

Sergeant Daniel James Brown MM 21193, Royal Dublin Fusiliers

By his Son, James D Brown

This is the story of a young man, born in Ireland and raised in Scotland, who chose to serve his military service under the Colours of an Irish Regiment (the Royal Dublin Fusiliers) in the Great War. He was my father, Daniel James Brown (pictured). I never knew the motivation for his decision to enlist in 1915. At best we can speculate that his loyalties may have been influenced by his mother's Irish heritage or his strong personal desire to fulfil a duty to the land of his birth. I suspect it was the latter. A family anecdote has it that his mother was opposed to his enlistment probably because of the high casualty rate known to be occurring in the various theatres of war. Several of my aunts used to tell how their mother sought the intervention of a family priest and friend to discourage his enlistment. However he would not capitulate and enlisted at Lochgelly, Scotland, on 3 May 1915. He was just shy of 21 years of age and had been a coal miner. This is his story.



Daniel Brown was born at Curragh View, near Kildare Town, on 6 September 1894 to James and Mary Brown (née O'Brien). Dan's birth certificate describes James as a dealer in vegetables. According to family history, Dan's father was Scottish and was at one time a Quartermaster-Sergeant with the 9th (Highland) Royal Scots at the Curragh Camp. Dan's mother, Mary, was understood to be from Cork. At some point in her life, she became a mid-wife. By the time her career was over, Mary Brown had brought over 3,000 children into the world. My father's family included six sisters: Agnes, Nellie, Florence, Jessica, Brenda and Catherine.

In Dan's early childhood years, the family relocated from The Curragh to Lochore, Fife, in Scotland. It is not definitively known what prompted that move. I understand that my father was possibly six to eight years of age at the time. Dan grew up to work in the 'pits' or coal mines that existed in that area of Scotland. I still have some of his engineering drafting tools, and a mechanical engineering textbook. So somewhere in his education, Dan Brown pursued a technical career, possibly in mining, engineering or another mechanical specialisation, as a consequence of his exposure to coal mining.

My father spoke little to me about his Great War experiences. However I was aware from family sources that in serving with 'the Dubs', he was awarded the Military Medal and that he received a severe head wound during a battle which my mother always referred to as 'the big push'. I learned later that this was in fact the German Spring Offensive of 1918.

Long after my father's death, I decided to research his military history in order to obtain information on his War experiences. I learned that he also received the British War and Victory Medals and that the award to him of the Military Medal for bravery in the field was

announced in the *London Gazette* of 14 November 1916. Unfortunately I have not yet been able to locate information on the circumstances involved, including the reason for the award of the Military Medal. That part of his story needs closure.

Arising out of a formal inquiry to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in England in 1997, I received a chronology of his enlistment information, battalion postings and rank appointments along with other pertinent details. The summary details are outlined in the following table:

Date	Event
3 May 1915	Enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and posted to the 4 th Battalion
22 January 1916	Appointed Lance-Corporal
19 April 1916	Posted to the 9 th Battalion
22 August 1916	Appointed Acting Corporal
6 April 1917	Appointed Lance-Sergeant and Sergeant
10 February 1918	Posted to 2 nd Battalion
29 March 1918	Posted to Depot
26 June 1918	Posted to Command Depot, Tipperary
1 August 1918	Posted to 3 rd Battalion
21 December 1918	Discharged

Armed with these details, I began to research the military history of the Dubs and the 16th (Irish) Division in the Great War. I also obtained the military books listed in the sources below. I found the trek of the Dublin Fusiliers through France to be a remarkable piece of Irish military history. They were involved in many of the critical battles in the War and suffered severe casualties and the reconsolidation of their units and military assets. Yet in spite of these setbacks, they were able to achieve significant success along the way. I had no idea up to that point of the struggles and dangers that these brave men were exposed to in carrying out their duty.

I have two artefacts that my father had saved from his WW1 service. One is a trench map which I found to be identical to a trench map displayed in the book, *Ireland's Unknown Soldiers*. The latter shows trench and brigade positions for the 16th (Irish) Division, dated 20 November 1917, in the Fontaine-les-Croisilles area near the River Sensée in northern France.

The other item in my possession is his 'Soldier's Paybook' with handwritten entries for the year from 6 April 1917 to 9 April 1918. The Paybook also included his handwritten will and his discharge certificate. It also has an intriguing entry, namely the signature of JJ Rogers dated 19 January 1918 for the disbursement in the field of 30 French Francs to my father. The book, *A Forlorn Hope*, reports that 2nd Lt James Joseph Rogers, 2nd Dublins, was killed in action on 27 March 1918.

It was around this time that my father was severely wounded in the head during the German Spring Offensive and was eventually transferred to a hospital in London. His oldest sister, Nellie, was at the time serving as a nurse in another London hospital. She became aware of her brother's plight and went to his bedside. The family story is that she intervened in his care. At the time he was scheduled to receive a metal plate implant as a procedure to help stabilise the head wound. My aunt had observed similar War wound surgeries and procedures and convinced my father that it was not advisable since the success rate was low and the soldier patients were at high risk of serious mental side effects. So my father agreed, rejected the procedure and went on to make a good recovery. He was discharged with a 75 per cent war disability on 21 December 1918. According to the MOD report, the cause of discharge was 'Ceasing to fulfil Army Physical Requirements'. The accompanying photograph shows Nellie on her wedding day with her husband and brother, Sgt Dan Brown.



As to his day-to-day experience of the War, we know that one of his great fears was the constant presence of snipers and the damage that they could inflict. And there were a few stories he told about the pressure and stresses in the trenches especially during rainy weather. Some of those anecdotes were touched with a bit of humour. Interestingly, my father took impeccable care of his feet throughout his life, perhaps as a consequence of his training and military experiences in the trenches.

In 1922, Dan Brown, his mother and several other family members emigrated to the USA and were processed through Ellis Island. The family established a home in Bayonne, New Jersey. My father was hired by the Standard Oil Company as a pumper in the local refinery, and he spent twenty-eight years with the company. Soccer was his sporting passion, and in spite of his wartime head wound, he played on several area soccer teams that won city championships. He married a Scottish girl, my mother, Catherine Cosgrove, in 1926 and moved to Roselle Park, a small suburban community in New Jersey a few years later. My sister, Catherine, was born in 1929, and I arrived in 1934.

Another memory was a family trip to Ottawa, Canada, and a visit to the Parliament in the early 1940s. My father fell behind the rest of the family in our walk through the primary Parliament building. When he caught up with us, we could see that he had tears in his eyes. The cause of

his emotion was a bronze wall plaque describing a battle that he had experienced in the Great War which no doubt revived unpleasant memories of his experiences at the time.

In spite of the obvious stresses and carnage that he and many other soldiers witnessed and endured in the Great War, thankfully it never revealed itself in any form in his day-to-day living. Dan Brown was a gentle man with a consistent good humour. He was always calm, considerate and introspective and was a great family man, a wonderful father and husband and a devout Catholic. He enjoyed his pinochle card game, a round of golf, and family trips to the beach. He was a prolific reader and devoured newspapers, especially during the WWII era. A summer vacation to the New Jersey shore area or a week in the Pennsylvanian mountains was an annual family activity. He was close to his immediate family and often visited his mother, sisters and other family relatives in New York. Both my mother and father became naturalised citizens of the United States in 1946. They made a family visit to relatives in Scotland in 1948, but he never had an opportunity to see Ireland again.

As a final observation, I know that my father was extremely proud of the commitment that he made in WW1 and never regretted his decision to serve with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He died on 5 February 1952 from pulmonary cancer at the early age of 57.

Sources

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Acknowledgement

Our family is forever grateful for the contribution of Kieron Punch of Coventry, England, to my research. I had the good fortune of linking up with him on the internet soon after I started. Utilising the MOD report on my father, he proceeded to send me a detailed paper on the chronological progress of Royal Dublin Fusiliers units through the Great War. This magnificent effort put my father's military experience in clear perspective and enabled my family to better understand what he went through in France.

The WW1 Experience of 11364 Cpl James Molloy, RDF

By his Grandsons, Paul Kennedy and Peter Leggett

Introduction

James Molloy was born in 1893. He lived at 11 George's Quay, Dublin, on the banks of the Liffey directly across from the Custom House. He was employed in Brooks Thomas steel works straight from school but left to join the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1911. At the time he enlisted, he was 18 and in the three years before the War, he rose to the rank of Corporal (two photographs below).

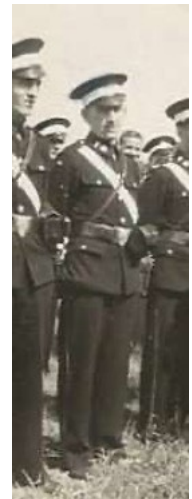
It was while he was in training that he met his future wife, Bridget, on a park bench outside the Magazine Fort in Phoenix Park where James was assigned. She was a cook in the then RIC barracks near the Fort, now the Garda headquarters.

At the outbreak of the War in 1914, there were two regular battalions of the Regiment and three reserve battalions. The 1st Battalion was in India, and the 2nd Battalion, of which Corporal Molloy was a member, was on home service. His battalion was part of the 10th Brigade, 4th Division, II Corps. Unsure as to whether Germany planned to invade Britain, the Fusiliers were initially kept on home defence duties as a precaution. His unit was stationed in Gravesend protecting the London Docks from the workers who were then on strike.

With the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) under pressure in the early days of the War, the 2nd Battalion was sent to France landing in Boulogne on 23 August 1914 and proceeding to the Front which was then close to the Belgian border. Corporal Molloy was reported as missing in action in the *Irish Times* on 14 November 1914. He was confirmed in *The Evening Herald* on 26 November 1915 as having been wounded and captured on 27 August during the BEF retreat from the Belgian city of Mons. Red Cross records record his injury as "bein rechts" (right leg).

Battle of Le Cateau

The Battle of Le Cateau was fought on 26 August 1914 after the British and French retreated from Mons and had set up defensive positions at Le Cateau-Cambrésis in a fighting withdrawal against the German advance. Although ultimately the Germans were victorious, the rear-guard action was successful in that it allowed the majority of the BEF to escape to Saint-Quentin.



CORPORAL JAS MOLLOY (11364), 2nd Batt. Royal Dublin Fusiliers Machine Gun Section, wounded at Mons, now a prisoner at Limburg, Germany. His parents reside at 11 George's quay, Dublin.

Evening Herald, 26th November 1915

On the morning of 26 August, the Germans arrived and attacked II Corps (under General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien). Unlike the Battle of Mons, where the majority of casualties inflicted by the British were from rifle fire, Le Cateau was an artilleryman's battle, demonstrating the devastating results which modern quick-firing artillery, using shrapnel shells, could have on infantry advancing in the open. The British deployed their artillery in the open, about 50–200 metres behind their infantry, while the German artillery used indirect fire from concealed positions. With the guns so close to their infantry, the British had unintentionally increased the effectiveness of the German artillery fire, because shells aimed at the British infantry could just as easily hit the British artillery.

The British 5th Division was positioned on the right flank, on the southern side of the Le Cateau-Cambrai road between Inchy and Le Cateau. The 3rd Division was in the centre, holding the ground between Caudry and Inchy. The 4th Division was on the left flank, initially on the northern bank of the Warnelle River.

This was a poor choice of terrain on the part of the British because the road was sunken in places, providing inadequate long-range firing positions. In fact, in most cases, the Germans could advance close to the British positions, which is what they often did. This was especially true at the weakest point in the British line, the right flank west of Le Cateau, where the Germans simply marched straight down the road from the north, all the way to Le Cateau. The British position was on the forward slope and consequently, casualties were heavy during the withdrawal.

At 03:30, Smith-Dorrien decided to "*strike the enemy hard and, after he had done so, continue the retreat*". The purpose of the operation was unclear to his subordinates. A "hold at all costs" mentality was evident in the 5th Division on the British right flank. The commander of the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was given a written order that:

"there will now be NO retirement for the fighting troops; fill up your trenches with water, food and ammunition as far as you can."

The order was confirmed by a colonel from the staff of II Corps, who, upon arriving, repeated it.

Smith-Dorrien's delaying operation never occurred, because the order to defend arrived at the Front Line about the same time the Germans did, sometimes later. Nor were the conditions of the delay tactics observed, such as refusing to let British units become decisively engaged with the enemy. Smith-Dorrien did not choose positions with adequate fields of fire and with prepared and hidden routes of withdrawal.

According to the official German history, its IV Corps commander, General Friedrich Sixt von Armin, issued an order at 11:15 a.m. that turned the regimental and brigade level fights into a centrally co-ordinated battle, but there is no evidence of German command and control above the divisional level. 75% of IV Corps troops were in contact before they received this order, and the rest never made it to the battlefield. The IV Corps commander did not control the other half of the German forces, II Cavalry Corps, which fought independently.

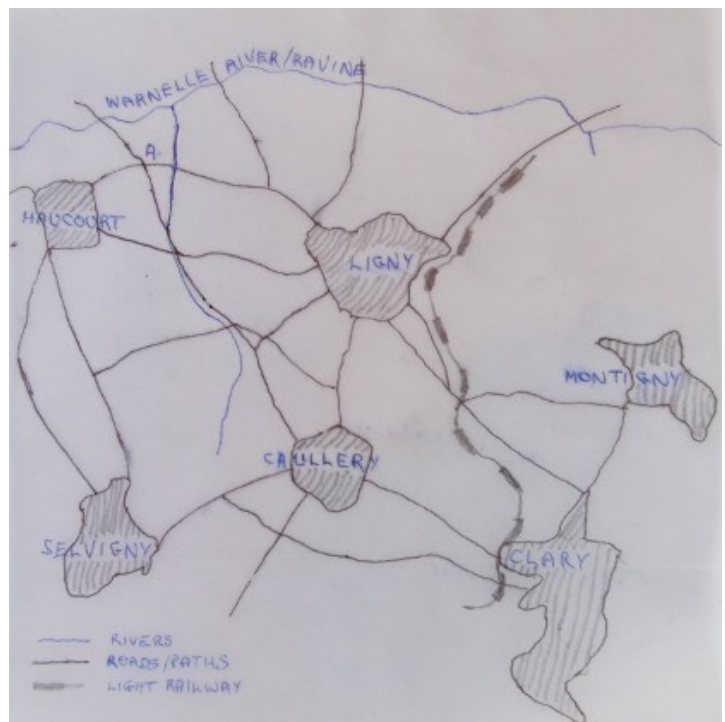
Holding their ground despite many casualties, the British right and then the left flank began to break around midday, under unrelenting pressure from the Germans. The arrival of the French Cavalry Corps (under General André Sordet) acted as a shield for the British left flank and supported a highly co-ordinated tactical withdrawal, despite German attempts to infiltrate and outflank the retreating British forces.

That night, the Allies withdrew to Saint-Quentin. Of the 40,000 British troops fighting at Le Cateau, 7,812 British Army casualties were incurred, including about 2,600 taken prisoner. Thirty-eight guns were abandoned, most having their breech blocks removed and sights disabled by the gunners first.

II Corps retreated on the evening of 26 August/morning of 27 August and in two days of marching, broke contact with the Germans. Having lost 7,000 of its infantry at Le Cateau and with 2,500–3,000 footsore and exhausted men, who had to be evacuated to Le Mans for recuperation, II Corps was not battleworthy for at least two days. Although credited at the time by Field Marshal Sir John French that he had saved the BEF, Smith-Dorrien was later criticised by the French for his decision to stand at Le Cateau.

Capture, 27 August 1914

Clary is a small village near the town of Le Cateau in northern France (see the accompanying sketch map showing the route of retreat from the Front Line (from point A via Ligny towards Clary). The Royal Dublin Fusiliers became the rear-guard on the morning of 27 August as the main British Army withdrew. They were swamped by the German troops, many of whom were recent conscripts, and were scattered in all directions. Some Fusiliers re-joined the main Army in retreat, but a large group were isolated, and after a hopeless fight in and around Clary, most were captured, including Corporal Molloy.



German POW Camps

Following their capture, the 400 men of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were marched for four days from Ligny to Mons, a distance of 80km. The unwounded POWs were initially brought to Sennelager POW camp, close to Paderborn in Germany, where they effectively lived in primitive conditions in the open air through the Autumn/early Winter. It is understood that wounded prisoners, including Corporal Molloy, were initially cared for elsewhere, perhaps in Giessen POW camp, south of Sennelager (see the following map). **Appendices I to V** comprise documentary records of Corporal Molloy's imprisonment.

The Germans had made no provision for the tens of thousands of Allied prisoners they took in the first months of the War. Conditions for prisoners in those early months were horrendous and got worse as the War progressed. Some 6,400 British Army soldiers died, mostly from disease. Nevertheless, a soldier was four times more likely to die at the Front than in a camp.



Conditions for the Irish POWs varied from camp to camp. Pte William O’Connell said they encountered “savagery and brutality of the worst kind”. In a graphic letter published in the *Limerick Chronicle* shortly after the War, Pte O’Connell, who was taken prisoner at Étreux, depicted the grim reality:

“No tents were erected, and we had only the blue sky above us. In hail, rain, frost and snow we were condemned to submit to this terrible ordeal. During all the time, the condition of the men was something awful”.



Private Thomas English of the 2nd Battalion, of which Corporal Molloy was a member, was one of the first batch of seriously wounded prisoners to be exchanged through the intervention of the Vatican.

While at home, he related his experiences as a prisoner in Germany to the *Kildare Observer*:

“At Cambrai station, when I was on my way to Germany, the German soldiers spat on me and kicked me everywhere. When bringing us as prisoners, they put us into cattle trucks and we were travelling for three days and three nights. They brought us to Munster where we were put into a kind of circus, which had been

converted into a hospital. After a fortnight there, they put us into a big camp, where they treated us very badly, especially about food. They gave us about eight ounces of bread, half a pint of coffee, and a pint and a half of soup every day".

Private English added that the German soldiers, many of whom could speak English, frequently boasted to the prisoners that the German Army would soon be in England.

Allied protests and neutral inspections prompted the Germans to improve the sanitary conditions in POW camps radically. German medical authorities set up sanitary regulations for the POW system. Camp officials organised a sanitary corps of POWs to maintain the hygiene and cleanliness of the camp. Newly arrived prisoners reported first for a shower and delousing. POWs surrendered all of their clothing for fumigation, had their heads shaved to eliminate any remaining lice and reported for an inspection by a doctor.



Food too was scarce, but parcels from home supplemented the meagre rations. A fortnightly parcel, if it got through, would contain a tin of coffee and milk, a tin of condensed milk, 1lb of tea, 1lb of bacon and 1lb of cheese. Many POW committees in Ireland helped provide this fare, especially for impoverished families who could not afford it. In Kildare alone, the local committee set up to look after Royal Dublin Fusiliers' POWs from the county dealt with 500 men.



Camp Activities

Battalion members kept physically fit while in captivity, participating in military drill and gymnastic exercises under the orders of their own non-commissioned officers. Corporal Molloy is pictured on both the Royal Dublin Fusiliers' football and tug-of-war teams while in

the prisoner of war camp. There is little else known of his POW experience other than that, during the time he was a prisoner in Limburg, he and Bridget wrote regularly to each other. The men's spiritual needs were met by Fr Thomas J Crotty, a Dominican priest from Kilkenny, who was sent by the Vatican to minister to Allied POWs in German camps. The Germans had hoped he would use his spiritual office to persuade the men to join the Irish Brigade being formed by Roger Casement. He did the opposite, telling the men that they had taken an oath under God to King George V and could not break it.



Private O'Connell commented:

"We who experienced the fiendish work of the Germans know what we are talking about and only for our highly esteemed and beloved chaplain, the Rev TJ Crotty OP, many more of us would leave our shattered frames in German soil today".



Letters

A dispatch from the German War Office in March 1915 gave details of the rules for all prisoner of war camps.

On letters, prisoners were not allowed to write more than two letters of ordinary size per month, not exceeding four pages in the case of soldiers and six pages in the case of officers. In addition, one postcard a week was allowed. Prisoners were also required to impress on

their families the desirability of not writing too often, of restricting the length of their letters and of writing clearly and legibly. There was a small thread running through a few of the prisoners' letters which indicated that they were being censored, and there was some suggestion that, quite often, the original letter to a prisoner had been 'returned to sender' to be rewritten. (*Leinster Leader*, 20 March 1915).

Censorship of letters home was subject to two processes – censored by the German Authorities in case they contained classified operational information and by the British Authorities who feared that the horrors being experienced by the soldiers would discourage recruitment at home. In one letter, from a Private Meaney to his wife, dated 14 October 1914, he wrote:

"I hope you are well. I am quite well. Send me some cigarettes. I am allowed 10lbs of a parcel to come here. I am at present a prisoner of war here. Answer this in a short letter. Say nothing about the war".

Food

The Germans did not have the means to provide a prisoner of war with everything they needed for a reasonable existence. As the War progressed, the Fusiliers' prisoner of war committees back in Ireland became more and more important. Various fund-raising events were organised by local RDF committees to help their soldiers in whatever way possible. At Limburg, if the standard fortnightly parcel got through, it would consist of 1 tin of coffee and milk, 1 tin of condensed milk, 1lb of tea, 1lb of bacon and 1lb of cheese to augment their prisoners' fare which was understood to be meagre. Cigarettes, papers and magazines were always on request by the prisoners. Parcels from home were often never received (*Leinster Leader*, 11 September 1915).

Work

As all their able-bodied men were at the Front, the lack of manpower was felt by the German economy. Prisoners of war, officers excepted, presented them with an opportunity to augment their workforce.

As well as being required to work within the camps, some prisoners were also put to work outside the camps (e.g., at farms, mines and industrial concerns), but they may have been held under guard at these locations.

Roger Casement

In December 1914, all Irish prisoners were transferred to a better camp at Limburg where they enjoyed preferential treatment, and by the start of 1915, there were 2,200 Irish prisoners in Limburg camp alone. They were concentrated there for a special purpose. Roger Casement had approached the German Government about raising an Irish Army Brigade from amongst the Irish POWs. The Germans promised to support an Irish



Brigade with a German auxiliary corps which would be sent to Ireland to fight against the British once Germany secured naval supremacy. They offered recruits good pay and conditions; they would serve only under Irish officers, and if Germany won the War, they would offer Irish Home Rule. If they lost, they would be given free passage to the United States and £10. One prisoner, a Michael Keogh, wrote how a better camp awaited the Irish at Limburg (pictured below) after the conditions at Sennelager:

"Fine wooden huts, each with two rooms to house 50 men: well ventilated, comfortable: beds on wooden trestles, and ample blankets".



The new arrivals found that about 300 Irish were already there from other camps. These men had been there for two weeks and had already had a visit from Casement.

There was some difficulty apparently in convincing the Germans to take only Catholic Irishmen, as the Germans could not see why there should be a difference in the faiths. Casement believed that the isolation from other nationalities at Limburg, coupled with the Catholic priests, better food and recreation, would soon attract the men to the idea of an Irish Brigade, but the Irish POWs had already made up their minds.

There is some evidence that the camp was put on a starvation diet to try to force recruitment. When Casement's efforts to entice them to enlist in an Irish Brigade failed, conditions worsened again. By the time they left a year later, prisoner Keogh described it as rat-ridden and with poor accommodation. He notes that the camp had not only barbed wire but also an electrified fence.

Of the 2,200 Irish soldiers who were moved to Limburg, Casement managed to recruit just 56 despite all the blandishments offered by the Germans. Pte James Wilson from Dublin succinctly summed up their opposition:

"Irishmen despised the Germans and would cut their throats if they had the chance."

Once these men had been recruited, they were moved to Zossen POW camp. The British view was that:

“many of the 56 were young men frightened by the pressure put upon them or driven to compliance by hunger; many were men with questionable records or were political malcontents”.

Commemoration

In May 1917 in the nearby town of Dietkirchen, a cross was erected to the memory of the 45 Irish soldiers who died while they were prisoners in Limburg. In fact, 34 Irish POWs were originally buried there at the time the cross was erected, and more bodies were later interred to make it 45, the number it currently commemorates. The names of the 45 Irish soldiers who died at the camp are inscribed on it.



The soldiers would have died from a combination of battle injuries and disease in the camp. TB had become a problem at Limburg, and many soldiers succumbed to it. A small number died through accidents, and two were shot by guards in unexplained circumstances. It is believed that all were given a military funeral.

In November 2007, the local community restored and re-dedicated the Celtic cross. The 3 metre high sandstone cross had deteriorated significantly due to 90 years of weather exposure and was in a very fragile condition before the decision to restore it was taken. The local community raised the funds while donations were received from other Irish military associations and the Irish Government.



No trace remains today of the 24 hectare prisoner of war camp which held during its operation up to 12,000 POWs of all nationalities.

When the POW camp was liberated, the Irish prisoners, including Corporal Molloy, were transferred, for convalescence, to a field hospital in The Hague, run by the Dutch Red Cross. The repatriation of World War 1 soldiers was a huge logistical exercise. Demobilisation was based on a soldier's peacetime occupation with priority being given to those who were needed most at home. Many had to wait months until they were released. It was 18 November 1918 when Corporal Molloy was repatriated to England, arriving in Southampton on the troopship SS *Willochra* (pictured).



However, the Ireland they returned to was different to the one they had left. In a more nationalist Ireland where many hearts had been thrilled by the valour of the men of 1916, there was no triumphant welcome home for returning soldiers. Despite having endured horrors which were unthinkable when cheering crowds saw them off during those carefree days of August 1914, many were shunned by Irish society on their return home and in many cases, met with physical violence.

Some veterans were able to return to their old jobs, but many of them faced poverty. The majority went to England to find work. The Ministry for Labour in London reported that the Irishmen who returned from the Front found that:

“their own people have nothing but contempt to offer them for patriotism and sacrifice and they are denied the right to work or live in the country for which they fought”.

What must it have been like for so many Irishmen to come home from the War to be told that they had wasted their time in the service of an Army that was now an enemy of the Irish people?

After his discharge from the Army in 1918, James Molloy returned to Dublin and was re-employed by Brooks Thomas as a steel erector. He lived with his family in Talbot Place within the shadow of Busáras today. However, there was little demand for steel, and he went to England where he gained employment with the Austin Motor Works in Coventry. He and Bridget married in October 1919 and settled in Donnycarney, a new housing estate on the northern outskirts of Dublin. He continued to work in England and return regularly.

When the Irish economy recovered, he returned home for good. They had five girls, Sheila, Winnie, Bridie, Úna and Lucy, and one boy, Séamus. James is pictured below with his son, Séamus.

James Molloy died on 7 April 1949, aged 55, and is buried, along with Bridget, who survived him by some thirty years, in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Blackhorse Avenue, Dublin 7. See the accompanying photograph.



Corporal Molloy's Medals



The 1914 Medal is also known as 'Pip' or the Mons star. The reverse of the Medal has the following inscription: 11364 Cpl J. Molloy R. Dub. Fus. The bar on the ribbon indicated that he was under fire, and the silver rose on the ribbon allowed the ribbon to be worn without the medal. The smaller medals are a dress set for formal indoor occasions.

The Silver Medal, also known as 'Squeak', is the British War Medal. The reverse of the Medal has a naked St George on horseback on a Prussian eagle and crossbones and the dates, 1914–1918.

The Bronze Medal, also known as 'Wilfred', is the Allied Victory Medal. The reverse of the Medal has the following inscription: The Great War for Civilisation 1914–1919.

Among the medals was a hand-made leather pouch and insert. One can only assume that such was the effect that the Battle of Le Cateau had on him, Corporal Molloy made it to hold his medals and to remember his fallen comrades during the 'last stand' at Clary on 27 August 1914. The makeshift label inside the pouch window and Corporal Molloy's other medals are included in the following set of photographs.

Sources

[Casement & the Irish Brigade](#)

[Irish Prisoners of War](#)

[Irish Times/Ronan McGreevy/Nov 2018](#) *

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[List of RDF POWs](#)

[Red Cross](#)

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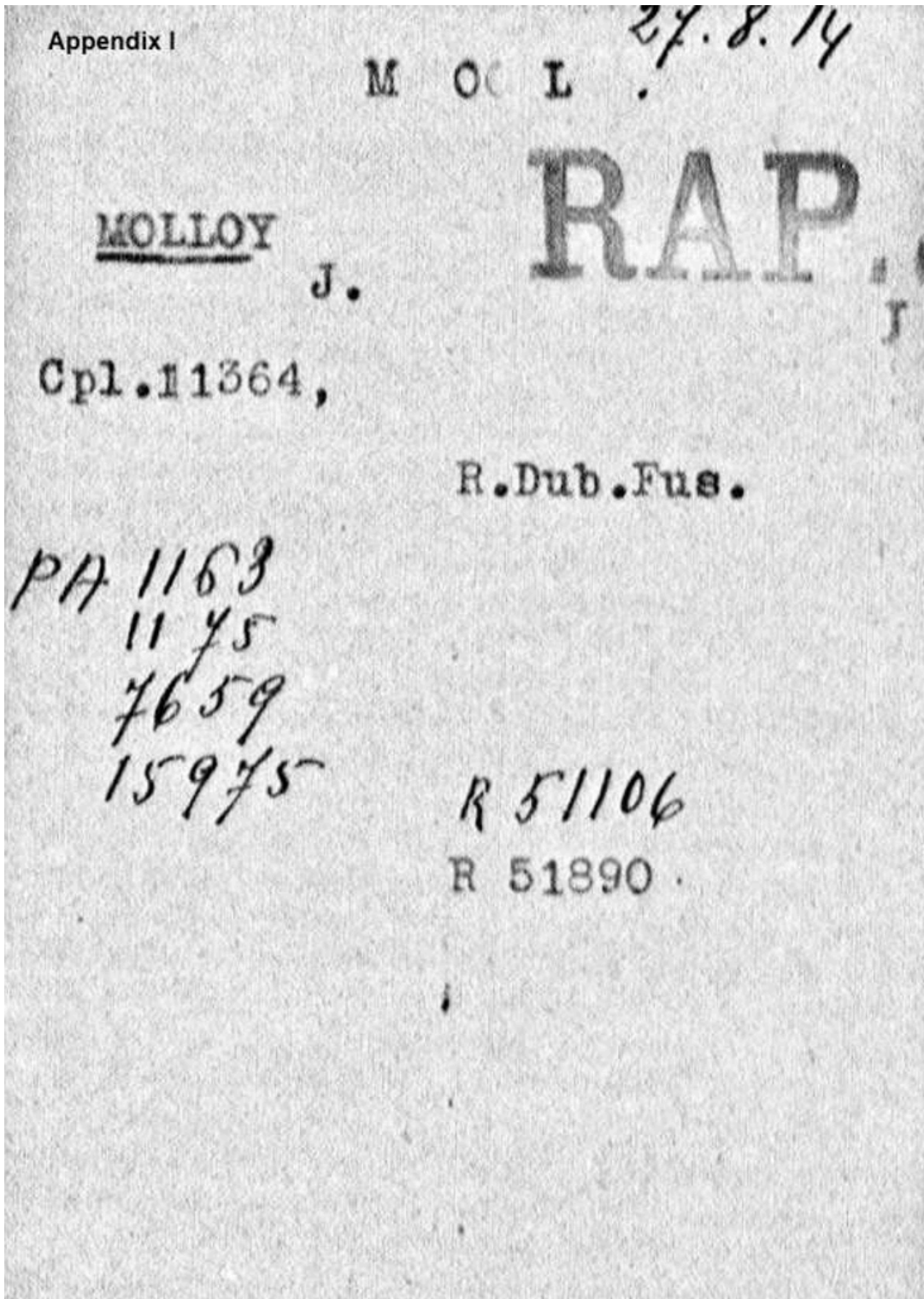
* A subscription to the Irish Times archive is required to access these articles.

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 - Paul Taylor, the current Honorary Secretary of the Association.
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Appendix I - Prisoner of War Camp Index Card



Appendix II - Red Cross POW List

Appendix II

BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR.

R 51106

INTERNED MILITARY.

SURNAME and INITIALS	RANK	REGIMENT	Regimental number	Date of arrest (in Holland) Camp, etc.	Date of departure (from Holland) to to
131. McCormack S.	L. Sgt.	2/Royal Dublin Fus.	9933	Soltau.	27-8-14
132. McEochmie H.F.	Cpl.	2/Royal Dublin Fus.	8875	Giessen.	27-8-14
133. McCarthy J.J.	Cpl.	do.	9133	Hameln.	27-8-14
134. McKean W.	Cpl.	2/Royal Suffolks	7838	Hameln.	26-8-14
135. Mallvoy T.	Sgt.	2/Royal Munsters Fus.	7102	Soltau.	27-8-14
136. Michael Peter	Sgt.	1/Gordon H.	9496	Hameln.	27-8-14
137. Rowbray H.	Sgt.	2/Lancs. F.	389	Soltau.	27-8-14
138. McSarry J.	Sgt.	1/Royal Irish Fus.	10348	Soltau.	27-8-14
139. Maloney P.	Cpl.	2/Royal Munsters Fus.	8016	Hameln.	27-8-14
139. McCabe J.	Cpl.	2/Royal Dublin Fus.	10192	Giessen.	27-8-14
151. McCready H.	C. Sgt. Mjr.	2/Lancs. Fus.	5358	Soltau.	27-8-14
152. McEvoy R.W.	C. Sgt. Mjr.	2/Royal Munsters Fus.	5829	Soltau.	27-8-14
153. Milne J.	Cpl.	1/Gordon H.	836	Hameln.	24-8-14
154. Milligan P.D.	Cpl.	2/Connaught Regts.	7920	Soltau.	27-8-14
155. Molloy J. X	Cpl.	2/Royal Dublin Fus.	11584	Giessen.	27-8-14
156. Murphy W.	Sgt.	2/Royal Munsters Fus.	8254	Soltau.	27-8-14
157. Marsh W.G.	Sgt.	2/Royal Irish Fus.	7679	Soltau.	27-8-14
158. Maxwell C.J.H.	Coy. Sgt. Mjr.	2/Lancs F.	5890	Soltau.	27-8-14
159. McGrath D.	Cpl.	2/Royal Irish Fus.	8017	Giessen.	27-8-14
160. McCready H.	Cpl.	2/Royal Irish Fus.	9241	Hameln.	27-8-14
161. Mitchell G.	Cpl.	1/Gordon H.	739	Soltau.	27-8-14
162. Masala D.	Cpl.	1/Gordon H.	351	Soltau.	27-8-14
163. Mandle W.	Sgt.	1/Gordon H.	9880	Hameln.	27-8-14
164. Merritt A.	Sgt.	1/Royal Lancs.	10928	Gardlegen.	27-8-14
165. Mayhew J.	Cpl.	2/Royal Munsters Fus.	7789	Alton Grabow.	27-8-14
166. McKinna J.	Sgt.	2/Royal Scots	8921	Hameln.	27-8-14
167. Mackenzie J.	Sgt.	1/Gordon H.	9755	Hameln.	27-8-14
168. Marchbank W.	Cpl.	1/Gordon H.	9553	Arya.	27-8-14
169. Moore J.	Cpl.	Worce. Regt.	8402	Hameln.	27-8-14
169. McShegan E.	Cpl.	2/Royal Munsters Fus.	8445	GIESSEN	27-8-14

Appendix III - Red Cross Repatriated POW List

Appendix III

51890
2nd ages, Sheet 1.

LIST OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR ARRIVED IN ENGLAND FROM GERMANY
18TH NOVEMBER 1918. ON SS. "WILLOCHNA" NOTIFIED BY EMBARKATION OFFICER .

D U B L I N - RECORD OFFICE. LIST NO. X. 88957.

7556 COME. Molloy W.....		Roy. Dub. Fus.
16492 L/Sjt. Croome G.		-do-
11711 Sjt. Doyle T.		-do-
9348 Sjt. Kelly P.		-do-
10274 Sjt. Hurst T.....		-do-
15644 Sjt. Ryan P.....		-do-
7518 Wjt. O'Toole S.		-do-
11271 L/Sjt. Dooligan W.		-do-
10486 Cpl. Brown R.		-do-
10679 Cpl. Smith P.W.....		-do-
11237 Cpl. O'Neill W.....		-do-
11394 Cpl. Phelan B.		-do-
10984 Cpl. Watters B.		-do-
10182 Cpl. McCabe J.		-do-
11384 Cpl. Molloy J.....		-do-
11017 Cpl. Dayle J.....		-do-
5945 L/C. Rice T.		-do-
11358 L/C. Morris W.		-do-
9900 L/C. Wright V.		-do-
11055 L/C. Williams H.....		-do-
10843 L/C. Carr S.....		-do-
7575 Pte. Levey J.		-do-
11268 Pte. Cleary P.		-do-
9141 Pte. Moran J.		-do-
8579 Pte. Flynn G.....		-do-
10174 Wjt. Graham J.....		Roy. Irish Inf.
10353 Cpl. Culley J.		-do-
10233 L/C. O'Sullivan W.		-do-
10740 L/C. Stevenson S.		-do-
11004 L/C. Snowden W.....		-do-
9306 Pte. Coard J.....		-do-
10154 Lvr. Condlley G.		-do-
7879 Sjt. Marsh W.G.		2/R. Irish Rifs.
9523 Sjt. Macdon L.		2/ -do-
12781 Sjt. Fraser J.....		3/ -do-
19698 Sjt. Miller W.....	11/	-do-
19538 Sjt. Hingston W.	11/	-do-
5687 Sjt. Oliver A.	1/	-do-
8494 Sjt. McLoughlin R.	15/	-do-
5864 Cpl. Oliver G.....	2/	-do-
7155 Cpl. Graham S.....	2/	-do-
9241 Cpl. McCreehy J.	2/	-do-
8956 Cpl. Crowe W.	2/	-do-
7320 Cpl. Woods A.	2/	-do-
7664 Cpl. Murray W.....	2/	-do-
18513 Cpl. Moreland T.....	9/	-do-
6097 Cpl. McGreevey S.	2/	-do-
546 Cpl. Wilson G.	13/	-do-
13676 Cpl. Sturgeon W.	8/	-do-
18770 Cpl. Lloyd G.....	9/	-do-
2333 Cpl. Geddes J.....	9/	-do-
3131 Cpl. Humphries L.	8/	-do-
8112 L/C. Linden S.	2/	-do-
7828 L/C. Hade A.	2/	-do-
9710 L/C. Williams J.P.....	2/	-do-

Appendix IV - Red Cross Hospital Records 1

3 JAN 1917 P.A. 7659

1	2	3	4	5	6
Stb. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur der Rufname) c) nur bei Rufnamen Vorname des Vaters	Dienstgrad	a) Gruppen- b) teil c) Komp.	a) Gefangennahme b) (Ort und Tag) c) vorhergehender Aufenthaltsort	a) Geburtstag und -Ort b) Adresse des nächsten c) Verwandten
a) 54	LONDON	Gen.	R.I.F.	Schraffel Kopf 20.10.14 Newross	Newross, 4.7.77, desgl. 7, Chapel Street
b)	John				
c)	6620		D.		
a) 55	Lynch	Lance	S.L.	unverwundet 21.10.14 Galvez	Galvez, 1.10.24, desgl. 49, High Street
b)	Michell	Col			
c)	10037		A.		
a) 56	Mac Clunge	Gen.	R.F.R.	Regel arm rechts 4.7.14 London	London, 13.7.98, desgl. 31, Cumberland Str.
b)	James				
c)	18287		C.		
a) 57	Mac Donnel	Gen.	R.F.A.	unverwundet 3.8.14 Dublin	Dublin, 19.12.98, desgl. Finnedge Road
b)	John		46.R.		
c)	6227				
a) 58	Hahon	Gen.	R.D.F.	unverwundet 27.8.14 Dublin	5.4.98, Dublin, Broadstone
b)	James				
c)	11831		A.		
a) 59	Marshall	Serg.	7.Gen.	unverwundet 14.4.15 Ipswich	Calgary, 20.7.91, Ipswich
b)	William				
c)	16271		2.C.		
a) 60	Michell	Korp.	1.Gen.	Regel Brust 24.4.15 Ipswich	Devonshire, 12.2.90, Vaustrures
b)	Thomas				
c)	16076		2.		
a) 61	Middleton	Gen.	47.A.I.	Schenkel links 11.8.14 Ipswich	Ipswich, 20.10.98, desgl. 123 Rowell Road
b)	Charles		F.		
c)	984		B.		
a) 62	Miles	Korp.	A.S.H.	unverwundet 26.8.14 Boston	Boston, U.S.A., 25.5.90, desgl. 15 Royal Parade
b)	Andrew				
c)	9901		C.		
a) 63	Mitchard	Serg.	13.Gen.	unverwundet 12.4.15 Redstock	Redstock, 21.12.90, desgl. 23, South Field
b)	Frederick				
c)	24155		1.		
a) 64	Molloy	Kopr.	R.D.F.	Rein rechts 27.8.14 Dublin	Dublin, 26.4.93, desgl. 11, Georges Quay
b)	James				
c)	11364		A.		

Appendix V - Red Cross Hospital Records 2

8 NOV 1917. P.A. 15975

Appendix V

Ist. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (mit der Aufnahme) c) nur bei Kassen-Vername des Patienten	Dienstgrad	a) Regim. b) Inf. c) Regim.	a) Gefangenschaft (Ort und Tag) b) c) vorhergehender Aufenthalt	a) Geburtsort und -Zeit b) Adresse des nächsten c) Verwandten
a) 37.	Marshall	Korps	I.R.	Penicourt 11.4.17. 4. Geschw. 1. Fuss	11.7.04. Post Mel- land N. Marshall 38 Water Street Wain Malton
b) 1	Frederick	Inf.	Inf. R. 1. Fuss		Water Street Wain Malton
c) 1	1978.		D.	Kerbt.	Australia.
a) 38.	Marshall	Berg.	I.R.	Ypern 24.4.16.	20.7.11. Inverness
b) 1	William		I. Chass.	unverwundet.	M. Marshall Milburn
c) 1	18871.		B.	Kerbt.	Inverness Scotland.
a) 39.	Mathieson	*	I.R. Gordon Highland	Ypern 23.8.14. 4. Geschw. 1. Fuss	4. 12. 86. Aberdeen N. Curley 24 Welfort St. George's Suffolk
b) 1	Charles				
c) 1	1000.			Kerbt.	
a) 40.	Mensor	Korps	I.R.	Ypern 24.4.16.	12.2.70. Liverpool
b) 1	John	Inf.	I. Westl.	unverwundet.	M. Mensur 40 Linnam Street Liverpool.
c) 1	14928.		4.	Kerbt.	
a) 41.	Mitchell	*	Kavalerie 5 Dragon.	Wool 22.9.14. 4. Geschw. 1. Fuss Arm, Rücken, Schulter u. Brust.	17.2.92. Hastings M. Mitchell 1-2-1- tage Hastings /Suff.
b) 1	Charles				
c) 1	18248.			Kerbt.	
a) 42.	Molloy	*	I.R.	Ligny 27.8.14.	20.4.88. Dublin M. Molloy 11-1-1-1- Hans II George u Gwy Dublin.
b) 1	James		R.D.V.	4. Geschw. 1. Fuss.	
c) 1	11004.		A.	Kerbt.	
a) 43.	Mullen	*	I.R.	Worrell 2.4.17.	8.2.94. Port Glas- gow N. Mullen Bro- ken Still New Ver- ice
b) 1	Edward		50 Austr.	4. Geschw. 1. Fuss	
c) 1	2837.		A.	Kerbt.	Australia.
a) 44.	Marschall	*	I.R.	Lille 26.10.14.	11.7.86. London M. Marschall 21 Br- yone St. Laurent /England/.
b) 1	Georges		Leica- ter.	4. Schrapnellsch. r. Hand.	
c) 1	7491.			Quedlinburg.	
a) 45.	Marschall	*	I.R.	Lille 21.10.14.	22.2.81. Glasgow M. Marschall 104 Se- verny Street Leith Scotland.
b) 1	Alex		A.R.H. B.	4. Schrapnellsch. 1. Fuss.	
c) 1	10217.			Kerbt.	
a) 46.	O'Mahony	*	I.R.	Ypern 1.11.14.	18.8.07. Killybegs M. O'Mahony Kil- liskern Connell Co. Tip.
b) 1	Michael		Inf. 1. Fuss. Guard.	4. Geschw. 1. Fuss Kopf u. r. Hand	
c) 1	2874.		B.	Kerbt.	
a) 47.	Payne	*	I.R.	Dura 24.8.14.	12.7.88. St. J. Cam- bridge N. Payne Victoria Square Cambridgeshire.
b) 1	George		Suffolk	4. Geschw. 1. Fuss Kopf.	
c) 1	8828.		D.	Kerbt.	

Tracing a First World War Soldier

Seán Connolly and Aidan Kavanagh

Preparation

The first step is to assemble as much basic information as possible. Unless the name is unique, you will have to be able to distinguish the soldier, in whom you are interested, from the others with a similar name. You will probably have the following basic details to start with:

- Full Name
- Place of Birth
- Father's Name
- Mother's Name
- Wife/Husband's Name, if applicable
- Date of Death, if applicable.

If you have a medal, you may be able to read the Army Serial Number and the name of the Regiment of the recipient. These may be written on the reverse or around the edge.

Any family anecdotes, letters, postcards, photos, diaries, etc. will be useful in confirming identification.

Where are the British Army records?

All official records relating to Great War service are held in the UK National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, England. The website, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, gives details of what is available. The home page provides a link to their military records and to useful background information. Unfortunately, about 60% of the First World War personnel records were burned during the London Blitz in the Second World War. The website has an online bookshop that offers a range of aids such as *Tracing Your First World War Ancestors* by Simon Fowler, Countryside Books, ISBN 978 1 84674 1 30 2.

Ancestry, a commercial company, in partnership with the National Archives, has put the War Office (WO) service and pension record collections on the Internet at www.ancestry.co.uk. There is a link to this from the National Archives website. This is an easy way to check if there are any records available for a soldier. You may need the serial number to make an accurate match if the name occurs frequently. There is a fee to download images from both websites. It may be more economical to use the Ancestry site from the beginning. You can access the records free of charge if you visit the National Archives in Kew.

Another company offering online searching for a fee is at www.military-genealogy.com. It offers access to the National Roll of the Great War, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, Boer War Casualties 1899-1902, Distinguished Conduct Medal Citations, Ireland's Memorial Records, Naval Casualties 1914-1919 and British Prisoners of War (German Camps).

Other similar subscription services with military records are www.findmypast.ie and www.fold3.com. All have particular features and merits.

Many subscription services offer free trials for a short period. It may be worthwhile availing of a free trial if you are seeking information on a small number of individuals. However remember to unsubscribe about two days in advance of the expiry of the trial period to avoid being charged.

Where is the grave or is there a name on a memorial?

If the soldier of interest died while in service, you can begin your search by using the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, www.cwgc.org. This allows you to search registers of the dead of both World Wars. The Commission maintains the graves and memorials of the 1.7 million who died fighting as members of the Commonwealth's armed services. This is probably the most convenient source of information about soldiers who were killed. If there is a record present, you will be given personal details, the location of a grave or memorial inscription and some information about what was happening in the area at the time of the death. You will also find information and photographs relating to the cemeteries and memorials.

Sample of the Information Provided

Name:	KINSELLA, ANDREW
Initials:	A
Nationality:	United Kingdom
Rank:	<u>Serjeant</u>
Regiment/Service:	Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Unit Text:	1st Bn.
Age:	36
Date of Death:	between 21/03/1918 and 29/03/1918
Service No:	14672
Additional information:	Son of John and Margaret Kinsella, of 46, Queen St., Dublin; husband of Mary Kinsella, of 33, <u>Arbour Place</u> , Dublin.
Casualty Type:	Commonwealth War Dead
Grave/Memorial Reference:	Panel 79 and 80.
Memorial:	POZIERES MEMORIAL

You may also print the information as a certificate.

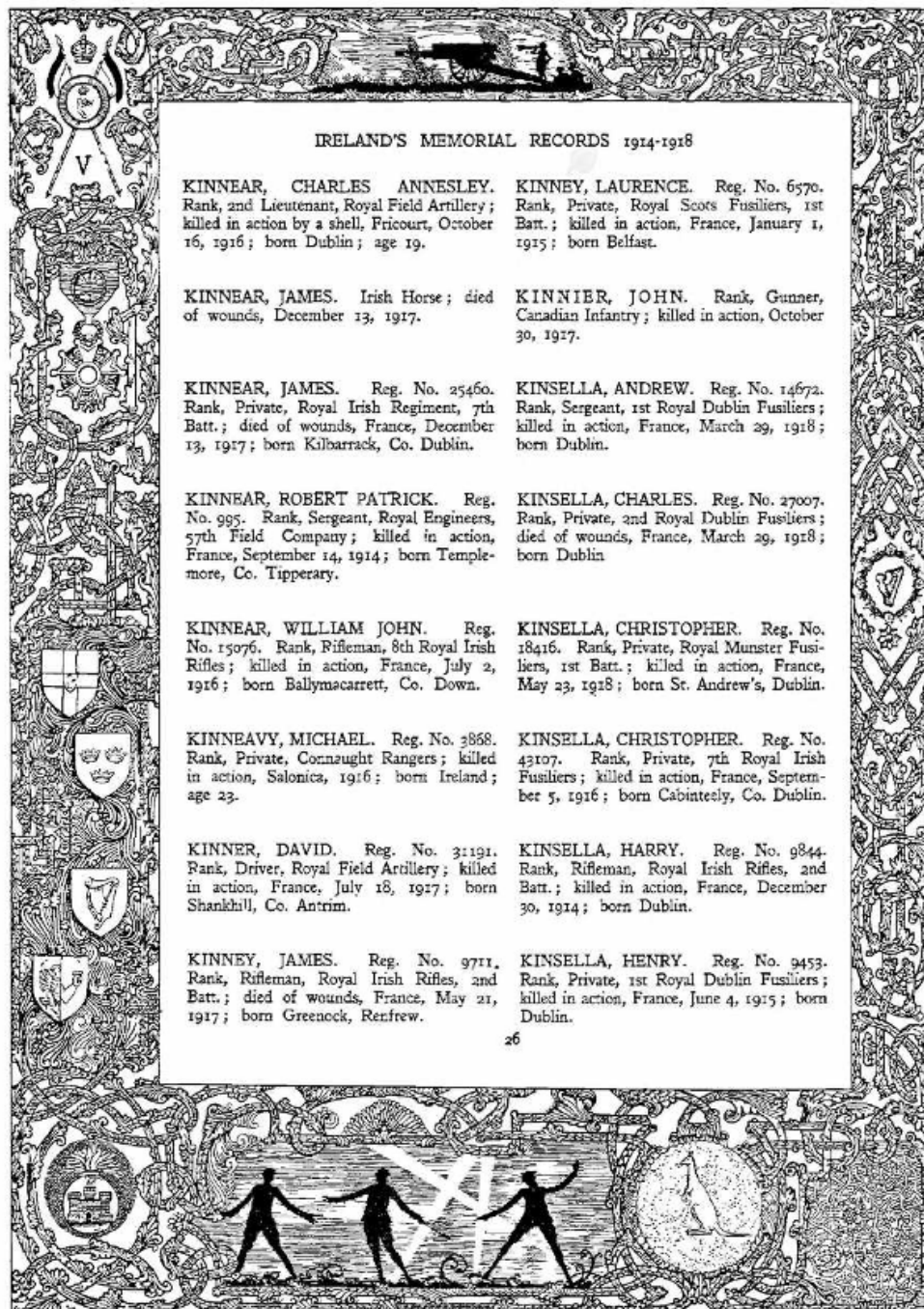
If the soldier in question was Irish, you can search the excellent inventory of Irish memorials that is available on the website www.irishwarmemorials.ie. It includes photographs of each memorial, the text of all inscriptions and details of the site of the memorial. A database of all of those named on the memorials allows a search for individual persons, with links to the photographs of the memorials.

You may also be able to get a photograph of the actual headstone or the name on a memorial from www.findagrave.com free of charge.

Are there records in Ireland?

The National War Memorial at Islandbridge, Dublin, holds a copy of *Ireland's Memorial Records*. This is a beautifully produced alphabetic listing of the soldiers who were killed while serving in the Irish regiments in the Great War. Each entry has the name, regimental number, rank, regiment and battalion, cause of death, theatre of war, date of death and place of birth.

It can be searched online at <http://imr.inlandersfields.be/search.html> and, for a fee, at www.ancestry.co.uk and www.military-genealogy.com. It is also available on a CD from www.eneclann.ie and through the Public Library system.



The records include soldiers who were not born in Ireland but were killed while serving with an Irish regiment.

A new Irish Great War Dead Archive has recently become available. Searches may be made free of charge at www.irelandsgreatwardead.ie. The archive now includes the details of the dead of 26 counties of Ireland, and work is continuing to add the losses of the remaining six counties.

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association has a small but growing archive in the Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street, Dublin. This holds personal information, photographs and memorabilia

donated by relatives and friends. This is a secure repository which allows researchers access to primary historic material. See

<http://www.dublincity.ie/RecreationandCulture/libraries/Heritage%20and%20History/Dublin%20City%20Archives/Pages/Index.aspx>.

Are there other sources of information?

A complete list of soldiers killed in the war was published by HMSO in 1921 under the title ***Soldiers Died in the Great War***. This contains the names of 635,000 soldiers and 37,000 officers in 81 volumes covering every regiment and corps, arranged by surname within battalion. For example, part 73 refers to soldiers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Example:

Name:	Andrew Kinsella
Birth Place:	Dublin
Death Date:	29 Mar 1918
Death Location:	France & Flanders
Enlistment Location:	Dublin
Rank:	Sergeant
Regiment:	Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Battalion:	1st Battalion
Number:	14672
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre

The type of casualty may be important. If a soldier is shown as having “died of wounds”, he may have died sometime after the action and in a medical facility some distance away. This type of casualty may not be shown on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website.

The UK's Imperial War Museums have made available general guidance on tracing WW1 casualty records. See <https://www.iwm.org.uk/research/tracing-your-family-history/tracing-your-army-history/casualty-records>.

You can search the records online at www.ancestry.co.uk and www.military-genealogy.com. There is a fee to download the content. The complete set is available on a CD-ROM from www.naval-military-press.com. This can be searched without knowing the regiment in which a soldier served.

The alphabetic index to the **Medal Rolls** (WO372) at the National Archives contains a card (example below) for each person who received one or more medals. This will usually show the name, regiment, rank, number and medals awarded. It may also show the “theatre of war first served in” and the date of entry therein. The remarks column may note if a soldier was killed in action. The address is not usually recorded. The index is available for searching at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/ and www.ancestry.co.uk.

If you locate the soldier in the index of the National Archives, there is a charge to get a copy of the index card. The contents are well explained at www.1914-1918.net/grandad/mic.htm. There may be some additional information in the actual medal rolls themselves, such as the fact that a soldier had changed battalions, but they are not available online.

The regiment shown on a medal or recorded at the date of death may hide the fact that the soldier had served in other battalions or regiments. For example, a recruit to the 8th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers may have been assigned later to the 1st Battalion when the 8th and 9th were disbanded. The medal will show the 1st Battalion, but this will not reflect the prior service. The date of entry in a particular "theatre of war", if recorded, may provide a clue to the battalion at the time. The Medal Rolls may be particularly useful if you do not know the regiment or the particular battalion in which the soldier served.



When you know the relevant regiment and battalion, you can obtain details of its movements, activities and battles from a number of sources. For example, the book *British Regiments 1914-18* by Brigadier EA James gives a summary of movements for each battalion in every regiment during the War. The movements of each battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers are summarized at <http://www.1914-1918.net/dubs.htm>. Another useful source of information is at <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/royal-dublin-fusiliers/>.

The battalion **War Diary** gives the most detailed account of what happened while on active service. Every battalion completed a daily record of the location and activities. It is possible to trace the movements of a battalion and to obtain details of what was happening when a soldier was killed, injured or won a decoration. Officers are named, but totals are usually given for "other ranks". There are some lists of casualties for major losses such as those suffered by the 8th Battalion in the gas attack at Hulluch in April 1916. See the above War Diary example for the 2nd Battalion, The Leinster Regiment, for March 1918.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

MARCH/1918
2nd. Bttn. Leinster Regiment.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/3/18		Battalion in Front Line, Right Sub Section. Nothing unusual.	
	2/3/18		Battalion in Front Line, Right Sub Section. Quiet Day.	
	3/3/18		2/Lieut. P.R. Farrelly M.C. & Lieut. W.H. Coade admitted to Hospital.	
	3/3/18		Battalion in Front Line, Right Sub Section. Quiet Day. I.O.R. Wounded Gun Shot.	
	4/3/18		Lieut. M.C.E. Sharpe rejoined from Leave.	
	4/3/18		Battalion in Front Line. Nothing unusual. Major J.R. Frenn, (D.S.O.) Capt. D.P.A. McCann (M.C.)	
	5/3/18		Capt. J.W. Webster proceeded on leave to U.K. 2/Lieut. W. McNamara admitted to Hospital Sick.	
	5/3/18		Battalion relieved in Front Line and proceeded to Ede. Support in GRANGE CAMP near VILLIERS FAUCON.	
	5/3/18		Lieut. Col. H.E. Welden took over the duties of Brigadier General.	
	5/3/18		2/Lieut. W.M. Surtess rejoined from duty at Base.	
	6/3/18		Battalion in Ede. Support. Working Parties 9 Officers & 300 O.Rs. on BROWN LINE.	
	7/3/18		Lieut. W.G. Teesey proceeded to England for transfer to Indian Army.	
	13/3/18		Battalion in Ede. Support. Working Parties as for the 6th.	
	14/3/18		Battalion moved by march route to TINCOURT.	
	15/3/18		Battalion at TINCOURT.	
	16/3/18		Battalion preceded by lorries to GRANGE CAMP.	
	17/3/18		St. PATRICK'S DAY. Sports held by Battalion.	
	18/3/18		Battalion Grange Camp. Working Parties 9 Officers & 300 Other Ranks on BROWN LINE.	
	19/3/18		----- same as 18th. inst. - 2/Lieut. J.M. Hunter joined Battalion.	
	20/3/18		----- same as 18th. inst.	
VILLIERS FAUCON	21/3/18	4.45 a.m.	Enemy bombardment commenced. Battalion suffered many casualties by 9 a.m. STOOD TO under cover of embankment at ORANGE CAMP.	
		2.40 p.m.	Battalion ordered to BROWN LINE. Headquarters at SPUR QUARRY	
		6 p.m.	BROWN LINE occupied by four Companies Elements of enemy driven out. Right Company in touch with 66th. Div. TEMPLEUX WOOD left with Munster's	
		10.30 p.m.	H.Q. moved to BROWN LINE SUPPORT from QUARRY.	
	22/3/18	7.30 a.m.	66th. Div. apparently retired exposing Right Flank. Enemy worked through Gap and inflicted heavy casualties on Right Company's "A" & "B" Coys. forced to withdraw to position 500 yards in rear. About 9 a.m. Battalion reinforced by 2 Companies 11th. Sussex & 2 Tanks.	
		11 a.m.	Battalion forced to withdraw to Railway Cutting in E.20. - Railway Cutting enfiladed by Machine Guns..	

2449 Wt. W14957/3690 735,000 1/16 J.R.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12

Most diaries are handwritten, as shown in the following example for the 10th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, in February 1917. This contains an example of map coordinates – R7 b75 34. These relate to the **Trench Maps** which were drawn on a scale of 6 inches/mile. The diaries give precise locations for each day. Copies of the Trench Maps can be bought from the Western Front Association, www.westernfrontassociation.com, or from www.naval-military-press.com.

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY			Army Form C. 2118.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.			
Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
DEFINITION SECTION CENTRE SUBSECTION	6.2.17		
	7.2.17		
		5.30 PM	
		4.30 PM	
	8.2.17		

Hostile patrols went out during the night & got into touch with the Pns on one night and left
 Two prisoners were captured today. Casualties 8 O Rs wounded
 Hostile artillery was very active today, esp from 10.40 or PM. a large quantity of 4.2s and
 Shrapnel was sent over at R7 b 75 34. Our retaliation was poor and a great many
 Shells dropped short between RIVER & PUISIEUX trenches. A number of them were dead
 The Pns sent up a succession of green lights which were followed by considerable artillery activity
 A German aeroplane came over on night side and dropped a smoke bomb from 4.45 - 4 PM, the
 line was bombarded with 5.9s and shrapnel
 The usual patrols were sent out during the night. Casualties K in A 3 ORs Wounded 4 ORs
 Hostile artillery very active. PUISIEUX RD was shelled practically all day. ANNEX 1 RIVER trenches were
 shelled from 3.30 - 6.30 PM with 5.9s and whizzbangs. Our artillery was quiet & retaliation was called
 for was poor
 Enemy snipers were very active today especially in front of our left company at about R2 b 37.
 They were very difficult to locate. 2 officers & 2 O Rs were killed by snipers & 2 or 3 O Rs
 wounded
 Two prisoners came into our lines today. The usual listening posts were out during the night.
 Casualties K in A 2/LT C.M. ARMSTRONG } and 4 O Rs. Wounded 18 O Rs
 2/LT P. CARROLL }
 Casualty amendments. How left? Missing now left? Died Prisoner 1 OR
 --- --- --- K in A 4 O Rs
 --- Wounded+Missing --- K in A 2 ORs
 News was received that 2/LT A.W. HENCHY 10th Rps was awarded the M.C. in connection with the Dublin
 Rising and that the names of the U/M have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State
 in the same connection 2/LT F. O'NEILL (KWA)
 A/RSM HENDERSON J.S.
 A/RSM LYNCH C.

2440 Wt. W14957/3690 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Form C. 2118/12

The War Diaries are held in the UK National Archives where they can be viewed. Around 1.5 million pages have been digitized, and they are being made available for online retrieval. There is a charge to download the material. Further information can be found at:

- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>,
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/british-army-war-diaries-1914-1918.htm> and
- <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/research/military-records/british-army-war-diary.htm>.

The relevant National Archives reference numbers for the Royal Dublin Fusiliers are shown in **Appendix A**.

Some battalions had their histories published for private circulation. These describe the more significant events that occurred while the regiment was on active service and contain the key events noted in the War Diaries. Relevant books for the Royal Dublin Fusiliers are:

- *Neill's "Blue Caps", Vol. 3*, by Colonel H. C. Wylly. This history of the 1st Battalion was originally published in 1924;
- *Crown and Company, Vol. 2*, also by Colonel H.C. Wylly. This history of the 2nd Battalion was published in 1924;

The Pals at Suvla Bay, by Henry Hanna published in 1917;
The Tenth (Irish) Division in Gallipoli, by Bryan Cooper. First published in 1918 and re-published by the Irish Academic Press in 1993;
Field of Bones, An Irish Division at Gallipoli, by Philip Orr, Lilliput Press, 2006.

The first three books above have been reprinted by the Naval and Military Press at reasonable prices: see www.naval-military-press.com.

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association and its members have published a number of books. You will find details on our website, www.greatwar.ie.

You will also find summaries of the main battles in which the Irish regiments were involved on our website. More detail can be found in *Orange Green and Khaki* by Tom Johnstone, published by Gill and MacMillan, Dublin. This went out of print around 2005, but a copy may be borrowed through the Public Library system.

Further Sources of information

General historical information relating to the 1913 to 1923 period (including the Great War years) may be obtained at this excellent site: <https://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/>.

More information and pictures related to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers can be found at www.royaldublinfusiliers.com. This website also has a forum facility. Another website, www.dublin-fusiliers.com/, has a wide range of information about the various battalions and also has a list of serial numbers used by the Regiment.

The **wills of some 9,000 Irish soldiers** who died in the Great War are held in the National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin 2. Most soldiers did not make a will, and most of the wills that were made – just as with this collection – were 'informal' wills that were not witnessed. Searches may be made free of charge at <http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/search/sw/index.jsp>.

The Western Front Association has acquired a major archive of over six million Great War soldiers' **pension record cards**. During the Great War, dependents of each serving British soldier, sailor, airman and nurse who was killed were entitled to a pension, as were those service personnel who were wounded or otherwise incapacitated due to the conflict. The volume of records involved by category follows:

- Other Ranks Died (this contains nearly one million individual records);
- Widows and Dependents of Other Ranks Died (in excess of one million records);
- Other Ranks Survived: Requested/Rejected/Receiving Pension (over 2.5 million records);
- Officers survived and Officers' Widows (approximately 150,000 records);
- Merchant Naval Cards (about 5,000 records).

All available pension record cards may be viewed on the subscription website, www.fold3.com. However be aware that a card is not available for every soldier.

The **enlistment books** for those who served in the disbanded Irish regiments in the period 1920-1922 have been made available by the National Army Museum and may be viewed at <http://www.nam.ac.uk/soldiers-records/persons>.

If you are tracing your grandfather, you will find some very useful hints at www.1914-1918.net. Use the Tracing button.

You can also search old **Irish newspapers** online at <https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/> and the Irish Times archive at <https://www.irishtimes.com/archive>. There is a charge.

Facebook hosts a number of communities relating to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and aspects of WW1. For instance, assistance may be sought by contacting the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association at <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalDublinFusiliersAssociation/>. Another option is <https://www.facebook.com/Royal-Dublin-Fusiliers-152878011548369/>.

The Association may also be contacted on email at rdfa1918@gmail.com.

Using a professional researcher

You can take the easy route by getting a professional to do the research at the National Archives in London for you. There is a list on the National Archives website.

If you have come to a dead end or even if you have made progress, it may be useful to check with an expert to ensure that you have missed nothing.

Appendix A

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers War Diaries – National Archives Reference Numbers

All of the references are prefixed by WO95/:

1st Battalion	Jan 1915 - Feb 1916	4310 [29th Division, 86th Brigade]
	Mar 1916 - Sep 1917	2301 [29th Division, 86th Brigade]
	Oct 1917 - Apr 1918	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	May 1918 - May 1919	2301 [29th Division, 86th Brigade]
2nd Battalion	Aug 1914 - Nov 1916	1481 [4th Division, 10th Brigade]
	Nov 1916 - Apr 1918	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	May 1918	No trace
6th Battalion	Jun 1918 - Apr 1919	2831 [50th Division, 149th Brigade]
	Jul 1915 - Sep 1915	4296 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
	Oct 1915 - Aug 1917	4836 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
	Sep 1917 - Jun 1918	4583 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
7th Battalion	Jul 1918 - Apr 1919	3140 [197th Brigade, 66th Division]
	Jul 1915 - Sep 1915	4296 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
	Oct 1915 - Aug 1917	4836 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
	Sep 1917 - May 1918	4583 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
8th Battalion	Jul 1918 - Aug 1919	1978 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
	Dec 1915 - Oct 1917	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	Nov 1917 - Feb 1918	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	9th Battalion	Dec 1915 - Oct 1917
Nov 1917 - Feb 1918		1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
8/9th Battalion	Nov 1917 - Feb 1	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	Mar 1918	905 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
10th Battalion	Aug 1916 - Jun 1917	3118 [63rd Division, 190th Brigade]
	Jul 1917 - Feb 1918	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	Feb 1918 - Apr 1918	905 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]

The Infantry Structure of the British Army during the Great War

A private soldier served in a section of about 11 men under a Corporal or Lance Corporal. Four sections formed a platoon of about 45 men under a Lieutenant. Four platoons formed a company under a Captain. Four companies formed a battalion of about 1,000 men commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel. Four battalions (reduced to 3 in 1918) formed a brigade, and three brigades made a division.

A regiment did not act as unit. Its battalions could be distributed among different brigades and divisions.

RDFA Ypres Trip, 29 May – 2 June 2019

Seamus Moriarty

Wednesday, 29 May

Flew a Ryanair Dublin 13.20 flight to Brussels South (Charleroi) after a two hour delay leaving Dublin due to flight congestion. At the airport, the party of 27 met up with our driver, Peter, for the trip. Our bus (pictured below) was more luxurious than the norm as it served as the Bruges FC team coach during the football season. A planned visit to the Frezenberg Memorial had to be rescheduled due to time constraints.



Arrived at our accommodation in the **Lille Roubaix Grand Hotel**, Avenue Jean Lebas, Roubaix, about 14 kms north-west of Lille, in time for our evening meal. Accommodation was more than adequate even if, except for the truly magnificent Roubaix Town Hall in the adjacent Grand Place, the area around the Hotel had little to recommend it.

Thursday, 30 May

The focus of the trip was Ypres and the four major battles in the Ypres region between October 1914 and April 1918.

After a 40 minute drive from the Hotel, our first port of call was the tourist office in **Kemmel** in West Flanders. As it was Ascension Thursday, Roubaix and the villages we passed through were even quieter than normal, if that be possible. **Kammelberg**, a nearby hill formation, was in April 1918 the scene of one of the War's most ferocious battles in the 4th Battle of Ypres. Being of strategic importance and in the hope of a breakthrough to the North Sea, it was taken by the Germans in April 1918 inflicting huge French casualties. It was recaptured in September 1918 as a precursor to the Armistice. Kemmel's French Cemetery has over 5,000 French graves. Its strategic significance apparently continued into the Cold War, and a NATO air defence bunker was constructed on the hill in the 1950s.

Lettenberg Bunkers are a sympathetic recreation of four bunkers (pictured) on the Kammelberg constructed by the 175th Tunnelling Company in the spring of 1917 as an underground brigade headquarters and sleeping accommodation. Strategically located, the complex has views of Ypres, Wyschaete and Messines.



Toc H, Poperinge, was a soldier's rest and recreation centre named Talbot House with a strong Christian ethos. It was founded in December 1915 and named after Charles Talbot, a son of the Bishop of Winchester, who died at Hooze in July 1915. Soldiers, regardless of rank, were made to feel welcome, and it was considered an alternative to the 'debauched recreational life of the town'. Toc H continues to this day as an international volunteer Christian movement.

Lunch was dispensed by the hospitable staff in Toc H, apparently all volunteers.

The Execution Post for Firing Squads and Death Cells, Poperinge

are to be found in the courtyard of the Town Hall (pictured). As only one of two Belgian towns never under German occupation, it allowed for Poperinge to be used for more mundane administrative duties, such as court martials and executions. There doesn't appear to be a record of how many executions actually took place here, but 17 executed soldiers rest in Poperinge New Military Cemetery. Death sentences were most often for desertion.



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, near Poperinge (pictured), is the second largest Commonwealth cemetery in Belgium (after Tyne Cot). Most casualties came not from the Ypres battlefields but from the four large Allied casualty clearing stations accommodating some 4,000 hospital beds in the area. The cemetery is consequently unusual in that of the 9,900 interments, only 24 are unidentified reflecting its role as a resting place for those who died in a hospital bed rather than on the battlefield.



As there are 100 airmen buried here, Philip Lecane used the location to give an outline of how the skies came to be used for military purposes from hot air balloons to the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service to form the Royal Air Force in April 1918. The use of aircraft transformed air reconnaissance. He also outlined the contribution of two Irish air aces, George McElroy and Mick Mannock, both of whom died in action in July 1918. Only 50% of airmen died in action, the remainder in flying accidents while in training.

Bayernwald Trench System is a unique German site, near Wijtschate, consisting of two mine galleries, a mine shaft, trench system and five bunkers. Captured by the Germans under Crown Prince Rupert van Bayern (hence the name 'Bayernwald'), it was of great strategic importance. Despite near constant artillery bombardment from the British, it would remain in German hands until the Battle of Messines in 1917. The picture below shows our Chairman, Brian Moroney, and Ronan Fogarty enjoying their visit at Bayernwald.



Attendance at the nightly playing of the Last Post at the **Menin Gate** has been *de rigueur* on all RDFA visits to Flanders, and the party was well represented after dinner to support Capt (Retd) Seamus Greene and Niall Leinster who carried the Dublin Fusiliers standard at this event. Ypres Male Voice Choir from the UK and the Royal Marines Cadet School Band played appropriate airs. By pure coincidence, but most appropriate to a visit of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, the Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe Band was also present and gave their rendition of a selection of Irish martial airs.



Might this have been the first time in the 100 year history of the event that 'Kelly the Boy from Killane' was heard at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate? The accompanying picture shows John O'Brien at the Menin Gate that evening.

Friday, 31 May

Returned to Flanders after breakfast to visit **Zantvoorde British Cemetery** where Brian Moroney used the location to explain the 1st Battle of Ypres and the demise of the British professional army in which all Irish regiments were represented. 1st Ypres dated from the early months of the War and was an old fashioned battle of contact before the Front stabilised and morphed into trench warfare.



The group had sight of **Mouse Trap Farm** where the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Royal Irish Regiment sustained substantial losses during the final German attempt to take Ypres in May 1915. As it remains a working farm, a visit was not possible. Also visited was **New Irish Farm Cemetery** dating from 1919 when isolated interments from the region were centralised here.

The evocative **St Julien Memorial**, also known as the ‘Brooding Soldier’, is located near Langemark and commemorates the 2,000 Canadian casualties in the 2nd Battle of Ypres (April – May 1915). Here they withstood the first German gas attack of the War. The architect of the memorial was himself a veteran who gave up his architectural practice to serve despite being 39 years old and with a young family. Even more surprising maybe was that he was also a Quaker. It is one of the most recognised Canadian war memorials anywhere. Canadians are understandably proud of their achievement here as the first victory of a former colonial nation over a European nation on European soil.

Lunch was in Redmond’s Pub in **Locre**, an old haunt of the RDFA from earlier visits to Flanders. Unfortunately, time constraints did not allow for the traditional visit to pay our respects at the grave of Major Willie Redmond at the nearby convent in Locre.

It was appropriate that we visited the **Messines Ridge (New Zealand) Memorial** if only to remind ourselves that notwithstanding the location of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines, it was in fact the New Zealanders who captured Messines on 7 June 1917 when they sustained 3,000 casualties including 700 deaths.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in ‘down time’ in **Ypres** before returning to our hotel for dinner. Ypres itself had plenty of activity and would appear to be the focal point for visitors of all ages to the Flanders region.

Saturday, 1 June

We returned to Ypres and **Essex Farm Cemetery**, which is famous for its monument to the composition of ‘In Flanders Fields’ by Canadian doctor John McCrea in May 1915. It is claimed that he wrote it after witnessing the burial of a friend in Essex Farm. Its references to poppies blowing ‘between the crosses , row on row’ resulted in poppies becoming the world’s most recognised memorial symbols for those who have died in warfare. ‘In Flanders Fields’ is arguably the best known piece of poetry from the First World War. The cemetery itself dates from the 2nd Battle of Ypres (April – May 1915).

Aidan Kavanagh gave an outline of the life of Dublin born Private Joseph Fox who died in August 1914 while serving with the 2nd Battalion RDF. If he is the person of the same name and age who is listed among the pupils in Letterfrack Industrial School, Co Galway in the 1901 Census, it may explain as to why he left all his possessions to a Miss Frances Duggan from Killecanty, also in Co Galway.



Brandhoek New Military Cemetery is the burial place of Noel Godfrey Chevasse who is only one of three people to be awarded the Victoria Cross twice and the only one in World War 1 (see accompanying picture). George Jones gave an interesting talk at his grave on the career of Captain Chevasse who is believed to be commemorated on more war memorials in the UK than any other individual. Being a medical doctor, an Olympic athlete and the son of an Anglican bishop may have contributed to this. He received some of his medical training in Dublin's Rotunda Hospital. His father had been instrumental in building Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral.



At **Birr Cross Roads Cemetery**, Mary Kennedy outlined the career of Philip Hynes of the Leinster Regiment and the son of a Crimean War veteran who died in action on Sunday, 15 August 1915 (the Feast of the Assumption). He was a native of Ballywilliam in Tipperary and enlisted in Nenagh. Her connection is that his parents lived in the townland of Capparoe, and this is in Mary's own parish of Silvermines in north Tipperary. He was killed at Hooge in August 1915 and in a letter to his mother, his commanding officer described him as 'my best bomb thrower'. He had two brothers who also served. One was badly injured and died in 1921. The other brother was the only one of three to survive the War long term. Rarely has a rendition of 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' been sung at a more appropriate location than delivered here by our party over the grave of Philip Hynes – very far from his native Silvermines, Co Tipperary.

Hooge Crater Cemetery is named after a nearby mine crater that has since been filled in and is on the Menin Road about 4 kms from Ypres. Designed by Edwin Lutyens (who also designed the Cenotaph in Whitehall and the Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge), it has a stone-faced circular depression near the entrance that is meant to evoke the many nearby craters caused by huge explosives from mines laid by both sides. Most of these craters are now lost. Sally Keogh (pictured below) recited a poem written by her uncle Charlie in memory of his brother, John Copeland from Foynes, Co Limerick, who died here while serving with the Scots Guards. Sally has kindly allowed for the poem to be attached as an **Appendix** to this article.



Across the Menin Road from the cemetery is the privately operated **Hooge Crater Museum** which we also visited. It includes an array of uniforms, equipment and assorted weaponry. There is also a life-size recreation of trenches, dugouts and battlefield scenes. We had our lunch in the adjoining museum café. Pictured below are John O'Brien, Gerry Spain, Kevin Cunningham and Larry Yourell.



The **Frezenberg Memorial Stone** (pictured below) was initiated by the RDFA to mark the centenary of the involvement of the 16th (Irish) and the 36th (Ulster) Divisions in the 3rd Battle of Ypres (July – November 1917), also known as Passchendaele. The attack on the Frezenberg Ridge on 17 August was a failure, and both Divisions sustained serious losses. One consequence was the departure of the 16th Division from Flanders. The memorial is situated on the borderline between where both Divisions served. It has a plaque to Fr Willie Doyle SJ who died in this area. It also has a bronze tablet designed by Willie Malone, a grandson of Sgt William Malone who died at Mouse Trap Farm while serving with the RDF in May 1915. William’s brother, Lt Michael Malone, would die a year later at Mount Street Bridge fighting for Irish independence during the Easter Rising.



Poelcapelle British Cemetery, 10 kms north east of Ypres, dates from after the Armistice when graves were brought in from surrounding battlefields and smaller cemeteries. It has the grave of John Condon from Waterford who for a long time was thought to be the youngest British battle casualty of the First World War. However recent research has led some historians to suggest that he may actually have been a bit older than the 14 years traditionally attributed to him. He died on 24 May 1915 while serving with the Royal Irish Regiment.

Vladslo German War Cemetery, near Diksmuide, originally held some 3,000 German wartime burials, but in 1956 after burials from smaller cemeteries in the area were concentrated here, it now contains the graves of over 25,000 soldiers, mostly in mass graves. Michael Lee explained the background to the pair of statues called *The Grieving Parents* by Kathe Kollwitz, a noted German sculptor (the depiction of her husband’s grief is shown below). These statues were completed in 1932 as a memorial to her son who died on the battlefield in October 1914. A socialist and pacifist, she was banned from exhibiting her work by the Nazis, even though her grandson, Peter, would die in action in 1942 serving with the Wehrmacht on the Eastern Front. She herself died in 1945.



Sunday, 2 June

The party returned to Dublin on the 14.40 flight from Brussels Airport at the conclusion of another action-packed RDFA visit to the Western Front.

Principal Sources and Acknowledgements

Brian Moroney and others who contributed at the various locations.

Brochures etc. from the various locations visited.

Sally Keogh for permitting use of the poem about her relative, John Copeland of the Scots Guards.

Photographs of Paul Appleby, Brian Moroney and John O'Brien.

Photograph of the Commonwealth Graves Commission, www.cwgc.org.

APPENDIX

John Copeland, Killed in Action, 1914 by Charles C Copeland

Somewhere out in France you fell
As of yore our poor Wild Geese
And the thunder and the shell
Cannot break your blessed peace

Who was near you? Held your head?
Staunched your fatal wounds awhile
Caught the last words you said
The beauty of your fading smile?

Who of all that mighty fray?
Who, but the angel heaven sent
To light the soul on its dark way
From the cradle to the grave

Rest, as but the tired slain can
In some cold and nameless hole
Earth is poorer by a man!
Heaven richer by a soul!

The Activities of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association in 2021

Paul Taylor

This year of 2021 saw us still endure the difficulties and sorrows imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm happy to report that your Committee has continued to keep the Association vibrant and has been much more active than last year.

The Committee continues to meet virtually out of necessity. Zoom conference, organised by Thomas Murphy, has been a saviour to us. We had seventeen such meetings during the year. We are delighted to report that some Association activities took place under the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place at the time.

On Saturday 19th June, some members supported our colleague Gerry Spain in dedicating a headstone in Mount Jerome Cemetery to his late grandfather James Aspill who served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

On Saturday 18th September, a trip organised by Suzanne O'Neill and George Jones took place to Durrow to visit the small museum dedicated to the memory of Jack Moyney VC. The visitors enjoyed a lecture given by a local historian on the history of the Dubs and other regiments in the area.

On Sunday 3rd October, a special day was experienced by those who attended the commemorative event in Mount Jerome Cemetery. The tour was organised by John O'Brien who with his colleagues Sean Ryan, Aidan Kavanagh and Anthony Barnes collated details of forty-four former members of the Dubs who are interred there. This mammoth task culminated with the placing of a memorial card and rose, kindly donated by Kevin Cunningham, on each grave visited. Some people gave a talk on their relative who is buried there.

On Saturday 10th October, Brian Moroney and John Sheehan travelled to Portlaoise to meet with colleagues from our sister regimental associations. A committee has been formed to coordinate activities around the commemoration of the centenary of the disbandment of their regiments to be held in June 2022. Further meetings are planned to be held on line.

Sadly during the year we learned of the passing of several loyal members including my fellow Committee member Sean Slattery. On Friday 19th November, we had a moving and dignified ecumenical ceremony in City Quay Church. Candles were lit as the names of our deceased friends were read out. This was the first such commemoration of its kind and is sure to become an annual occasion.

The weekend around Remembrance Sunday saw the Association involved in some events. Thomas Murphy laid a wreath at the war memorial in Oldtown Cemetery. A group led by Brian Moroney laid a wreath at the first remembrance ceremony to be held at the Royal British Legion Hall in Killester. John O'Brien, Sean Ryan and Anthony Barnes joined our colleague Kevin Cunningham in Mount Jerome Cemetery in his private commemoration of his late

father Tommy, a former Dub. They then participated in the Annual Remembrance Service in Saint Patrick's Cathedral in the afternoon. A wreath was laid on behalf of our Association at the Kilkenny War Memorial.

The Editorial Committee has been exceptionally busy this year, publishing issues 23 and 24 of The Blue Cap. They also produced three issues of The Old Tough which continues to receive great praise from readers. In addition they have assisted in the publication of the records of the forty-four members of the Dubs so far identified as being interred in Mount Jerome Cemetery. Currently they are finalising production of issue 25 of The Blue Cap and preparing a booklet to commemorate the centenary of the Regiment's disbandment.

Plans are advancing to organise a trip to Windsor in June 2022. George Jones and Suzanne O'Neill have been in contact, through the Royal British Legion, with the Naval Division who are enthusiastic about joining us as we journey through Liverpool. The British Embassy is fully aware of our intention to mark the centenary of the disbandment and representations are being made to get our Government on board.

Our proposed tour to Salonika was postponed yet again but it is hoped that it can proceed in May, pandemic restrictions allowing.

Thanks to the unceasing work of Paul Appleby the Committee can confidently say that the Association is fully compliant with all the regulations of both Revenue and the Charities Governance Code in relation to inter alia The Trustees' Code of Conduct and Internal Financial Controls.

David Buckley our Exhibition Officer was unable, unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions organise any physical material exhibitions. He continues however to use the Facebook pages of The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Collectors of Irish Regiments to show part of his collection of memorabilia.

The next year promises to be a very busy one for our Association. Apart from the tour to Salonika, the commemoration of the centenary service and the trip to Windsor, the Committee will ask the relevant authorities to respectfully relocate to a suitable site, the statue of the dying Royal Dublin Fusilier, a remnant of the Queen Victoria monument, which is currently languishing behind the scenes in Dublin Castle. The timing would be appropriate in view of our centenary.

Finally, as I shall not be going forward as Honorary Secretary next year due to family care commitments, may I thank my fellow Committee members for their unfailing support and encouragement. May I wish my successor and the incoming Committee all the very best in their roles.

Chairman Brian Moroney's Statement to the Association's 2021 AGM

Colleagues

I am delighted to welcome you all here today and to thank my fellow Committee members for all their hard work over the past year. Notwithstanding the Pandemic, we held regular meetings and continued the work of the Association wherever and whenever possible.

Our Secretary, Mr Paul Taylor, will shortly address you regarding the activities of the Association over the past year. If a certain beer company made Association Secretaries, they would all be modelled on Paul. The man has handled all the complexities we can throw at him and his work is outstanding. It has been my great privilege to have worked with Paul over what has been a difficult year, and I am pleased to say we are still happily talking.

Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Seamus Greene, is reluctantly standing down this year and will be sorely missed. He is also standing back from his duties as Standard Bearer for the Association, and it is worth noting that he has held this post for more than 20 years. Seamus has represented the Association all across Ireland, the UK, Europe and indeed Gallipoli, literally in hail, rain or shine and never once wavered. It is testimony to Seamus that should you check images for the Royal Dublin Fusiliers online, you are bound to see images of Seamus proudly on Parade with our Standard. Seamus, I salute you.

I would also like to thank Mr Niall Leinster who has also represented the Association as standard bearer on many occasions, and Seamus and Niall parading together is a wonderful sight to behold. Indeed Seamus and Niall jointly represented the Association in Dungarvan at a commemorative ceremony earlier this year for which many thanks. Thank you, Niall.

Our Editorial Committee continued producing our Journal, The Blue Cap, to its usual high standards, and our President, Tom Burke, produced a special Blue Cap, one that sets the standard for a Regimental War History to an exemplary standard. In addition to our normal publication, The Blue Cap, our Editorial Committee continued to entertain and inform us by producing The Old Tough – this newsletter has become a firm favourite amongst our members and is now reaching a new audience that bodes well for the future.

My heartfelt thanks to the Editorial Committee of: Sally Keogh, Paul Appleby, John Sheehan, David Buckley, Thomas Murphy.

Though many ceremonies were again cancelled, through the year we did manage to have three wonderful events, each as different as could be but each producing a wonderful reaction. Our trip to Durrow, organised by George Jones and Suzanne O'Neill, was a great day out. We were royally entertained at Bob's Bar for a most personal and interesting talk and then by the Ashbrook Arms Hotel for lunch and an illustrated talk by the Chair of the Laois Historical Society, Seán Murray, on the relationship between The Dubs and Durrow.

Our second trip was a tour of Mount Jerome Cemetery organised by John O'Brien, Seán Ryan, Aidan Kavanagh and Anthony Barnes. A moving tour which saw the group honour the memory of more than 50 ex-soldiers, mostly Dubs, interred there. A brief history of each person was given, and John and his team included short talks, poems, song and most movingly The Last

Post played on the violin and accordion. John and the lads put an enormous amount of time and energy into this project, and it has received a wonderful reaction, not least on the Facebook page monitored by John O'Brien and Jon Toohey and regular contributor, Aidan.

Our special remembrance service in City Quay was warmly welcomed, and our grateful thanks go to Father Pearse, Sacristan Gerry Brown and Parish Secretary, Bernadette, for facilitating this innovative and moving service. It may well become a feature of our events calendar in time to come, and special thanks to Thomas Murphy for his work in ensuring the event flowed so well.

Our registration as a Charity with the Charities Regulator is controlled most admirably by Paul Appleby and Sally Keogh, and this is no easy task I assure you. It is one they undertake with modesty and enthusiasm.

John Sheehan and I represented the Association at a meeting set up to commemorate the Disbandment of the Irish Regiments which took place in June 1922. A committee representing all five of the disbanded regiments was formed, and meetings are being organised to plan a series of events next year. The good news is that the Dubs' main commemoration will take place on 12 June 2022 in St Patrick's Cathedral with all five regiments parading their standard along with those of invited Guests. It promises to be a very special occasion, marking as it does a turning point in Irish Military History and is a welcome inclusion to the Decade of Centenaries. We do hope that you will be present on the day.

I hope that you will have taken notice of the proposals being put forward today and vote to express your opinion.

In conclusion, may I say that it has been a great honour working with all the members of the Committee to make the year the success it has been. They are a tightly knit and dedicated group of people, and the Association is so much richer for having them as truly working members of the Association. They have certainly met and continue to meet the Dubs' Motto: Spectamur Agendo (We Are Judged By Our Deeds).

Thank you.

Reminder

Annual Membership of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

As 2021 draws to a close, it is time once again to say 'Thank You' to all of our members for your subscriptions and donations. Outstanding subscriptions can continue to be paid electronically or by cheque.

We encourage both our lapsed and existing members to renew their membership for 2022 so that we can continue to remember the men and families of Royal Dublin Fusiliers who served during the Great War and at other times. By doing so, you are connecting with people with a similar interest in remembrance, and you can influence the Association's work by, for example, participating at our annual general meetings.

More particularly, your membership subscriptions are covering any unavoidable expenses associated with:

- the remembrance ceremonies in which we participate;
- the preparation and circulation of this journal (The Blue Cap) and our popular Old Tough newsletters and
- other appropriate work.

Membership also makes you eligible to take part in our occasional domestic and overseas trips to relevant sites of military interest.

The membership subscription for 2022 remains a modest €20 for members on the island of Ireland or €25 for members outside of Ireland. Those who wish to become a member of the Association or renew their membership will find the membership form, our bank account details and contact information for our Membership Secretary at the following address: <https://www.greatwar.ie/member-information/>. Alternatively, persons with an interest in joining the Association can send an email marked 'Membership' to the Association at rdfa1918@gmail.com.

With a view to broadening the membership base of the Association and thereby securing its longer term future, we suggest that for 2022, you try to encourage a relative or friend with a similar interest in remembering the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and/or the Great War to join the Association. You may even wish to consider gifting the cost of their first year's membership. If you are gifting the cost, please complete a separate application for your relative or friend and pay the appropriate membership subscription. Hopefully the relative/friend will get value out of their membership in 2022 and decide to renew for subsequent years.

Quiz Questions for The Blue Cap 2021

Brian Moroney

1. Where is the Yser Canal?
2. According to the nursery rhyme, who was it who sat in a corner, eating Christmas pie?
3. The River Tiber is the third longest river in which European country?
4. Which book begins with the line: "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again..."?
5. How many valves does the heart have?
6. Name the artist pictured below with an example of his work.



7. Name each of the generals pictured.



The Answers are on page 98.

Letter to the Editor

The Editorial Committee has received an interesting letter from Brian White of the Bray Cualann Historical Society. The letter dated 4 April 1917 was written to the British American Relief Society at Perth Amboy, New Jersey, USA, by Private John Gleeson 25234, 10th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. It was a letter of thanks for the new bed which the Society had sponsored and which he was then occupying at the Duke of Connaught Hospital, Bray, Co Wicklow (now St Patrick's Loreto Primary School). The headline about the letter and the text of the letter itself follow:

Irish Soldier is Thankful for Bed

"April 4, 1917

To the President of the British Isles Relief Association of Perth Amboy, N. J.

Dear Sir

You will be pleased to learn that I am the first occupant of the bed for which you have subscribed in this, the Duke of Connaught's Auxiliary Hospital, Bray County, Wicklow. I joined the colours at the outbreak of the war in August, 1914, and have since then been twice wounded. I received my first wound at the Dardenelles (sic), August, 1915, where I took part with my regiment, the Seventh Royal Dublin Fusiliers, in the landing at Suvle (sic) Bay. Fortunately it was not a serious wound, but bad enough to bring me to England. It might interest you to know that the hospital ship I came home on, namely The Brittanlc, has since been sunk.

In April, 1916, I got ten days hospital leave and after that I was sent to the Tenth Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. The good training soon had me fit for active service again. On August 4, 1916, I left Dublin with the Tenth Battalion enroute for France. Not many days after we could plainly hear the boom of the big guns and next we took our place in the trenches.

We were in good time for the Battle of the Somme. Unfortunately this time I was seriously wounded. In October I received four wounds in all, one in the left thigh and three in the right leg, which has since been amputated. I came over here from a hospital in Leeds, Yorkshire, exactly two weeks ago and I have already got my artificial leg. I may say it is wonderful and I expect great results from it. We all agree here that the hospital, taking it all round, could not be better. I have had about eleven months of hospital experience and can safely say that it is the best I have been to yet, plenty of grounds to walk about and the sea is very near. Inside we have a fine recreation room and plenty of books, music, etc., where we pass the evenings. As the Frenchman says, the whole hospital is 'Tres Bon.'

Yours faithfully,

*25234 Pte. J. Gleeson,
Tenth Royal Dublin Fusiliers."*

Source: *Perth Amboy Evening News*, 1 June 1917, page 7, which is available in the Library of the US Congress at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>.

Brian White of the Bray Cualann Historical Society has also sent us the following two contemporary photographs, one of a group of staff and patients outside the Hospital in Bray and the second showing amputees engaged in basket making. Many thanks to Brian for illustrating so well to us by Private Gleeson's example that many men returned from the Great War with life-changing wounds.



Recent News

Remembrance Service

Since the issue of the last Old Tough, the Association successfully held a Remembrance Service for former members and their families in City Quay Parish Church, Dublin, on the evening of Friday, 19 November. Particular thanks for this initiative are due to our Chairman, Brian Moroney, and to Committee member, Thomas Murphy, for helping to organise it.

About 30 members attended the simple dignified service. The names of departed members and the deceased family of members were read by attendees, and individual candles were lit to remember them. The sound of marching feet as the Dubs' Standard was carried by Niall Leinster to the altar and presented to the priest induced quiet reflection. The lighted candles placed along the altar rail in memory of our loved ones and the priest's unhurried prayers gave an air of peace to the occasion.



Outside the Church, it was wonderful to stand and chat to the family members who had attended and who were very appreciative of the ceremony. It is hoped that the Service will become an annual event.

Obituary of Patricia Horne RIP

Many long-established members of the Association will remember the late Patricia Horne who died in late October. *The Irish Times* published an obituary on her remarkable life of service to medicine on 27 November last. If you missed it, try to obtain a copy of the obituary.

Quiz Answers for The Blue Cap 2021

Brian Moroney

1. Belgium
2. Little Jack Horner
3. Italy
4. *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier
5. Four Valves
6. Artist is Bruce Bairnsfather
7. Top Row: George Patton – Ferdinand Foch – Robert E Lee
Second Row: Erwin Rommel – Georgy Zhukov - Paul Von Hindenburg
Side Bar: Lord Herbert Kitchener



**Happy Christmas
from the Royal Dublin
Fusiliers Association**



**The Committee of the Royal
Dublin Fusiliers Association
would like to wish all its
members and friends a very
Happy Christmas and a
prosperous and safe New
Year in 2022**