

# The Old Tough

## Issue number one

### Editorial

For most of its 25 year history the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association has regularly published *The Blue Cap*, a journal containing articles about the regiment as well as coverage of the association's activities. Each issue of the journal is posted to members of the association. A new committee, elected in 2019, decided that a regular newsletter, sent by email, would be a useful way of keeping members informed of the plans and activities of the association as well containing short items of interest to readers.

### Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter.

### *The Old Tough*: an explanation of our newsletter's name



The Royal Dublin Fusiliers was an infantry regiment of the British Army. Created in 1881, its depot was in Naas, County Kildare. The regimental recruiting area comprised of Counties Carlow, Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow and its motto was *Spectamur Agendo* (We are known by our deeds.) The regiment was created by bringing together two regiments of the British Army based in India: The 102nd Regiment of Foot (Royal Madras Fusiliers) and the 103rd Regiment of Foot



(Royal Bombay Fusiliers), with the former becoming the 1st Battalion and the latter becoming the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. The Royal Madras Fusiliers and Royal Bombay Fusiliers had originally been part of the East India Company Army. The East India Company was akin to what would nowadays be termed a multi-national company and it had its own private army.



In the aftermath of the Indian Mutiny the British government took over the assets of the East India Company. Its private army was subsumed into the British Army, with the Royal Madras Fusiliers becoming the 102nd Regiment of Foot (Royal Madras Fusiliers) and the Royal Bombay Fusiliers becoming the 103rd Regiment of Foot (Royal Bombay Fusiliers). During their time in the East India Company Army the former regiment had been nicknamed *The Blue Caps* due to its distinctive headgear, while the latter had acquired the nickname *The Old Toughs*, replacing an earlier tongue in cheek nickname *The Lambs*. As the association's journal is named *The Blue Cap*, The editorial team decided that ***The Old Tough*** would be an appropriate name for the newsletter.

## The opening of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Arch

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The Royal Dublin Fusiliers memorial arch was opened by H.R.H. The duke of Connaught on Monday 19th August 1907

The motto of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers is

***Spectamur Agendo***  
(We are judged by our deeds)



Sketch of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Arch drawn 2020

The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the Memory of the Soldiers and families of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers

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Family stories like the following are very important newsletter

## Memories of soldiers

John Joseph Mahon Royal Dublin Fusiliers regiment number 11594



My grandfather John enlisted in the royal Dublin fusiliers in April 1913 this means that he joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers as a career as this was before the first world war started when the war started in August 4 1914 My Grandfather was part of the BEF and he landed in France on the 23rd of August 1914 and took part in the battle of Le-cateu and was taken a Prisoner of war on August 27 1914 and spent the next 4 years in Limburg POW camp returning to Ireland in 1919







Memorial

**In memory of all the 4959 (CWGC) soldiers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who are known to have died in the First World War or other war that the Royal Dublin Fusiliers took part in**

It is hoped that readers of this e-mail will let us know of a love one who fell in the first world war and we will include them in our Memorial section of the newsletter

(they do not have to be from the Royal Dublin Fusiliers )The number of Royal Dublin Fusiliers who died during the first world war till the disbandment of the Regiment in 1922 (according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ) is 4959

Below is some name sakes of the RDF committee

Between April 24th 1916 to May 1st the number of Royal Dublin Fusiliers killed is 223 with 11 killed in Ireland, The main battle taken place was the battle of Verdun 21 Feb to Dec 18 1916 and British Empire forces surrender to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) of the 13,000 soldiers captured, less than half would survive the Turkish jails.



Name	Regiment	Date of death	Age	Place where buried or remembered
AGH Lees (First)	RDF	06/08/1914	Unknown	St Lawrence C of I Chapelizod (Dub)
M Callaghan (Last)	RDF 7th Bn 11938	29/8/1921	39	Grange gorman cemetery (Dublin)
William J Appleby	RDF 10494	02/5/1915	Unknown	Helles Memorial
Robert Copeland	Connaught 6216	17/4/1916	Unknown	Basra Memorial
Micheal Green	RDF 18877	21/3/1918	43	Unicorn Cemetery Vendhuile
C Jones	RDF 7253	07/6/1917	32	Malta (Capuclini Naval Cemetery)
Denis Kavanagh	RDF 7542	09/11/1918	Unknown	Dean grange Cemetery Dublin
Thomas Keogh	RDF 5378	30/4/1915	Unknown	V Beach Cemetery
Joseph J Moroney	Leinsters Reg 3473	14/5/1915	22	Menin Gate (Ypres)
Thomas Murphy	RDF 12760	02/6/1915	Unknown	St James C of I Kilmainham Dublin
William Sheehan	RDF 8007	25/4/1915	Unknown	Menin Gate (Ypres)
J.A.H Taylor	RDF	25/9/1915	Unknown	Azmak Cemetery Suvla

We also intend to list national Memorial dates as such as Anzac Day which takes place every 25th April each year which takes place at Dawn below are some links to the Dawn services which took place this April 25 around the world thanks to Philip Lecane for the links (Just click on the links)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OpeapuDbYU>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss7\\_t4D1E7I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss7_t4D1E7I)

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-8255459/Hugh-Jackman-Russell-Crowe-Michelle-Bridges-lead-celebrity-Anzac-Day-tributes.html>



Date	Event	Place
12 July 2020	National day of Commemoration	Collins barracks Dublin
11 November	Armistice day	Various locations
December	RDF Christmas	Mason lodge Dublin

Contacts:

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