

**The Cross and the Sword:
Marie, Tommy and Charlie Martin in the First
World War.
Part 2.**

Philip Lecane.

Member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

Tommy, Marie and Charlie were among twelve children born to Tom and Mary Martin of Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire), Co. Dublin. Tommy was the eldest, Marie the second and Charlie the fourth child. The first part of this article told of their childhood and how, upon the outbreak of war, Marie became a V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) i.e. volunteer nurse, Tommy joined the 5th Bn. Connaught Rangers and Charlie the 6th Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. On 5 August 1915, the 5th Bn. Connaught Rangers landed at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli peninsula. Tommy was wounded and shipped home to Ireland. He was hospitalised on Bere Island Co. Cork. On 7 August 1915, Charlie's battalion landed at Suvla Bay. Two days later, he was wounded during the attack on Chocolate Hill. Part 1 of this article concluded at that point.

Shortly after her brothers had sailed for Gallipoli, Marie was called up for service with the VADs at Malta. Her mother accompanied her to London where they spent a week together before Marie joined the hospital ship *Oxfordshire*. On 22 October 1915, the ship reached Valetta harbour in Malta. As it was a day earlier than expected, the VADs' assignments weren't ready. The young ladies were delighted when they were allowed ashore at Valetta for three hours, as they felt that they might be posted to a different part of the Island. They explored Valetta and, according to Marie, "*had tea and deadly cakes.*" The next day she was assigned to a converted barracks on a peninsula overlooking St. George's Bay on the northern shore of the Island, about six or seven miles from Valetta. The hospital, in common with the other hospitals on the island, treated the wounded and the ill from the Gallipoli campaign.

In the summer of 1915, the ill included those

suffering from dysentery and enteric fever. As the number of soldiers with these illnesses decreased with the onset of winter, they were replaced by those with trench fever and frostbite. Marie wrote to her mother on 28 October: *The work is really hard, but of course it is what we came out for.*" Her time off was spent either sleeping or writing letters for very ill patients. When a patient died, Marie would write to his mother with details of his final days.



VAD Marie Martin with some of her patients in Malta.
Marie is the lady wearing the dark hat.

October brought mosquitoes and sand flies that left Marie's face in a terrible state and her eyes swollen. Days were hot and airless. By December it had become cold and the VADs were drenched in pouring rain going between the wards housed in various parts of the barracks. As well as board and uniform, the yearly salary for a VAD was twenty pounds. Marie was very excited when she got her first ever pay packet. She sent a registered letter to her mother with one pound and five shillings saying: "*I wish I could only earn more to make things easier for you.*" On 26 November she wrote to Tommy who was now convalescing on Bere Island Co. Cork and who, on 20 September, had been promoted to Captain. She asked if there was, "*any sign of this terrible war ending?*"

Meanwhile, in late September, with Bulgaria preparing to join Germany and Austro-Hungary in an attack on Serbia, the 10th (Irish) Division were ordered to prepare for an evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula and move to the port of Salonika in the Macedonian province of southern Greece. On 2 October 1915, the division began reorganising in camps near Mudros harbour, on the Island of Lemnos. Beards grown at Gallipoli were shaven off. Daily parades and inspections resulted in a change of appearance for many soldiers. Due to shortages, Charlie Martin's battalion, the 6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, did not have their full clothing allocation and were very short of greatcoats. This was to be significant for men who had left the desert conditions of Gallipoli and were on their way to cold winter conditions of northern Greece.

On Tuesday 5 October, Charlie Martin was part of a contingent that comprised of ninety-one officers and 2,363 other ranks that were crammed into the *H.M.T.S. Aenas* in Mudros harbour. The force consisted of General Mahon and 10th (Irish) Division headquarters, 30th Infantry Brigade headquarters, the Divisional Signal Company, 6th and 7th Bns. Royal Dublin Fusiliers and a part of the 5th Bn. Connaught Rangers. On her way out of the harbour, the *Aenas* fouled what was either the anchor of another ship, or anti-submarine cables. Navy divers tried to cut her loose and tug boats helped to release her. As a result, she did not arrive at Salonika until 10 October. (In the meantime General Mahon had transferred to a destroyer and made his separate way.)

Initially ordered to remain at Salonika while diplomatic attempts were made to bring Greece into the war on the Allied side, on 22 October, General Mahon was ordered to support a French army attempting to relieve the Serbians. In the meantime, on 15 October, Charlie's battalion received a reinforcing draft of eight officers and 389 other ranks from the 2nd Norfolk Regiment. During the night of 21-22 November, the 10th (Irish) Division relieved part of the French army on a line from Kosturino to the shores of Lake Doiran, on the borders of Greek Macedonia and Serbia. (The later is now known as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or FYROM for short.)

The line of 10th Division was in savage hill-top country broken by deep gullies, barren rock and scree, its only vegetation scant grass, scrub and scarce stunted oak. There was a sudden change in

weather conditions when a cold rain then a raging blizzard struck the Balkans as far south as Gallipoli. The exposed infantrymen, their health already undermined by privations on the peninsula, deteriorated. Hundreds suffered frostbite and exposure, hundreds more collapsed with the ailments associated with debilitation, cold and under nourishment. (1)



The Doiran Memorial in the northern Greek province of Macedonia Sept. 2003.

On 29 November, Charlie's battalion were relieved by 7th Munsters and marched back to the village of Kajali. According to 2nd Lieutenant Broun, it was heavy going. (2)

Path icy nearly all the way: We had to wait fi hour in some places while the men one by one got across, my word, wors, march I have ever done in my life, wind went straight through one..... Everyone kept falling down.

In thick fog on 7 December, Charlie was part of a contingent of three companies of the 6th and 7th Dublins who, with fifty other ranks from the Hampshire Regiment, occupied a ridge known as Crete Simonet (Pt. 545). The next day, discovering a hill in front of their position was unoccupied, two companies of 6th Dublins and a French company were sent forward to hold it. The Bulgarians opened heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. (3)

For the defenders it was a strange experience; only the peaks of Crete Rivet and Crete Simonet could be seen above the swirling mist. Occasional breaks showed the hills around

which held us till she signaled for a tug which eventually arrived and threw us a rope which missed, and another which we caught and fastened to our ship. The tug then took us in tow over mountainous seas to Imbros, even here we were not at all safe. I walked round deck at about 8 a.m. and found a man lying on a live shell. This I flung overboard and twenty yards further on I espied another, it was also flung away. These had fallen on our deck from Magazine and very luckily had not exploded. Our deck was covered by 6 inches of mud, clay, rock, wood etc. Such a night! In the Magazine were bombs, so you can fancy the time we had, at 10 o'clock we were rowed through the boom at Imbros and stayed in Imbros while we landed our dead. Then still on Lighter, we came out to H.M.S Letitia in Harbour which took us off after being 9 hours in open lighter. The ship supplied us with clothes etc. and we had 24 hours sleep. The Letitia sailed for Mudros and we lay abroad her for 2 days- we then got off and went to the R.A.M.C Details Camp where we picked up the rest of our unit.

*Colonel Prescott kindly arranged for us to sleep at 15th Stationary Hospital as patients as it was more comfortable. Yesterday our unit came on this ship and we are now sailing to Alexandria. The last thing I saw of Helles was our ships pumping shells into our hospital and the Turks shrapnelling 'W' Beach still thinking there were troops there. Nobody can believe we had such a time and come through it alive, but here we are, we have recovered now completely from the effects, but want a few days rest still. Your loving Son.
ANDREW J. HORNE.*

In 1920, he returned to Trinity College Dublin to complete a post-graduate M.D. His thesis was titled '*Asiatic Cholera - An account of two outbreaks during the Great War.*' He went to England and was appointed to a military hospital for women and children. His father was anxious for him to return home to Dublin and on 8 February 1924, Andrew retired from the R.A.M.C. with the rank of Captain. Andrew's Commanding Officer at Aldershot Lieut. -Col. John Prescott wrote of Andrew upon his retirement. (3)

Captain A.J. Horne served under me in Gallipoli, Egypt and India during the Great War. I found him a highly efficient Medical Officer and regret

very much that he retired from the service as he was just the type of Medical Officer we wished to retain and would have reached the highest rank had he elected to remain serving. I found him hardworking, conscientious, resourceful and tactful whilst his Medical knowledge was well abreast of all modern advances in Medical Science.

Not long after Andrew's return to Dublin, his father died on 5 September 1924. Before his father died, Andrew was elected Assistant Master to Holles Street while his father was still Joint Master. During 1924 - 25, the Assistant Masters of the National Maternity Hospital at Holles Street were Dr. Andrew J Horne and Dr. Bridget 'Delia' Mocklair who came from Ballinsee House, Cashel Co. Tipperary. Andrew held the post of Junior Assistant Master and Bridget held the post of Senior Assistant Master. Delia had been appointed to the post in 1922 and was the first woman Assistant Master to hold this position in Holles Street. Her brother, Lance Sgt. John Edward Mocklair, was killed on 5 September 1918 while serving with the 8th Royal Irish Regiment in France. He is buried at Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery, Steenwerck, on the south-west side of the Armentieres to Bailleul Road (D933). In September 1926, Andrew and Delia were married.

In 1931, the term of the Master, Dr. Patrick T. Mc Ardle came to an end and the Board of Governors sought a new Master. Candidates for the position which included Andrew Horne looked for support from the Governors. In his book, *Holles Street 1894-1994. The National Maternity Hospital - A Centenary History*, the author Mr. Tony Farmar, records in some detail the manner in which the then Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Edward Byrne (1921-1940) as Chairman (by Charter) of the Board of Governors of Holles Street, intervened in the election process. In a letter to Dr. Denis Coffey, President of University College Dublin, who chaired the sub-committee responsible for defining the terms and conditions of the Mastership, he indicated, that in his position as Archbishop, he could not be seen to lend his countenance to the election of a graduate from Trinity College Dublin as Master of Holles Street. (4) This, despite the fact that it was during his Archbishopric that Andrew had been considered suitable for the post of Assistant Master.

Being the gentleman that he was, and to avoid any controversy and possible embarrassment to the Archbishop or the Catholic Church, Andrew withdrew his application, stoically masking his disappointment saying, 'the ship is bigger than the crew.' (5)

Andrew and Bridget had three children, twin daughters named Margaret and Patricia and a son named Andrew Patrick who, sadly, died at the age of fourteen in January 1946 through complications associated with Diabetes. Andrew Patrick was a pupil at Belvedere College when he died. Andrew and Bridget were devout Catholics and loving parents. During his time at Gallipoli, Andrew prayed frequently. When he came home to Dublin, he was a regular attendant at Mass in Westland Row with his wife and family. He became a member of the Holy Family Confraternity. Andrew and Delia continued to practice Obstetrics and Gynaecology from the family home in Merrion Square for the rest of their lives.



Dr. Andrew Horne. R.A.M.C.

Dr. Andrew J. Horne died in 1963 at the age of seventy-two. In recognition to his loyalty to the Church and his services to the community, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. John Charles McQuaid sent his personal representative Monsignor Glennon to his funeral. At the time of his death, Andrew was President of Belvedere Newsboys Club, Vice - President of Peamount Hospital Dublin and Chairman of the Dublin branch of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

References.

1. Farmar. T. *Holles Street 1894-1994. The National Maternity Hospital - A Centenary History.* ISBN 0 9509295 8 1 Appendix III. Pp. 208.
2. Letter written by Dr. Andrew Horne while on board the P&O.S.N.Co. *S.S Egypt* to his mother dated 14 January 1916 in possession of author.
3. Letter written by Lieut.-Col. John Prescott. R.A.M.C to Dr J Horne, in possession of author.
4. Farmar. T. Pp. 86-87.
5. Ibid.

I would like to thank Dr. Patricia and Margaret Horne for allowing me the privilege of perusing their father's papers for this article.

A Dublin Fusilier Spy.

The following is an extract from *The Faber Book of Espionage*, pages 131 and 132, written by Mr. Nigel West and published in 1993 by Faber and Faber, London. ISBN O-571-16854-X. It is a brief description of Capt. Walter Stirling who served with the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Boer War and later in the Gallipoli campaign in the Great War. He did not take part in the landings in April 1915. He arrived in Gallipoli in May 1915.

After passing out of Sandhurst in 1899, and receiving a commission in the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Walter Stirling was posted to South Africa with the Natal Field Force. After his arrival, he was to transfer to the mounted infantry of Lord Dundonald's Brigade with whom he saw action during the siege of Ladysmith. He was highly decorated during the Boer War and at its conclusion served for six years with the Egyptian army, retiring in 1911 at the age of thirty-two and with a chest full of medals, among them the D.S.O.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Stirling joined the Royal Flying Corps as an observer, and the following year joined his old regiment for that ill-fated Gallipoli offensive. For the last two years of the war, Stirling served on the General Staff, having acquired a Military Cross and a bar to his D.S.O.

After the war Stirling was to be found in Damascus, acting as an adviser to the Emir Faisal, and later he was appointed Deputy Chief Political Officer for the Middle East. In 1920, he was attached to the

black with troops. From the mist came incessant firing. A determined attack was beaten off by rapid fire just before noon, but an hour later the French company was withdrawn.

At 14:00 hrs, a mass of Bulgarian infantry rushed the hill under cover of machine-gun fire. The two companies of Dublins fought their way back to Crete Simonet, losing ten dead and fifty-four wounded. With the Bulgarians attempting to outflank the Irish positions, it was decided to withdraw from Crete Simonet. The war diary for 6th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers for 9 December records that three officers were missing. Although not specifically named, one of the officers was Captain Charles Martin. He was twenty years of age when he died.

On 18 December, Marie wrote to her mother saying that one of a newly arrived group of patients told her that he had seen Charlie about two weeks earlier. He said that he had been keeping well. Marie said that she intended contacting the Wounded Bureau on the island the following day to find out if any of the new arrivals were from the RDF. On 27 December she received a cable from her mother saying that the War Office had notified her that Charlie had been wounded and was missing. Deeply distraught, Marie redoubled her efforts in search of news of her younger brother. On 29 December, with a heavy heart, she wrote home saying that she couldn't find any news in Malta of Charlie's whereabouts.

Over the next few weeks Marie spoke with a number of soldiers. Each told her that they believed that Charlie had been captured. One officer told her that Charlie had been slightly wounded in the arm on 6 December. In March, Marie spoke with a patient who had seen Charlie being wounded in the leg on 8 December. He told her that the Bulgarians had captured Charlie's trench and the men in it. The men had been marched away. In April, Marie met a man from Charlie's company who told her that Charlie had been giving orders on the parapet of a trench when he was badly wounded through the shoulder. He had accompanied his men for fifteen miles when they retreated. Then he and about thirty others were captured by the Bulgarians. Marie's six-month contract was ending. She left Malta on Holy Thursday, which fell on 20 April 1916. The journey home, including several days spent in London, took two weeks. By the time she reached home, the Easter Rising had taken place and been suppressed.

On 1 April 1916, having recovered from his wounds sustained in Gallipoli, Captain Thomas Martin arrived in the theatre of operations where his younger brother had been killed a few months before. In the meantime, the 10th (Irish) Division had retired to Salonika. There they had re-fitted, re-equipped and re-organised. Tommy rejoined his old regiment, the 5th Connaught Rangers. Having had its longest period of re-fitting and retraining since Basingstoke (see Part 1), the 10th (Irish) Division began to move forward again in early June. Carrying winter equipment, the troops suffered severely from heat exhaustion. Many of 29th Infantry Brigade, which included Tommy's battalion, fell out. Captain Campbell of 6th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles wrote. (4)

A bloody march, hot as hell, a fearful time getting men along. 27 of ours fell out, 60 of the Leinsters, 80 of the Connaught Rangers, 119 of the Hampshires.

The next day the brigade staff arranged marches during early morning and late afternoon, the cooler parts of the day. This resulted in fewer men falling out. The battalions averaged ten miles a day and marched for ten days until they reached the Struma River. On the way, they quarried material suitable for road making. On 11 June 1916, the 10th (Irish) Division relieved the French along the line of the Struma River between Lakes Tahinos and Butkova. The river level had fallen and defensive works and trenches were constructed around bridges and at fording places. Roads and tracks were constructed between battalion, brigade and divisional headquarters. It was hard work in the stifling heat of a marshy valley that had no shade and was in the highest malarial region in Europe. Consequently in late July, British forces were withdrawn from the Struma Valley to higher ground. Nevertheless, there were eighty-eight deaths from malaria in July, twenty-six in August, 112 in September (when the temperature rose to 114 degrees) and seventy in October.

Captain Tommy Martin's service record shows that on 28 August 1916, he brought a draft of forty-eight other ranks and sixteen convalescents forward to Kilo 40 on the Seres Road. The record also shows that he was placed in command of 'D' Company in the newly re-organised 5th Battalion, Connaught Rangers at Seres. On 21 February 1917, he took command of 'C' Company at Mekes.

On 18 August, the 10th (Irish) Division received orders to pull back to Salonika, in preparation for a move to Palestine. Embarkation began on 1 September. For the Irish, the Salonika campaign was over. Among the dead left behind was Captain Charles Martin, 6th Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. As he does not have an identified grave, he is among the 2,159 names commemorated on the Doiran Memorial.

On Sunday 7 September 2003, Tom Burke, Nick Broughall, Joe Gallagher and Seamus Green of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association and Ian McQuigg, Area Representative of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, laid a wreath at the Doiran Memorial in memory of Captain Charles Martin and all his Irish comrades who died in the Salonika campaign. May they rest in peace.

The following is the inscription on the Doiran Memorial

In glorious memory of 418 Officers and 10,282 other ranks of the British Salonika Force who died in Macedonia and Serbia 1915-1918 and to commemorate 978 of all ranks who have no known grave but whose names are on the panels. They did their duty.

To be continued.

The following is some extra information on Tommy Martin, that was not available when Part 1 of this article was written. Full name: Thomas Shannon Patrick Martin. Graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in 1912 with a B.A. Degree. 26 September 1914, appointed 2nd Lieutenant 5th (Service) Battalion Connaught Rangers. Promoted to Lieutenant 31 January 1915. On 5 May 1915, his battalion sailed from Dublin aboard the Munich. Tommy was attached to 'A' Company, 5th Battalion. Two days after his battalion landed at Anzac Cove, Tommy was slightly wounded on 8 August 1915 at Lone Pine. On 10 August he was again wounded at Aghyl Dere. He was subsequently evacuated. My thanks to Mr. Oliver Fallon of the Connaught Rangers Association for this extra information.



Members of RDF Assoc at 10th (Irish) Division Cross at Robrovo in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Mr Billy Ervine, Somme Heritage Centre, kneeling in front on right.

Note.

GPS Co-ordinates of Cross.

N. 41.31750 Degrees. : E. 22.585720 Degrees. :
Elevation above sea level. 150 meters.

My thanks to Sister Isabelle Smyth of the Medical Missionaries of Mary for information on Marie Martin and her family. I am very grateful to her for giving me copies of her articles on Marie's wartime service. Thanks also to Mr. Oliver Fallon for supplying me with the information he discovered on Tommy Martin during his own research.

References.

1. Johnstone, Tom. *Orange, Green & Khaki* Gill and Macmillan. Dublin 1992. Pp. 171.
2. *Ibid.* Pp.172.
3. *Ibid.* Pp. 179.
4. *Ibid.* Pp. 259.

Other published sources.

Smyth, Sister Isabelle. *MMM and the Malta Connection in Healing and Development*, Yearbook of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, 2002 edition.

Hickey, Michael *The First World War (4)*. One of the *Essential Histories* by Osprey Publishing. Oxford 2002.

Un-published source.

Fallon. Oliver. Sec. Connaught Rangers Assoc. Private collection. *The service records of Captain (later Major) Thomas Martin, 5th Bn. Connaught Rangers*.



Members of Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association at the Doiran Memorial, September 2003, where the name of Capt. Charles Martin, 6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers is inscribed.

**Dr. Andrew John Horne, M.A., M.D.,
Trinity College Dublin,
Royal Army Medical Corps.**

Tom Burke.

Chairman, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

The younger son of Andrew and Margaret Horne, Andrew John was born in Harcourt Street in Dublin on 16 February 1891. His father, Sir Andrew Horne, was born in Ballinasloe and educated in the Mercy Convent at Ballinasloe. Later he studied at Clongowes Wood College. He studied medicine at the Carmichael School of Medicine Dublin and finally at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. In 1912 he was knighted for his contribution to medicine.

In 1894, the Horne family moved to Merrion Square, where Andrew Snr and Dr. Patrick Barry (ex Assistant Master of the Rotunda Hospital and Coombe Maternity Hospital respectively) were appointed as

co-Founder Masters of the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street by the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. William Walsh (1885-1921). More than a decade after the National Maternity Hospital in Holles Street was opened in 1894, James Joyce set an important episode of his classic Dublin novel *Ulysses*, in 'the House of Horne', as he jokingly called the hospital after the Joint Master of the day, Sir Andrew Horne. In July 1915, along with Mr. Edward H. Andrews, J.P., Sir Andrew Horne was Joint Hon. Sec. of the City and County of Dublin Recruiting Committee who held offices at 102 Grafton Street, Dublin. Sir Andrew died on 5 September 1924. (1)

Andrew John was educated by the Jesuits at Belvedere College in Dublin - during which period he spent one term in Stonyhurst College in Lancashire. In 1909, he went to Trinity College Dublin where he qualified as a medical doctor in June 1915. In his youth, Andrew was a keen sportsman. He played rugby for Lansdowne's First XV; he was also a keen golfer. In later life, he became Captain and subsequently President of Foxrock Golf Club. He also became a member and trustee of the prestigious Stephen's Green Club in Dublin.

When war broke out, Andrew was a medical student in Trinity College Dublin. Because of the outbreak of war, Andrew qualified six months early. On 15 July 1915, he enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps and served as a Medical Officer in the 17th Stationary Field Hospital at Cape Helles in Gallipoli. He served in the Gallipoli campaign and was one of the last group of officers to leave the Peninsula. He was mentioned in Despatches for his service there. Following the evacuation of Gallipoli, Dr. Horne and the 17th Field Hospital moved to Egypt and later to Bombay in India and the North West Frontier. During his service in India, Andrew contracted Malaria.

The following is the text of a letter Andrew wrote home to his mother while on board the *S.S. Egypt* bound for Alexandria in which he describes his last days on the Gallipoli peninsula. (2)

14 January 1916.

My darling Mother,

Here I am on another Hospital Ship bound for Alexandria after experiencing the most exciting, dangerous and terrifying time that one could imagine. I was detailed with three other officers on Jan. 2nd to act as a rearguard party of M. O's

(Medical Officers) on the Peninsular. On that day all other officers and men of our Hospital left on board a Hospital Ship. On the 4th I was detailed off with two men to open a dressing station on 'W' Beach. Here I lived for five days by myself and never could leave the spot. During this period I could never take my clothes off because immediately I would do so a shell would burst somewhere on the Beach with a resulting casualty. My dugout, as it turned out, was in a very good position. The nearest shell I had was about ten yards in front of my door in the Sea. The days passed very slowly until the last moment. The Final day was officially known to none, but one could guess.

All went smoothly to the end. The evacuation was a wonderful success. At 1:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, January 9th, word was sent to me to come along with all I could bring, wounded etc. to the Naval Shelter which was on the centre of the Beach and to which any casualties on the final night were brought. I did so. There were then only 3,000 Troops remaining, while I was in the Naval Shelter, two men came in wounded having been blown up by a fuse of the Magazine. They told me the Magazine was on fire, this was only 20 yards away; this was a pretty piece of news, so there would be no Naval Shelter left, or anything else. What a bait for Death it was, but one had no time to think of it. A Major of R.E. rushed to the Magazine and whatever happened, no explosion occurred.

We got the wounded out on to the ship and then had to wait for some other R.A.M.C details. We waited at Pier for an hour. During this wait, all the remaining troops embarked from our Pier. It was a weird sight, all had hurriedly walked down from the trenches single file and muffled feet. Still we waited, then the last 40 men from the trenches came down and pushed off, immediately after the Staff, who as you see stayed to the end and with them the Wireless. Now there was nobody between ourselves sitting on the lighter at the Pier and the Turks. It seemed extraordinary. The Naval people now pushed off and we 4 Medical Officers and about 50 R.A.M.C men and our wounded were the very last to be on the Peninsula. Ten minutes previously the Demolition Parties had set fire to all tents etc. near beach. Such a flare all along the beach and we lying at Pier absolutely in the lime light for Asia. Asia kept firing at ordinance and beach, but extraordinary nothing at us.

All boats were well out except ourselves. One of the shells now struck water just 10 yards beyond us only just missing our Lighters. We gave the order to push off ourselves as nobody remained. The details we were waiting for had gone off in another boat. Suddenly the Magazine began to go on fire, bullets flying everywhere. We were only 50 yards off Magazine; at 4 o'clock the first explosion occurred. We had just cast off our ropes, such an explosion, flames which people on ships estimated mounted up 300 feet in air and there we were helpless. Wood, stones, rocks, bomb shells came flying at us and struck the ship, and in fact hit everyone of us. We had of course casualties, I won't say how many, but wonderfully small, all of us more stunned.

The Skipper stayed at his post and had to turn the ship around in Harbour. It was blowing half a gale and we nearly were beached. As we were half way around, still about 60 yards from Magazine, the 2nd explosion occurred. All I saw of it was the cliff coming towards us, then I saw my cap about 15 feet in the air and myself blown down into the Engine room. We were all hit again. I cannot mention the casualties. How the boat kept afloat I know not, it was miraculous. The force of the explosion was such that the Ships in the Harbour at Imbros, 9 miles away, rocked to and fro. We gradually got under way, then somebody said the Turks were on the top of the cliff and had opened a machine gun on us, it certainly seemed so, but it was really the bullets coming from Magazine falling all around us. We were very thankful when we got out of the great flare just around Harbour.

We were all suffering from shock but had not reached the end of our troubles. As I have said there was half a gale blowing and we had one engine broken. We tossed about on sea but eventually made Hospital Ship. We bumped into her side and our bow made a hole in her. Then a cry of man overboard from our ship, with difficulty we rescued him and pulled on Hospital Ship. We bumped and bumped and could not get alongside Hospital Ship. All of us who were well discarded all our heavy kit, ready to swim. Lighter now was going at an angle of 60 degrees and every wave seemed to us the last for us- one could not think it possible our ship could live in such a sea.

Orders were given to go back to Beach, but we could have been driven ashore if we tried I think. We managed to get rope on to stern of Hospital Ship

Egyptian government as Acting Governor of the Sinai Peninsula, and then Governor to the Jaffa District in Palestine. In 1923, he went to Albania to reorganise and command King Zog's gendarmerie, an assignment that was to last eight years. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Stirling was appointed Chief Telephone Censor for the Continent, and it was in June 1940, while he was in this post, that he was invited to join the S.I.S. He flew to Athens to make contact with his chief and then embarked on a tour of the region, stopping at Salonika, Belgrade and Bucharest where he participated in the Iron Gates fiasco. When Stirling reached Istanbul he was appointed Assistant Military Attaché with the task of liaising with the Albanian expatriates.

My first instructions, when I did receive them, turned out to be very vague indeed: I was simply to move about the Balkans and keep my eyes and ears open

At the conclusion of his service with the S.O.E, Stirling was placed in command of a large stretch of Syria, then under the U.S 9th Army's occupation. When he retired, for the second time, he took up residence in Damascus but was forced to flee to Cairo following an assassination attempt in 1949. Two years later he was expelled by the Egyptian government and he moved to Tangier where he died in February 1958.

Victory

(Tending the dying soldier)

John Hughes R.H.A. 1865 - 1941.

Sean Connolly.

Member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

On St. Patrick's Day 2003, after watching the Parade pass Parliament Street, I paid a visit to the courtyard of Dublin Castle. There I found a magnificent bronze statue depicting a dying soldier of the Boer War in the arms of a woman. On close examination of the soldier's uniform, I noticed the letters **D F** on the soldier's tunic Lapel Badge. The statue had been in place in the courtyard for some months previous. The title of this magnificent work of bronze art is *Victory* and was part of trio of statues; the other two are titled *Peace* and *Fame*. The bronze group of *Victory* was part of the monument to Queen Victoria (1819 - 1901) sculptured by John Hughes to commemorate her visit to Ireland in 1901. The memorial was unveiled in 1908 on the front lawn of Leinster House, Dublin. In

1947, it was dismantled and moved into storage until 1987, when the statue of Queen Victoria was presented to the city of Sydney, Australia. In 1992, the three remaining statues: *Victory*, *Peace* and *Fame* were relocated to the sculpture garden in Dublin Castle. The figures of *Peace* and *Fame* are now located in the new Leinster House extension. In the group, *Victory*, sculptured as mother Erin, lays a wreath on the head of a dying soldier who is a Dublin Fusilier.

In memory of

Lieutenant-Colonel

Arthur E Mainwairing.

Commanding Officer.

2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

27 August 1914.

Dan Finnigan.

Member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

Part 1.

The background.

On Saturday 22 August 1914, the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers set sail from Southampton on board the S.S Caledonia bound for the French port of Boulogne. They were part of the 10th Infantry Brigade, 4th Division. The battalioⁿ strength was twenty-two officers and 1,023 other ranks. Under the command of Brigadier-General J.A.L Haldane, C.B., D.S.O, the other battalions that made up the 10th Infantry Brigade were the 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers. (1)

The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) sent to France contained all the regular battalions of the Irish Regiments such as the Royal Munster Fusiliers, the Connaught Rangers, the (18th) Royal Irish Regiment, the Leinsters, the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Royal Irish Rifles and a squadron from the South Irish Horse. Nearly 30% of the BEF were Regular Reservists who had left the Army and were in many cases physically unfit for combat.

On Monday 24 August, the 2nd Dublin Fusiliers along with the rest of the 10th Infantry Brigade were taken by train to the village of Le Cateau. There was much confusion around the village. The Dublins had essentially come across a BEF in retreat.

From there, they marched north-west towards Cambrai. They marched for about four miles along the Le Cateau - Cambrai Road in the direction of Inchy and Beaumont. Their objective, along with the rest of the 4th Division, was to act as a rearguard protection force to the retreating battalions of the 3rd and 5th Divisions. After a brief stop, they turned northwards and continued their march during the night and early morning of 25 August. Tired from a lack of sleep, they marched through Viesly and on towards St. Python which they reached at about 02:00 hrs. At about one mile south of St. Python they stopped and had some breakfast. This was probably as far north that the 2nd Dublins reached. *'Suddenly we heard the dull reverberating boom of artillery. We had got to the front at last.'* (2) The firing appeared to have come from the direction of Valenciennes. Some scouts from the 1st Warwickshires went out on bikes to see what the situation was like. They got as far as Famars on the southern outskirts of Valenciennes without meeting any Germans. They did however meet plenty of retreating French Territorials. Following a meeting with the 4th Division HQ, Brigadier-General Haldane issued an order at about 08:00 hrs for his 10th Brigade to move back to a farm named Fontaine-au-Tertre and dig in.

At 16:30 hrs, the 2nd Dublins took up their position in an orchard to the north of the farmhouse. By 18:00 hrs they were being shelled by German artillery coming from the north-east. Captain Harold C Hart, 'C' Company, 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment recalled that: (3)

During the early part of the afternoon, not only was the sound of guns close, but the burst of shell could be seen not many miles away on our left front, and as the afternoon wore on, the tide of battle could be seen, slowly but surely creeping towards us.

By 20:00 hrs, the 2nd Dublins had made their first contact with the Germans who happened to be a Cavalry unit. Commonly known as Uhlans, they were probably mounted scouts reconnoitring the situation in front of their advancing infantry. The Dublins shot at them and wounded some of them. In their long and often bloody history in the Great War, this was probably the first hostile encounter the Dublin Fusiliers had with the Germans. It occurred near an orchard to the north of the Fontaine-au-Tertre farmhouse at 20:00 hrs on Tuesday, 25 August 1914.

(4)

The 10th Infantry Brigade were under strict orders from the 4th Division HQ to dig in and hold their line until all elements of the 3rd Division had come safely through. When they had come through, the 4th Division was to retreat back towards Le Cateau. The bulk of the 3rd Division passed through the 11th Infantry Brigade around Briastre on the right of the 10th Brigade. By late evening of 25 August, it became clear that most of the 3rd Division had come through and consequently the 4th Division began to move back towards Le Cateau. The 2nd Dublins began their withdrawal at 23:00 hrs on 25 August and marched on Haucourt. Captain Clarke noted that from Viesly, their route took them through Bethencourt, westward along the road to Cambrai as far as Beauvois, then south through Fontaine-au-Pire to Ligny and finally west again to Haucourt. (5) Drenched to the skin from a torrential downpour of rain during the late evening and tired from lack of sleep, they arrived at Haucourt at 05:00 hrs on 26 August.

In a little over an hour after they arrived in Haucourt, they came under shell fire from the advancing German artillery. It was during this shelling that the 2nd Dublins became split up. 'A' (Capt. N. P Clarke) and 'D' (Capt. G.S Higginson) Companies plus one platoon from 'B' Company, all under the command of Major Shewan, dug in a position along the Haucourt-Ligny road. 'B' (Capt. Conlon) and 'C' (Capt. Wheeler) Companies began to retire further and because all the officers had dismounted their horses which were led away to be fed and watered, nobody could get to 'B' and 'C' Companies to tell them to stop. It took the Dublins CO, Col. Mainwairing to get on his horse, chase after them and tell them to stop. Because there was some support artillery nearby, they took up a position north of Caullery, a village about a mile and a half south of Ligny. At 12:30 hrs, verbal orders were received from the 4th Division HQ 'to hold on at all costs.' (6) With the advance of the Germans and the loss of some of the artillery guns in support of Col. Mainwairing's defence, they had no option but to retire south in small groups. At 18:00 hrs, the Headquarters, less Col Mainwairing, along with 'B' and 'C' Companies began their move out. For most of the day in their position north of Caullery, they came under heavy German shell-fire. They had no communications with either Brigade or Division Headquarters and 'it was believed, not without

reason, that the companies ('A' and 'D') in the front line had withdrawn.' (7) Some men helped in getting the guns away. The ground over which the men tried to get away was 'broken and undulating' from shell-fire and with darkness falling it was hard for the companies to keep in touch with each other. The result was that the companies broke into smaller units and walked through the night to Le Catelet and on to Roisel reaching the latter at 05:00 hrs on 27 August. Later on the same day, 'Col Mainwairing, with a party of but little more than the strength of a platoon, eventually found himself in St. Quentin.' (8)

The men of 'A' and 'D' Companies under Major Shewan got away from Haucourt safely but sadly it was too late. They were behind 'C' and 'B' Companies in the retirement. After marching through the night, Major Shewan's men arrived at the village of Ligny-en-Cambresis at dawn on 27 August. Their column was about 400 strong. (9)

The men were very wet, fatigued and hungry and when we halted to ascertain our position and direction they immediately dropped into the puddles in the road and slept.

They didn't hang around Ligny for too long either. Having marched through the night, some nearly sleep walking, they left their wounded in the village church at Ligny and pressed on to the next village due south which was Clary. Major Shewan placed guards on the column. An advance guard of 'A' Company, (Captain N.P. Clarke) with two platoons under Captain G.S. Trigona, a rear guard under Captain Higginson and point being under Lieutenant West. (10)

About three quarters of a mile out the road from Ligny to Clary, the column reached a disused distillery when they heard the sound of gunfire coming in front of them from the direction of Montigny which is about one mile north of Clary i.e. between Ligny and Clary. The advance party under Captains Trigona and Clarke were out the road ahead of the column and in view of Clary, the rest of the column were back the road and took cover around the distillery. It was still dawn and there was some confusion in the ranks as to who was actually firing at them, was it Germans or was it their own men. The initial outburst of firing had wounded three of the five man 'point' who lay some yards ahead of Trigona. Their N.C.O was alive but still kept his head down. According to Captain Clarke, the men

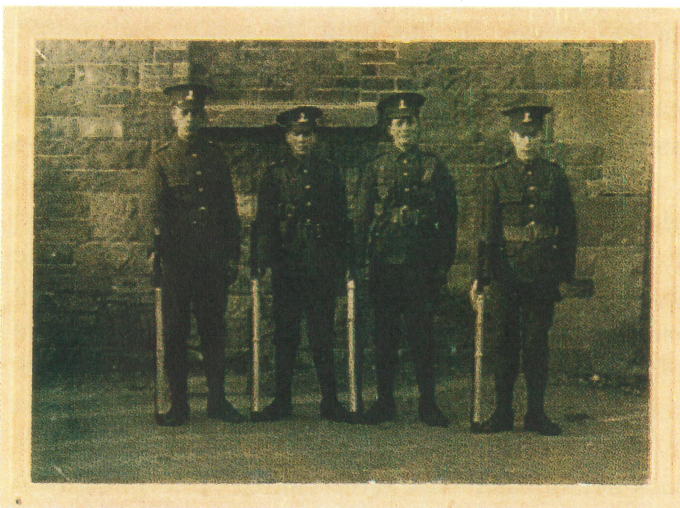
who shot at the point guard were wearing uniforms that 'looked British.'

The firing stopped and through binoculars from the distillery, Captain Trigona could be seen signalling towards Montigny while his men were lying down in extended order facing the village. Trigona's signal must have told the men in Clary that they were British. Col. Wylly, in his history of the 2nd Dubs, states Trigona was signalling towards Montigny. Peter T. Scott in his book *Dishonoured*, suggests Trigona was signalling towards Clary. The main body was formed on the road and began to march forward, a cyclist was sent out to tell the villagers who 'looked British', not to fire on their own people. An English signal came from the village, 'What regiment is that.' Trigona replied 'Dublin Fusiliers.' The mysterious village signaller responded to Trigona saying, 'Dublin Fusiliers, right, come on.' Unconvinced by this exchange, Trigona sent another signal. 'Will you send out a man.'? A man appeared walking out of the town and stopped about fifty yards when he dropped prone on the ground. Trigona remained un-convinced, it was cat and mouse. By this time, the cyclist had passed Trigona and came up to where the wounded 'point' men lay. The NCO by now knew the villagers that 'looked British' were in fact Germans and told the cyclist to turn back. For some strange reason the cyclist ignored the order and carried on. He reached the outskirts of the village and was met with a single shot that lifted him off the bike, his cycling days were over. This solitary shot heralded the outbreak of rifle and machine gun fire from concealed German positions along the margins of the village to the front and right of the Dublin Fusiliers. The main body of men back out the road went into a state of panic and ran out into the beet fields for cover and back down the road towards Ligny where they took cover in a farmhouse. (11)

The fighting on that road between Ligny and Clary resulted in the death of one officer named 2nd Lieut. J.G.M Dunlop who came from Hollywood, Co. Down. His father, Archibald Dunlop, was the local General Practitioner. (12)

Six officers were captured; they were Major H.M. Shewan (wounded), Captain G.S. Higginson (wounded), Lieutenant J.E. Vernon (wounded), Lieutenant C.H.L'E West (wounded), Lieutenant J.F.K. Dobbs and 2nd Lieutenant F.C.S. Macky. Some forty-four other ranks were killed in action or died of wounds. The only men to escape back to their own lines was none other than Captains

Trigona and Clarke and a party of seventy-three other ranks, thirty five of whom were Dublin Fusiliers. This desperate band of men struck out across country and tracked across German positions. Their escape through the French villages back to their own lines is a great adventure story in itself worthy of any documentary. On their way, they picked up strays from ten different regiments; eight Gordon Highlanders who became detached from their battalion and who had lay hidden for three days joined up with this band during the night of 29/30 August. (13) They reached Abbeville on 4 September and Boulogne the next day. Not long after they reached England, where they were 'refitted and eventually rejoined their respective corps.' (14) Out of a Battalion strength of twenty-two officers and 1,023 other ranks that landed in France on 23 August 1914, all that was left on 13 September after twenty days of fighting was ten officers and 478 other ranks. The rest were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner. (15)



Lance-Cpl. John Boland. 2nd RDF.
John is second in from right.
Killed 27 August 1914.

Among those of the 2nd Dublins killed on 26/27 August 1914, was Lance Corporal John Boland. John was from No. 16 Russell Street, Dublin. Had John survived the war, his neighbour would have been Brendan Behan who lived at No. 18 Russell Street. Before he enlisted in April 1913, John worked as a messenger boy in a nearby grocer's shop in Dorset Street. When he enlisted he had, according to his Soldiers Small Book, 'a fresh complexion' with blue eyes and brown hair. He stood five feet and six inches tall. At eighteen years and five months, John joined

the Dubs. He was twenty years of age when he died. Because the attack had passed through, John's body was left behind. The Germans buried John in a German military cemetery near the village of Clary. They threw his pay book and some belongings into the grave with him. In 1924, John's body was re-interred in the British War Cemetery at Honnechy. His small belongings were in tact and were sent home to his mother. John's nephew, Mr. Jack Smith from Abbeyfield in Killester (Dublin), at the age of seventy-seven, visited John's grave in September 1992. He laid a Poppy wreath at the grave of young John and his comrades who fell during the Battle of Le Cateau. (16)

On the same day as John was killed, other Dublin soldiers died as well. Willie Clark from Talbot Street, James King from Clarence Street, James Martin from Finglas, Mathew Sharkey from Corporation Buildings, Foley Street, George Frazer from Pembroke Street and Ned Howey from Skerries. The majority of the men killed on 27 August 1914 are buried at Honnechy Cemetery. However those whose bodies were never discovered are remembered on the La Ferte-sons-Jouarre Memorial. Honnechy is a village in the Department of the Nord, eight kilometres south-west of Le Cateau. The cemetery is north-east of the village, on the north-west side of the road to Reumont. La Ferte-Souss-Jouarre is a small town sixty-six kilometres east of Paris. The Memorial is situated in a small park on the south bank of the River Marne, just off the main road to Paris. The Memorial Register is kept in the Town Hall (17)

Returning to Lieut. - Col. Mainwairing and his band of men, of which there were about forty. He, along with the Commanding Officer of the 1st Warwickshires, Lieut-. Col Elkington were among the last to arrive in St. Quentin on Thursday afternoon, 27 August. They had met along the way. Both men were suffering terribly from exhaustion. With no trains left in the town to take away their men, the Colonels approached the Mayor of the St. Quentin for assistance. The Mayor, believing the Germans were near the town, implored the two Colonels to sign an unconditional surrender and save the inhabitants from the fighting and destruction that would follow if the Germans discovered that British soldiers were occupying his town. Mainwairing and Elkington complied with the Mayor's request and signed a surrender document. When the document was signed, their men laid down their arms in the train station yard.

During the afternoon of 27 August, elements of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade were ordered to provide a protective screen between St. Quentin and the advancing Germans. The force was commanded by Major G.T.M. Bridges comprised of two squadrons, mostly made up of his own regiment, the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards - a total of about 300 men - and two companies of French Territorials. Bridges was ordered to hold off the Germans long enough to allow the final stragglers to get away and then retire through St. Quentin at 18:00 hrs. (18)

On seeing British soldiers wandering around the town with no rifles or pack, Major Tom Bridges, along with some of his officers, set about mustering the men who had surrendered and marched those that could march out of the town. Those that could not march were put into commandeered carts. Since many of the men suffered from total exhaustion, they were not too pleased with Bridges' intervention. One of the men shouted at Bridges. 'Our old man (his Colonel) has surrendered to the Germans, and we'll stick with him. We don't want any bloody cavalry interfering.' Meanwhile, officers of the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards accompanied Mainwaring to the Mayor's office and retrieved the surrender document. 'They took it and sent it to their General.' (19)

The result was that Mainwaring and Elkington were charged with, '*Behaving in a scandalous manner unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman.*' (20) On 14 September, they were found guilty and cashiered out of the army in disgrace. Colonel Mainwaring, being a sick man fell into obscurity. He wrote several historical works on the history of the Dublin Fusiliers that included the history of the 2nd Battalion in the Boer War. Not long after he was charged, Colonel Elkington set about regaining his honour as an '*officer and a gentleman.*' He joined the French Foreign Legion as a private and served on the Western Front. On 28 September 1915, he was wounded and was invalid home. On 22 August 1916 he was re-appointed as a Lieut. - Colonel of the Warwickshire Regiment and awarded the D.S.O. He died on 27 June 1944. During the Second World War, his youngest son, Captain Richard Elkington of the 10th Rifle Brigade was killed in Tunisia on 19 January 1943. They are jointly commemorated on a memorial window in Burghclere Church in Hampshire.

In January 1927, Colonel Mainwaring and his wife were living in Melbourne, Derbyshire. He suffered a stroke that paralysed him down one side. By the

Autumn of 1930, they had moved to Pounsley Mill, Blackboys, Framfield, East Sussex. It was here on 11 October 1930, at the age of sixty-six, Arthur Edward Mainwaring, died of a heart attack aggravated by a stroke, chronic asthma and persistent high blood pressure. In death there was at least a small measure of posthumous rehabilitation, his death certificate describing him as a '*Retired Lieut.-Colonel, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.*' (21)

In his *Statement*, Colonel Mainwaring said he met General Smith-Dorien in the town of St. Quentin. Could it be that Smith Dorien and his fellow officers, believing the town to be surrounded, had fled out of St. Quentin leaving Mainwaring and Elkington and their men to the mercy of the Germans. When Mainwaring went to look for a train for his men they had all gone. In their defence, what else could they do? Fight the Germans to the death and take the people of St. Quentin with them, or surrender and give some of their men a chance of life albeit in a German P.O.W. Camp.

Part 2.

An English country churchyard.

For many years I have been interested in most aspects of the Great War, particularly the role played in it by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. My father, Lance - Sergeant Thomas Daniel Finnigan served with the 9th and 10th Battalions of the regiment on the Western Front. The occurrence at St. Quentin was something that I had known about a long time ago and I had formed my own opinion on the lasting punishment meted out to the two men at the centre of it.

In March 2002, I read Mr. Peter T. Scott's book titled, '*Dishonoured: The Colonel's Surrender at St. Quentin. The Retreat from Mons, August 1914.*' Published in 1994, the book tells the story of how two British Army Colonels i.e., Lieut. - Colonel Arthur Mainwaring of the 2nd Dublins and Lieut. - Colonel John F. Elkington of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, were found guilty and sentenced to be cashiered. For what they had done on 27 August 1914 at the village of St. Quentin, they were charged with: '*Behaving in a scandalous manner unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman.*'

What caught my eye in Peter Scott's excellent book was the discovery of a copy of the privately printed and circulated statement by Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring hoping to regain his honour and reinstatement into the army. Only a small number of these statements, which was a nine-page document, were circulated to a limited number of the Colonel's friends and influential persons. The intention behind this circulation was to gain a ruling parallel to that given to his senior officer at the incident in St. Quentin, i.e. Col. Elkington of the 1st Warwickshires. This statement, the only copy thus far to come to light, details the day-by-day happenings, before, during and after the 26-28 August 1914. Alas, with the ending of the war, the proposed support to the Colonel's cause died.

I was aware that Col. Mainwaring had died in Blackboys, East Sussex in October 1930 and wondered if he had been buried in the locality. Pondering over this after reading Peter Scott's excellent book, I eventually found my way across country and stopped in the village of Framfield that lies a few miles from Blackboys. From where I live, the journey to and from Framfield is 130 miles. There I enquired if there was a cemetery in Blackboys. I was told that there was no cemetery there and that any burials locally from Blackboys took place in Framfield. As I was parked close to the church, St. Thomas a Becket, I proceeded to the vicarage and fortunately located the Vicar. I enquired if he had any records of burials dated 1930 as the one I was after might be interred here. Alas, his records only went back as far as 1936. I took the telephone number of the church office for future reference and did a check inside the church but could find no reference to Col. Mainwaring.

I then took a tour of the churchyard and cemetery that was very overgrown in the area that yielded the odd readable headstone dated from about the period of the Colonel's death. After a couple of hours searching through the growth, my search proved fruitless. Another address and phone number I acquired was that of the County Archives Office at Lewes. The following day I telephoned the office and sent in a letter asking if they had any record of Col. Mainwaring's place of rest in Framfield churchyard cemetery. The reply came back with my first bit of concrete evidence; Col. Mainwaring had indeed been buried in Framfield churchyard on 13 October 1930. The grave reference was No. PAR 343/1/5/2.

However, the Archives had no knowledge of the exact location of the grave in the churchyard.

My search had gained momentum and became a bit obsessive. For the sum of £14, I purchased from the Church Office, a copy of the burial grid that covered those buried in the cemetery in October 1930. The grid showed over 100 graves all with named burials, except two blank spaces, but no individual dates. I then sent a copy of the grid to the County Archives enquiring if they had any information on the burial dates on the graves either side of the two blank spaces. They were very helpful but unfortunately the dates on their records for those particular graves were 1932, 1936 and 1951, not as I hoped, 1930.

Another month went by and I decided to return to Framfield and have another search. I loaded my gardening tools in the car boot and headed east. On reaching Framfield it began to rain that quickly turned into one of those heavy Summer downpours that kept me in the car for an hour and a half. Searching in the knee length wet grass turned out to be a bit of task, the one thing I forgot to load up with the rest of my gardening tools were my Wellington boots. After some three hours of hacking, spading and scrubbing, I identified several stones dated 1928, 1929, 1931, 1932 and 1934. Everything bar 1930. Tired, wet and a bit hungry, I decided to quit and return home.

I returned to Framfield in October. I decided to make my own grid plan of the graves as I cleared the graves of growth. The weather on this occasion was much more favourable, it was dry and I wanted to make one more search before the onset of winter. I made an early start and after a couple of hours working some long grass and weeds, my spade hit something hard and rocky. It turned out to be a low granite grave surround. Working my way to the front of the grave, I parted the layers and layers of grass and there it was, a very legible inscription on the low front of the small grave stone; *In loving memory of Arthur Edward Mainwaring. Lt. Colonel. 2nd Batt. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Died October 11th 1930. Age 66.* Success at last, at 12:20 hrs on Saturday 5 October 2002, I had got my reward.

I set to work wielding fork and spade with renewed gusto and almost immediately I had a small companion by my elbows in the form of a perky little Robin redbreast who fed himself on the grass seeds

that I had disturbed in my work. The spirit of a long lost soul or whatever, he was most welcome. After I had cleared as much of the overgrowth away as I could, the grave itself came to light and was surprisingly in good order. Over the years, the rock hard clay had built up around the grave and had helped to screen it from the elements. Digging this debris away and a good rub with a wire brush soon brought back the grave to its near original appearance. On the top centre of the grave rests a large heavy stone saucer fancily decorated, which I cleaned and made presentable. There are four square turrets on the corners which originally must have contained flower vases. To cap off my hard work, a lady visitor to the churchyard cemetery stopped for a chat. She later sent her granddaughter over to me with a bunch of large red carnations that set the Colonel's grave off nicely. My journey home was a happier one this time.



The grave of Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Mainwaring
2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Framfield Church Cemetery.

The following Thursday I returned once more to finish the job of restoration. My work involved laying decorative gravel on top of several doses of weed killer. Levelling and the planting of four small evergreen firs on the corner stones. To finish it off, I placed a Royal British Legion poppy cross in remembrance. All done on a day almost seventy-two years to the day on which the Colonel passed away.

On a further visit over Christmas to check that all was spick and span, the large stone saucer now sports a handsome red heather. Not much all told perhaps, but finding and restoring that grave gave me a personal satisfaction in keeping the memory of a gallant and caring gentleman alive, our own Colonel Arthur Edward Mainwaring, Lieut. -Col. 2nd Battalion, Royal

Dublin Fusiliers. May he rest in peace.

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2. Scott. P. *Dishonoured: The Colonel's Surrender at St. Quentin. The Retreat from Mons, August 1914.* Tom Donovan Publishing Co. London. 1994. Pp.27.
3. Ibid. Pp. 27.
4. The War Diary of 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers August 1914. Public Records Office, London Reference: WO95/1481. See also Scott. P. Pp 27.
5. Ibid. Pp. 33.
6. War Diary 2nd Dubs WO95/1481
7. Wylly, C.B. Col. H.C. *Crown and Company.* Pp. 21.
8. Ibid. Pp.21
9. Scott. P. Pp.48.
10. Wylly, C.B. Col. H.C. *Crown and Company.* Pp.22.
11. See both Wylly. Pp. 22-23. And Scott. Pp. 60-61.
12. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website. www.cwgc.org
13. Scott. P. Pp.64.
14. Wylly, C.B. Col. H.C. *Crown and Company.* Pp.24.
15. Scott. P. Pp. 68.
16. Family papers of L/Cpl. John Boland in possession of Tom Burke, The RDF Assoc.
17. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website. www.cwgc.org
18. Scott. P. Pp. 55.
19. Ibid. Pp.57.
20. Ibid. Pp.59.
21. Ibid. Pp. 70 -73.

Note.

Part 1 of this article was researched and written by Tom Burke, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

George David McCullagh.

Sept. 1910-July 1914

s. Andrew McCullagh, Slieveroe, Stranooden, Co.

Monaghan. b. 6/11/1896 killed 28/3/1918.

Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank.

Cpl. 2nd Bn. RDF.

KIA. Military Medal, Parchment Certificate for

Gallant Conduct. Commemorated Pozieres

Memorial (Panels 79-80).

Sources: D Nesbitt *Full Circle: a story of Ballybay Presbyterians* (Cahans Publications, 1999) pp 300-302, 306. *The Campbellian*, Vol. IV, p. 116.

William Robert McFerran.

Sept 1909-July 1913.

s. William McFerran, Pierview, Sandycove Avenue W., Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire).b. 17 /9/1895.

TCD. Partner in Messrs H. & W. Stanley Dublin

(Solicitors).The booklet notes "*RDF: no further information.*"

(Note: According to Henry Hanna in *The Pals at Suvla*, McFerran was a solicitor's apprentice and student. He was commissioned on 14/9/1915 in 'D' Company, 7th RDF (The Pals). He served at Suvla, Serbia and Salonika. My own research into Irishmen in the Royal Flying Corps/Royal Air Force in WW1 shows that McFerran's younger brother 2nd Lt. Thomas McFerran (19), 1st Squadron, RAF, was killed on 14/6/1918. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France. All WW1 RFC/RAF personnel who do not have an identified grave are commemorated on the memorial. Philip Lecane).

Geoffrey Clogstoun Martin.

April 1907-Dec. 1908.

s. Capt. Robert Walcott Martin, Longford Terrace,

Monkstown, Co. Dublin. b. 24/7/1892 killed

2/8/1916. Submarine Telegraphy with Eastern

Telegraph Co. 2nd Lt. 3/9 Bn. RDF.

KIA. Buried Vermelles British Cemetery (3.L.8)

John Arthur Harold Taylor.

April 1903-July 1909

s. Rev. Thomas Taylor, Kilnasoolagh Rectory,

Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare.

b. 12/6/1891. killed 24/9/1915.

Lt. 1st Bn. RDF. KIA. Buried Azmak Cemetery,

Suvla Bay, Gallipoli (I.G.20). Fellow Campbellian

Henry Hackett is buried in the same cemetery.

Sources: PRO: WO/95/4310. ER Bailey,

Kilnasoolagh Church, Newmarket-on-Fergus: an appreciation, (1992), p.21.

Remembering The R.M.S. Leinster

Philip Lecane

Member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

Shortly before 10 a.m. on Thursday 10 October 1918 the Dun Laoghaire (then Kingstown) to Holyhead mail boat R.M.S. *Leinster* was sunk by German submarine UB-123. The official death toll was 501, by far the greatest ever loss of life in the Irish Sea. It is also the greatest ever casualty rate on an Irish owned ship. The sinking of the R.M.S. *Leinster* - the prefix stood for Royal Mail Steamer, a prefix also held by the *Titanic* and *Lusitania* - was a truly international tragedy. Those who died came from Ireland, Britain, Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia. In the years immediately following the sinking, books and newspapers referred to the sinking in a way that suggested that they didn't need to explain the reference to their readers e.g. "*Her brother was lost on the Leinster.*" Yet, in the years that followed, the *Leinster* was almost completely forgotten, even in Dun Laoghaire, the port from where the ship sailed and near to where the wreck lies.

As a Corkman, I first heard of the *Leinster* when I settled in Dun Laoghaire in 1984. It puzzled me that my adopted home had forgotten 501 people who were lost a few miles off shore. Ten years later I came upon the name of Sophia Violet Barrett in *Ireland's Memorial Records*. There, among the thousands of Irishmen who died in the First World War, was a nurse who was lost on the *Leinster*. I spent a year researching her life. My findings were published in the 1996 issue of the journal of the Dun Laoghaire Historical Society, at the beginning of stirrings in the mists of forgetfulness surrounding the *Leinster* sinking. At the end of January 1996, *Leinster's* starboard anchor, recovered by a team of divers, was dedicated at a public ceremony on Dun Laoghaire's seafront. In late 1998 the circumstances surrounding the sinking were explored in *Death in the Irish Sea*, a book by Roy Stokes. In the meantime, using contemporary newspapers and the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, I began to construct a passenger and crew list for the *Leinster*. Having read the Stokes book, I decided that there was room for a book that told the story of the people who sailed on *Leinster's* final voyage. I set out to write such a book.

Highlights of the past year since last issue.

Sean Connolly

Secretary. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.

Since the last edition of *The Blue Cap*, Vol. 9 2002, the Association was given a Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Dermot Lacey, on 22 November 2002. Over 200 attended this historic event in Dublin's City Hall. Earlier in the year, the Lord Mayor and Mr. Alex Maskey, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, laid wreaths at the Irish Peace Park in Messines and at other memorials in Flanders and France. In his speech in the City Hall, Councillor Lacey said that these gestures represent, *'the overwhelming wish of the vast majority of Irish men and women that we should acknowledge and honour the men and women who gave their lives for what they believed was a just cause.'*

The stained glass window in honour of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, sponsored by members and friends of the Association, was installed in the Garrison Church of Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin. We thank the Irish Defence Forces.

In April 2003, there was a good turnout of members at the Gallipoli Remembrance Service in St Anne's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin. This was arranged by the New Zealand - Ireland Association in conjunction with the Ireland - Australia Association and Australian Embassy in Dublin. On 23 April, Mr Robert Kennelly, a member of the RDF Assoc., laid a Royal Dublin Fusiliers wreath at a ceremony in Joansville, Northern Queensland, Australia, in honour of the men who died in Gallipoli.

The AGM was held on 26 April. There were no contentious issues and the Committee members were reappointed.

In May, a memorial tree was planted in honour of the 2nd Battalion RDF in Gravesend in the presence of the Mayor and the local MP, Mr Chris Pond.



The Committee of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Assoc and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Dermot Lacey. Also shown, third in from left in back row is Mr. Pat Cummins, member of the RDFA, former Fianna Fail Dail Deputy and ex-member of Dublin City Council. Pat's return to the Council Chamber brought back fond old memories to him of his days as a Fianna Fail Councillor. Pat's father was a baker before he enlisted to serve with the 6th Dublins in Gallipoli.

In June, twenty members took part in the parade and wreath laying service at the Cenotaph in London which was organised by the Combined Irish Regiments Association, London. As in the previous year, the standard of the Old Contemptibles was paraded by ex-Irish Guardsman, Mr. Noel Cullen from the Royal British Legion Dublin City Metropolitan Branch. Also on parade were members of the O.N.E from Ireland and England.

On 5/6 July, thirty members of the RDF Assoc went on a weekend expedition to Boyle, Co. Roscommon to meet with our comrades in the Connaught Rangers Association. Under the guidance of Mr. Oliver Fallon, Sec. C R Association, on Saturday, our members were given a tour of the sites around Boyle that had connections with the Connaught Rangers such as Ardcan and Rockingham. Later in King House, Oliver presented an excellent lecture on the history of the Rangers after which our group was given a tour of the Ranger's Museum at King House. After Church Parade on Sunday morning our party had a walk around Boyle and were shown the obelisk upon which King Billy once proudly stood.

The inscription on the stone facing makes interesting reading.

Poetry.**The Peace Tower of Ireland.
(Lowlands of Flanders)***Bruce Scott.**Member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.*

On the Lowlands of Flanders there's a place they call
Messines,
Where the Peace Tower of Ireland stands proud and
serene.
To commemorate her soldiers who bravely fought and
died,
Now their sons and their daughters can all honour
them with pride.

They sailed from old Erin, their green isle across the
sea.
From the land of the Shamrock to set small nations
free.
From their own divided island, where so many were
oppressed.
To the Lowlands of Flanders, where so many lie in
rest.
They came from every country, every corner of the
world,
On the Lowlands of Flanders into battle they were
hurled.
Where they did their soldiers duty, as they fought
beside the French.
In the chaos and the carnage and their nightmare of the
trench.

They came from every county, in their troubled native
land.
From the banks of the Liffey and the wide Shannon
grand.
From the banks of the Lee and the Lagan they did
come.
Where they died in their thousands, on the banks of
the Somme.

There were men of all religions there who perished in
that war.
Both Catholic and Protestant, from Mother Ireland's
shore.
And some, when on returning to their trouble native
land.
They were shunned and forsaken, just a poor forgotten
band.

Many years have now passed over, since the ending of
that war.

The Great War to end all conflict and win peace for
evermore.

Can all Irishmen from North and South, agree to live
in peace.

In the memory of their forefathers, who died that war
might cease?

On the Lowlands of Flanders stands the Irish Tower of
Peace.

To the memory of those soldiers, who died that war
might cease.

And their graves are there in thousands, where the red
poppies bloom.

Where the flower of Irish manhood all went marching
to their doom.

This poem was written by Bruce Scott from Liverpool
on 11 November 1998. It can be sung to the air of *The
Streams of Bunclody*.

The Good Old Days.*Tony Behan.**Member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.*

We met and we married a long time ago
We worked for long hours, wages were low.
No T.V no wireless, no bath times were hard,
Just a cold water tap and a walk in the yard.
No holiday abroad, no carpets on the floor,
We had coal on the fire, no locks on the door.
Our children arrived, no pill in those days,
And we brought them up without state aid.
They were safe going out to play in the park,
And old folks could go for a walk in the dark.
No valium, no drugs, no LSD,
We cured our ills with a good cup of tea.
No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob,
We felt we were rich with a couple of bob.
People were happier in those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkmen and paper-boys would whistle and sing,
A night at the pictures was our one mad fling.
We all got our share of struggle and strife,
We had to face it, that's the pattern of life.
Now we're alone and look back through the years,
We don't think of the bad times, trouble and tears.
We remember our blessings, our home and our love,
And that we shared them together, we thank God
above.

the south side. The graveyards included are the resting places of various denominations including Quakers, Jewish, Moravian and Huguenots. Rich with illustration, discovery and fascinating detail, *Dublin Burial Grounds and Graveyards* gives a rare insight into an invaluable but often neglected part of Irish heritage. The book includes references to various wars from the Crimean, Peninsular, Waterloo, Indian Mutiny, various regiments and Military men of note and also the unfortunate Major John Dyke who rode 'Crimean Bob' in the Charge of the Light Brigade who is buried in an unmarked grave in Glasnevin Cemetery.

References to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers are included in Grangegorman Military Cemetery where thirty-three year old Lance-Corporal William O'Mahony of the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers was buried following the sinking of the *RMS Leinster* on 10 October 1918. In Rathfarnham cemetery are the remains of Sir Frederick Shaw who was educated at Harrow and Oriel College, Oxford. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the county and High Sheriff in Dublin in 1907. He was a Colonel of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from 1907 to 1913. He saw service in the First World War. He raised and commanded the 8th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1914-1916 and the 2nd (Garrison Battalion) Royal Irish Regiment (18th Foot), 1916-18. He was awarded the DSO. In St James's Churchyard, James's Street, Dublin, two members of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers rest. 12760 Private T. Murphy. 31 May 1915, age thirty-five: Gone But Never Forgotten. 24760 Private P. Glynn, 22 January 1920. *Dublin Burial Grounds and Graveyards* 388.Pp. is published by Wolfhound Press and available in most good bookshops. Cost Euro. 25.39

The Cruel Clouds of War. In the words of Irish Times journalist Kevin Myers, this book is, 'an admirable achievement.' The book is compiled by Mr Oliver Murphy, a recent recruit of the RDF Assoc. It is the story of the sixty-four former pupils, three Jesuit priests and one lay teacher from Belvedere College S.J, Dublin, who died in the military conflicts of the twentieth century. The project to remember the past pupils of Belvedere College was directed by Oliver who is a Mathematics teacher at the college. It is a beautiful book with short biographies and photographs of the past pupils who died. The purpose of the book is threefold.

- To acknowledge that all these men gave up their futures for various causes, to salute their courage and selflessness and to remember what they did.
- To take a look at the history of the twentieth century through the prism of the experience of former pupils and teachers (including three Jesuit priests) of Belvedere College.
- To bear witness to the heroism as well as the tragedy, the loss, the sadness and the fratricidal nature of war.

The RDF Assoc. and Mr Pat Hogarty in particular are referred to in the book's acknowledgements for assistance given in the historical research. Of the forty-eight pupils who died in Great War, nine served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. There were seven officers, one other rank and one chaplain, Fr Willie Doyle S.J. Congratulations to Belvedere College. The book is available from the College. No. 6 Great Denmark Street, Dublin 1. Telephone 01-8744795. Cost Euro. 20.00

Irish Regiments in the Great War, Discipline and Moral. Congratulations to Dr Timothy Bowman, a member of the RDFA, on his new book published in May 2003. This book is the first comprehensive study of discipline and morale in the British Army during the Great War using the Irish Regiments as a case study. It is published by Manchester University Press and costs £22 stg.

- *The Widows Penny* by Patrick J. McNamara, is the memorial record of Limerick men and women who gave their lives in the Great War. The book contains details of over 1,050 Limerick casualties and sets out to relate the impact of the war on some individuals such as Pte. Patrick Downey executed in 1915 and the battles and events involving Limerick men and women. The author, a member of RDFA, has privately published 1000 copies of this important account, printed by the Limerick Leader. Priced at €45 hardback and €30 soft-back.

Newry's War Dead published by Newry and Mourne District Council is a well researched, beautifully illustrated record of those from the city and district who gave their lives in two world wars. The book is priced at £7.00, including post and packing, and may be obtained from Mr. Colin Moffett, Newry and Mourne District Council, Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland BT34

2QU. Cheques payable to Newry and Mourne District Council.

Gallipoli. Another account of the Dardanelles adventure written by L A Carlyon. Published by Bantam at £9.99. Written in a new story style, it traces the stories of individual soldiers serving on the peninsula and the horrors they endured.

Irelands Forgotten 10th by Jeremy Stanley is a brief history of the 10th (Irish) Division formed in response to Kitchener's appeal; recruited from the four provinces of Ireland and commanded by General Bryan Mahon. The account follows the fortunes, and misfortunes, of the Division in Turkey, Macedonia and Palestine. Priced at £12.00, post and packing extra. Book can be purchased from the publisher at Impact Publishers, Leyland Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. BT54 6EZ, N.Ireland.

Mr Paddy Harte has recently published a listing of Dublin men who died in the Great War. This is Paddy's second publication in his research on the Irishmen and women who died in the Great War. The first listed the men from his native county, Donegal, who died in the war. In 2004, Paddy hopes to publish the men from Belfast who died in the Great War. Any help on this project would be appreciated by Paddy who can be contacted at The Diamond, Raphoe, Co. Donegal.

Mr. Pat Hogarty's book on the 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, titled *The Old Toughs*, is still available from Paddy at Dublin 01-8476945. Paddy hopes to bring out a similar book on the 1st Battalion RDF in 2004.

In Memoriam

RDFFA member John Goodwin, of Hampstead, London, who died 12 November 2002 was a particularly generous and kind supporter of the Association. Sadly missed by his brother Charlie Goodwin and nephew Andrew who are also members of the Association. John and Charlie's father was a Dublin Fusilier.

Mrs Monica Chester of Pearse Street Dublin, sister of our member Mr. Pat Cummins, who died on 12 May 2003, aged seventy-nine.

Mr. Arthur Campbell, of Aviemore, Scotland, a member of the Association, who died 7 July 2003. Our condolences to his wife Grace whose father was in the 2nd Dubs and spent most of the war a POW in Limburg POW Camp.

Mr. James Francis Hickie of Sandymount, Dublin who died 29 January 2003 was nephew of General William Hickie who commanded the 16th (Irish) Division in the Great War.

Mr. Liam Dodd Snr. Of Blackrock Co Dublin who died suddenly in Portugal on 12 August 2003. Our condolences to his wife Margaret and family.

May they Rest in Peace

Thank you to those members who submitted articles for *The Blue Cap*. If your article wasn't published in this edition, it will be published in later editions. Keep them coming.

Spectamur Agendo.

