

# THE BLUE CAP

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## The Three Dubs.

In November 1996, I sat with Bill Fay in his house at Ballyfermot in Dublin. I talked to him about his father and two uncles, the three of whom were Dublin Fusiliers. The following is Bill's story about his father Private Daniel Fay, and his two maternal uncles Privates James and Bartholomew Moore. All three were members of the Old Toughs, the nick name given to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.



Private Daniel Fay standing on the left. Taken in 1917.

*That's right three, my father and his two comrades who were my maternal uncles. Oh, but they were real buddies despite being in-laws. My father was Private Daniel Fay, 7249 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1887 at 59 Lower Wellington Street which was then a run down area off Dorset Street in the city of Dublin. His father was John Fay and his mother was Elizabeth O Shaughnessey. He attended school at St Joseph's National School, Dorset Street and later worked as a porter in a Grocers Shop in Mountjoy Street. He also worked as a porter / messenger for twelve shillings a week in Delaney's Butcher's Shop in Mountjoy Street. He later worked in the Customs House Docks. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1908, at the age of twenty one, my father enlisted into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.*

*In 1912, two years before the Great War broke out in Europe, at the age of twenty five he married my mother, Miss Mary Moore, in the Pro Cathedral Dublin. My mother came from Nerney's Court, off Temple Street in Dublin. They lived at 105 Upper Dorset Street. Like many of his Great War comrades, my father never talked about his war time experiences, so unfortunately I have no information about his service in the war except to say he survived the carnage and killing that went on for over four years. Due to a serious wound, he obtained an honourable discharge from the army on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1918. He spent some time in various Hospitals in England before returning home to Dublin. Upon discharge in 1918, he had three months rest and resumed work at his old employment in the Custom House Docks in January 1919. He was one of the lucky ones that got his job back. In 1923 he was awarded a small pension of nine shillings and six pence per week for his wound. He obtained this pension for a period of two years. This was terminated with one lump sum payment of £20.00. I think he should have had a pension for depression as his discharge certified him as suffering from Melancholia. This condition was brought about by his thinking on the fate of many of his friends, particularly his two buddies - my two uncles James and Bartle. A painting of my father is in my possession and on display at my home in Ballyfermot. The dress uniform worn by my father in this painting was borrowed from one of his buddies. My uncle James, about whom I will give a few details later, was one of the many who didn't come back. My father and mother between them reared a family of seven children, four boys and three girls. The army tradition certainly continued on in our family. I had twin brothers, Owen and David. Owen served in the RAF all his life and fought in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. David, the other twin, served in the Military Police in Asia and lived all his life in Australia, regrettably he died in 1993.*

*My other brother served with the Royal Ulster Rifles in India at the North West frontier in 1931. As for me, I joined the Home Guard and was a Corporal during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. My three sisters are all alive thank God. Mary and Lillie living in Finglas, Dublin and Hanna living in Yorkshire. After leaving the army and spending a long time trying to recover from the mental wounds he received, my father worked for the rest of his life on the Docks. He had very little interests in life except he loved working in his garden.*

*He had a kind soul and was a good neighbour. My father died on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1942 and is buried in the family plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.*

*My uncle James, that is Private James Joseph Moore 11587, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1892. He enlisted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1913 at the age of twenty one years and two months. Like thousands of other lads his age, the general lockout in 1913 drove him into the army, there was little or no alternative means of surviving. His 'calling', as it stated in his service book, was a farm labourer. James was killed in action on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1915. He fell mortally wounded whilst he was alongside my father. My father got the news home first. James was not married, but, as my dad told me that he had a few female admirers in his time as he was a handsome young man. James in his passing indelibly marked the city of Ypres forever in our family's memory. He rests in Prowse Point Military Cemetery, Warneton, Belgium, just nine and a half miles from Ypres railway station. My lifelong wish, unfulfilled, was to visit his grave. Perhaps James was luckier than his brother, my other uncle Bartle, or to give him his full title, Private Bartholomew Moore, 11402 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Born in Dublin on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1894, he enlisted into the regular army on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1912. He was honourably discharged on medical grounds on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1919. Of the 'three Dubs', his is the saddest story of all, despite the fact that he outlived my father by fifteen years. Originally in a Belfast War Hospital, my grandparents had him transferred to a Dublin hospital namely the Richmond District Asylum Hospital, St Brendan's Hospital today. There he languished for an incredible thirty eight years as a casualty of war. He was visited on a regular basis for all those years, the last twelve of which I was his regular visitor.*

*He died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1957 and is interred in grave number 139 Blackhorse Avenue Military Cemetery, Dublin. His gravestone conforms to War Grave stipulation, i.e. the top corners are cut away at right angles noting that he did not die on active service. There is one other similar stone in the cemetery. It is worth noting that his Medals and Queen Mary Box AB50 were lost while in the care of the Hospital. They were duly inspected by me on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1949. I often wondered what happened to this poor man's medals. Could somebody be so cruel to rob this man of his only possessions, or, was he so down on his luck that he pawned them. Or did he just throw them away in a moment of utter depression, God only knows.*

*I pay compliment to the British authorities for issuing me with a replacement set of medals in original forms. These medals were used to complete my little 'Wall of Honour' in my home where I am in proud possession of all medals and decorations plus papers and honourable discharge scrolls of my father and uncle Bartle.*

On Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1997, Bill suffered a heart attack walking down the Dublin Docks where his father worked, he was dead upon admission to hospital. He never did fulfil his life-long ambition to get to Prowse Point Military Cemetery in Belgium. However, at about 4:30 in the evening on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1998, Bill's two sisters, Mrs Lillie Redmond and Mrs Hannah Marron carried out Bill's life long ambition and laid a wreath for him, their father and two uncles at the grave of young James Moore of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dubs killed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1915. It was the first time in eighty three years that any member of this young lads family ever visited his grave. I have no doubt that thousands of other young Irish lads buried in those forgotten graves have never been visited by any of their family either. Lillie and her sister Hannah were part of a group from the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association that attended the opening of the Peace Park at Messines in Belgium on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1998. For Lillie and Hannah it was their journey of reconciliation. They travelled by rail, boat, bus and car to be at James's grave on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1998. They were a lesson in what this whole journey was about, which in my opinion was to restore a sense of dignity to their forgotten uncle and the young men buried beside him. It is a journey sometime in our lives we must all make. There are lessons in such a journey for us all. Is our attitude to grief and suffering conditional, must we have a blinkered view of tragedy. I would like to thank Michael Lee and Margaret Ward the RTE journalists who interviewed Lillie at the grave-side for their professionalism and dignity at a moment, which was for us all, was terribly emotional.

By coincidence, buried beside James is another Dublin Fusilier which I wrote about in the previous edition of the Blue Cap, Volume 5, 1998. His name is Private Christopher Rogers from Bishop Street in Dublin. Christopher's family too laid a wreath for the first time at his grave in November 1998. Interestingly both Christopher's and James's grave lie in the shadow of the Irish Round Tower at the Peace Park in Messines. It seemed like the closing of a chapter in a book, that after all those years, at 4:30pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1998, two young souls from Dublin were at last laid to rest. May God bless you both James and Christopher, we didn't forget you. This story was researched and written by Tom Burke. RDF Assoc. 1999.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Michael Joseph Sheehan.  
10<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Dublin Fusiliers.**

Michael J Sheehan was born in Carrignavar, Co Cork on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1894. His father's name was Dennis Sheehan and his mother's name was Francis O'Callaghan. Michael was the second youngest of a family of nine. He grew up on the small family farm at Carrignavar. In his early teen years, Michael obtained an apprenticeship in the drapery trade and worked in the Queens Old Castle in Grand Parade, Cork City. To-day a modern shopping mall stands on the site of the Queens Old Castle. In those days, it was the tradition of young apprentices to *live in* the place of their employment. In August 1996, I talked with Michael Sheehan's daughter. Her name was Mrs Joan Godkin. *At the weekends my father and his brothers used to walk the seven miles from the family home to and from work in Cork City. He looked for a rise in his salary at the drapery shop in which he worked. His employer refused the rise and probably out of disillusionment with his life as an apprentice to a draper, he went to London.* Michael returned to Cork and obtained work as a Clerk in a warehouse. At the age twenty two he joined the army and signed up for the duration of the war. Michael enlisted in Cork on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1916 and was assigned the regimental number 26467. *My father's previous employer in Cork contacted him to offer his job back, however, he had already enlisted into the army by the time the offer had come through.* Michael's Attestation Form presents a fine healthy recruit. He was five foot seven inches tall and had a chest of thirty-six inches which expanded by three inches upon the intake of a breath of air. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1916, Michael was posted to D Company, 10<sup>th</sup> (Commercial) Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers stationed at the Royal (Collins) Barracks in Dublin. Michael was a classic recruit to the 10<sup>th</sup> (Commercial) Battalion of the Dubs which was formed in Dublin at the end of 1915. (1) The recruiting drive for men to enlist into the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs was targeted at the white collar, middle management / clerical type workers. The officers had club rooms at 85 and 86 Grafton Street. The shoe retailers Clarks occupy the lower premises now. They met there in the afternoons from between one and three and in the evenings between five and ten to play snooker and card games. At a cost of six pence each, a series of twelve recruiting booklets was produced in August 1915 targeted specifically at the young clerical workers of Dublin. It was titled, *The Immortal Deeds of our Irish Regiments in Flanders and the Dardanelles*. Part 1 was dedicated to the history of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The production of this booklet was funded by some of the leading civil recruiting agents in Dublin namely Sir Maurice Dockrell and Arthur Jameson of the well known whiskey distillers John Jameson and Sons. The psychology used behind the wording to tempt young shopkeepers and bank officials etc. was, to say the least, very clever.

*Tackle your employer at once, and if you have a just reason for not joining, then he will be able to announce the fact that all his employees who are able to join have done so. It will give both of you a clear conscience and put all doubt away from your customers. If you do not care to consult your employer, interview either Sir Maurice Dockrell, Sir John Irwin, Alderman James Moran, Mr Edward H Andrews, or any member of the Recruiting Council. They are all business men of repute and would not advise you wrong. If they agree with you that you could not join the Colours, then you will at least have done your duty.*

The booklet contained some interesting advertisements from those who obviously sponsored its production. The well known fashionable retailers in Dublin, Switzers, advertised *Comfort Gifts of Trench Candles, Gloves and Socks* to be given as Christmas gifts for the fighting men. Dockrells of George's Street advertised *Pretty Wallpapers and Art shades of paint*. Clerys of Sackville (O'Connell) Street offered *Army Grey Shirts for four shillings and six pence*. Piggots of Grafton Street advertised their *British Made Pianos* while Easons offered the services of *a library for wounded soldiers*, stating in their advertisement that, *If you have such a friend, what could be more acceptable than a subscription to our Library for six or twelve months*. Many of the illustrations in the booklet such as *The Landing at the Dardanelles* were lent to the producers of the booklet by the Dublin Evening Herald Newspaper. At the back of the booklet was a tear-away recruiting coupon for the reader to enlist. (2)

The labourers, farm hands, adventurers and dreamers had already gone to Flanders with the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Dubs, a touch of elitism was to enter the mud of Flanders in the form of the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs. However before they left Ireland they were given a taste of battle when they were one of the many Irish regiments who were involved in tackling Ogaligh na hEireann in Dublin during the rebellion of Easter Week, 1916. During this conflict, the Commercials occupied Dublin Castle. It was an officer of the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs who took the surrender of a young Sean Heuston at the Mendicity Building in Dublin.

At 19 years of age, Heuston was executed on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1916. Musketry training for the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs was carried out at Kilbride Camp, Co. Wicklow. Lewis Gun training was conducted at Dollymount beach, north of Dublin City. (3) Before they departed from Dublin the main body of the battalion were camped in the Phoenix Park and on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1916 they left the Park for Hutments at Pirbright Camp near Aldershot in England. Their sister battalions, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Dubs had trained there back in September 1915. (4) They were assigned to the 190<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Naval Division. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, the battalion departed from Southampton for Le Havre in France and on the 21<sup>st</sup> went into billeting at Maismil-les-Ruitz. (5)

The assignment of the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs to a Naval Division and not the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division caused much concern amongst members of the Irish Nationalist Party. The leader of the Nationalist Party, John Redmond, claimed that drafts for the Irish Division had been diverted to other units and that the 16<sup>th</sup> Division's wounded were not sent back to their own battalions upon recovery. According to Redmond, the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs was, 'One of the finest battalions ever raised in Ireland.' (6) The possible cause for this assignment of the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs to a Naval Division must be analysed against the background of the unfounded mis-trust the British high command had of Irish regiments following the Easter Rebellion. This mis-trust of Irish regiments had no foundation. No Irish regiment ever mutinied during the Great War, they stuck to their task in many cases to the bitter end, an example being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Munster Fusilier's stand at Etreux in August 1914. However there may be another side to this story. Placing raw inexperienced recruits into a full blown battle situation was stopped at the end of 1915. Lessons were learned from the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division at Gallipoli where raw inexperienced volunteer soldiers were thrown piecemeal at Turkish barbed wire and suffered appalling losses. (7) The only experience the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs had at been shot at was from the Irish Volunteers in Dublin. The 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division had approximately three months of a breaking - in period before they got a taste of real war in April 1916. Putting the 10<sup>th</sup> Dublins straight into the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division in August 1916 might not have been in their interests. However one must wonder were the powers that be who made such decisions aware of such logic. It wasn't until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1917 that the Commercials were attached to the 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division. (8)

The Battle of the Somme had been raging since early July. D Company, in which Michael was a member, comprised of four officers and 158 other ranks. They were assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Marines. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1916, the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs had a battalion strength of

24 officers and 469 other ranks. They were posted in the Hamel section. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, X Day as it is recorded in the battalion diary, the battalion assembled outside the village of Engelbelmer which is approx two miles west of Hamel. They spent the night in the open.

The next day they attacked the Germans facing them in the Hamel section. (9) Four months earlier on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Dubs had faced the Germans at Beaumont Hamel approximately two miles north of Hamel. At 5:45 am on November the 13<sup>th</sup> 1916, the assault commenced over a depressing and dripping battlefield that was shrouded in fog. This effectively covered the movement of the troops who burst upon the surprised Germans. Across the River Ancre, units of the 63<sup>rd</sup> (R.N) Division battered their way into the German front line. They suffered heavy losses due to machine gun fire. (10) In a driving snow storm which turned to sleet and then rain, the 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers, a battalion of shopkeepers, supported by two tanks which stuck in the chalky mud, rounded up 400 prisoners. It was at this point that the battle of the Somme ended in mutual exhaustion. (11) In terms of ground and objectives gained, the attack was a success. They had pushed on to take Beaumont Hamel approximately two miles north of Hamel, and there the advance stopped. The 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs had entered on stage the drama of the Somme in the closing act. Beaumont Hamel had at last been taken by the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division. What began in July with an offensive of high hopes ended in November in mud and misery.

At 5:45 am on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1916, the shopkeepers and bank clerks from Ireland faced the Germans at Hamel. They set out with a battalion strength of 24 officers and 469 other ranks. At 8:00am on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November the battalion cleared the trenches and went into billets on the Engelbelmer - Martinsart Road arriving at 2:30pm. They suffered 51% losses, ie 242 men killed, wounded or missing. The statistics read as follows. Officers killed in action 6; Officers wounded 9. (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Boyd suffered shell shock but remained at duty) Other ranks killed in action 32; Died of wounds 3; Wounded 132. (one of whom was Michael Sheehan) Shell Shock 3.; Missing 57. Michael received a gun shot wound to the head and was sent to a casualty clearing station. (12)

The science of statistics is very cold. When looking at such figures, we fail to see that each number was a human being. Death was horrific, injuries were not fixed with band aids. The sight of a man rolling with agony in mud and half his leg hanging off or his brains oozing from his head is one of those statistics mentioned above. We should never lose sight of this plain truth.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1916, Michael was admitted to the No 26 General Hospital at Etaples for treatment to his head wound. After eleven days treatment he rejoined his battalion at Noyelles -Sur-Mer on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs spent Christmas Day 1916 at Church and resting. They spent the very cold and frosty month of January 1917 training around the French villages of Noyelles-Sur-Mer, Longueville, Puchvilliers and Forceville. Following this period of training, on January the 26<sup>th</sup>, they marched to the support line trenches at Aveluy about two miles north of Albert. Their term at the front line around the Beaucourt sector lasted until the end of February from where they proceeded to huts in Thiepval Wood. (13) Michael and his comrades had been, eating, sleeping, living and dying for near on one month in mud and squalor. It is no wonder that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1917, he was sent to a Field Hospital at Wimeraux suffering from Trench Foot.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, Michael was promoted to Acting Corporal, it wasn't until the 13<sup>th</sup> of July that he was promoted to Corporal. By this time the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs had been transferred to the 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division. They were stationed north of the Belgium city of Ypres. The 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade contained all the battalions of the Dublin Fusiliers now serving in the Great War. The battalions were the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. One might say it was The Dublin Brigade. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of July Michael was granted home leave. He returned to Cork to visit his mother.

*My father and his brothers attended Mass in the local church and he was in uniform. The priest spoke from the pulpit saying, 'the British army are not welcome in the church.' My father and his brothers walked out of Mass and later went to the Bishop of Cork to complain about this incident. It turned out later that his protest was successful and the local priest was reprimanded for his insulting remarks.*

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August Michael returned to his battalion near Ypres. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September he completed his application form for a commission. At Hamelincourt on October the 27<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs were inspected at 11:30 am by Brigadier General F.W Ramsey. He complimented the men on their good appearance and steadiness on parade. On the same day the battalion was visited by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Bourne and the Commander of the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division, Major General Hickie C.B. (14) Three days later on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, General Ramsey signed Michael's application for a commission. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1917, Michael left France for Ireland.

He joined a Cadet battalion in Moore Park, Fermoy, Co. Cork to begin his training for a King's Commission. He was lucky to leave his battalion when he did in early in November. On November the 20<sup>th</sup> 1916, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs took part in the attack on a German position known as the Tunnel Trench which lay between the French villages of Fontaine Croiselles and Bullecourt. The Trench was found to be seven feet high by six feet wide, nearly thirty feet below the surface, with entrances at regular intervals about every twenty five yards. It ran the full length of the surface trench. Spaced along the main passage way were tiers of bunks. In numerous small side chambers were stores of food and ammunition; everywhere was lit by electric lighting. (15)

The attack on the Trench was a success primarily due to the barrage put down by the artillery before the attack. The battalion lost one officer, Captain G.J Fitzgibbon. He was Michael's commanding officer in D Company. The Dublins managed to capture 172 German prisoners, two of whom were officers (one died later of wounds). (16) On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1918, Michael received his commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and was posted to the Special Reserve of Officers up to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. By that time, the 10<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers had been disbanded and renamed the 19<sup>th</sup> Entrenching Battalion. This had occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1918. Many of the men from the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs had been transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions of the regiment.

For the month of February 1918, the battalion worked at digging defences near the French village of Lempire. (17) Little did they know what was to happen nearly one month later on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March when the Germans launched what was to be known as the Kaiser's Battle. Between 04:45am and 14:30pm on that day, over a distance of approximately two miles, 1062 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Dublin Fusiliers had been gassed, blown to bits, gone missing or taken prisoner by the Germans. (18) On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1918, Michael was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Earlier on in May the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Dublin Fusiliers were absorbed into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion who were stationed in the Grimsby area and remained there until the end of the war. (19) He served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dubs until the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, he also served a couple of weeks with the Suffolk Regiment before returning to France for the final push to end the war. From the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October and for the remaining weeks of the war, Michael served with The Blue Caps, ie the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The official history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Neill's Blue Caps written by Col H.C. Wyley in 1924, refers to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Michael Sheehan as being a member of the regiment. It states the following. 'It maybe of future historical interest to state that on the date when hostilities actually ceased there were serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers 41 officers and 776 non commissioned officers and men. The names of the officers were as under ...Lieutenant-Colonel J.A.Meldon.....Second Lieutenant M.J.Sheehan.' (20) Michael was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers when they entered Cologne on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1918 as part of the Army of Occupation. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1919 Michael left the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was drafted into the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Regiment who remained on in Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. (21) The 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Regiment was demobilised on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1919. (22) Michael returned to his native Cork and was re-employed by his old employer in the drapery business at Grand Parade, Cork. He returned to an Ireland that was in turmoil at the height of the War of Independence.

*When he had returned from the war, my father was on a train journey from Cork to Dublin. He was travelling with three men. One of the men was an IRA man who was on the run. They were playing cards when the train stopped to allow the security forces on to check the identification of some of the passengers. The police man approached the seat in which my father and his friends were sitting. He asked for identification and my father produced his army discharge booklet in which it stated that he was an officer in the Dublin Fusiliers. The police man saluted my father and the men at the table and walked on. Despite their differences my father did not want to betray a fellow country man of his.*

Michael was a keen sportsman and played football for the drapery company he worked for. *My father wanted to play for his old club but a certain Mr Barry refused to allow him to play due to his past membership of the British Army. Many years later that same Mr Barry came to my father looking for a character reference for a job. However my father was magnanimous in his reply to Mr Barry, he was not the kind of man that could hold a grudge against any person.* Michael, like many more of his comrades, did not discuss his experiences of the war with his family. However Joan recalled her father telling her one story about an incident which lodged in his mind long after the war had ended.

*During some fighting when he was in the trenches, he was on duty at an observation post. My father decided to go to a dug out for a smoke of his pipe. Another man*

*went up to replace my father at his post and tragically this man was shot dead by a sniper.*

In 1931 Michael Sheehan married Mary Ryan from Bandon, Co Cork. Between Michael and Mary they reared a family of eight children, four boys and four girls. Michael worked in the same drapery shop all his working life. *My father was a lovely man whom many people admired and respected. When he retired, during the summer months he loved to work in the garden and in the winter months he made hooked rugs. He attended his other much loved past-time which was a Beagle and Harriers club called the Cork Southern Harriers. He liked reading, most of all he liked reading cowboy stories about the wild west.* 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Michael J Sheehan of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers died in April 1974 at 80 years of age and is buried in Saint Finbar's Cemetery Cork. His wife Mary, died in 1989 at the age of 82 and is buried with Michael in St Finbar's Cemetery, Co. Cork.

On March the 7<sup>th</sup> 1998 I travelled to the British Public Records Office at Kew Gardens in London. I travelled with my good friend and fellow researcher Mr Sean Connolly. The purpose of our journey to Kew was to research the battalion records and some personal records of past members of the Dubs. Quite by chance I looked up the officers records and discovered that 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Michael J Sheehan from Carrignavar had a file which contained about eight pages. I copied the file and thought to myself it would be nice for Joan and her family to have a copy of these papers. Some months prior to my visit to the PRO I had talked to Joan on the phone. It was a casual chat about the exhibition we hoped to present later in the year. Joan had been suffering from breast cancer, but she told me the news was good and things were looking up. About six weeks after I returned from Kew, I did something I never do and that is look at the death columns in the newspapers. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1998, a notice appeared in the Irish Times - *Godkin (nee Sheehan) (Dublin and Cork) -April 26 1998 (peacefully) at St. Vincents Hospital, Elm Park.... Sadly missed by her loving husband John, daughters Mary, Sandra, Collette and Claire....Rest in peace.* Joan never did get to see her father's file. Out of respect to a lovely woman whom I had the privilege of a brief encounter and for the shopkeepers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Dubs who died in Flanders, I would like to dedicate this simple story. This story was researched and written by Tom Burke. RDF Assoc. 1999



Commandant Seamus Greene parading The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Old Comrades Standard at the National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin in August 1998. Seamus is the chap in the middle of the three men standing facing camera.

### The Dubs and the Anglo - Boer War.

At 5:00 am on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1899, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers as usual stood to arms on the parade ground of their barracks near Dundee, South Africa. Everyone's gaze was focused on a hill to the east of the camp where the outline of men wearing black mackintoshes could be seen. The hill was called Talana Hill. The Boer commander Lukas Mayer on top of Talana Hill found his men urging him to give them permission to "Say good morning to the British." Mayer obliged his men and launched the attack.. The Boer War had begun in earnest and the Dubs were in the middle of it . The British launched a counter attack with field guns and later a full frontal attack on the Hill led by the Dubs and The Royal Irish Fusiliers in support. The Dubs stormed the Hill and drove the Boers from the top. They left the Dundee Town Guard to man the Hill and then returned to the town of Dundee to be greeted by the cheering townsfolk. The Dubs however did not have it all their way at the Battle of Talana, in fact a company of mounted Dublin Fusiliers and 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars were captured by the retreating Boers and taken prisoner. It was the first victory the Royal Dublin Fusiliers had won under their new name, however it was costly. The British had lost 51 killed, 203 wounded and 246 taken prisoner, a total loss of 500 men. At a maximum., the Boers lost 172 men. Among the Dubs killed was Captain G A. Weldon ( the first Dubs officer to be killed in the war ) while helping a wounded Fusilier by the name of Private

Gorman. Captain Weldon was found dead with his Fox Terrier "Rose" beside him. The victory of the Dubs was short lived, within thirty hours they were forced to abandon the town of Dundee and retreat to Ladysmith where they arrived damp and miserable after an 80 hour trek through torrential rain. Fighting with the Boers at Talana that day was the Blake-Mac Bride Irish Brigade, Irishman against Irishman in another mans war in a foreign country, a ballad was written to recall this event named "T" was an Irish Fight."

"Dicey took a lad named Walsh: Dooley got Mc Gurk: Gilligan turned in Fahey's boy - for his father he used to work. They had marched to fight the English - but Irish were all they could see - That's how the 'English fought the Dutch' at the Battle of Dundee."

During February 1900, the Boers had laid siege to the strategic town of Ladysmith. The Dubs along with other Irish Regiments were involved in the battle to relieve the siege .Two Irish lads who were brothers from Co Longford were killed in the battle. They were Corporal James Flynn of the Inniskilling Fusiliers and his brother Volunteer Michael Flynn of Blake's Brigade in the opposing Boer Army. On November the 15<sup>th</sup> the Dubs used a train to act as a reconnaissance vehicle between the towns of Colenso and Frere. On board the train was a twenty five year old newspaper correspondent for the London Evening Post. The train was ambushed by the Boers and some of the Dubs along with the reporter were taken prisoner. After two months captivity in the State Model Schools in Pretoria, the reporter escaped. On hearing the news of the escape of the English reporter, General Joubert a Boer commander said of the reporter that "He is just a little bit of a Newspaperman". The reporter who escaped General Joubert was none other than Winston Churchill. The two months Churchill had spent with the Dubs as a prisoner of war laid the foundation of a close respect and relationship Churchill was to have for the Dubs.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1900 Churchill sent a telegram to the Colonel of the Dubs. " My earnest congratulations on the honour of the Dublin Fusiliers more than any other Regiment have won for the land of their birth. We are all wearing the Shamrock here." As a *Reward* for their loyalty and bravery of her Irish troops, Queen Victoria issued an order that all her Irish Regiments should wear the Shamrock in their caps on St Patrick's Day and there was to be formed an Irish Regiment of Footguards to be designated ' The Irish Guards'. To this day The Irish Guards are still very much in existence and are proud of their Irish traditions and heritage.

The Boer War ended with the signing of a peace treaty between the Boers and British on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1902. Queen Victoria was dead and a major challenge had been made to the British Empire. At the top of Grafton Street in St Stephen's Green in August 1907, a Memorial Arch was opened to honour the men of the Dublin Fusiliers who had died in the Boer War. It was opened by the Duke of Connaught, the brother of King George V. The Dublin Fusiliers alone lost close on 700 men. It is made of granite from the Dublin mountains and inscribed around the top are the names of the battles in which the Dubs took part in, ie Colenso, Tugela, Ladysmith etc. On the Grafton Street facing of the Arch one can see a marvellous bronze casting of the regimental crest of the Dublin Fusiliers ie the Lion and the Elephant. On the underside of the Arch there are the names of approx. 110 men who died, many of whom are buried where they fell.

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#### **Speech by President Mary Mc Aleese at the opening of *The Let Ireland Remember* Exhibition in the Dublin Civic Museum on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 1998.**

Firstly I would like to thank the curator, Tom O' Connor for his warm words of welcome to the Dublin Civic Museum and to this exhibition on the Irish Regiments in the Great War. I want also to congratulate the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association for their work in assembling the material in the exhibition - and for their commitment and dedication to the memory of all those who took part in the war that was to end all wars. The unfolding history of this island in the decades immediately after the First World War saw a polarisation of the traditions and a tendency to regard that period as an episode in British history. Of course, we know that it impacted on all of Europe - and that many lives and families were profoundly affected by the suffering and misery.

While it was a war that was to see the demise of the Romanov, Hohenzollern, Habsburg and Ottoman Empires, it was to see death and destruction of human life on a scale that was never seen before. Ireland, which was then part of the British Empire, could not have escaped. There were 140,500 Irish Volunteers in

addition to 58,000 enlisted men - all from the four provinces of Ireland- who took part in battles at places like Mons, Ypres, Gallipoli, Salonica, the Somme and Passchendaele. Of these, 35,000 lost their lives. How many people realise that the first shots in the war were fired by a Corporal in the Royal Irish Dragoon Guards - that the first Victoria Cross was awarded to a man from County Westmeath - that the youngest recruit killed was a fourteen year old Private John Condon from Co. Waterford - a mere child - in the Royal Irish Regiment.

The process of political restructuring that has been taking place in Northern Ireland - on the whole island of Ireland - and the culture of re-appraisal and confidence that has engendered by that process - have had the effect of opening up minds to new perspectives on past events - where the blindfolds and blinkers of traditional allegiances are being lifted to allow the full panorama of history to be seen for what it is. That is a gradual process. But it is unstoppable. In this significant anniversary year of the Great War, we have an opportunity to take a closer look at the events and people who were involved. It is very important in the process of looking back at the events that punctuated the history of Europe at that time - that we look beneath the headlines to the stories of the people involved - the ordinary people who served with honour - who were proud to wear their regimental uniform - and who had family and friends who were proud of their participation. Looking around this exhibition, at the collected personal memorabilia - at the photographs and letters - the medals and insignia that families have kept and treasured as reminders of those who took part in the war - you get a glimpse of what it must have been like to see so many young people leaving with hope in their hearts - with determination to do their duty with their compatriots - and with a common focus which obliterated the differences in background and tradition. You can almost touch the lives of these ordinary men - you can get an appreciation for what they thought as they went to war - in something like a travel pass for the mother of a soldier who journeyed to London to see her wounded son - the wartime greeting cards - the stories of the likes of William Purcell - or Andrew Kinsella - or of Sgt. Tommy Cunningham, a prisoner of war - or Lance Corporal John Boland's last letter to his mother - or we see material relating to young poet Francis Ledwidge, an ordinary but talented young man from Slane in County Meath who, having survived the Gallipoli landings and the Serbian blizzards lost his life in Belgium in 1917. Indeed Ledwidge so simply and movingly captured both the finality and sadness of death and the escape from suffering and agony in his poem, 'A Soldier's Grave' :-



Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms  
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death,  
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms  
Of battles, dying moans, and painful breath.

These are the things which give us that other, human dimension, to our history. These are important if we are to make true sense of our past. Later this year - in November - I will be travelling to Belgium to a ceremony at Messines in Belgium, which both commemorates those 35,000 Irish men who died in the war and seeks to use their tremendous sacrifice as the foundation on which to build a greater understanding and respect between the traditions from which those men came. Death does not recognise tradition or culture, class or creed.

This exhibition is a very valuable contribution to the process of reflection and understanding that is so essential for all of us to engage in. I know that there are many families today who were touched in some way or another by the Great War. This exhibition gives recognition to the men who served with honour and distinction. It gives us valuable insight into their lives and the troubled times through which they lived. In opening the exhibition, I would like to commend the Dublin Civic Museum for their vision at this important time in this island's history. I would also like to recommend it to everybody who has an interest in understanding and appreciating the many elements and facets of our varied history.



At the opening of The Let Ireland Remember Exhibition at the Dublin Civic Museum on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1998.  
Left to right. Mr Brian Moroney, Mr Jim Ockendon, Mrs Joyce Ockendon, Mr Seamus Greene and Mr Tom Burke.  
Mr Ockendon's father won the V.C for the Dubs at Langemaark on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1917.

### The Turkish View of the Gallipoli Campaign.

The Dardanelles cast a dark shadow over Ireland in 1915 especially on those who had relatives or friends serving in the Royal Dublin and Munster Fusiliers. There is a

wealth of material about the Allied campaign but we have heard little about the Turkish perspective. We were, therefore, fortunate in being able to arrange a lecture by Professor Tuncoku who is a world authority on the subject. He was featured in the BBC series on the Great War and has published a book on the experiences of the Australians in Gallipoli based on interviews with the veterans. The Turkish Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Murat Ersavci, graciously arranged for the Professor's visit and those who heard the lecture came away with a new understanding of the loss of the cream of Turkey's manhood at a crucial time. The following is the text of the Ambassador's opening remarks on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Collins Barracks, Dublin.

" I am honoured to welcome you all to this interesting lecture on the War of Gallipoli. Thank you for coming. I would also like to thank my dedicated friend, Professor Dr. Tuncoku for being with us tonight. As you know Prof. Dr. Tuncoku's lecture will be the first of many functions to be organised by our Embassy to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic.

The task of introducing this lecture fills me with both pride and emotion. Of the two, I think my emotions are the stronger. This task is too heavy and I must ask you to allow me to speak briefly for myself. I will not interfere with my compatriot's expertise in history. But as every one would admit, it would be impossible to write the history of Europe and omit the Turkish dimension of it. Like-wise, one cannot talk about the First War without referring to the Gallipoli campaign. Never in the course of Turkish and world history has so much been written by so many to the memories of the soldiers who lost their lives in Gallipoli, as well as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk - the young commander of the Turkish troops in Gallipoli.

It is truly a disheartening thing to speak about those who have lost their lives in war. However, one should also try to draw lessons from Gallipoli. History teaches us that history does not teach. That is why, today, those who lost their lives in Gallipoli should be a guide for those who will make and write history in the future. To some, war is nothing more than a reflection of the soul. Like Gallipoli, it certainly tries men's soul. Nevertheless, for those who participated in the War of Gallipoli, it was a gentleman's war: they all had the will to defend what they believed in.

The cost of this is measured in the dead left on the beaches and hills of Gallipoli. Prof. Tuncoku will tell us about the Gallipoli Campaign in detail in a few minutes. Before leaving the floor to him, I would also like to point

out that the Gallipoli War is a very important landmark in Turco- Irish relations. Anyone who has ever struggled for his independence knows how extremely costly it is. Turks and Irish learned this at approximately the same time. Maybe unknown to each other, they fought for and founded their Republics almost simultaneously in 1921 and 1923 - winning against great odds. They built new societies and young republics. Recalling the bitter memories of the First War, both remained neutral during the Second War. So what we have in common is more than our differences. If we had a full list of the Irish soldiers who unfortunately lost their lives in Sulva Bay and other beaches, it would certainly include the names that are familiar to most of us - names of men and women whom we see here tonight. What is equally true is that most Turkish families, even some members of our Embassy, have lost relatives in Gallipoli of whom they have only heard their names, and most probably the gallant way in which they fought and died, eight decades ago. According to Irish records, of those who left Collins Barracks eight decades ago, approximately 3,500 lost their lives heading from the flagship River Clyde in April and at Suvla Bay in August 1915. It is only a historic irony that the Turkish Embassy in Dublin is today located on Clyde Road. In concluding, I take pride to repeat Ataturk's words, after 64 years:

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours..... You the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears: your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.*

In the same vein, I can assure you that Paddy and Mehmet are still resting in peace side by side in Gallipoli - and will do so until eternity. Whatever the reason of their presence over there in Turkey, I would like to pay homage to those brave men and women and to pray that the blessing of almighty God may rest upon their souls."

Note: Our exhibition has photographs of the 7th Dublins marching out from Collins Barracks on their way to annihilation at Gallipoli. Tom Burke has been in contact with the daughters of Captain Andrew Horne who was a Doctor in Gallipoli and was on the last boat to leave. He will publish the story in a later edition

## Christmas Party 1998.

The Association held its Christmas Dinner on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December in the Masonic Hall in Molesworth Street and what a night it was. Over 95 members and friends attended and enjoyed themselves so much that only for the fact that the Porter threatened to put on his pyjamas, did the last member reluctantly leave. The mouth watering meal, filet steak or salmon, was served by the friendly and cheerful staff of Campbell Catering. When Michael Grant and Willie Lennon surprised us with a simply magnificent cake in the colours of the Dubs it was the first in an evening filled with surprises.

We prevailed upon Cathal O'Shannon at the last moment to say a few words and Cathal, supreme professional that he is, gave us a humorous and yet thought provoking talk that had us in stitches one moment and gravely attendant the next. We promise that next time we will give Cathal more than a days notice so watch this space. To get everyone in the mood the author decided to have a quiz with ten simple questions. Well, you have to work at enjoying yourself and by God answering those questions was really hard work. Copious amounts of drink were needed to kick start brains but we eventually had a tie break and both won a prize. Here we would like to thank our prize sponsors for the Evening: Connolly Precision Engineering, F.P Fogarty and Laser Engineering whose generosity added great fun to the evening. It is simply amazing the hidden talent our members had, witness the impromptu cabaret that started when Seamus Greene, with Sean Connolly at the piano, went from light opera to songs from the Great War. Seamus was quickly followed by Tony Behan who displayed a comic touch that had us rolling in the aisles and so it went. Big Paddy Dolan followed by Pat Hogarty reminded us of the songs the soldiers sang to entertain themselves, with only mild alterations for the ladies and faint of heart. The venue itself proved superb, the Masonic Hall and the staff therein were first class, unobtrusive and eager that we enjoy ourselves. We would like to thank all concerned with this venue which was offered in a spirit of generosity that did not go unnoticed and will not be forgotten. We will definitely have a Christmas party this coming year and if you have any suggestions, bearing in mind the year that is in it, then do not be shy in coming forward. All suggestions will be warmly welcomed. It was most encouraging to the organisers of the Dinner that numbers doubled between 1997 and 1998. Let us hope that we can continue in this vein, remember that the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association is your Association. This report was written by Mr Brian Moroney of the RDF Association in March 1999.

**Report on the trip to the Island of Ireland Peace  
Park at Messines in Belgium  
From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1998.**

As thirty six members and friends of the Association gathered at Dublin airport for our trip to Messines, a myriad of questions plagued our minds. Would our schedule work out as we planned, would the weather hold, would we achieve our aims and would the group of individuals blend together. Three days later we had our answer as a group of weary, emotional and very satisfied 'Dubs' sang their hearts out as the coach turned into Charleroi Airport. Guided by the wonderful voice of Seamus Greene we sat on the coach until the last strains of 'Pack Up Your Troubles' faded away, reluctant to let the last moment of three emotion packed days finally end. From the moment of our arrival in Ypres the emotions, events and memories began. To recall them all would be impossible, each member of the group will have their own moments and memories they will never forget. Let me simply share with you some of those events on the roller coaster ride that was history in the making. Our first stop in Ypres was at the Munster Cross where Pat Hogarty led our little ceremony of remembrance. Using the format we would use at each visit over the three days Pat told the story of the Munster's in the Great War, he called on 10 of our number to read out the names of Munster's who fell in the Great War. He laid a wreath, read a poem of his own selection and concluded with a short prayer. On each subsequent stop we followed this simple but moving ceremony at those places we remembered the fallen of the War. We paid our respects to our Irish dead at Guillemont, 'Whitesheet', Thiepval, Tyne Cot, Prowse Point, Pozieres and we took time to visit Langemarck to see the German graveyard and recall the price Germany paid in the Great War. Each stop was marked by a member of the group following the ceremony begun by Pat, we heard of the memories the place held, such as the tale told by Kevin Cunningham as to how his father was taken prisoner during the great German offensive of 1918 and how his father's life was saved by a German officer. At Prowse Point military cemetery, an Australian journalist was overwhelmed with raw emotion as the group laid a wreath and took time to say a prayer for some German soldiers buried alongside the 'lads'. Journalists accompanied the group from day one. At times we were joined by RTE, UTV, BBC, ABC and the Evening Herald, a tribute indeed to our group and its aims. Indeed at Loere we were the special guests of the village. We saw the unveiling of a memorial to Major Willie Redmond. In front of the original hospice, we attended the official opening of a replica of an Irish dry stone wall which was built from stone used in the Messines Memorial by Irish craftsmen.

By special request our spokesman Dr. Gerald Morgan replied on our behalf. Thereafter it was back to the local pub, named after Willie Redmond, where we were entertained by the villagers. It was with some difficulty that we mustered the party for the journey back to the hotel and a somewhat bleary eyed group that fell in for reveille the following morning. The main ceremony at Messines was itself the highlight of the trip and we had a prime location thanks to the excellent liaison work by Tom Burke and Sean Connolly with the Irish Embassy in Brussels. From our vantage point in the main stand we watched the opening of the Tower and what a beautiful sight it was. More than one watched with a tear in the eye or a lump in the throat. More than one listened to the speeches and heard the steady tramp of marching feet, the faint strains of Tipperary, the grateful voices saying thanks. We were there for ourselves, for the Association, and for the thousands who could not make it. We watched President Mac Aleese, accompanied by H.M Queen Elizabeth II and King Albert the II of Belgium, open a Peace Park for all Irish people. We watched with pride and not a little awe the achievement of Paddy Harte and Glen Barr in returning a sense of dignity the thousands of Irishmen and Women who took part in the Great War. We knew too that we had played our part and come what may, a beginning had been made and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association would continue the good work started at Messines in November 1998.



Members of the RDF Association who attended the opening of the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines in November 1999.

With our coach proudly bearing our Coat of Arms our party drew many onlookers. At one point at the Memorial at Thiepval as Pat Cummins led our ceremony of remembrance we were joined by a group from England who listened with respect and comradeship to Pat.

At the Menin Gate, many folks from England, Canada and New Zealand gazed with curiosity at our Dublin Fusiliers identity badges pinned on our coats. One Canadian chap asked me did anyone from Ireland die in Flanders. At Tyne Cot, a local woman with her two grandchildren told us her story. If we were saddened by the never ending rows of crosses in Tyne Cot and the horrific story of Passchendale as told by Seamus Greene, we could at least take hope from this Belgian woman paying her tribute to her country's allies.

More than one old soldier has used the phrase 'you had to be there', so it was with our trip to Messines. Those who saw Mrs Lillie Redmond interviewed on RTE could not experience the sympathy and pride Lillie expressed that evening. But I assure you that those of us who were there knew she spoke for us all when she said it was a long time coming but maybe now the 'lads' will rest in peace. On behalf of the Association I would like to say thank you to all who made that historic and memorable journey. This report was written by Mr Brian Moroney of the RDF Association.

### **Tracing a First World War Soldier killed in action or died of wounds. Where to start?**

1. 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 your person from the others with similar names. 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, Date of Death. If you have a medal, you may be able to read the Army Regimental Number and the name of the Regiment of the recipient.

2. You can then begin to search using one of the following sources of information: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has an Internet web site [www.cwgc.org] which allows you to search its 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 presented with 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.

3. The National War Memorial at Islandbridge contains an alphabetic index of soldiers killed while serving in Irish regiments in the Great War. Each entry shows the name, regimental number, rank, regiment, battalion, cause of death, theatre of war, date of death, place of birth. A complete list of soldiers killed 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. Part 73 refers to soldiers of the Dublin Fusiliers. Each entry shows the place of birth, place of enlistment, regimental number, rank, regiment, cause of death, theatre of war, date of death. It was produced in CD ROM format by the Naval and Military Press Ltd in 1998 at a price of £220 sterling plus VAT. This can be searched without knowing which regiment a soldier served in. [A copy is held by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association.]

4. If you know the regiment in which the soldier served, you can obtain details of its movements, activities and battles from a number of sources: A number of regiments had their histories published for private circulation. These describe the more significant events that occurred while the regiment was on active service. The 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 and republished by Schull Books in 1996. *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* by Henry Hanna published in 1917. *The Tenth (Irish) Division in Gallipoli* by Bryan Cooper. First published in 1918 and republished by the Irish Academic Press in 1993.

5. Much greater detail is contained in the Battalion War Diaries which are held in the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond Surrey, TW9 4DU. Every battalion completed a daily record of activities for the full period of active service. It is possible to trace the movements of battalions using the war diaries 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". Copies of individual pages may be bought but, at present (1999), there is a maximum of 15 pages per hour while you wait. Information about obtaining a reader's ticket, opening hours, etc., are available on the Internet at [www. pro. gov. uk](http://www.pro.gov.uk)

The diaries are stored in files with the general classification for the War Office, WO. Brief descriptions of every document and the reference numbers are given in the class lists. The relevant reference numbers for the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, all prefixed WO95/, are:

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
	Jun 1918 - Apr 1919	2831 [50th Division, 149th Brigade]
6th Battalion	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]
	Jul 1918 - Apr 1919	3140 [197th Brigade, 66th Division]
7th Battalion	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]
	Jul 1918 - Aug 1919	1978 [10th Division, 30th Brigade]
8th Battalion	Dec 1915 - Oct 1917	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	Nov 1917 - Feb 1918	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
9th Battalion	Dec 1915 - Oct 1917	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
	Nov 1917 - Feb 1918	1974 [16th Division, 48th Brigade]
8/9th Battalion	Nov 1917 - Feb 1918	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

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Battalions were reserve units which were used to train recruits for the battalions on active service. Copies of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers diaries are being acquired by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association for local use.

6. Actual locations can be pinpointed using the trench maps which were drawn on a scale of 6 inches/mile. They can be bought from the Western Front Association [[www.westernfront.co.uk](http://www.westernfront.co.uk)], The PRO at Kew, London.

7. The Public Record Office at Kew also contains the following reference material: An alphabetic microfiche index of those awarded campaign medals. Each entry contains the name, regiment, rank, number, medals awarded, the theatre of war first served in and the date of entry therein. The remarks column will note if a soldier was killed in action. This is a good starting point for a soldier who survived the War. Service records of non-commissioned officers and soldiers whose service ended between 1914 and 1920 are being made available. About 60% of the records were destroyed in an air raid in 1940. If you intend to visit the PRO, you should read *Army Service Records of the First World War* by Simon Fowler, William Spencer, Stuart Tamblin, published by the PRO.

8. The regiment shown on a medal or recorded at the date of death may hide the fact that the soldier may have served in other regiments. For example a recruit to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, may have been assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion when the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> were disbanded.

9. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association is interested in hearing about your experience. You can contact the Association c/o The Dublin Civic Museum, William Street South, Dublin 2, Ireland. This article was researched and written by Sean Connolly, RDF Association. March 1999.

**Memorials to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Part 1.** The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association was founded to remember the forgotten Irish who took part in World War One. As part of our remembering, *The Blue Cap* will record details of memorials on which men of the R.D.F. are mentioned. Thank you to those who have taken the time and trouble to record the details of memorials and send them to the Association. *The Blue Cap* will publish all submissions of memorials on which the men of the R.D.F. appear regardless of nationality. Due to space limitations, *The Blue Cap* will be unable to publish details of memorials to non R.D.F. casualties, unless they are of particular note. However, details on all Irish memorials at home and abroad are welcome. These will be recorded on a database as a source of reference. The name of the person who recorded the details is given in brackets after the name of each memorial. Unless otherwise mentioned, the names listed are men of the R.D.F. Rank and battalion are given on the memorial. Bn. is used to denote Battalion.

Drogheda War Memorial (Tom Burke). Location ; On the main Dublin / Drogheda Road on the Dublin side of Drogheda coming into town on the left hand side of the road. Memorial ; A Celtic Cross approximately 20 feet high. Inscription ; *In memory of those from Drogheda and District who gave their lives in the Great War.* Thirty four R.D.F. men are amongst those listed on the memorial. For reasons of space the names will not be listed in this article. Names are listed on four sides of the memorial. Side A which is the side facing the road contains ninety names of whom five are R.D.F. Side B which is on the left side looking at the memorial from the road side contains sixty names of whom ten are R.D.F. Side C is farthest from the road i.e. at the back of the memorial has two lists of names, Top and Bottom. On the Top section there are ninety six names of whom nine are R.D.F. On the Bottom section there are forty four names of whom three are R.D.F. Amongst the names listed is that of J.S. Emerson of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for valour on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1917. Side D which is on the right hand side looking at the memorial from the road contains sixty names of whom seven are R.D.F.

Kilgobbin Memorial (William Lennon compiled details. Joe O'Loughlin gave an article on the Memorial from a local parish magazine . Both men are members of the RDF Assoc.) Location ; Kilgobbin Graveyard, Stepside, Co. Dublin. Rear of old church, facing south on edge of graveyard. Memorial ; A Celtic Cross on plinth and base with raised parapet surrounded by rail iron spikes. Inscription on cross, *In - Hoc - Sic - Vin.* Inscription ; *In memory of the officers and men of the district who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918.* Twenty eight names are visible on the memorial, of whom seven are R.D.F. The bottom left side of the memorial is damaged and some R.D.F. names are missing. The article supplied by Joe O'Loughlin states that two names are missing. The visible names are Lieutenant William Synes Drury ,Laurence Mooney ,George Mahon ,Richard O'Connor , William Cathercole , Joseph Doyle and James Dwyer. Lieutenant Colonel Manley, killed in World War Two is commemorated on a nearby family plot. William Lennon suggests that the war memorial may have been erected by the Manley family whom appear to have been an important family in the district in the last century.

St. George's Church of Ireland Church. (Pat Hogarty) Location ; Temple Street, Dublin. Memorial ; A marble plaque. Inscription ; The memorial is inscribed in memory of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dublin Boys Brigade.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Walter Whitehead,8<sup>th</sup> Bn. R.D.F. killed in action at Guillemont on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1916. Sgt Dobbs,8<sup>th</sup> Bn. R.D.F. killed in action at Gallipoli on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1915.Pte William Collins,2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. R.D.F killed in action in France 7<sup>th</sup> October 1918.

The Ridley Chapel in the Parish Church of St. Boniface. ( David Saunders,Editor of *The Gallipolitan*, Journal of the Gallipoli Association.) Location ; Wyche Road, Bunbury, Cheshire, England. Memorial ; A brass plaque set into the top of aprie-dieu. Inscription ; *In memory of John Lee, brave as a lion. Faithful soldier of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers who fell in action on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1915 at Gallipoli. The Honour of the Regiment never shone brighter than when it was entrusted to him and the other brave men who died with him. Two friends revere his memory, Rev. R. Armitage D.S.O and one time Chaplain to the Regiment and Capt. T. Mood, his Company Commander.*

All Saints Church of Ireland Church (Philip Lecane). Location ; Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Memorial ; Memorial plaques under four of the church windows. Three commemorate eight casualties of the First World War. Among those listed is Cpl. William Arnold of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. R.D.F.

Monkstown Church of Ireland Church. (Philip Lecane) Location ; Monkstown, Co. Dublin. Memorial ; A Marble plaque. Inscription ; *To the glory of God and in proud and undying memory of the following members of Monkstown parish and congregation who gave their lives in defence of their country in the Great War 1914 - 1918.* Twenty eight names are listed ,including Geoffrey Clogstoun Martin and Richard Archer Martin of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. R.D.F. Also included are Charles Edward Dowse and Edward Chaytor Millar of the famous D. Coy. 7<sup>th</sup> (Pals) Bn. R.D.F.

*The Blue Cap* needs your help in documenting memorials. Please send your contributions to : Mr Philip Lecane, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, C/O The Dublin Civic Museum, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2. Ireland.

### Notices

**Schull Book Ltd.** We were delighted when we heard about The Dubs Association. For a number of years we had been thinking about re-issuing the histories of the Disbanded Irish Regiments, those famous regiments of the British Army, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers, The Royal Munster Fusiliers, The Connaught Rangers, The Royal Irish Regiment (18<sup>th</sup> of Foot, to distinguish it from the newly-named Royal Irish Regiment in Northern Ireland), The Leinster Regiment, The Inniskillings, The Royal Irish Rifles and The Royal Irish Fusiliers or Faughs as they were better known. The Dubs interested us particularly because its history covered two different publications, i.e. Neill's Blue Caps, history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and Crown and Company the history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. We launched Neill's Blue Caps in Cathal Brugha Barracks in 1996 by kind permission of the G.O.C Eastern Command ,himself a Dub. Sales have been steady, in part due to the publicity given generously by the Association. This year we are issuing the Connaught Rangers and The Second Dubs in the South African War. Next year we hope to issue Crown and Company, thus completing the Dubs. The Rangers has already been heavily subscribed and now that we have computerised ourselves (which for me equals confused ) we will ensure that all these histories will be advertised all over The Net. Apparently even God is on The Net and He may have alerted the old ghosts of those old soldiers whom in turn may have sent the message to their descendants because the number who contact us saying that their grandfathers fought and some who sadly died, in far foreign fields, with their granduncles, uncles ,cousins etc., is really astonishing. May we offer credit to the Dubs Association, the Munsters Association for the fine work they are doing in keeping the memory green. Regards, Jack and Barbra O.Connell. Schull Books, Ballydehob, Skibereen, Co. Cork. Tele / Fax Ireland +35328 37317.

**RDF Pictorial Record.** I would like to put together a pictorial record of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and any other Irish Regiments if I can get enough material together. I am primarily interested in the 1914 - 1918 period and photographs or images relevant to my research of any period which relates to the Dubs. Anyone who wishes to donate any photographs should send it to me, Mr M. J.O' Neill , 13 Park Avenue, Awsworth, Notts, NG16 2RA, England. Please put any information you have about the image on the reverse side. I would urge anyone who wishes to send me such material to send copies as I cannot promise the safe return of the original. Xerox Colour copies would suffice. All photographs will be eventually donated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association when my research is completed.

**Jewish Dublin Fusiliers.** Tom Brooks, a Canadian member of the RDF Association has written to congratulate us on publication of *The Blue Cap*. Tom would like to contribute the following note.

Though those in the battalions of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were primarily Roman Catholic in faith, said battalions did contain within their ranks a sprinkling of men from the Jewish faith. Three of these Jewish Dublin Fusiliers were killed in action in Gallipoli, they are the following.

Private Elis Cassell. 19748 ,1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Born in Liverpool, enlisted in Liverpool. The son of Aron and Annie Cassel of 96 Falkner Street ,Liverpool, died of wounds on August the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1915 at Alexandria, Egypt, aged 18 years of age. Buried at Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt.

Private Joel Dreezer. 17848, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Born at Stepney, London, enlisted at Shoreditch, London. The son of Mr W Dreezer, Shoreditch. Died of wounds in the Helles Sector, June 30, 1915, aged 18 years. Buried at the Lancaster Landing Cemetery, Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

Lieutenant Walter Alfred Ireland, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Born the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1893. The eldest son of Dr A.B. Ireland of Kensington, London. Walter Alfred was educated at Charterhouse College. In 1912 he went to Australia to work but returned in November 1914 to take up a commission. He departed for Gallipoli in May 1915 and was killed in action at the Third Battle of Krithia on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1915. He died at 22 years of age. He has no known grave and his name is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

**Visit to Gallipoli in 1998.** Travelling independently, Philip and Kate Lecane from Monkstown in Co. Dublin and members of the R.D.F Assoc., visited Gallipoli in August 1998. They went on a guided tour of Anzac Cove, following which they presented Ali Efe, their Turkish guide, a copy of Bryan Cooper's book *The Tenth (Irish) Division in Gallipoli*. They visited V Beach, the scene of the landing from the *River Clyde* on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1915. At the Helles Memorial they picked out the names of a number of Dun Laoghaire (Dublin) men who had been killed at Gallipoli. They particularly remembered Sgt. Edward Miller of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn R.D.F from Monkstown. The land on which Philip and Kate's home stands was once part of the ground of Edward Miller's house.

**Colours of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.** Following the disastrous fire which engulfed Windsor Castle a few years ago, it is pleasing to hear that all the Colours of the disbanded Irish Regiments (Except the South Irish Horse) have been reinstated in their original position on the Grand Staircase at the entrance to the State Apartments of Windsor Castle. The Castle is open to public viewing most days of the year. For members information, the exact location of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers (King's and Regimental Colours) are located to the right of the door to the Arms Annex. Thanks to the Newsletter Ref 4/98 of the Combined Irish Regiments Association for this information. Maybe some day they will return to their rightful place in a museum in Dublin. Colours of the Service Battalions of the Dubs and the Old Comrades Association Standard can be seen at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

**The Irish Theatre Company Cambridge** introduces *The Archway* by Patrick Corbett at the Cambridge Drama Centre, Covent Garden off Mill Road at 8:00pm from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1999. Tele 01223 322748. *The Archway* is a Dublin Monument dedicated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who fought in the Anglo Boer War. It is the focal point in the play and brings together a motley collection of men and women whose lives are caught up in the Great War. Their utterances are expressions of the Irish nation's involvement in the carnage; a carnage which is not dwelt upon.

**The Somme Association** are conducting their annual trip to France and Flanders from the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. They are also offering a trip to Gallipoli from the 26<sup>th</sup> May to the 1<sup>st</sup> June. This later trip is provisional. Anyone who is interested in going on these trips should contact The Somme Association Ltd, Craigavon House, Circular Road, Belfast BT4 2NA, N.Ireland.

**Exhibition.** Our exhibition titled, *Let Ireland Remember* is currently on display at the Workhouse Museum, Waterside, Derry City, Northern Ireland. The exhibition was officially opened on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March by Mr Jim Guy a member of Derry City Council, Mr Glen Barr, Joint Chairman of a Journey of Reconciliation Trust and Mr Russel Farrow Chief Librarian of the Northern Ireland Western Education and Library Board. The exhibition was enhanced with the inclusion of an exhibition of stories and history of the local Derry men who served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Regiment. The exhibition will be presented at the Workhouse Museum until the end of May 1999. It will then travel to Omagh and possibly on to Belfast.

**The Anglo - Boer War.** 76 members of the Military History Society of Ireland are planning to visit the battlefields in which the Anglo - Boer War took place. Interest in the tour has been so keen that the organisers had to arrange two separate groups, The first group travel to South Africa on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September and return to Ireland on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. Mr Joe Gallagher a member of the RDF Association will be travelling with the Military History Society of Ireland in September. Joe has promised to issue a full report of his expedition in a future edition of the Blue Cap. Both tours are fully booked out.



**RDF Association trip to France and Flanders 2000.** The Association will plan a trip to France and Flanders in the late Summer or early Autumn of 2000. The trip will be made up a visits to the Irish memorials and the Peace Park at Messines. The tour will last four or five days. Members and friends of members who are interested in going on this tour should write ASAP to the Secretary of the Association at The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, 58 South William Street, Dublin, 2, Ireland.

**Museum.** Progress on establishing a permanent display to the Irish regiments who took part in the Great War is slow. Our committee have been assured by the Curator of the Industrial and Fine Art Collection at the New National Museum that the RDF Association are very much in their plans when they eventually get round to establishing the military section of the museum. The RDF Association are currently investigating other possible alternative venues for a permanent display of our exhibition.

### Poetry.

On a visit to our exhibition in Dublin in 1998, a member of our Association, Mr Gerry Mahon from Navan Co. Meath, was so moved by the story he read of Sgt James Doherty, that he wrote the following poem in memory of him. Gerry titled the poem *The Shilling*.

#### *The Shilling.*

*When Kitchener's finger found him,  
He took the shilling, through rush-speared midland fields.  
From Shannon water to the sea.  
The gangplank rang on his new army boots  
A current of voices took him over  
Waters seamed with the migration of men  
What a spawning ground of men he found  
A trench slit like a vein  
Earth bucking and heaving  
Birth pangs of the twentieth century  
Screaming like a doomed animal in a slaughter yard.  
Crazed with hunger and the smell of blood.*

*In quieter times, back from Suvla Bay  
His shaking fingers took the pen.  
In a letter to his ten year old brother,  
Tried to trace the old pattern of things.  
Are you a good hand at the football?  
Here's a shilling for sweets.  
Here, you could have your fill of oranges  
In the sunny groves of Palestine.  
Beats Carrick in the rain.  
Mind the place till I get back.*

*The shilling sits in the heart of the letter under museum glass.  
A lifetime spent in that boy's pocket,  
Thumbed beyond recognition.  
Rubbing the coin to conjure his brother's face,  
The royal head of the one who sent him was erased,  
Until the shilling held no feature.  
But a filigreed circle  
Around emptiness.*

See *The Blue Cap* Vol .5 March 1998, for the story of Sgt James Doherty from Co. Leitrim and a member of A Coy. 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1998, a member of our association, Mr Joseph Geoghegan from Clondalkin, in Dublin sent us a poem he had written. The poem was written on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1996 as an act of personal remembrance. The title of the poem Joseph wrote was, *While little children sleep*. Joseph's inspiration for this poem came from an old photograph he discovered some years after his father's death. The photograph shows Joseph's father as a child sitting on his mothers knee. It was taken around 1916 while his grandfather was fighting on the Western Front. Hence the title *While little children sleep*.

*While little children sleep.*

*The fields bled a poppy red  
where gallant soldiers died.  
In trenches deep with mud and blood  
And no one heard their cries.*

*The war the war to end all war  
A promise never kept.  
They met their end on foreign shores  
While little children slept.*

*A generation's manhood  
Forever lost and gone.  
A victory for the realm  
At the Battle of the Somme.*

*Learned men and labourers  
Marched with equal step.  
Across the graves of no man's land  
While little children slept.*

*They questioned not to reason why  
So many nation's sons should die.  
And mourning mother's in black veils wept  
While little children slept.*

*And now a cross marks the place  
Where guardian angels fell from grace.  
And soldiers in their hour of need  
Made peace with God in murmured breath.  
And the requiem of war rang out  
While little children slept.*

### What did the RDF Association do in 1998?

- January      Exhibition in the Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Foster Place, Dublin.
- February.    Exhibition in the Public Library, Raheny, Dublin.
- March.        Exhibition in the Public Library, Rathmines, Dublin, (until May).
- June.         Presented a lecture on *Discipline in the Irish Regiments: A Case Study, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers* by Mr Timothy Bowman, Belfast. The venue was The Dublin Civic Museum. Presented a lecture on *The Social and Economic Impact of the Great War in Gallipoli on Turkey* by Professor Mete Tunkoku, The Middle East University, Turkey. The venue was the National Museum, Collins Barracks.
- August        Wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial, Islandbridge.
- September    Exhibition in The Dublin Civic Museum (until Jan 1999). This was opened by the President, Mrs. Mary Mc Aleese. Among those attending were the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the British, Turkish and Belgian Ambassadors and a number of politicians from the Unionist community. A lecture on *Enticing Irishmen into the British Army 1914-18* by Dr. Patrick Callan, Malahide Community School. The venue was Collins Barracks.
- October       Presented a lecture on *A Dublin School at War, Blackrock College 1914-18* by Ms Jane Leonard, The Ulster Museum, Belfast. The venue was the Dublin Civic Museum. Contributed to the making of TV film *The Green Fields of France* by Yellow Asylum Films Ltd. Contributed to film documentaries on Ireland and the Great War presented by RTE and UTV.
- November     Members of RDF Association visited the Somme and opening of Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines. See the report by Brian Moroney in this edition. Attended Remembrance ceremonies in Dublin. Presented a lecture on *The Irish Consequences of the Great War* by Professor David Fitzpatrick, Trinity College, Dublin. The venue was the Dublin Civic Museum.
- December.    Presented a lecture on *The Twilight Years: The Irish Regiments 1919-22* by Dr Pat Mc Carthy, The Military History Society of Ireland. The venue was the Dublin Civic Museum. The Annual Dinner was held in the Masonic Hall. Mr. Cathal O Shannon gave a perfect after-dinner speech. See the report by Brian Moroney in this edition.

Comments and correspondence about articles contained in this journal should be addressed to The Secretary, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, The Dublin Civic Museum, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2.

*Spectamur Agendo.*

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