophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe. In 1911, he resided with his parents Patrick & Mary at No. 7 Brookfield, along with his sisters Annie & Mary and brother Michael. After he married, he lived with his wife and family at No. 9 Brookfield Buildings.

Mr Joseph Campbell O.B.E. was not a member of the armed forces nor a volunteer but was involved in the 1916 Rebellion due to his work in the telegraph office in Dublin. He was awarded the O.B.E. for displaying great zeal and courage in carrying out telegraph work under dangerous conditions during the Easter Rebellion. His O.B.E. was presented to him in the Shelbourne Hotel Dublin on 28 October 1918 by the Earl of Meath, who stated "I salute you who have shown us noble and brilliant example of the way in which we should all act, should we ever be called on to make the choice between the risk of life and the performance of duty whether to the state or to our fellow men and women". Joseph Campbell resided at No. 65 Brookfield Buildings.

Private Patrick Carton, 22374, 9th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers was killed in action on 9 June 1917, aged thirty-one years. He was born and enlisted in Blackrock and before the war was employed around the village as a general labourer. He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium panel 45. His parents were William & Jane Carton and he resided at No. 12 Brookfield Buildings, along with his brothers William and Thomas and sisters Louisa and Frances.



Brookfield Buildings, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Rifleman Arthur Corcoran, No 9 Brookfield Terrace, served with D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was the son of Andrew and Mary Corcoran. He had a sister Frances and three brothers, Thomas, Charles and Bernard. When he was around ten years old, his father died and in 1906 his mother remarried. She had two children, Mary and James, with her new husband, Michael O'Grady. Arthur was killed on 11 August 1915 at Gallipoli, Turkey. His body was not recovered after the war and his name is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his first name as Arthur but the 1911 Census shows his name as Andrew. He was employed in the General Post Office as a Telegraph Messenger.

His stepfather, Michael O'Grady, served with 'A' Company 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers with the regimental number 15402. The son of James and Annie O'Grady, he had served in the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1901. He was killed in action on 16 August 1915 at Galipolli, aged forty, five days after his stepson Arthur had been killed in Gallipoli. Neither has a known grave and both are commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

E. Finn was a volunteer in the Easter Rising. He was arrested and sent to Stafford Detention Barracks in England on the 9 May 1916. He resided at No. 27 Brookfield Avenue.

Private Thomas Fitzpatrick, 20233, was in the 3rd Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was born in County Dublin in 1883 and in 1911 he resided with his wife Elizabeth (Lizzie) and four children at No. 54 Brookfield Buildings. He enlisted on 24

June 1915 and stated that his trade was that of a skilled labourer. However, he was discharged on 8 December 1915 on medical grounds.

Bernard Fox, aged thirty-one, was employed as a clerk in the Gas Company when he took part in the Easter Rising. He was arrested and sent to Stafford Detention Barracks in England on 9 May 1916. He resided at No.5 Brookfield Avenue with his sister Ellen and his brother Peter.

John Gaskin, an Irish Volunteer, was employed as a butcher's porter in the village of Blackrock in 1916. The part he played in the Easter Rebellion was in the Blackrock district and one of the many actions he was involved in was the cutting of the telegraph wires on the railway line at Merrion Gates. He was arrested by the local police at his residence, No. 34 Brookfield Buildings, on 2 May 1916 and sent to Stafford Detention Barracks in England. Later he was interned in Frongoch Internment Camp in Wales. After his release from Frongoch and his return home he continued his fight against British rule in Ireland and was a well known for this in the South County Dublin district. In 1918 he was arrested once more, this time for illegal drilling at Deans Grange and was sentenced to six months imprisonment in a Belfast jail. The next major event that Gaskin was involved in was the shooting and wounding of a local girl on the 25 April 1920. The young girl, Agnes Byrne, who was only seventeen years old, was on her way home from a dance at O'Byrne's Social Club in the village with some friends, who included John Archbold (youngest brother of Michael, see above), Miss Kelly, Miss Perry, John Byrne and a young man named Swann. As the group reached a piece of waste ground beside Brookfield Buildings, a shot was fired, hitting Agnes Byrne in the chest. A witness stated that he saw Gaskin running to the waste ground a few hundred yards away. Another shot was heard, the man fell to the ground and rolled on his side. When Doctor McEvoy arrived Gaskin was dead. He had a wound in the right temple. Byrne was in a dangerous condition and she was removed to Monkstown Hospital.

An inquest was held into the shootings at the hospital in Monkstown a few days later. Mr. Michael Gaskin stated that he had noticed his son

was, for some time past, in a very downhearted mood. He had noticed this despondency ever since he came out of jail in Belfast. The treatment he got there played on him. He was one of the hunger strikers two years before. His father could not give any other reason for his son's despondency. Mr Gaskin also stated that on the Sunday night of the shooting he never saw his son in better spirits. John Byrne in evidence said that he saw Gaskin come into the hall as the group left to go home. He accompanied them for about two hundred yards and he then went ahead alone. When they arrived at the waste ground, he saw a flash and Agnes Byrne fell wounded. He saw Gaskin run away and heard another shot and saw him fall to the ground. The witness added that Gaskin came in and out of the dance hall that night but he was not a member of the club. May Byrne, 58 Brookfield Place, said that she picked up the revolver which was lying beside Gaskin. It was touching his clothes. Another witness, Thomas Featherston, described how he began some playful wrestling with the deceased at the club on Sunday when Gaskin became violently angry. The witness was very alarmed by this so he stopped and went home. Superintendent James Doran, F Division D.M.P., stated that he had seen the injured girl in hospital and she was very weak. She made a statement to him in the presence of the matron. "I was going home on Sunday night and I saw him standing on the waste ground". Doran asked Byrne who he was and she said. "It was Gascoyne. I heard a shot and I knew no more until I found myself in hospital." She went on to state that Gaskin used to ask her out but she would not go out with him. He threatened to do something to himself. The Coroner said in a brief summing up that John Gaskin had evidently conceived affection for this attractive and good-looking girl that was not reciprocated. That and other matters must have affected his mind. He extended his deepest sympathy with the parents of the deceased man. The jury returned a verdict that Gaskin died as a result of a bullet wound to the skull, self-inflicted. A week later Agnes Byrne was still in a critical condition in Monkstown Hospital.

Michael Gaskin was interred on 28 April in the west section of Deans Grange Cemetery. The inscription on the headstone reads: "Erected by Michael Gaskin 34 Brookfield Place Blackrock

Co. Dublin – In Memory of his beloved son Sean Gaskin I.V. (Irish Volunteer) died April 25th 1920 age 23 years – Also his beloved wife Mary Anne Gaskin died July 14 1934 aged 65 years – Also his daughter Margaret Maggie died March 24 1940 aged 35 years – Also the above Michael Gaskin died November 29 1949 aged 77 years – Jesus have mercy on their souls R.I.P.”

Note. The name Gaskin is repeatedly recorded incorrectly as Gascoyne in many newspaper reports of the time.

Private Patrick Griffin, enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in April 1912 and resided at No. 43 Brookfield Buildings.

Private Thomas Mulhall originally served with the Royal Army Medical Corps but later transferred to the 1st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers with the service number 21581. He was killed on 8 August 1917, aged twenty-eight. He has no known grave and his name is on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. His mother, Mrs Mary Anne Mulhall (widow), resided at No. 25 Brookfield Buildings.

Driver Joseph Murray, 91340, 6th 'B' Reserve Brigade, attached 34th Reserve Battery, Royal Field Artillery, died of pneumonia on 10 November 1919, aged twenty-four years. He was buried in Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery, Scotland. He was the Son of Thomas and Rebecca Murray, No. 26 Brookfield Terrace.

Rifleman Joseph McCormack served with the 7th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. He was killed on 30 July 1916 and is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, France. He was the son of Mrs. E. McCormack, a widow of No. 24 Brookfield Place.

Private Christopher McGowan, 362312, Labour Corps was born in Dublin in 1886. He originally served in the 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, after enlisting on 4 September 1914. He served at Gallipoli and later worked at a Prisoner of War hospital in Egypt. He was discharged after a total service of four years 244 days. He resided at No. 60 Brookfield Buildings.

Private Myles McNally, 26442, 8th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers was killed on 8 August

1917, aged thirty-two years. He was born in Blackrock and enlisted in Kingstown, Co. Dublin (now Dun Laoghaire). In 1911 he resided at No. 46 Brookfield Buildings with his brother William. Both earned their living as licensed hackney car drivers. He is buried in Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Belgium. He was the son of James and Honor McNally and the husband of Mrs C. McNally of No. 23 Brookfield Place Buildings.

William Pedlar, an American citizen, came to Dublin two days before the outbreak of the Easter Rebellion and was arrested by the military. He was sent to Wandsworth Detention Barracks, London on 9 May 1916. He stated that he resided at No.27 Brookfield Terrace and that his trade was a salesman and was 45 years old at the time.

Private Joseph Pender , 8477, 9th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers was killed in action on 27 April 1916 on the first day of the Battle of Hulluch, aged seventeen. He has no known grave and his name is on the Loos Memorial, France. He was the son of Joseph Pender who resided at No. 62 Brookfield Place.

Private Christopher Perry, 16479, 'B' Company 6th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was born in 1890 and was employed in the district as a general labourer. He enlisted on 10 November 1914 and went with the 10th(Irish) Division to the Dardanelles. Later in the war he served in Salonika where he suffered badly from frostbite. He was demobilised and transferred to the Reserve on 27 March 1919. He resided at No. 19A Brookfield Terrace.

Three brothers who resided at No. 7 Brookfield Avenue enlisted. Private Patrick Roe, 11416, served with the 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He enlisted on 1 November 1910 and when the war broke out he went to France on 23 August 1914 with the first contingent of the Dublin Fusiliers to land in France. He was three times wounded in action and was awarded the Military Medal, after being recommended for the D.C.M., in early 1916 for bravery in rescuing wounded men under heavy fire. He was badly wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916, which resulted in his left leg being amputated.



Private Patrick Roe
2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

His brother, Daniel, served as Gunner 194337 with the Royal Field Artillery. Michael served as Private 12985, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, before his transfer to the Labour Corps with the number 393539.

Gunner Hubert Tresson, 31959, Royal Field Artillery, enlisted at Blackrock, Co. Dublin on the 4 January 1915 and was wounded in the head by shrapnel during the war. He was the husband of Mary Tresson (nee Roe) and resided at Brookfield Buildings. The Tresson family roots go back to before the 1800's in Blackrock. He was a brother-in-law of Patrick Roe M.M. (see above)

Private Charles Ward, 18409, served with the 7th Battalion Royal Inniskillings Fusiliers as part of the 16th (Irish) Division. He was wounded and awarded Military Medal, with a 16th Division commendation (Hickie Parchment) on 7 July 1917. He resided in Brookfield Buildings

Two other residents of Brookfield who are worth a mention are Patrick Perry and Bernard Corcoran

According to the 1911 Census, Patrick Perry resided at No. 10 Brookfield with his father William, mother Mary, along with four brothers, Francis, John, Joseph and Edward and three sisters Mary, Lina and Annie. Patrick Perry was killed in

County Cork in August 1922, while a serving member of the Irish Army. His remains were returned to Dublin by sea along with eight other soldiers who has also been killed around the same time in the Kerry/Cork area of the country. The list of the dead was, Sergeant William Purdy, Private G. McKenna, his brother Private F McKenna, Private William Nevin, Private T. Lynch, Private C O'Toole and Private Terence Maguire. Perry's address was recorded as No. 20, Brookfield Terrace. The bodies arrived at the North Wall by the Irish Lights steamer, Alexandra, and were removed to Portobello Barracks. Prior to the remains being removed, the coffins were uncovered to enable the relatives to obtain a last view of the dead. The next day Requiem Mass was celebrated in the library of the barracks. Full military honours were accorded and the cortège proceeded to Glasnevin Cemetery. Each of the coffins was covered with the tricolour flag. When the interment had taken place, three volleys were discharged over the grave and the "Last Post" was sounded. The chief mourners for Patrick Perry were his mother, sisters Mrs Colgan and Miss A Perry, along with brothers-in-law Mr Bergin and Mr Colgan.



Private Patrick Roe, 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers, with his niece, Winnie Hall, at the Soldiers' Homes, Seafort Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin. Photo taken some years after the war

In the 1911 Census, Bernard Corcoran was seven years old and resided in 9 Brookfield Terrace with his mother and step-father Michael O'Grady (Royal Dublin Fusiliers, see above). In mid May 1923, the National Army Headquarters in Dublin issued a statement: "A party of troops from Naas area, operating in the hills about Ballymount district, surrounded a house about 4 a.m. and were proceeding to close in on the building when fire was opened on the troops from within. The troops replied to the fire and a short engagement ensued, in the course of which Plunkett, the leader of the party of Irregulars in the house was shot dead. The Irregulars numbering fourteen surrendered and were made prisoners. Also captured were ten rifles, two Thompson guns and a quantity of ammunition. Among the prisoners was Bernard Corcoran and his address was stated as 31 Brookfield Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. (Brother of Arthur Corcoran who was killed with the Royal Irish Rifles see above). The other prisoners for the record were, James Conity, No. 28 Corporation Street, Dublin, Christopher Barry, Kinockdrin, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, Michael Collins, 28 Corporation Street, Dublin, Patrick Reilly, Ballintubber, Hollywood, Co. Mayo, Daniel Magee, Fulcarragh, Co. Donegal, Frank Fleming, Lockstown, Co. Wicklow, Patrick Shannon, Baltiboys, Co. Wicklow, James McMurrough, Tullynamoyle, Co. Leitrim, Patrick Farrell, Ballyboyle, Co. Wicklow, James Miley, Drumgoff, Glenmalure, Co. Wicklow, George Miley, Knocknagrane, Vallemount, Co. Wicklow, John Redmond, Killinney, Tallaght, Co. Dublin and James Treacy, Mountbellew, Co. Galway

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C.W.G.C.
Some of the residents of Brookfield.
1911 Census.

Behind the Cold Statistics of War.

Sean Connolly

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

While trawling through the archive of *The Irish Times* for Royal Dublin Fusiliers from Rathmines, I stumbled upon a sad report of an inquest into the drowning of a young nurse from the Adelaide Hospital in Dublin. On 1 August 1915, the body of Miss Pearl Mary Jones had been found floating in the sea off Howth, then a north County Dublin fishing village. She had been engaged to a Mr L. McDougal, 41 Grosvenor Square Rathmines. At the inquest, he stated that the engagement had been broken off repeatedly and renewed. The last breaking off had been on the previous Friday. They had parted on the best of terms and he had hoped that the engagement would be renewed as usual. Miss Jones left for Howth on the Sunday morning, stating that she would be back for lunch.



2nd Lieut. L. G. D. MacDougald

.When looking at the news items for 1917, I found a report that a Second Lieutenant Llewellyn MacDougald, with the same address, was missing on 16 August. Aged twenty-nine, he had been commissioned into the 8th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in September 1915 and had served in France since the Somme campaign in July 1916. Prior to enlisting, he had been employed by the Dublin Port and Docks Board. He was later confirmed dead on the date he was reported missing. His name is among the 8,365 names on the Tyne Cot Memorial who have no known grave. He left a widowed mother, four sisters and four brothers. Two of his brothers also held commissions and appear to have survived the war.

The Mystery of the Three Friends.

Philip Lecane

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

A number of years ago David Saunders, Editor of the Gallipolian (Journal of the Gallipoli Association) wrote to our Chairperson Tom Burke informing him that there is a brass plaque set into the top of a prie-dieu in the Ridley Chapel of St. Boniface's Church at Bunbury in Cheshire. The inscription on the plaque reads: *"In memory of John Lee, brave as a Lion. Faithful Soldier of the 1st Battrn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers who fell in action on 28th April 1915 at Gallipoli. The honour of the regiment never shone brighter than when it was entrusted to him and the other brave men who died with him. Two friends revere his memory Rev. R. Armitage, D.S.O. one time Chaplain to the Regiment and Capt. T. Mood, his Company Commander."* (The "T" may have been incorrectly transcribed, as I believe it should read "J.")

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records Private John Lee, 6860, 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers as died 30 April 1915 and commemorated on Special Memorial B.22, 'V Beach' Cemetery, Gallipoli. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* records his place of birth as Manchester, his place of enlistment as Naas and place of residence at time of enlistment as Dublin. He does not appear in the online 1911 census for Dublin.

The Museum of Army Chaplaincy sent me the following information on the Reverend Robert Armitage D.S.O. Born 5th March 1857, he was the eldest son of Arthur Armitage, Barrister-at-Law, of Bridstow, Herefordshire, and Isabel Jane Armitage, daughter of Dudley Perceval, Esq. Educated at Marlborough, and at Magdalen College, Oxford, he was ordained Deacon in 1880 and Priest in 1882. Curate of Landinigt, 1880-82, he was Chaplain; Oxford Military College, 1882-84 and Curate of St John Baptist, Leamington, 1884-86.

He joined the Army in October 1886 as Chaplain to the Forces; 3rd Class, served in Aldershot,

1886-90; at Wellington Barracks, London 1890-94; At Barbados, 1894-98 and at Woolwich, 1898-99. He served in the Boer War 1899-1902. He was Mentioned in Despatches (London Gazette 16 April 1901 and 29 July 1902). He received the Queen's Medal with five clasps, and Kings' Medal with two clasps. He was recommended for the DSO by Lord Kitchener, and was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (London Gazette, 31st Oct. 1902): *"The Rev Robert Armitage; Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class. In recognition of services during the operations in South Africa."* He served at Woolwich 1902 - 07; Cairo 1907 -11 and at Plymouth, 1911-12. He was Vicar of St Chad's Tushingham 1913-15, Vicar of Bunbury w Calveley and Peckforton, Tarporley 1915 - 22, Vicar of Stanton Lacy 1922 - 45, Rural Dean of Ludlow 1931-35.

The Reverend Robert Armitage D.S.O. died on 29th May 1954. His address was 15 Meyrick Street, Hereford. Unfortunately the Museum of Chaplaincy has no record of when he was chaplain to the 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The information I have on Captain Mood is as follows. John Musprat Mood was commissioned in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1906. He was promoted on 17th July 1908 and 2nd August 1913. Commanding Z Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, he led the attack on The Camber, on the eastern flank of the V Beach landing, Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. He survived the action. In 1916 he was seconded from the RDF to the Machine Gun Corps. Mentioned in Despatches in 1917, he was awarded the Military Cross in 1918. He survived the war.

On 24 September 1919, John Musprat Mood, eldest son of Mr W.R. Mood, Chapel House, near Kircaldy, married Winifred Wiseman, daughter of the late Sir William Wiseman, Royal Navy and Lady Elizabeth Wiseman at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. He was serving with the 2nd Dublins at the time of their disbandment in 1922. At the handing over of the colours to the King at Windsor Castle in June 1922, the 2nd Battalion's King's Colour was carried by Captain J.M. Mood, O.B.E. M.C. He was given part of the regimental silver.



Captain J. M. Mood, O.B.E., M.C.
Windsor Castle, 12 June 1922.

On 26 August 1922, he transferred to the East Yorkshire Regiment. His address was No. 13 Eaton Rise, Ealing, Middlesex. At the time of his daughter's marriage in 1943, her father was described as the late Major John Mood and her mother was living in Toronto, Canada.

So that's Captain John Mood and the Reverend Robert Armitage. But who was Private John Lee? Commemorated in the Ridley Chapel of St Boniface's Church at Bunbury in Cheshire, his name does not appear on the war memorial outside the church, suggesting perhaps that he did not have a connection with the locality. Why was this private's memory revered by a Captain and a Reverend, to the extent that they erected a plaque? I would be grateful for any further information and can be contacted through the RDFA.

My thanks to The Museum of Army Chaplaincy for information on the Reverend Robert Armitage D.S.O. and to Liam Dodd for information on Captain John Musprat Mood.

Sandes Soldiers' Homes

Bryan Mac Mahon

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

This is the story of a woman with a unique claim to recognition for her life's work, but who has been largely forgotten, a victim of the 'national amnesia' which has affected Irish people associated with the British army. Elise Sandes (1851-1934) was founder of a soldiers' welfare movement which still survives today. She was an evangelical Christian, and her concern for the welfare of a young drummer boy in Tralee led her to set up a centre for soldiers' spiritual well-being and recreation. By 1913, she had established twenty-three soldiers' homes in Ireland and eight in India.

Elise was born in Oak Villa, Tralee, in 1851. In 1869, with her mother's support, Elise began to invite soldiers from Ballymullen barracks to Oak Villa for bible study, prayer, hymn singing and lessons in reading and writing. As one soldier put it: "To find ladies of social position and refinement coming to a soldiers' barrack-room and inviting the men to their own house to spend the evening was like a mighty magnetism to me. Gladly did I accept the invitation to Oak Villa." By 1870, at the age of nineteen, Elise Sandes had found her calling and a public role as a leader of men.

Expansion.

A retired officer donated premises in King Street, Cork, which opened as the first Soldiers' Home in June 1877. Describing the soldier's life of routine, drill and discipline, Elise understood that "when evening came, his whole being cried out for freedom and change, and he wandered out of barracks to look for amusement in the streets." The purpose of the Cork home was to draw young soldiers away from the public houses, to offer them an alternative centre for friendship, entertainment and self-improvement, and to introduce them to the Christian message. Soldiers were frequently refused lodgings, and stayed on the streets or in pubs, where they often fell victim to "land-sharks," who would rob them. So, later

on, a bigger home with sleeping accommodation opened on Lower Glanmire Road.

Despite ill-health, Elise Sandes established her next home in Belfast in 1891. Homes at Parkgates (Dublin), Ballincollig, Queenstown (Cobh) and Dundalk followed quickly, and Miss Sandes' dream of having a home in every garrison town in Ireland was taking shape. Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of the army, supported her in establishing a second home in Dublin. It was known as Wolseley Soldier's Home, at No. 41 South Great George's Street. Lord Lansdowne gave his name to the Limerick Home. A magazine called *Forward* was established to link all the homes and circulate information. It was published monthly, and it included stories, personal testimonies, devotional writing, soldiers' letters, locations of regiments, photographs and news from the homes. Elise wrote regular autobiographical articles, later published in book form.

The homes provided a refuge for soldiers, a social outlet, reading facilities and practical support. The men paid in pennies for coffee and tea, and £36,542 was received in this way in 1909. The atmosphere was welcoming and non-judgmental, and although there was a strong evangelical ethos, prayer and hymns were voluntary. There was only one rule – "welcome." The women in the homes (many only in their twenties) were addressed as Mother by the soldiers, and it is clear from many individual testimonies that they created a home-from-home atmosphere for lonely men. "Here we have Home Rule and no coercion," joked the soldiers in Cork. Elise described a typical situation in the Queenstown home:

"As night drew on, soldiers and sailors crowded into the house until it was packed from stem to stern. The floor of my one little sitting room even was covered with men. At last we were obliged to lock the entrance door. Far on into the night, I stood at my bedroom window and tried to explain to the groups of men who gathered underneath and pleaded for admission, that while my heart was big enough to take them all in, alas! my house was not, and I directed them to archways where they might get some shelter from the driving rain."

India.

Loneliness, alcoholism and boredom were the most acute problems encountered by the soldiers. In India, they were also exposed to typhoid, dysentery, cholera and venereal diseases. "Barracks are noisy," wrote one general, "language is coarse, thoughts are wordly, desires are low and vice so easy." Elise willingly responded to requests for homes to be established in India. She aimed to draw soldiers away from the wet canteens, opium dens and bazaar brothels by providing wholesome recreation. A donation of £600 arrived in the post expressly to set up a home in Rawal Pindi. This location had a special appeal to Elise as her older sister, wife of an officer, had died there. Next followed a base in Murree, a hill-station where soldiers could spend the hot months. Theodora Schofield and Anna Ashe established the Homes in India, and a new objective was undertaken – to have a home in every cantonment in India. Anna Ashe wrote: "I don't think I shall ever forget going around the three military hospitals on Christmas morning. As I walked through the special ward, the occupant of nearly every bed was either unconscious or delirious. By New Year's Day, ten of those I saw had passed away into eternity – dying alone in India, most of them wrecked lives, and each one some mother's son." In due course, there were eight homes altogether in India: Rawal Pindi, Murree, Quetta, Ramikhet, Chakrata, Meerut, Lucknow, and Umballa. They all closed with the departure of the British army in 1947.

The Great War.

Elise Sandes was sixty-three when war broke out in 1914; she had been working on her memoirs and preparing to hand on responsibility to younger women. She was in Coolmoney Camp, Glen of Imaal, when news of mobilization was received. "A great horror seized my heart," she wrote, "it is just work and pray, pray and work for these men while we have them; they will be gone from us all too soon."

The scale of casualties was appalling to these humanitarians. Their work for four years was to prepare men for death. Along with prayers, there were practical supports: parcels sent to the front,

with food, clothing, books, magazines and treats. On the home front the women went on board troopships before they sailed, handing out postcards and pencils for soldiers to send a last message home. They distributed bibles and prayer-cards, many of which comforted the men in their last hours before battle. The pages of *Forward* were filled with letters of appreciation from soldiers ("somewhere in France"), and from mothers and wives.

Departure from the Free State.

Great changes followed in Ireland after the War of Independence and the Treaty. In 1922, Elise and her helpers moved out of the Irish Free State along with the army they had served for fifty years. She wrote pragmatically in April 1922: "This month finds us in the full swing of troops being moved and the homes being closed in the south of Ireland... Today I look back on my fifty-three years service amongst them, and I don't regret one day of it or one bit of the labour spent in establishing these homes... I will not waste time grieving over the closing of homes which it has cost a life's labour to establish."

Elise moved to the new home in Ballykinlar, Co. Down, where the nearby beaches and mountains reminded her of Kerry. She was awarded the CBE, and her followers dubbed her, "the mother of the British army." She died at Ballykinlar in August 1934, and was buried with full military honours, but without the traditional volley of shots. She and her successor, Eva Maguire, are thought to be the only civilian women to have received this distinction. Lord Craigavon, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, led the mourners. General Hamilton said that she had exercised "a more powerful and beneficent influence upon the army during her sixty-six years of active service than many richly decorated generals." Her headstone has a more modest tribute: "For sixty-six years the friend of soldiers." One veteran's tribute was heartfelt: "The kings of this world have wounded us sore, but she, through God, was for our healing."

Sandes Home in the Curragh.

All but three of the homes in the Free State closed

down after independence. These were in Cork, Newbridge, Mullingar, Coolmoney, Athlone, Kilbride, Limerick, Waterford, Ballincollig, Kildare, Cahir and Dundalk. The three which remained open were in the Curragh, at the request of the Irish Army, in Cobh and in Parkgate, Dublin. These last two stayed open until the 1930s, and, amazingly, the home in the Curragh survived until 1985, although it has since been demolished. It features in the current exhibition "Soldiers and Chiefs" in Collins Barracks Museum.

The Curragh Home was run by Miss Magill, a niece of Miss Sandes, and later by Miss Carson. The traditional associations with the camp, and the presence there of the formidable Miss Magill, helped to ensure that the work continued among the young men of the Irish army. Its importance to the morale of the ordinary soldier was also recognized by the Irish military authorities. The Commanding Officer in the 1950s acknowledged, without any serious concern, that Sandes Home was "essentially British," but he greatly valued its influence: "The only place where some of the young recruits that I obtain receive anything approaching motherly care is in Sandes Home." Many residents of the Curragh and Kildare town today have vivid and affectionate memories of Sandes Home and of Miss Carson, known familiarly as "Ma Sandes." Her Sunday night film shows entertained soldiers and civilians through several decades.

Sandes today.

Throughout the twentieth century, Sandes Homes continued to be established in places where there were British bases, as far apart as Singapore, Iceland and Borneo. In 1974, when a car-bomb exploded outside the home in Ballykinlar, two soldiers died, and thirty-two people were injured. The building, with many of the valuable records of the movement, was destroyed. Today the organisation is known simply as "Sandes", and its missionary work among soldiers continues in Ballykelly, Ballykinlar, and Holywood in Northern Ireland and Pirbright and Harrowgate in England. There are no longer any international centres. The staff today consists of eighteen full-time workers and they will mark the 140th

anniversary of Sandes in 2009.

The website is: www.sandes.org.uk.



Elise Sandes

Tipperary Tearooms.



WATER CARRIERS LUXOR.
NOTE THE NAME OF THE TEA-ROOMS ON THE RIGHT.

Water Carriers at Luxor in Egypt circa 1916.

This photograph was taken from the diary of Cecil Gunning,
6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers. (Now in RDFA Archive)

Presentation of New Colours to 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1 July 1911 by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and Strathern.

Phil Carter.

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers had been formed in 1881 under the Cardwell Reforms from the 102nd. Royal Madras Fusiliers and the 103rd, Royal Bombay Fusiliers. At the beginning of 1911 the 2nd Battalion was still carrying the old colours of the Royal Bombay Fusiliers. The King's Colour especially was in very bad repair consisting of only the bordering trim and the Red Cross of St. George at its centre. New Colours were presented to the Battalion on 1 July, just a week after the Coronation of King George V on 22 June.

The colours were presented by the Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, Field Marshall H.R.H. Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathern, who arrived at the Queen's Parade, Aldershot, by motor car, a feature worthy of note in the newspapers of the time. The Battalion was drawn up on parade under its commanding officer, Colonel Bromilow. The Parade Ground was enclosed by men of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and 1st Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

The Ceremony began with the Trooping of the Old Colours whilst the band of the Regiment played a selection of music under the direction of its Bandmaster, Mr. W. Scraggs and the Sergeant Drummer, (whose name is not recorded in accounts of the proceedings).

March of the Drums
Wearing of the Green
Slow March of the Band and Drums
Let Erin Remember
Quick March of the Band and Drums
St. Patrick's Day
Drummers' Call
March of the Escort
British Grenadiers
March of the Old Colours

Come Back to Erin
Farewell March of the Old Colours
Auld Lang Syne.

The Battalion then formed three sides of a square and the New Colours were dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain General. The Colonel in Chief then presented the New Colours to the Battalion. The Battalion reformed the line and saluted the New Colours before marching past the saluting base and escorting the Old and New Colours to the Officers' Mess.



Pipers from the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1911 when new colours were presented to the battalion.

After the ceremony a commemorative booklet was presented to each member of the Battalion. This includes photographs of the parade, the drums, band, sergeant drummer and the pipes of the Battalion. The pipers are shown wearing the normal uniform of the men of the Battalion, without drummers' wings, or any distinguishing badge and certainly not in the saffron kilts later to become fashionable in the Irish Regiments. The pipers are holding the two drone Irish War pipes with keyless chanter then in use by most Irish Regiments, rather than the musically more versatile three drone "Brian Boru" being used by the London Irish Rifles or the Highland Warpipes then (and now) favoured by pipers of the Scottish regiments. Oddly the presentation book fails to mention the playing of the pipes during the parade, or indeed whether the pipes paraded with the band at all on this occasion. The colours presented on that day stayed with the Battalion throughout the First World War and were laid up, together with those of the other Irish Regiments

disbanded on creation of the Irish Free State (1), at the Tower of London on 15th. February 1923 and are now kept in Windsor Castle.

References.

1. Harris R. G. *The Irish Regiments*. The Nutshell Publishing Company Ltd. Tunbridge Wells ISBN 1-571876-00-1 (UK). Photograph page 216.

The pipers photograph was taken by Gale and Polden Ltd. Wellington Works, Aldershot on the day of the parade.



RDF Officer and Corporal in dress uniform.

A Premonition in Bow Lane.

Barry Kennerk
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

When the War broke out in August 1914, Cornelius Kennerk was living at No.17 Bowbridge, James's Street, Dublin. This was a small red-brick building, with a narrow doorway. The walls leading up the nearby steps at Cromwell's Quarters were daubed with the posters of the general recruiting office, encouraging young men to sign on. His father, Michael, had served with the Royal Irish Rifles and according to a work-card kept in the archives of the Bricklayers' Guild; he re-enlisted on 1 October 1914 and returned to active service. Following in his father's footsteps, Con enlisted and was assigned to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers as Private 29352. He was quickly sent to the Regimental Depot in Naas, County Kildare to receive his initial training. There was a river at the back of the barracks that some of the soldiers had wittily renamed the 'Madras River', a reference to the former title of the Regiment - the 102nd Royal Madras Fusiliers.

When Con set off for the battlefield, it is likely that the last Dublin building he passed through on his way overseas was the North Wall Station which had been converted into a freight terminus for the war. On 30 April 1915, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers. The Dublins and Munsters had lost heavily in the landing at V Beach, Gallipoli and the composite battalion was known as the "Dubsters". Although the battalions resumed their own identities in the following month, it would seem that Con stayed on with the Munsters.

During the months of January and February 1917, the men were holed up in trenches in the Spanbroek Sector at Wijtschate facing the German lines along the Messines Ridge. These were hard times, they had little protection from the elements apart from being able to dig a small shelf in the trench to sleep on. In June they were engaged the famous Battle of Wijtschate –Messines (Mesen) Ridge and later in November

at Cambrai. Around that time, Con's second cousin, William John Kennerk signed up with the army in New York. He enlisted on 5 June 1917, having left his position as a clerk with J.S. Bache & Co but it is highly unlikely that the two men knew each other. Nevertheless, the fact that Con, his father and William – three members of one extended family – were soldiers at the same time, serves as a reminder of the huge numbers of men involved in the war.



Pte. Con Kennerk
1st Royal Munster Fusiliers.

According to a family anecdote, Con's mother had a dream towards the end of August 1918, in which she saw her son lying dead on a battlefield. He died on Sunday, 1 September 1918. Some say that he was killed by a sniper's bullet and he has no known grave. On the day he died, there was no recorded incident in the Munsters' War Diary. He was just two weeks away from his twentieth birthday and died two months before the end of the war. His grave is in Vis-En-Artois in France.

When Mrs. Kennerk received word from the army that Con had died, she realised that her dream had come true. She never fully recovered from his loss and still spoke of him with sadness in her old age. Meanwhile, her husband returned safely from France and returned to work as a bricklayer. It is tragic to consider that a father should return from war without his son.

Poetry.

Tom Burke

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

On the night of 4 September 1916 in a trench before the attack on the French village of Guillemont during the battle of the Somme, Lieut. Tom Kettle of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, wrote a poem to his daughter Betty. He titled the poem ' *To my daughter Betty, the gift of God.* ' Before he went into action with the Dublins he wrote to his brother about his beloved Dublin Fusiliers.

*We are moving up tonight into the
battle of the Somme. The
bombardment, destruction and
bloodshed are beyond all
imagination, nor did I ever think the
valor of simple men could be quite as
beautiful as that of my Dublin
Fusiliers. I have had two chances of
leaving them-one on sick leave and
one to take a staff job. I have chosen
to stay with my comrades.*

On 9 September 1916, Tom Kettle was killed leading his Dublin Fusiliers in the attack on the village of Ginchy. This is the poem, a sonnet, he wrote in the field to his daughter Betty.

To my daughter Betty, the gift of God.

*In wiser days my darling rosebud, blown
To beauty proud as was your mother's prime,
In that desired, delayed, incredible time,
You'll ask why I abandoned you, my own,
And the dear heart that was your baby throne,
To dice with death. And, oh! They'll give you rhyme
And reason; some will call the thing sublime,
And some decry it in a knowing time.
So here, while the mad guns curse overhead,
And tired men sigh, with mud for couch and floor,
Know that we fools, now with the foolish dead,
Died not for flag, nor King, nor Emperor,
But for a dream, born in a herdsman's shed,
And for the secret Scripture of the poor.*

The following poem spoken in the voice of Betty whom, as an old woman looking back, tells her father she understood why he went ' *to dice with death* ' and leave her with her mother, Mary Sheehy. She tells him of her pride in him and how his memory and the memory of his men is at last restored, and, that his dreams for peace, a reconciled peace ' *born in a herdsman's shed* ' lives on. I wrote this poem and recited it at the bust of Tom Kettle on his birthday, 9 February 2008.

To my father Tom, a gift from God.

*In these days of wisdom my loving father Tom
Lost to me your babe in arms,
Now know why you abandoned us
To dice with death midst mud and gun.
'Twas those dreams, born in a herdsman's shed,
Devotion to those Fusiliers whom you called beloved,
Did drive you back to Ginchy, to die
And be with us no more.
Written from our memory, rejected from our past
Those foolish dead kept low.
But years have passed and time has healed,
Now Ireland holds them high.
And yes dear dad your dreams, those noble dreams
Of peace, lie with me now and ever 'till that day I die.*

Betty (Dooley) died in a Dublin nursing home on 20 December 1996. She was buried in the family grave in Swords, Co. Dublin.

Review of 2008.

Sean Connolly

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22 April 2008 in the Dublin City Library and Archive. The serving members of the Committee were reappointed. On 25 April, members attended the ANZAC Dawn Service of Remembrance in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Blackhorse Avenue. In the evening, the Association laid a wreath during the commemoration service in St. Ann's Church, Dawson Street.



To mark the birthday of Tom Kettle 9 February 1880, Nick, Brian, Philip, Tom, Seamus and Sean who took the photograph gathered at the bust of Tom Kettle in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin on 9 February 2009.

By invitation of the Lord Mayor of Armagh, Councillor Charles Rollston, members of the RDFA committee accompanied The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Paddy Bourke on an official visit to Armagh on 6 June 2008. Our thanks to Ms. Amanda Moreno for arranging this visit.



Left to right back row.
Nick Broughall, Tom Burke, Amanda Moreno,
Philip Lecane, Seamus Greene.
The Lord Mayor of Armagh Charles Rollston,
Lord Mayor of Dublin Paddy Bourke.
The background painting is that of King William of Orange.

In June, a dedicated group from the Association participated in the parade and wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the disbanded Irish Regiments at the Cenotaph in London. This annual event is organised by the Combined Irish Regiments Association. In mid-July there was a large attendance at the Royal British Legion wreath-laying Ceremony at the National War Memorial Gardens. On the following day, some forty members attended ceremony to mark the National Day of Commemoration at The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

On 20 September, Bryan Mac Mahon gave a fascinating lecture about a little known aspect of Irish military history. The title was *Miss Sandes' Soldier's Homes — A Kerrywoman's Work for Soldiers' Welfare in Ireland and India*. [See Bryan's article in this edition]

Later in the same month there was a large attendance at the ceremony to mark the refurbishment of the Kilgobbin Memorial Cross, Stepside, Co Dublin. Rectory Estate. The names of forty fallen soldiers from the South Dublin area have been restored, thanks to the efforts of RDFA member Ken Kinsella, with the support of Michael Pegum.



Group at the restored Kilgobbin Memorial Cross



The memorial at Kilgobbin before restoration.



The memorial at Kilgobbin after restoration.

October was a busy month. On 8 October some forty members set off on an intensive weekend tour which included the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, (Lichfield), the Imperial War Museum in Manchester, The Royal Armouries in Leeds and 29th Division Memorial at Stretton-on-Dunsmore, where a wreath was laid. The successful completion of the programme is further proof of the Brian Moroney's organisational and leadership ability.

On 10 October, the ninetieth anniversary of the sinking of the *RMS Leinster* was marked by a very moving inter-church ceremony in St Michael's Church, Dun Laoghaire. Due to the preparatory work of Philip Lecane, who drove the project, there was an overflow attendance to remember those who perished in the disaster. The music was provided by the local school and the band of the Garda Siochana. This was followed by a parade to the memorial.

On 18 October, the distinguished historian, author and Senior Counsel, Dr. Frank Callanan, gave a lecture entitled *From the Land War to the Great*

War: the combative life and career of W.H.K. Redmond.



The Friends of the Leinster Committee including RDFA members John Moore (first right) and Philip Lecane (second right).

In November, Members participated in the annual commemorations in City Quay Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. On 6 November RDFA member Pat Lynch was honoured by the then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Eibhlín Byrne, who hosted a reception in the Mansion House to mark his donation of historic documents

relating to the Soldiers and Sailors Land Trust. The large audience heard Pat describe the planning, design and construction of the Killester estate for Irish ex-Servicemen, most of whom had survived the First World War. On 15 November Sean Connolly spoke about the fate of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the great German attack in March 1918. The title was: *Hell Let Loose - The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the German Offensive of March 1918*. His book on the subject, *A Forlorn Hope*, was launched on this occasion. On the same day as Sean's lecture, Liam Dodd, a member of the RDFA, held a ceremony at the grave of Lieut. Michael Francis O'Donnell MC in Glasnevin Cemetery. Liam's dedicated work restored the derelict grave and memory of this unique Dublin officer.



Members of the RDFA at the Irish memorial in the UK National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire October 2008.

During the month of November RTE Radio broadcast a series of Thomas Davis Lectures on the Great War. RDFA member Paul Clark from Ulster Television (UTV) produced the excellent TV programme 'We Will Remember Them'. Paul was later our honoured guest at the annual dinner. The RTE Television series "Nationwide" broadcast two programmes to mark the ninetieth anniversary of the Armistice. Part one included a moving interview with Tom Burke at Islandbridge and a feature on the sinking of the *R.M.S. Leinster*. Philip Lecane's in depth interview took place at the *Leinster's* anchor. Michael Lee, the RTE Cameraman who has

filmed so many key events and is a longstanding member of the RDFA, spoke to the camera for a change and told the sad story of his relatives who were killed. *The Leinster* commemoration was also covered. Part two featured the Menin Gate ceremonies.

In December, there was full house with 150 members and friends at the Association Annual Dinner in the Masonic Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin. We are indebted to Brian Moroney and his wife, Therese, for the time and effort they put into making the event so enjoyable.



Brian and Theresa Moroney selling raffle tickets at the 2008 RDFA Annual Dinner. Great photograph!

Brigadier General H.W. Higginson.

Pete Sheen
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

The last issue of *The Blue Cap* contained an article by Professor Peter Simkins about Major-General H.W. Higginson. Here is a follow-up:

Dear Blue Cap Editor.

As promised, herewith photo of Brig.-Gen. Higginson's medal group. I am sure many members would be pleased to see his group is still in existence and kept together. In addition to his full size medals, there is also a full set of matching

dress miniature. Higginson's orders and medals comprised the following:

Order of the Bath, Companion (CB), Distinguished Service Order, George V, with second award bar, Queen's South Africa Medal, 4 clasps, Cape Colony, Defence of Ladysmith, Orange Free State, Transvaal, King's South Africa Medal, 2 clasps, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902, East and West Africa Medal, 2 clasps, 1897-98 and 1898, Khedive's Sudan Medal, 1914-15 Star trio, 1939-45 Defence Medal, French Legion of Honour, 4th class, Order of the Star of Rumania, 3rd class.

As far as I know, he received more rewards for gallantry than any other man who served with the RDF, I am open to correction from members. In addition to the orders in his medal group, he was mentioned in dispatches once during the Boer War and a total of eight times during WW1, as well as receiving two Brevet promotions for distinguished service, those of Lieut. Colonel and Colonel.



The medal group of Brigadier-General H.W. Higginson

The RDFA website report.

The website had over 63,000 visits in the year. There was a surge around 11 November, with 764 visits on the actual day. The number of daily visits doubled in September in the days after the RTE programme in which Joe Duffy traced his relative in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Connaught Rangers. We had just over 240 new email enquiries during 2008, mainly seeking assistance in tracing relatives and for other related information. These often generate further exchanges that add missing information about individuals to our records. One enquiry led to the donation of a set of Great War medals to the Archive. Thanks to Chris O'Byrne for expertise in maintaining the website.

The RDFA website address is
www.greatwar.ie

In Memoriam.

Mr. Dan Finnigan from Aldershot died on 30 April 2008. Dan was a regular contributor *The Blue Cap* and a dear friend of the late Pat Hogarty. He was a marvellous amateur historian and his attention to historic fact and detail was as good as any academic work. In *The Blue Cap* of December 2003, Dan presented his research on Lieut.-Col. Arthur Mainwaring CO 2nd RDF August 1914. Amazingly Dan found the grave of Col. Mainwaring that was overgrown and derelict. Dan spent the winter months restoring the grave and tended to it regularly thereafter. In *The Blue Cap* of December 2006, Dan presented his research on the life of the Dublin's third Victoria Cross winner, Sgt. Horace Curtis of the 2nd RDF from Cornwall, a man whom the RDFA knew little about. Dan's contribution to the RDFA will be sadly missed. I can imagine Dan and Pat Hogarty sitting in a quiet corner somewhere in the Heaven's above planning their next campaign of research. Good hunting lads, we will miss you. Dan is survived by his wife Helen and family.

Mr. Noel Lazenby passed away peacefully in Leopardstown Park Hospital on 21 September

2008; he was eighty-two years of age. Noel's father was a Dublin Fusilier and in memory of his father, Noel became a keen and active member of the RDFA. Noel came from Xavier Street in North Strand but when he was still very young his father was appointed chief steward at Trinity College Dublin and the family moved to Lincoln Place and it was here, in the heart of Dublin, that Noel spent his early days. He was educated at Wesley College, which in those days was in St. Stephen's Green. Having finished school, he followed in the footsteps of his older brother and joined the R.A.F and was posted to the Far East where he served in the R.A.F Air / Sea Rescue during the later stages of the 2nd World War. After the war he returned to Ireland and worked in the Jewellery business. He married and lived in the later part of his life in Monkstown. During his lifetime he became an active member of the Royal British Legion in which he held several high offices such as President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Irish Metropolitan Branch. He also dedicated much of his spare time to The Mission to Seamen and the R.A.F Association in Dublin. For his work to ex-Servicemen and women in Ireland, Noel was awarded the M.B.E. Our sympathies go to Noel's sister Muriel and all his extended family.

Mr. Denis Finlay passed away peacefully at his home in Raheny on 30 December 2008; he was eighty years of age. Denis was one of the earliest members of the RDFA and attended as many events as he possibly could. A very friendly man, Denis enjoyed the company of the members. He always wore his Dubs blazer to any event the RDFA organised, particularly at remembrance services. The association gave him a new outlet in life following the death of his dear wife Aida. Noel is survived by his family and we extend to them our sincere sympathies. Your quiet presence will be sadly missed, Denis.

Mr. Pat Cummins died peacefully in care near his home in Glasnevin on 5 March 2009. Pat felt deeply about the Irish soldiers of the First World War and believed passionately in the work and ideals of the RDFA. For many years he worked in the Gas Company in Dublin and was the last of Dublin's Glimmer Men. As well as rearing David, Mim and Joanie with his wife Rosaleen, Pat was a

Fianna Fail member of Dail Eireann and served as a Junior Minister under Taoiseach Sean Lemass. Wearing his politician's hat, which by the time he joined the RDFA was well worn, Pat encouraged and participated in the many projects the Association created for building bridges between Unionist and Nationalist.

He attended almost all our events and despite his failing health in later years, bravely overcame pain to be with us on our many tours to France and Flanders. His father was a Sergeant in the 6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers and served with the battalion in Gallipoli, Salonika and the Western Front. It was with deep emotion that Pat often recalled the memory of his father. His mother's brother, Private John Nichol, was killed at the Somme in August 1916 while serving with the 10th/11th Highland Light Infantry. It was one of Pat's lifetime ambitions to visit the Thiepval Memorial and offer a decade of the Rosary in memory of his uncle. His ambition was fulfilled in 1998 when the RDFA visited the Somme region.



From left to right.
John Moore, Pat Cummins, Tom Burke and Tony Behan at Verdun in 2008.

There are many memories I have of Pat Cummins; he always greeted me with a hug and asked how my family were keeping. However there is one occasion I will always remember. It was an RTE Radio interview that Gay Byrne conducted with Pat live from the School Yard in Messines the day the Irish Peace Park was opened in November

1998. The Irish Army No. 1 Band was practicing in the yard and when the interview began the band stopped playing and listened to what Pat had to say to Gay. He spoke with such emotion that many in the band, and myself, had tears in our eyes. To Pat, the opening of that Peace Park was a salient day in Irish history, his personal journey of reconciliation had come to an end, a chapter in his life had been closed. Pat was buried with his wife Rosaleen in Glasnevin Cemetery. He had expressed a personal wish to me that his coffin would be draped with the RDFA Standard when he died. His wishes were fulfilled on the morning of his funeral at St. Columba's Church in Iona Road, Glasnevin.

In a soldierly manner that Pat would have loved, Brian Moroney and Joe Gallagher, two men close to Pat's heart, stood to attention at the door of the Church and saluted as Pat passed by. President McAleese, a friend of Pat and his family, was unable to attend but she sent a military representative in her place. Former Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Aherne TD, along with other members of the Dail also attended the funeral. It was a great honour for me to have been asked by Pat's family to read one of the Offertory prayers at the Funeral Mass. Farewell, Pat. I, and many other members and friends of the RDFA, will miss you, our Honorary Chaplain.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis

Tom Burke.

Royal Dublin Fusiliers exhibition at Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin.

Our exhibition in the Heritage Room at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin is now a permanent display and well worth a visit. Although the main theme of the exhibition is centred round Gallipoli, plans are afoot to present a more encompassing display, which will tell the overall history of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War. The uniform in these two pictures show a RDF Officers Mess uniform complete with trousers. This uniform belonged to Major William

Robinson of the 2nd and 3rd Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Along with this Mess uniform, his Dress Uniform and personal memorabilia was kindly donated to the RDFA Archive by Major Robinson's grandson, Mr. Rob Lorch from Derbyshire.



Summary of the Activities of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association from 1996 to 2008.

Much has happened since our inception in 1996. New members frequently enquire about past activities. So for the record and lest it be forgotten, the following is a summary. The initial lectures were held in the Dublin Civic Museum. We also used the lecture theatre in the National Museum Collins Barracks. Since 2003, we have been given the use of the excellent facilities in The Gilbert Room at Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street, Dublin for which we are extremely grateful.

Lectures

Topic	Speaker	Date
<i>Remembering the Irish Soldiers of the Great War</i>	Kevin Myers	19 November 1996
<i>The 16th (Irish) Division at the Somme</i>	Richard Doherty	8 March 1997
<i>Ireland on the Somme.</i>	Alan McFarland, the Somme Heritage Centre.	27 July 1997
<i>The 16th (Irish) Division.</i>	Myles Dungan,RTE..	21 September 1997
<i>The 10th (Irish) Division in Gallipoli</i>	Eddie Lendrum	5 October 1997
<i>The 10th (Irish) Division in Salonika.</i>	Dr. Pat McCarthy. Military History Society of Ireland.	9 November 1997
<i>The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War</i>	Kevin Myers	19 November 1997
<i>Raising Kitchener's Army</i>	Professor Peter Simkins, ex-Imperial War Museum, London	6 December 1997
<i>Discipline in Irish Regiments. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers – A case study</i>	Dr. Tim Bowman ,Queens University in Belfast.	6 June 1998
<i>The Social and Economic Impact of the Great War in Gallipoli on Turkey and the World</i>	Professor Mete Tuncoku, Middle East Technical University. Sponsored by the Turkish Embassy.	25 June 1998
<i>Join an Irish Regiment today. Enticing Irishmen into the British Army 1914-1918.</i>	Dr. Pat Callan UCD.	19 September 1998
<i>A Dublin School at War – Blackrock College 1914-1918.</i>	Jane Leonard , Dept. of Irish Studies, Queens University, Belfast.	31 October 1998
<i>By its formless spawning, fury wrecked: Irish consequences of the Great War 1914-1923</i>	Dr. David Fitzpatrick, Trinity College Dublin.	28 November 1998
<i>"The Twilight Years" - A history of the Irish Regiments 1919-1922.</i>	Dr. Pat McCarthy. Military History Society of Ireland.	12 December 1998
<i>"Deeds not Words". The pupils of Wilson's Hospital School in the Great War.</i>	David Robertson, Wilson's Hospital School, Multyfarnham Boys School, Westmeath.	27 March 1999
<i>The Anglo-Boer War.</i>	Thomas Pakenham.	18 September 1999

Topic	Speaker	Date
<i>For King, Country and a Shilling a Day: Recruitment in Belfast during the Great War of 1914-1918.</i>	Eric Mercer. Queens University College, Belfast.	16 October 1999
<i>This beats Athlone on a Saturday night. The Natal Campaign of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Boer War.</i>	Professor Donal McCracken, University of Durban-Westville, South Africa.	13 November 1999
<i>The One Hundred Days Offensive, August to November 1918.</i>	Professor Peter Simkins, ex-Imperial War Museum, London.	11 December 1999
<i>The Dire Straits – Gallipoli and the Dardanelles 1915-1916.</i>	Col. (Retd) Michael Hickey.	28 February 2000
<i>Skerries and the Great War</i>	Eugene Coyle.	11 March 2000
<i>General Nugent and the 36th (Ulster) Division.</i>	Nick Perry.	14 October 2000
<i>The Poppy My Father Wore – Northern Nationalists and Commemoration.</i>	Tony Canavan.	4 November 2000
<i>The Irish Cavalry Regiments of the First World War.</i>	Dr. Pat McCarthy. Military History Society of Ireland.	2 December 2000
<i>How to Research the Great War.</i>	Dr. Timothy Bowman, Queens University Belfast. Gregory O'Connor, National Archives, Dublin. Commandant Victor Lange, Irish Military Archive. Philip Lecane. RDF Assoc. Mr. Chris McCarthy. British Commission for Military History, Imperial War Museum, London.	24 March 2001
<i>The Devil to Pay. The Mutiny of the Connaught Rangers in India July 1920..</i>	Judge Anthony Babbington Q.C.	29 September 2001
<i>Carson's Army or Kitchener's Men: The Ulster Volunteer Force and the Formation of the 36th (Ulster) Division.</i>	Dr. Timothy Bowman, The Queens University, Belfast.	13 October 2001
<i>Pillars of Fire: The Battle of Messines, June 1917.</i>	Ian Passingham.	17 November 2001
<i>German atrocities in 1914: fact, fantasy or fabrication ?.</i>	Dr. John Horne, Trinity College Dublin.	1 December 2001

Topic	Speaker	Date
<i>An afternoon with Martin Middlebrook, author of The First Day on the Somme – 1st July 1916 and The Kaiser's Battle – 21st March 1918: The First Day of the German Spring Offensive.</i>	Martin Middlebrook.	23 March 2002
<i>Neill's Blue Caps and the Relief of Lucknow: The Royal Madras Fusiliers in the Indian Mutiny, 1857-9.</i>	Dr. David Murphy. Trinity College Dublin.	28 September 2002
<i>How are things in Baghdad. The effects of the Great War on an Irish town - Drogheda</i>	Sean Mullins.	12 October 2002
<i>Learning together: Some aspects of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers experience on the Western Front 1916-1918.</i>	Professor Peter Simkins, ex-Imperial War Museum, London.	9 November 2002
<i>In my father's time</i>	Sons and daughters of Great War soldiers or members of the. Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD)s tell their stories.	27 September 2003
<i>The Dying Wasp's Sting: Germany's sinking of the R.M.S Leinster.</i>	Philip Lecane. RDF Association.	4 October 2003
<i>Some Irish Generals of the Great War.</i>	Dr. John Bourne, the Centre for Great War Studies, University of Birmingham.	8 November 2003
<i>The German March Offensive of 1918.</i>	Martin Middlebrook.	20 March 2004
<i>Soldiers of the Sky: Irish Airmen 1914-1916</i>	Philip Lecane, RDF Association.	18 September 2004
<i>Mesopotamia, the Forgotten Campaign.</i>	Oliver Fallon, Connaught Rangers Association.	16 October 2004
<i>'We marched away into Serbia.' The 10th (Irish) Division and the action at Kosturino, December 1915.</i>	Alan Wakefield, Photographic Archive, the Imperial War Museum, London.	13 November 2004
<i>The Clouds of War': The past pupils of Belvedere College, Dublin, in the conflicts of the 20th century.</i>	Oliver Murphy, Belvedere College, presented his award winning DVD and book.	28 May 2005
<i>What did you do during the war Granddad.</i>	Members of the RDFA presented their research on their relatives who served in the Dubs during the Great War.	15 October 2005
<i>Some Reflections on the Great War.</i>	Prof. Richard Holmes. CBE Cranfield University.	5 November 2005
<i>The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War.</i>	Lecture by Tom Burke, RDFA, at the University of Birmingham, Centre for First World War Studies.	27 June 2006

Topic	Speaker	Date
1. <i>The Battle of the Somme.</i> 2. <i>The Somme in Irish Memory.</i>	Philip Orr. Jane Leonard.	30 September 2006
<i>Entrenched Interpretations: The First World War 1914 – 1918 and its aftermath in 1920s Germany.</i>	Martin Steffen, University of Bielefeld, Germany.	14 October 2006
<i>Intelligence and the Easter Rising.</i>	Professor Eunan O’Halpin, Professor of Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College, Dublin.	11 November 2006
<i>The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Anglo-Boer War.</i>	Sean Connolly. Public lecture at the Arch in St Stephen’s Green.	19 August 2007
<i>Wigs and Guns, Irish Barristers in the Great War</i>	Tony Quinn.	15 September 2007
<i>The Irish National War Memorial. A histographic study 1919 – 1939.</i>	Pat Lynch. University College Dublin.	23 October 2007
<i>The Battle of Wijtschate-Messines Ridge, 7 June 1917.</i>	Tom Burke.	10 November 2007
<i>Miss Sandes’ Soldier’s Homes – A Kerrywoman’s Work for Soldiers’ Welfare in Ireland and India.</i>	Bryan Mac Mahon.	20 September 2008
<i>From the Land War to the Great War: the combative life and career of W.H.K. Redmond.</i>	Dr. Frank Callanan SC.	18 October 2008
<i>The Irish Soldiers and Land Trust Killester – influence and legacy.</i>	Pat Lynch.	6 November 2008
<i>Hell Let Loose - The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the German Offensive of March 1918.</i>	Sean Connolly. RDF Association.	15 November 2008

On average between sixty and seventy members attended most of the above lectures.

Exhibitions / Events

Activity	Details	Date
Ireland and the Great War.	Exhibition in the Dublin Civic Museum. Launched by Mr. Dick Spring, Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Guest speakers were Mrs. Veronica Sutherland, British Ambassador, Mr. John Fitzgerald Dublin City Manager and Mr. Kevin Myers, then of The Irish Times who gave the lecture.	19 November 1996 - January 1997
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War.	Exhibition in the Phoenix Park Visitors Centre	April – July 1997
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War.	Exhibition at the County Museum, Dundalk. Launched by Dermot Aherne, TD, Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs.	29 September – December 1997
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War.	Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin.	13 - 31 January 1998
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War.	Exhibition at Rathmines Public Library. Stories, photographs and personal memorabilia.	1-30 April 1998
Ireland and the Great War.	Exhibition at the Dublin Civic Museum. President Mary McAleese launched the expanded exhibition before her visit to Flanders to open the Tower and Peace Park in Messines.	15 September 1998 – Jan 1999
Let Ireland Remember.	Exhibition at the Workhouse Museum in the Waterside, Derry/Londonderry. Mr. Glen Barr, Joint Chairman of the Journey of Reconciliation Trust on 19 March 1999, performed the opening.	March- April 1999
Let Ireland Remember.	Exhibition at Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	February – March 2000
Let Ireland Remember.	Exhibition at the Dungarvan Museum, Co. Waterford	July-August 2000

Activity	Details	Date
Tree Planting.	The Lady Mayoress of Graysham and Councillors planted Oak trees in memory of the “The Old Toughs” who were stationed in Gravesend from 1911 to 1914. The late Pat Hogarty arranged this event.	11 January 2001
Launch of Association Website at State Reception in St Patrick’s Hall, Dublin Castle.	Hosted by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D. to recognise the work of the RDF Association and to launch the RDFA Website and CD Rom. Over 700 guests attended. Congratulations and thanks to Sean Connolly, Hon Sec RDFA for his input to this project and continued work on the RDFA Website.	26 April 2001
Gallipoli April 1915 – January 1916.	Exhibition at the ILAC Central Library, Henry Street, Dublin.	May – June 2002
Stained glass window dedicated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.	The specially designed window was installed in the Garrison Chapel at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin. The cost was covered by the contributions of RDFA members .	1 November 2002
Civic Reception in the City Hall.	Hosted by the Lord Mayor Dermot Lacey to honour the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who were not welcomed home by the Dublin Corporation in 1919.	21 November 2002
The Irish at Gallipoli	Exhibition at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin.	1 July 2004 - continuing
It’s a long way to Tipperary.	Exhibition at the Passchendaele Memorial Museum 1917, Zonnebeke, Flanders. The project was coordinated by Erwin Ureel of the Passchendaele Museum and was jointly presented with the Royal Irish Fusiliers Regimental Museum in Armagh. The exhibition told the story of the soldiers of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and Royal Dublin Fusiliers in Flanders.	22 April 2005 – December 2005
Ninetieth Anniversary of Gallipoli.	Picture / script exhibition on the Irish in Gallipoli. The Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin and then other public libraries in Dublin.	June- December 2005

Activity	Details	Date
Official launch of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive.	Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Catherine Byrne launched the new RDFA Archive in the Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Thanks to Dr. Mary Clark, City Archivist for arranging the event and accepting the archive.	15 October 2005
A Somme Day in Dublin.	Remembrance ceremony at the bust of Tom Kettle in St. Stephen's Green Dublin to mark the ninetieth anniversary of his death. The speakers were: Fr. Michael Sheil SJ, Clongowes Wood College, Professor Brendan Walsh, Emeritus Professor of Economic at University College Dublin, the late Tony Quinn, Barrister, Kevin Myers, Journalist, and Captain Feargal Purcell, Irish Defences Forces. Sgt. Kevin Duncan, Piper in No.1 Army Band played a beautiful lament. Two lectures were presented later – see Lecture summary.	30 September 2006
Lord Mayor reception to mark addition of archive material to Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive.	Dr. Mary Clark, Dublin City Archivist received a new donation of archive material to the RDFA archive. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Vincent Jennings, accepted the material.	14 October 2006
<i>A Long Long Way</i> : One City One Book Project.	The Dublin City Library and Archive and the RDFA presented a month long project centred on Sebastian Barry's book <i>A Long Long Way</i> . An exhibition showed letters from our archive written by Dublin Fusiliers from the Western Front during the Easter Rising in Dublin.	April 2007
100 th Anniversary of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Arch, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.	The Office of Public Works in co-operation with the RDFA installed picture-board displays about the Arch in St. Stephen's Green. The RDFA gave a public lecture at the Arch– see lecture summary.	August 2007

Activity	Details	Date
Launch of book <i>The Battle of Wijtschate-Messines Ridge, 7 June 1917</i> and Lord Mayor reception to mark addition of archive material to Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive in the Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.	Following lecture and book launch presented by Tom Burke, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Paddy Bourke, accepted new material donated to The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive. In attendance were Trustee Members of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Regimental Museum in Armagh, Ms. Amanda Moreno and Col. (Retd) Arthur Reid and his wife Eileen.	10 November 2007
Lord Mayor of Dublin visit Armagh with RDFA Committee members.	By invitation of the Lord Mayor of Armagh, Councillor Charles Rollston, members of the RDFA committee accompanied The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Paddy Bourke on an official visit to Armagh. Our thanks to Ms. Amanda Moreno for arranging this visit.	6 June 2008
Rededication of the Memorial in Kilgobbin Cemetery, Stepaside, Co Dublin.	The refurbishment of the memorial, which contains the names of Royal Dublin Fusiliers killed in the First World War, was arranged by Ken Kinsella who also organised the ceremony.	27 September 2008
Donation of research papers to RDFA Archive.	In the presence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Eibhlín Byrne and the President of the Royal British Legion, Major-General (Retd) David The O'Morchoe, Pat Lynch presented all his M.Litt (UCD) research papers to the archive of the RDFA at the Mansion House in Dublin.	6 November 2008.
<i>RMS Leinster</i> Commemoration.	To mark the ninetieth anniversary of the sinking of the Dun Laoghaire–Holyhead mail boat the <i>RMS Leinster</i> by the German submarine UB-123 on 10 October 1918, a service was held in St. Michael's Church, Dun Laoghaire. The band of An Garda Síochána provided the music. A wreath was laid at the memorial. A service was also held in Holyhead on 12 October. Philip Lecane RDFA organised the events. He also arranged for the issue of the commemorative stamp by An Post.	11 October 2008

Over the years, members of the RDFA have participated in and contributed to many TV and Radio programmes and documentaries on the subject of Ireland and the Great War.

Association Tours

10 November 1997	Dedication of the Ireland of Ireland Peace Park in Mesen / Messines, Belgium.
11 September 1999	The Somme Heritage Centre, Newtownards, Co. Down.
18 May 1999	The National Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire
3-9 September 2000	Seven-day Commemorative Tour of Remembrance to Belgium and Northern France. Western Front locations with Irish links.
26 May 2001	The Regimental Museum of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Enniskillen.
13 April 2002	The Regimental Museum of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and Cathedral in Armagh.
6-9 Sept 2002	Three-day Commemorative Tour of Remembrance of Western Front locations with Irish links.
5-6 July 2003	A weekend with the Connaught Rangers Association in Boyle, Co. Roscommon
5-8 June 2004	Three-day Commemorative Tour of Remembrance of Western Front locations with Irish links.
7 – 14 September 2005	Several members of the RDFA visited Gallipoli and laid wreaths at V Beach Cemetery and at the Helles Memorial. (Note. This was a trip organised by individual members of the RDFA)
October 2008	UK locations: The Imperial War Museum in Manchester, the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, the Staffordshire Regimental Museum in Lichfield, the National Armouries in Leeds and the memorial to the 29 th Division at Stretton-on-Dunsmore.

Special thanks are due to Brian Moroney and Tom Burke for their efforts in organising and running these memorable trips. RDFA members have attended the main annual Remembrance commemorations in Dublin and the Combined Irish Regiments Association's wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in London. Special tributes due to Captain (Retd.) Seamus Greene who has carried the Association Standard on most occasions and Nick Broughall who arranged the tour groups over the past years.