

# The Blue Cap

Journal of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association  
Volume 29, December 2025 (Charity No 20038816)



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## **Welcome to the 2025 edition of The Blue Cap.**

We are pleased to bring you another extensive edition of The Blue Cap. We have a number of interesting articles and we hope that you will enjoy this year's journal. Once again we had a very full year and the highlight being the trip to Gallipoli which was a great success. I'm sure you will enjoy reading Seamus Moriarty's journal of the day to day activities of the visit, also Paul Appleby's article recounts what happened to the Dubs at Suvla Bay. We also have two further articles on Gallipoli from Philip Lecane.

We also had a number of other events with our colleagues from the ADIR. Our connection with these associations is growing, culminating with our Open Day at the National Museum at Collins Barracks.

Sadly, we lost three long standing members this year, Michael O'Malley, Eamonn Sheridan and Kevin Cunningham. Kevin of course was one of our members whose father was a Royal Dublin Fusiliers soldier. Eamonn will always be remembered for his rendition of The Green Fields of France at our annual Christmas dinner, all three will be greatly missed, may they rest in peace.

This coming year on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 we will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Association. I am delighted that the aims and objectives as set out in its original foundation are being carried on to this day. However, one ambition was to have a small museum dedicated to the RDF and this is still our aspiration. We must always remember that before the Armistice was signed in November 1918, 35,000 Irishmen died of which 4,500 were Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The emergence of the new state at that time meant that these men were largely overlooked in our history but because of men like Tom Burke our President, Sean Connolly, Brian Moroney, Seamus Greene, Nick Broughall, Philip Lecane and others who were instrumental in bringing their stories to the forefront, their families had the opportunity to openly remember them with pride.

Over the past 30 years we have had some very memorable occasions, our inaugural Christmas Dinner at the RAF club on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1997, our exhibition of personal stories of the First World War on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1998. The reception which the then Taoiseach Mr. Bertie Ahern hosted for us at the State Apartments in Dublin Castle on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2001. The reception at the Mansion House with the Lord Mayor at that time, Mr. Dermot Lacey on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002.

Our visit to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012 was a highlight. Our annual visit to the National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge and the National Day of Commemoration still continue and are well attended by members.

The Taoiseach's invitation to the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle of the Somme in 2006 at the National War Memorial Gardens on 1<sup>st</sup> July that year and the state reception that followed at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

These are just a few of the memorable occasions that we enjoyed as well as the numerous trips to the Military Cemeteries in Belgium, France, Greece and Gallipoli. In his inaugural address at the Civic Museum on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1997 Tom Burke reiterated that it was his wish that involvement in the Association should be enjoyable and rewarding and not become a monotonous chore. I think we can all agree that being in the Association has indeed been enjoyable, rewarding and fulfilling.

We were unable to mark our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 due to Covid, however next year we will be marking 30 years and when the committee meets in January we will plan our Calendar of Events for 2026 and we look forward to your participation and your continued membership of the Association.

We wish you all health and happiness in 2026.

John F Sheehan  
Editorial Committee

**David Buckley, Philip Lecane, Thomas Murphy and John F Sheehan**  
**The Editorial Committee**

**Áine Kennedy**

**25 April 2024**

### **ANZAC Day Dawn Service Speech**

Dia dhaoibh a chairde.

Cuireann sé ann áthas orm a bheith ábalta cur fáilte mhór romhaibh go léir agus is mór an onóir dom cúpla focail a rá libh ar an lá stairiúil seo.

It's an honour to be addressing you all today. My name is Áine Kennedy and I am 22. I was born and raised in Dublin but I am incredibly fortunate to be a citizen of both New Zealand and Australia, as well as Ireland. Unfortunately, I am still struggling to find a solid connection to Turkey but I will keep working on that one.

I am a recent graduate in History and Political science from Trinity College Dublin. My heritage has always been incredibly important to me and I have been lucky enough to be able to study Ireland's historic and contemporary links with New Zealand and Australia throughout my academic studies. While I may not be the most qualified historian in the world, the transnational history of Ireland, Australia and NZ is definitely my area of interest so I am really delighted to be able to say a few words about it to you all today.

As we commemorate ANZAC Day, we recall the sacrifices and bravery of the many soldiers who fought in Gallipoli on this day in 1915, as well the many other courageous Australians and New Zealanders who have served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions around the world. Gallipoli was of course just one chapter in a broader global struggle. That global struggle was the result of a failure of leadership and of politics and it is unfortunate that we can see parallels with that today.



If the invasion had succeeded, it could have changed the course of history, enabling the allies to open a supply line to Russia and increase the pressure on the Eastern front. If this had happened, it might have delayed or even prevented the fall of the Tsarist regime and the ultimate rise of the Bolsheviks.

While a bold strategy, it was badly planned and there were failures of leadership on both sides. That said, it still very nearly worked, including one opportunity early in the campaign when the Irish troops came closest to catching the crucial heights but were commanded not to press their advance because they were running out of ammunition and water and were outrunning their support. Overnight, the Turkish forces had reorganised and the opportunity was lost.

There was enormous heroism shown on all sides – be that among the ANZAC and Irish troops, as well as on the Turkish side. Having visited the battlefield myself, it is impossible to imagine how much courage it would

have taken to mount the assault on those steep cliffs. Not to mention, the brutal conditions with very limited access to water and other challenges. The towering figure to emerge from the conflict was of course the great Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, who deserves a huge amount of the credit for the successful defence.

While 16,000 ANZAC soldiers fought at Gallipoli, so did 15,000 Irishmen. However, unlike Australia and New Zealand, Gallipoli is not remembered in Ireland or elsewhere as an Irish war in the same way it is remembered as an ANZAC one. This is largely because of Ireland's complicated relationship with the British Empire generally speaking, but particularly during this period.

In fact, on April 24th 1916, so almost a year to the day later, Irish nationalists decided that "England's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity" and staged an insurrection known today as the 1916 Rising which is widely celebrated as a landmark event in Irish history.

The Irish-New Zealand historian, Rory Sweetman, has written about the five Kiwi soldiers serving in Dublin who defended Trinity College throughout the Rising and are the sole reason the College survived past its 324th year and into today. This demonstrates the contrast between Ireland's relationship with the British Empire compared to the self-governing dominions of NZ and Australia during this period.

Southern Irish World War I veterans did not return to the heroes welcome they may have expected and Ireland maintained an ambivalent attitude to the Irish people who fought on behalf of the British Empire up until recently. The significance of the Irish contribution to Gallipoli and elsewhere was forgotten, if not airbrushed over - while comparatively in the North, the story of Somme was widely commemorated and contributed to the founding myth of the 6 county state, much like Gallipoli did to Australia, New Zealand, and Turkey's. However, while it is dangerous to romanticise one's history, it is equally dangerous to ignore it. With time, we have gained clarity on this. Gallipoli is no longer glorified, but respected for the courage shown by all involved.

On today of all days, we must confront the complexities of our shared histories. Often, the wounds of conflict take decades if not centuries to heal and leave enduring bitterness as is evident in many parts of the world today. The trauma of war and struggles for independence have left scars and the contributions and sacrifices of many soldiers and non-soldiers have often been overlooked. With the passage of time, we can see that WWI in general - and Gallipoli in particular - were tragedies and political disasters. However, that cannot take away from the courage of the individuals who risked and sacrificed their lives on all sides.

Traumatic events do sometimes have positive as well as negative consequences. For Australia, NZ, and Turkey, Gallipoli led to the development of a greater sense of unity and nationhood. Its participants look back at the conflict with a more nuanced perspective and mixed emotions than might once have been the case.



ANZAC day is not a matter of chauvinist glorification of the conflict. There is enduring respect – not only for our own countries' fallen but also for the adversaries'. Indeed, the enormous respect between Australia, NZ and Turkey, is extraordinary in that the first introduction of those countries to each other was through what might be termed, an imperialist invasion. Perhaps the greatest lesson that could be learnt, not only from Gallipoli but also from WWI, is the futility of war and how easily events can spiral out of control and how ultimately it is the innocent who suffer. Unfortunately, events in the Middle East and in Ukraine tell us that this lesson has yet to be learnt.

As we gather here, united in remembrance, let us honour the past by working towards a future of peace and understanding. Accordingly, ANZAC day should be remembered for the heroism of those involved and for their sacrifice but we should also remember the tragedy of war and do what we can to avoid it and to protect the innocent and civilian populations.

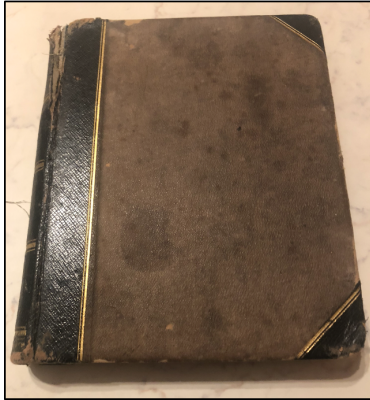
Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh as ucht éisteacht liom, a chairde.

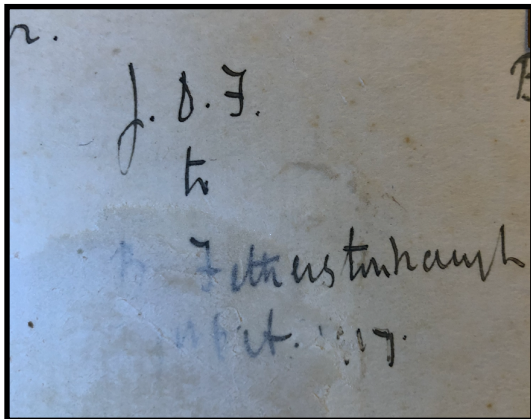
**Áine Kennedy**

## A nurses diary from a skip to the Blue Cap Thomas Murphy

I received this diary from my friend Terry who was handed it by a friend who had found it in a skip. On opening the book, I found that it was a picture diary, but it did not have the owner's name. To help me find out who the author was I carefully removed the Royal Irish Rifles post card which covered the following *From LDF to B Fetherstonhaugh 1st March 1917*



Listed in the diary are a number of houses Blachlyn House, Rockview House and Northbrook House. With this information I could find Barbara Rosetta Frances Fetherstonhaugh in the 1911 census aged 12 years old see census below, it shows that her father is John David Fetherstonhaugh who was a retired Colonel with the Regiment of The Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and Barbara's bother is John Lennox, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 2nd Battalion. John died on 10th Nov 1914 in Belgium (Age 22 years) and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial Belgium



[Census Years](#) / [1911](#) / [Westmeath](#) / [Brackline](#) / [Ballinacor](#) / Residents of a house

**Residents of a house 19 in Ballinacor (Brackline, Westmeath)**

[Show all information](#)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses
Fetherstonhaugh	John David	61	Male	Head of Family	Church of Ireland	Westmeath	Colonel Retired Army	Read and write	-	Married	-
Fetherstonhaugh	Margaret	42	Female	Wife	Church of Ireland	Dublin	-	Read and write	-	Married	-
Fetherstonhaugh	Barbara Rosetta Frances	12	Female	Daughter	Church of Ireland	Sussex	Scholar	Read and write	-	Single	-
Oakes	Clara	47	Female	Sister in Law	Church of Ireland	Middlesex	-	Read and write	-	Single	-
Amos	Harriet ?	38	Female	Governess	Church of Ireland	Kent	Governess	Read and write	-	Single	-
Mc Givern	Margaret	25	Female	Servant	Church of Ireland	Armagh	Housemaid and Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-
Miller	May Victoria	16	Female	Servant	Church of Ireland	Cork	Housemaid and Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-
Patterson	Emily Charlotte	28	Female	Servant	Church of Ireland	Meath	Cook Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-
Connor	Mary	17	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic	Meath	Kitchenmaid Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-
Carey	James	27	Male	Servant	Roman Catholic	Westmeath	Groom Domestic Servant	Read and write	-	Single	-



Above is a picture of Barbara on the left and Barbara and her family. Through my research I found out that Barbara joined the VAD nurses on the 9th November 1915 until 13th August 1917 as shown in the card below which I located on-line.

In this period of time in which Barbara served as a VAD nurse she brought her album with her recording the places and people she met and family events. There are 56 pages in Barbara's diary which list a number of

12 DEC 1919

Surname *Deheston haugh*

Christian Names *Barbara* (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

Permanent Address: *Rockview Killiney*

Date of Engagement *Nov. 9/15* Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Termination *Aug. 13/17* Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Particulars of Duties *J. W. H. S. Sub. at Walker's Sp. H. Dublin*

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served *2 1/2*

Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where \_\_\_\_\_

Honours awarded *V. W. Badge*

soldiers who wrote their stories such as a J. Booth (John Booth 8559) who was a corporal with the 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, he tells of his experience in the First World War. As we can see in his writing John was in the Dardanelles in 1915 and he spent over 3 Months in Egypt. He was then moved to France and took part in the battle of the Somme, where his leg was shattered on the 1st of July 1916 and he was then in Dublin Castle hospital awaiting discharge.

Below is John Booth's Medal card and it states that John was discharged on 8th Jan 1918.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BOOTH	R. Dub Fus	Cpl	4559
	— — —	*A/Sgt	— — —
John			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	B/101 B2	100	Disch 8.1.18
BRITISH	— — —	— — —	
15 STAR	B/6 <sup>13</sup>	21	
S.W.B. Sick B/544			
Theatre of War first served in	1 France		
Date of entry therein	14.5.15		

K. 1380.

Barbara's diary also has newspaper articles on buildings that were used as hospitals in the First World War, such as Dublin Castle and the Hermitage Red Cross hospital in Lucan Co Dublin.



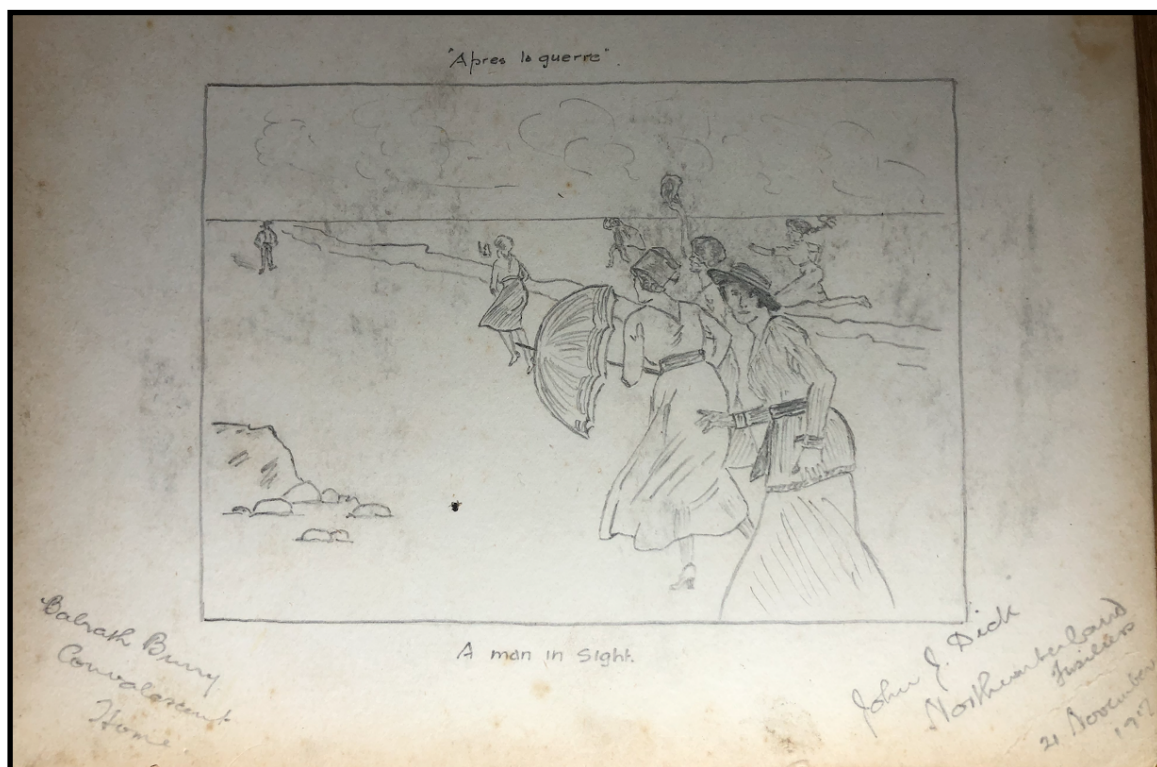
TELEPHONE: LUCAN 37.

**HERMITAGE RED CROSS HOSPITAL,**  
LUCAN,  
CO. DUBLIN.

HON. MRS. BARRY,  
Commandant.

*Mrs. Low Int: Alice & Milly Brook  
Clare Moulton.*

Her diary also included a cartoon by John J Dick of the Northumberland Fusiliers.



This Cartoon was drawn by P Burke of the Irish Guards.

This note and cartoon below were by Pte. Thomas J Brennan note the heading "The Old Toughs"



I left England for the  
Dardanelles. in March. 1915  
Left the Dardanelles. in December  
1915 - And went into the Egyptian-  
Desert where I spent 3½ months.  
And then went to France where  
I spent 5½ months. And got  
my leg shattered in ~~the~~ the  
Battle of the Somme. on the  
18<sup>th</sup> of July 1916. Facing Hamel.  
And I am now in the Castle -  
Hospital waiting my discharge

Signed

Cpl J. Booth

1<sup>st</sup> Roy. Dub. Fusiliers

Dublin Castle Hospital

Dublin

29. Nov. 1917

"Tommy Atkins"

I went into a Public house to get a pint of beer.

The publican he ups and says we serve no red coats here.

The girls behind the bar they laughs and giggles fit to die. I out into the streets again, and to myself says I. Oh its Tommy this and Tommy that, and Tommy go away. But its thank you Tommy Atkins when the band begins to play.

You talks of better food for us, an' school, and fires on' all. We'll wait for extra rations if you treat us rational.

Don't mess about the cook house slops But prove it to our face. That King George's uniform. Is not the soldiers man's disgrace. For its Tommy this and Tommy that. an' chuck him out the brute.

But its saviour of his country when the guns begin to shoot.

an' its Tommy this. an' Tommy that. an' anything you please. But Tommy aint a blooming fool. You bet that Tommy sees.

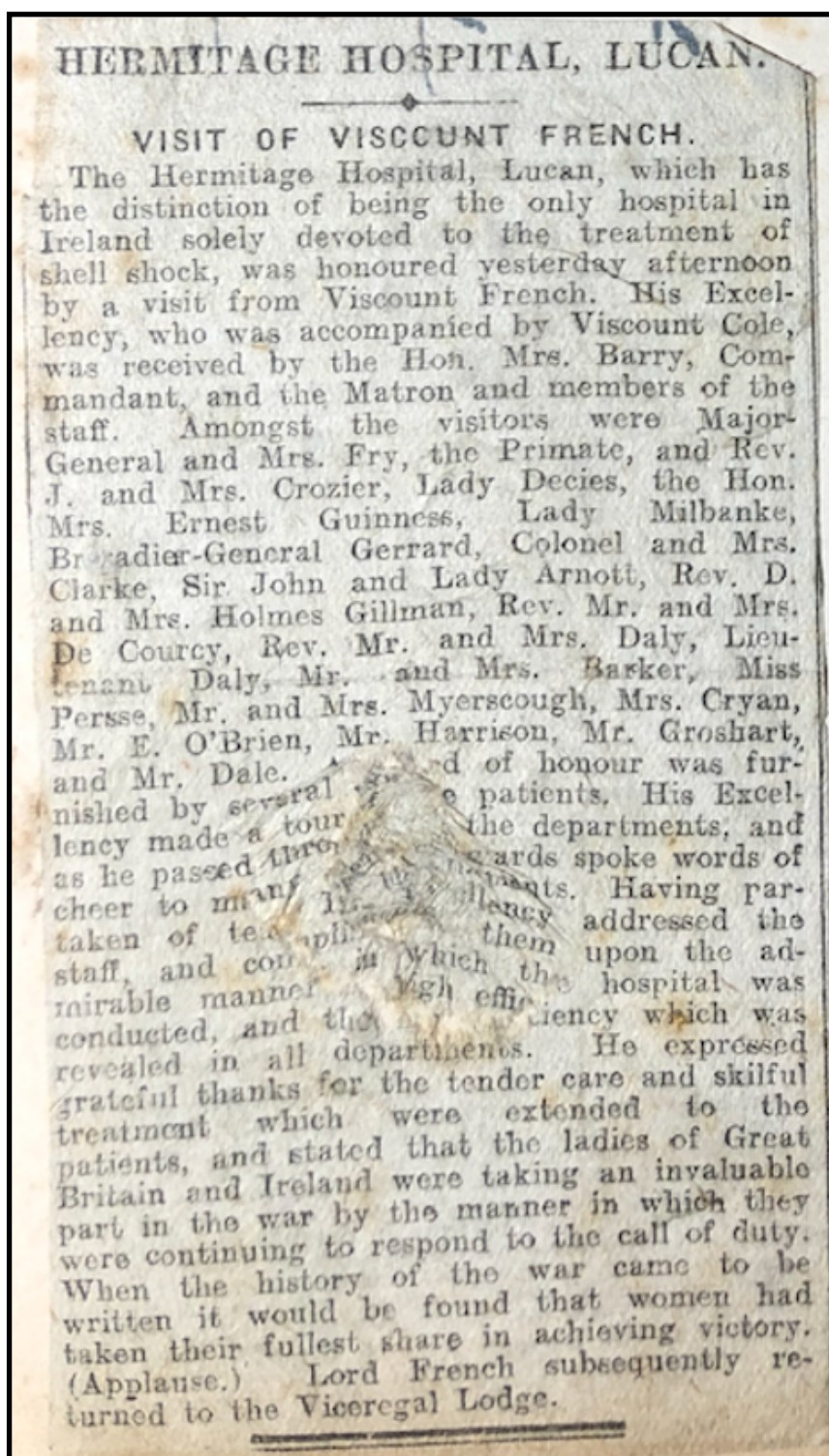
Rfn A. Gills 8th Batt R I R 23/11/17

This is a letter about **Tommy Atkins** from A Gills 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles dated 23rd November 1917

The photo below shows the men and staff of Balrath hospital



The following is a newspaper article on the visit of Viscount French to the Hermitage Hospital, which was Ireland's only hospital devoted to the treatment of shell shock



Other soldiers left their signatures and details some are listed below:

Sgt J. Noonan 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Pte. W Foran 1/7th Gordon Hers.

A Gibbs 8th Royal Irish Rifles.

W. Millhouse 1st Essex 41908

John J Dick Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish)

Pte Tynan 2nd Royal Irish 4789

Pte J Rogers 7/8 Royal Irish Fusiliers

J. Harvey Cheshires Regiment 31/01/18.

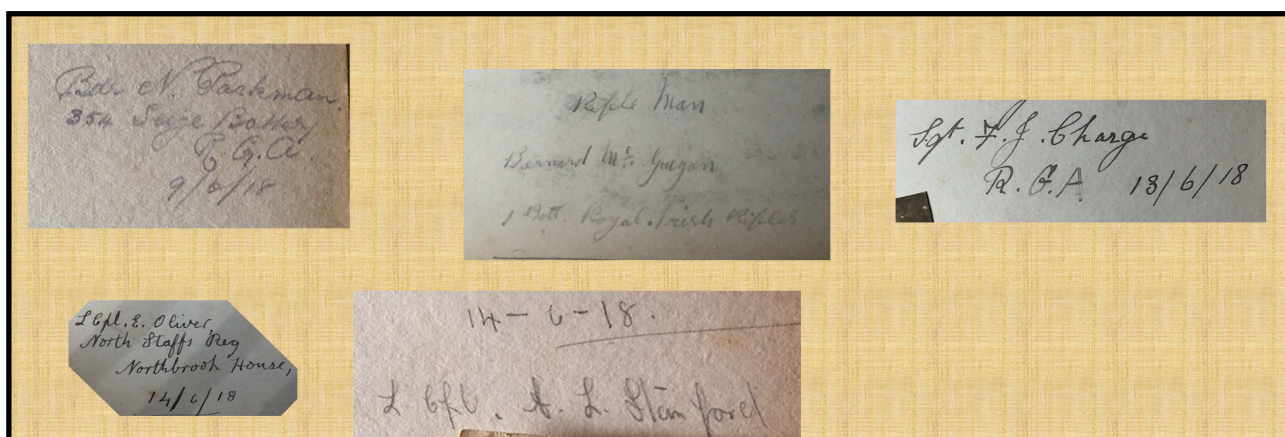
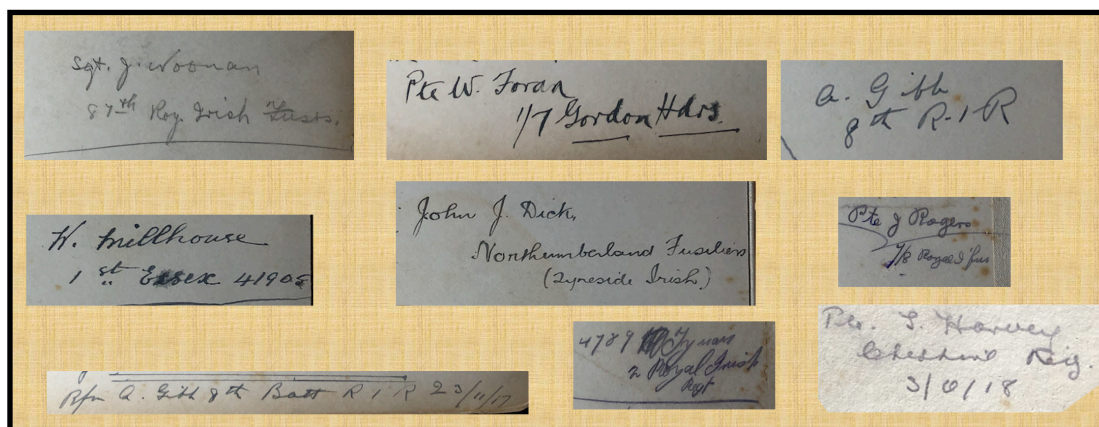
Bombadair N. Packman 254 seize Battery R.G.A.

Rifleman Bernard McGuigan 1st Batt Royal Irish Rifles

L Cpl E Oliver Northstaffs Regiment

L Cpl F L Stanford

Sgt F.J. Charge R.G.A



## War Memorials Methodist Church Rathgar. John Sheehan

During Heritage Week in August I visited an open day at the Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Rathgar as I had heard there were a number of WW1 Memorials in the church. See photos attached. Many of these had been removed from other churches which are no longer in use and re-located there. One of these Memorials had been in the church at Charleston Road, Rathmines. This Memorial included thirteen names of men who served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, listed hereunder.

R. R. McCullagh 7 th RDF  
J. J. Johnston  
J. C. Henry 6 th RDF  
C. C. Henry 7 th RDF  
Howard P Murphy 4 th RDF  
J. Orr 10 th RDF  
R. C. Robinson 4 th RDF  
W. E. Henry 5 th RDF  
J. Byers  
T. Fudger  
H. W. Gibson 7 th RDF  
R. Turner  
F. A. Walkey 7 th RDF

The church itself is very interesting as the architect was Francis Caulfield Orpen brother of artist William Orpen who was educated at St. Columba's College, Rathfarnham. One of the parishioners of the church Ms. Valerie Humphreys has done a huge amount of research on the Memorials and it is my intention to do a more comprehensive and detailed research on the names of those remembered on the Memorials in a future article. Among the church's own parishioners are William John Road and Victor Jefferson both with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. William John Rudd was a private in the 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers regimental number 26683. William was killed on 13th November 1916 in the battle of Ancre on the Somme. He was born in Roscrea and enlisted there. His father William Rudd was a corn miller and his mother was Ellen Sophia Rudd. He had a sister Olive and a brother Samuel and they all went to Wesley



College. He was part of the first rugby team of Wesley College (1913-14) who volunteered to fight. Victor Jefferson was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson of Grosvenor Road, Rathgar. He was born in Belfast on 3 rd August 1893. Victor was a member of D company 7th RDF. He was educated at Wesley College and was a member of Old Wesley Football Club and Leinster Cricket Club. Victor was killed in action on 23 rd August age 22 at the Dardanelles, Suvla Bay. He is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli.

**THE LAST IRISH-BORN  
'OLD CONTEMPTIBLE'  
CAPTAIN JACK CAMPBELL  
(1896-1992)**

Royal Dublin Fusiliers  
Royal Army Medical Corps  
Dublin Metropolitan Police



© Jim Herlihy John F Sheehan

John Campbell but always affectionately known as 'Jack' was born in 12, Eugene Street, Dublin on 26 September 1896, the second youngest of five sons of James Campbell (1853-1920), a bricklayer and Elizabeth Campbell (Nee Larkin) (1863-1936). He left for London at the age of 14. At the outbreak of the First World War on the 3 August 1914 he joined Royal Army Medical Corps as a stretcher-bearer attached the 5<sup>th</sup> Black Watch Highlander Regiment and after a brief training course at Aldershot he was thrown in at the deep end in the Western Front and he saw action at all the major battles – The Marne, Aisne, Mons, Ypres, Givenchy and Neuve Chapelle. During the retreat from the Battle of Mons in August 1914 Private Jack Campbell later remembered well how the troops of the Black Watch were marching along the road, when suddenly all hell broke loose. They dived for cover in a ditch, but Captain John Bowes-Lyon jumped up, revolver in hand and shouted:- 'Come on lads, let's go,' but in seconds he went down badly wounded. Jack later recalled "his chances for surviving were slim but I noticed a heap of rubble by a hedge and managed to get him there. He was unconscious, but I managed to patch up his wounds and leave him near the road to be picked up by the ambulance crew," The two men would never meet again, but Captain Bowes-Lyon survived the war. Captain John Herbert Bowes-Lyon was the second son of the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne and the Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, and the brother of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the future Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and the maternal uncle of Queen Elizabeth II. He became the Earl of Strathmore and died in 1948. He is buried in St. Paul's Walden, Bury, England. Another brother, Captain Fergus Bowes-Lyon, The Black Watch was killed on 27 September 1915, aged 26 years.

Jack lost two brothers in the Great War, Patrick Joseph Campbell killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge whilst serving with the Royal Engineers and Francis Campbell, Private 9741, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, killed on 28

February 1917. A third brother Michael William Campbell emigrated to Canada joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served as a Battery Sergeant with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. During the War Jack was gassed. His gas mask had been damaged after a fall but he hadn't noticed it and put it on thinking he was safe, but when he came to, he realised he had been gassed and sought treatment immediately. He was invalided back to Dublin to recover and he returned to the Front. Jack was an 'Old Contemptible' being one of the first men who joined up in 1914 having been recruited by a Sergeant McDonald at the Army recruiting station in Brunswick Street, Dublin and served in the Front were called that because the Kaiser told Van Hindenburg, on hearing of the heavy German casualties "to wipe that contemptible army off the face of the earth." Jack transferred to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers as Private 26597, was promoted Regimental Sergeant Major, mentioned in despatches on 25 May 1917 and commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers on 1 May 1919.

Jack Campbell retired from the army with the rank of captain. He joined the Dublin Metropolitan Police on 17 October 1919, recommended by J. Scully, J.P. and was allocated DMP Warrant Number 11523. A month later when he was undergoing his recruit training in the Kevin Street DMP Training Depot when he married Brigid Patricia McCormack (1899-1979), daughter of Michael McCormack, of 37, Fingall Street, Dublin at the Church of St, Catherine, Dublin on 28 November 1919. On completion of his training, he was transferred to 'C' Division whose area was north-west of the river Liffey. He resigned voluntarily from the DMP on 20 August 1920 which either coincidentally or otherwise was also the date of his father's death. Members of the DMP had to have at least three years' service before they could apply to get married and it was a dismissible offence to contravene such stringent regulations. His short DMP service may have been due to him having got married contrary to the regulations and as a result been given the option to voluntarily resign. By September 1920 Jack and his wife were residing at 181, Preston Drove, Brighton, Sussex when he applied for his Great War Medals.

On 7 July 1988 at a reunion at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, attended by the 37 surviving 'Old Contemptibles', all aged over 90 of Britain's original expeditionary force of which Jack was the only one from Ireland, Jack came face to face with the Queen Mother, who as patron-in-chief of the Old Contemptibles Association, publicly thanked Jack for saving her brother's life some seventy-four years previously, saying to him "You did wonderfully well on that day." Jack replied:- "I only did my duty, the Captain would have done the same for me."

Jack Campbell's wife Brigid Patricia died in 1979 in Dublin and Jack spent his retiring years in Leopardstown Park Hospital, Co. Dublin where he passed away on 18 November 1992.





**CAPTAIN JOHN BOWES-LYON  
ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT**



**ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS  
STRETCHER BEARER**



**Jack Campbell's 1988 Late Late Show extraordinary interview by Gay  
Byrne**

**can be viewed on YouTube**

**<https://youtu.be/DWnc-Zllo5s?si=9L0fbJrq6VYwaG7H>**

**EXTRACT FROM THE NUMERICAL REGISTER OF THE  
OFFICERS AND MEN OF ALL RANKS OF THE DUBLIN  
METROPOLITAN POLICE**

*The Garda Museum & Archives, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.*

WARRANT NUMBER	RELIGION	NAMES	AGE in Years	HEIGHT Feet Ins.	TRADE OR OCCUPATION	COUNTY	PARISH
11523	Roman Catholic	John Campbell	23 years	5' 11 7/8"	Ex-Soldier	Dublin	St. Catherine's
POST TOWN	PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE if any, Name & Nature of Service, Period of Service, Years / Months		BY WHOM RECOMMENDED	DIVISIONS ATTACHED TO while in the Force & Dates joining each.			
Dublin	Army, 6 years & 6 months		J. Scully, J.P.	'Depot' 17/10/1919 'C' 20/2/1920			
DATES - of joining the Force, of Promotion or Reduction, to or from the several Ranks or Classes - Loss of Service - Restoration of Forfeited Service, etc.		GOOD SERVICE PAY (Showing the particular period) with Dates of Appointment and Deprivation thereof, etc.	REMOVAL from the Force, Cause & Date	IF RE-APPOINTED Re-Appointment Warrant Number	OBSERVATIONS		
			Resigned Voluntarily 20/8/1920				

# JACK CAMPBELL

## (1898-1992)

336	18.11.1896 Sobhan Therese 12 Eugene Street	John	M	James Campbell 12 Eugene Street	Elizabeth Campbell formerly Harkin	Bricklayer	James Campbell Kil + main North 12 Eugene Street	Patricia Sixteenth 18.11.1896	Thomas Mulle Registrar
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**Birth Record – 26 September 1896**

Solemnized between us, <u>John Campbell</u> of us, <u>Mary Walsh</u>		19. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of <u>St Catherine</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>North City</u> in the Union of <u>Dublin</u> in the County of <u>Dublin</u>							Marriage No. <u>185</u> Registered by me, this <u>15</u> day of <u>December</u> 19 <u>19</u> <u>Chillets</u> Registrar.
No. (1) <u>185</u>	When Married (2) <u>28th Nov 1919</u>	Name and Surname (3) <u>John Campbell</u> <u>Brigid</u> <u>Patrick McCormack</u>	Age (4) <u>full</u> <u>full</u>	Condition (5) <u>Bachelor</u> <u>Spinster</u>	Rank or Profession (6) <u>RMP</u> <u>—</u>	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7) <u>St Kevin St 13th</u> <u>37 Amgall</u>	Father's Name and Surname (8) <u>James Campbell</u> <u>St Michael McCormack</u>	Rank or Profession of Father (9) <u>Bricklayer</u> <u>Labourer</u>	
Married in the Roman Catholic Church of <u>St Catherine</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, <u>P. J. Clarke, C.C.</u>		This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>John Campbell</u> and <u>Brigid McCormack</u>		in the Presence of us, <u>James Foley</u> and <u>Halken McCormack</u>					

**Marriage Record – 28 November 1919**

716		Básanna a Cláríodh i gCeantar <u>Rathdown West</u> i gCeantar an Chláraitheora-Maoirseachta <u>Dublin</u> i gContae <u>Dub</u>			Deaths Registered in the District of <u>Rathdown West</u> in the Superintendent Registrar's District of <u>Dublin</u> in the County of <u>Dub</u>				
Uimh. No.	Dáta agus Ionad Síte	Ainm agus Ainm	Sex	Stáid	Áois an t-ádh	Cúis, Cairm, nó Sí Bheatha	Cúis Bhliú Dheimhneach agus Fíor an t-ádh	Síne, Clárú agus Ionad Cónaite	An dáta a Clárú
212	1992 - Eighteenth November heopardstown Park Hospital, Fonrock	John Campbell	Male	widower	at years	Retired (British Army)	Bronchiectasis & Chronic Bronchitis (74 yrs) gas poisoning in world war I renal failure (certified)	Kathleen O'Neil occupier heopardstown Park Hospital	Twenty-seventh November 19 <u>92</u>

**Death Record - 18 November 1992**

## Some Lancashire men killed while serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in Gallipoli

Philip Lecane

Research by Tom Burke MBE, President of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, shows that 166 men from Lancashire were killed while serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers during the First World War. This article and *James Grogan and the Dubs first reinforcement draft in Gallipoli* – also published in this issue – give information on several of them.

Though it no longer does, at the time of the First World War Lancashire included the cities of Liverpool and Manchester. (Tom Burke's research shows that RDF casualties from the two cities were 31 from Liverpool and 7 from Manchester.) The 1911 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica described Lancashire as a north-western county of England, bounded on the north-east by Westmoreland, on the east by Yorkshire, on the north-west by Cumberland and on the west by the Irish Sea. Covering approximately 1,880 square miles, it was the sixth biggest county in England. The population of Lancashire at the time of the 1901 census was 4,406,409. A number of factors had facilitated the establishment of cotton mills across Lancashire during the Industrial Revolution. Raw cotton from Turkey and the Middle-East was imported through the port of Liverpool. Water from the nearby Pennines provided a source of power for the mills. When the mills switched to steam power, there was an abundant supply of coal available in Lancashire. The area had a large population which provided a workforce for the mills. With the trade centered on Manchester, Oldham and the surrounding districts, South Lancashire was the world's principal area of cotton manufacture. Textile factories employed over 400,000 operatives, while non-textile factories employed about 385,000.



The following information on four RDF casualties from Lancashire was obtained from the excellent website [www.bmillsdesigns.co.uk](http://www.bmillsdesigns.co.uk) The first three men were killed while serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, while the fourth man was serving with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

By kind permission of Captain Séamus Green (Retd) RDFA.”

**Martin Duffy** was born in Bolton, Lancashire in 1889, the youngest of eight children of Thomas and Sarah Ann (née Garvey). His siblings were Mary (born 1872), Thomas (1874), Esther (1876), John (1878), Edward (1880), Sarah (1883) and James (1885). At the time of the 1891 census, the family lived at 9 Forge Street, Bolton. Thomas was working as a Labourer in an iron foundry and the four eldest children worked in the textile industry. At the time of the 1901 census, Martin was living with his parents and sister Ellen (1892) at 89 Spring Gardens. He was employed as a cotton piecer (joining broker threads) and his father was a bricklayer's

labourer. The 1911 census recorded Martin living at 110 Ellesmere Street, Bolton in the household of his brother John who was married with three daughters. Martin was employed as a railway shunter.

Martin enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in Lancaster, Lancashire. It seems likely that he joined up before the war and was a regular soldier. Private Martin Duffy, 11630, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers landed at V Beach, Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He was killed the following day. Not having an identified grave, he is commemorated on Special Memorial A.44 in V Beach Cemetery.

**John Joseph O'Brien** was born in Hulme, Manchester, the son of Louis (sometimes written Lewis), a plumber and Mary (née Cahill) O'Brien. His older siblings were Florence (born 1883), Agnes (1883, presumably a twin of Florence), Owen (1884) and Louis (sometimes written as Lewis, born 1885). Siblings born after him were William (1891), Gertrude (1896), James (1897), Annie (1899) and Norah (1901). At the time of the 1891 census, the family was living at 21 Park Place, Hulme, Manchester. John was working as a doffer in a cotton mill (removing bobbins or spindles holding spun cotton or wool and replacing them with empty ones.) At the time of the 1901 census, the family was living at 68 Compton Street, Farnworth. On 13 February 1909, John married Alice Dudley at St. James's Church, New Bury, Farnworth. At the time of the 1911 census, the couple was living at 35 Stone Hill, Buckley Lane, Farnworth with their daughters Alice (1909) and Maggie May (1911). A son, Albert, was born in 1913). John was employed as a collier/hewer (Collier: a broad term covering many jobs in coal mines or transporting coal. Hewer: a miner who cuts coal from a coal face using hand tools like picks and shovels.)



**JOHN JOSEPH O'BRIEN**

While it is not known when John joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, his regimental number appears to suggest that it was before the outbreak of war. As I have not been able to locate his medal card, it is not possible to say when he arrived in Gallipoli, but it seems likely he took part in the initial landing on 25 April 1915.



**ALBERT SHACKLETON**

**Albert Shackleton** was born in Oldham, Lancashire on 26 February 1878, to Robert, an Iron Moulder, and Ann (née Kirkland). He had two older brothers, George (1874) and Arthur (1877) and a younger sister, Mary Jane (1880). The family was living at 1221 Featherstall Road at the time of the 1881 census. Robert's brothers James and William were also living with the family. On 27 October 1900, at Bolton parish church, Albert, married Annie Maude Tootell (born 1878). He was living at 1 Fairfield Street, Bolton at the time and was employed as a Ring Turner. At the time of the 1901 census, the couple were living in Albert's birthplace of Oldham, at 8 Oswald Street. Albert was working as an Iron Turner Fitter. By the 1911 census, the couple was living at 9 Lime Street, Chadderton with their children Albert (1902), Alice (1903) and William Herbert (1905). Albert was working as a Labourer. A daughter, Ann, was born in 1912. The family subsequently moved to Farnworth, where Albert worked as an Iron Moulder at Ryder's Foundry, Fold's Road, Bolton.

In December 1914, Albert enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. As will be seen in the James Grogan article in this issue of *The Blue Cap*, a number of Lancashire men who also enlisted in the same month, arrived as reinforcements for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in May 1915. It is not known why Albert did not arrive in Gallipoli until 1 August 1915. His medal card indicates that Private Albert Shackleton, 17526, joined the battalion in or around that date. Soon after his arrival – during the month of August – he was buried when a shell struck his trench, resulting in injuries to his back, legs and one arm. Shipped to hospital in Cairo, he was subsequently sent to Birmingham. At his own request, in October 1915 he was moved to the Red Cross Ward in Bolton Infirmary to be near his family. While his injuries were healed, he underwent a number of operations to address complications arising from dysentery. Very much weakened, he died on 2 March 1916, aged 38. He was buried in Farnworth Cemetery, Lancashire C.E. 3152. There are 43 military burials in the cemetery (31 from the First World War and 12 from the Second). Albert Shackleton 17526 is the only *Dub* buried there. His funeral service was performed by Rev, A.E. Swallow, vicar of All Saints, Moses Gate, who visited him in hospital a number of times. At the time of his death, his family lived at 59 Campbell Street, Farnworth. His name is on the Farnworth War Memorial.

**Robert Selkirk** was born about 1885, the son of Betsy (née Walker) Charles Selkirk, a joiner. At the time of the 1891 census he was living at 11 Edward Street, Bolton with his widowed mother and siblings Charles (born 1873) and Mary Ellen (1887). He had two brothers living elsewhere John Thomas (1864) and Joseph Henry (1866). At the time of the 1901 census he was still living at 11 Edward Street with his mother and was employed as a piecer in a cotton mill. In 1907, he married Mary Anne Smith at Emmanuel Church, Bolton. At the time of the 1911 census the couple were living at 110 Pen Street, Bolton. A child had died in infancy. Robert was still employed as a piecer in a cotton mill.

On 19 May 1916, the *Bolton Journal and Guardian* reported "*Very little hope is entertained of hearing anything further of Pte. Robert Selkirk (16438), Royal Dublin Fusiliers, a Boltonian who fought in Gallipoli, but information of any kind would be welcomed by his sister, Mrs Gaskell, of 65 Parrott St. He enlisted in the early stages of the war, and after a period of training at the Curragh Camp, sailed for the Mediterranean on July 7<sup>th</sup>. In January the military authorities reported that he was wounded and missing, and since then all efforts to trace him have been in vain. Aged 30, and married, he was formerly a labourer at Messrs. Peter Crook's Ramsbottom St. Mills.*

On 9 June 1916, the same newspaper reported that Selkirk's wife – at 13 Tyson St, Dean Rd - had received notification from the War Office that he was most likely killed. "*Selkirk, who was 30 years of age, enlisted in November 1914, and after training at the Curragh Camp, Ireland, was sent to the Dardanelles. Up to joining the Colours he worked for Messrs J. Crook and Sons, cotton spinners, Deane Rd, and attended Emmanuel Day and Sunday School, where he was on the Roll of Honour.*

Pte Robert Selkirk, 16438, 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

Source: [www.bmillssdesigns.co.uk](http://www.bmillssdesigns.co.uk)



**ROBERT SELKIRK**

**RDFA Gallipoli Trip**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**Seamus Moriarty**

Weather: Ideal for such a trip. Neither rain or excessive sunshine.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

10.35 am Turkish Airlines for the 4.5 hour flight to Istanbul. On arrival at we met our courier for much of the trip, Burham, and the bus to our accommodation in the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel on the European side of Istanbul. We had our evening meal in the Grand View Hahc restaurant near the Bosphorus.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

We left our hotel and the party had a choice of venues in Istanbul to visit during the morning before moving in the afternoon to Canakkale and our base for the week: Harbiye Military Museum. Located in a 19<sup>th</sup> century military school it has a wide collection of mainly naval militaria from the early days of the Ottoman empire to 20<sup>th</sup> century Turkey. While the displays do have English translations they are often quite formal and would have benefitted from proofreading by someone with colloquial English. The museum does have an Irish connection as at least one of the naval vessels was made by Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

Grand Bazaar: One of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world it has over 4,000 shops. It is located within the old walled city and dates from 1455, just after the Ottoman conquest of the city.

Blue Mosque: This is a UNESCO World Heritage site. While a prominent architectural site it is also a live place of Muslim worship. Dating from 1609 its origins go back to a 5<sup>th</sup> century Christian church. It was visited by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006.

Haidar Pasha Cemetery: On the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus the entrance to this was located with some difficulty. Dating from the Crimean War in 1855 most of its 6,000 interments were related to a cholera epidemic in Istanbul. By good luck our visit coincided with that of the head gardener of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) who had come up from Gallipoli the previous day. There are a number of RDF graves here dating from after the war, one of which was a 'shot before dawn'<sup>[iii]</sup>. It is unclear as to the circumstances of this and other RDF fatalities but most appear to have been victims of Turkish nationalists unhappy with the occupation of Istanbul by the British Army of Occupation from 1918 -1923. And by the very same British army they had roundly defeated in Gallipoli in 1915.

The day concluded with a four hour trip to our Cannakale accommodation in the Kolin Spa and Convention Centre on the Asian side of the Dardanelles, overlooking the Dardanelles Strait and Gallipoli National Park. It is 3km from the city centre.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

We crossed the Dardanelles on the 30 minute ferry to Esceabat and from there to the Helles Memorial on the tip of the peninsula. The main effort of Gallipoli was firmly centered on Helles and the Australians and New Zealanders played an important but secondary role<sup>[iii]</sup>. This commemorates the 20,000 Commonwealth servicemen who lost their lives in this campaign, thousands of them with no known grave. Taking the form of an obelisk 30 meters high it can be seen from shipping passing through the Dardanelles. Also visited was the Ertugral Bastion a 19<sup>th</sup> century fortification that was bombarded by the allies at the outset of the conflict, as was the castle of Sedd El Bahr<sup>[iii]</sup> on V Beach. This had been the landing place for the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (RDF) and also the Munster Fusiliers while attempting to disembark from the SS River Clyde onto beach on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. This turned out to be a fiasco and a death trap for the 2,400 military personnel on board. It was arguably the bloodiest episode of the whole Gallipoli campaign. The plan had been for the RDF and

Munsters to link up with the Lancashire Fusiliers, who had landed at nearby X and Y beaches, and move together towards Krithia. Krithia however was never taken by the allies. V Beach Cemetery right on the beach nearby has the graves of those who died many of them without even setting foot on the peninsula<sup>[iv]</sup>. The first interments date from the day after the invasion. Most headstones have a 'Believed to be Buried Here' caption Interred here is Fr William Finn, Carmelite chaplain to the Munsters, was on the River Clyde and the first chaplain to be killed in World War 1. The group also visited a private museum nearby with a range of Gallipoli related artifacts.

The primary Turkish war memorial to their 57,000 Gallipoli dead is the Canakkale<sup>[v]</sup> Martyrs Memorial. While they were late coming to the memorial game – theirs due to financial constraints was only completed in 1960 – it is certainly an impressive edifice. Led by a local guide, Argean, some members of the group, starting from Pink Farm Cemetery near Krithia, did a ridge walk to Gully Ravine offering a good introduction to the battlefield area monument. The memorial is made of four concrete arches and is an outstanding feature on the peninsula can be seen from a considerable distance. Most Turkish war dead remains from the peninsula were collected and interred in the 1940s.

The Murto Bay National French Cemetery containing over 2,000 identified burials is in the form of a lantern tower. The memorial, itself an ossuary, has four more sarcophagus-shaped graves around it, containing the remains of about 15,000 French dead, many of them colonial troops. France's contribution to Gallipoli tends to be under appreciated, certainly compared to that of Australia and New Zealand<sup>[vi]</sup>.

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>**

Our second guide Gurak took over from Burhan. For someone who had never been to Ireland or indeed the UK he asked some pertinent questions about Ireland, had a fair bit of knowledge about the country and was a fan of the Dubliners. As with the previous day we journeyed to the European side by ferry for a return to the Helles area. Lancashire Landings Cemetery inland from W Beach where the 1<sup>st</sup> Lancashires landed on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Interments here cover the full tenure of allied involvement in Gallipoli from the landing in April 1915 to the evacuation in January 1916. It includes the grave of a VC winner William Kenneally, a coal miner from Wigan, who served with the Lancashires but was born in Parnell St., Wexford. There are 13 RDF graves here. Pink Farm Cemetery takes its name from the reddish soil on which it stands and contains 7 RDF internments. It is near the village of Krithia (now called Alcitpe). Three battles were involved seeking to capture this village but none were successful. Total gains were 3km over a 5km front and this line remained static until the evacuation. Krithia itself has a very impressive open air reconstruction of Turkish trenches and an equally impressive reconstruction of a field hospital.

Anzac Cove Beach has achieved fame as the site of landing by Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) forces on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1915<sup>[vii]</sup>. It would remain their main base for the eight months of their Gallipoli campaign. The landing was further north than had been intended and instead of the hoped for open beach they faced steep cliffs and ridges above. They failed to meet their objectives but did succeed in forming a beachhead, as indeed had happened also at Helles. Likewise the Turks failed to drive them back into the sea. The ANZAC sojourn in Gallipoli was marked by failed attacks and counter attacks, until they were evacuated in January 1915. Overlooking the beach is a natural rock feature resembling a sphinx. An option available was another ridge walk this time over Kiretch Tepe<sup>[viii]</sup>.

#### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup>**

Once again we took the ferry but this time only a 10 minute crossing (smaller bus) to Kilitbahir for a visit to the Suvla Bay area. We passed Embarkation Pier Cemetery on our way to Lala Baba Cemetery. Our bus had to be extricated from soft sand with the assistance of a tractor and chains (chains also broke!). One of our party was the real hero of the hour in advising how best the wheels were to be got back on the road<sup>[ix]</sup>. This cemetery is named after a low hill on an isthmus between Suvla Bay and Salt Lake. This had been taken on 6<sup>th</sup> August. It has three RDF interments one of which was Charles Frederick Ball<sup>[xi]</sup> who previous to his enlistment in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers (Pals Battalion) was Assistant Keeper in the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. He had also been editor of Irish Gardening since 1912<sup>[xii]</sup>. It was reported that at the time of his death and while under fire behind a rock he was digging away at 'weeds' with his bayonet to send home seeds to his Botanic Garden colleagues. Green Hill Cemetery had also been the focus of the previous RDFA 2010 visit to Gallipoli in support of President Mary McAleese as she unveiled a plaque in memory of the men of the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division who served in the Gallipoli campaign and also the Turkish soldiers who fought in defence of their homeland. Green Hill and Chocolate Hill are on the eastern shore of Salt Lake both were captured on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915, but no further advance was made before evacuation. Most graves here are unidentified.

'Dublin Castle' in Gallipoli was two blockhouses created from farmhouses near the firing line in the Suvla sector and manned by members of the RDF. It was named Dublin Castle by a British general to honor members of the Dublins for their contribution to fighting here in October 1915. Initially travelling by bus and when we ran out of road the remainder of the journey was by foot on tracks. By an amazing feat of orienteering over territory with few identifiable features David Buckley found one of the buildings. We were helped in this by the assistance of a group of two women and a man we met working in some fields and our guide acting as an interpreter. Except for staff at our hotel receptions and our guides this was our only opportunity to interact with members of the Turkish community during the trip.

Bigali Ataturk House and Museum in Bigali village, near Eceabat is the house where Mustafa Kemal Ataturk stayed between April 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 1915 before he moved with his 19<sup>th</sup> Division to the battlefield of ANZAC. He would return there on four occasions in later life.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Before moving base back to Istanbul the group had some downtime with the option of a visit to the nearby ruins of Troy or the Turkish Naval Museum in Canakkale. On arrival in Istanbul we adjourned for a meal in Istanbul city centre. Initially travelling by bus which had to be abandoned due to traffic congestion and completed on foot, it allowed the group to experience Istanbul (Population 16 million plus) on a Saturday night. Lively would be an understatement.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Home to Dublin courtesy of Turkish Airlines on a 13.00 flight from Istanbul's new airport. 35km from the city centre it opened in 2019 and is the second busiest airport in Europe after Heathrow.

[i] This was the grave of Private Richard Flynn Royal Dublin Fusiliers Died 6<sup>th</sup> November 1920 He was executed for murder

[ii] Peter Hart Gallipoli P. 452

[iii] Sedd el Bahr figures in the popular Irish ballad The Foggy Dew dating from the following year and after the 1916 Rising 'It was better to die 'neath an Irish sky than at Sulva or Sud al Bar' This would indicate that the Gallipoli campaign was followed closely in Ireland

[iv] No historian since appears to have hazarded a guess as to how many from the River Clyde fell victim to Turkish gunfire without reaching the beach

[v] The Gallipoli campaign had traditionally been known in Turkey as the Battle of Canakkale

[vi] As in most wars, the numbers who died in action in Gallipoli can differ widely depending in the source. For what it is worth one internet source (NZ History) has the following for Gallipoli fatalities: Turkey 86,000, Great Britain and Ireland 21,000 (of whom 3,000 to 4,000 were Irish), France 10,000, Australia 8,700, New Zealand 2,700 The French figure of 10.000 differs significantly from the figure of 17,000 indicated on the Murto Bay National French Cemetery information board.

[vii] The 25<sup>th</sup> April, Anzac Day, is a national day of commemoration and a public holiday in Australia and New Zealand.

[viii] Kiretch Tepe Ridge Walk: 'The 6<sup>th</sup> Munsters and the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublins fought against Turkish forces here in August 1915 in particular. Four intrepid walkers and a guide set out to retrace the steps of these regiments along the ridge and to view firsthand the features known as Jephersons Post and the Pimple, the ridge's highest point. Notwithstanding advice from David Buckley the guide choose to take us down tracks along the steep seaward side of the ridge. The result was that neither Jephersons Post or the Pimple was reached Another glorious failure in the Gallipoli campaign! Thankfully we all got back safely and in time for the bus' (Thanks to Paul Appleby)

[ix] A CWGC cemetery guide warns that Lala Baba Cemetery 'is reached by a 4km track which is soft and sandy in parts and a 4-wheel drive vehicle is required'

[ix] After Frederick Ball's death his wife Alice married again and her grandson Brian Willan has published in 2022 Ball's biography Frederick Ball: From Dublin's Botanic Gardens to the Killing Fields of Gallipoli It is available (I presume!) from the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

## THE “EMPTY CHAIRS” REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL

### St Philip & St James’ Church, Church of Ireland, Booterstown, Co Dublin.

Since 1921, in St Philip & St James’ church in Booterstown there has been a beautiful marble and alabaster Great War memorial containing 30 names of parishioners who made the supreme sacrifice . The parishioners take much pride in the memorial situated in the chancel area, but with 108 years since the ending of the war, the golden chiseled names, have inevitably with time faded in the memory. Michael Lee, amateur historian, and a parishioner of St Philip & St James’ had been researching all the names on the war memorials for many years. Two of his grand uncles, Lieutenant Joseph Bagnall Lee, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, and Captain Robert Ernest Lee, R.A.M.C. are among the names. As a project for 2014, Mike decided to research the young Irishmen included on the memorials with a view to writing a short biography of each soldier, along with a photograph of each if possible. These would be published in the Sunday service booklet on the nearest Sunday to the hundredth anniversary of each soldier’s death throughout the four years of commemoration, which also included one name in 2020. To facilitate his research, Mike frequently visited the UK National Archives in London.



**THE EMPTY CHAIRS MEMORIAL IN ST PHILIP & ST JAMES’ CHURCH**

The project was very successful and was very much appreciated by both the locals and interested local historians. With this success, Mike suggested that a future annual armistice display should be created. On the

hundredth anniversary of the Armistice of November 1918, the grouped parishes of St Philip & St James' and St Thomas' Booterstown & Mount Merrion, began to display single portrait photographs and poppy crosses along the north and south aisles of the nave of St Philip & St James' church, of the 30 young parishioners who lost their lives in the great war. Also displayed were 7 parishioners from Christ Church (Carysfort), which was demolished in the 1960's, and whose beautiful memorial Celtic- Cross engraved with their names, is now a highlight of St Philip & St James' memorial garden. Another 5 parishioners, including one woman, from St Thomas' Church on the Stillorgan Road, were also commemorated with similar photographs and poppy crosses. In all there were 42 parishioners from all three parishes remembered every November.

In 2023, St Philip & St James' had a major re-decoration of the interior, and new individual chairs were purchased for the transepts. With walls freshly painted, there was no way the pictures and poppy crosses could now be displayed. That November, Michael had the idea of using the newly acquired chairs to display each soldier's individual portrait photo and poppy cross on a single chair. Known now as the "Empty Chairs" Remembrance Memorial, the effect has been amazing, with people, including many children now taking a real interest in the fallen parishioners, because they can all relate to the human faces they see on the empty chairs, and not just names from a distant past.

It has been a great success, and the memorial has now become a poignant focal point in the church during the Armistice commemorations every November. A beautiful knitted Poppy Cross, and Poppy decorations made by parishioner Denise Richards, along with original photographs, maps and memorabilia, has added to the overall effect. Since 2023, Mike has researched five more parishioners who were killed in WW2 and were not known to the parish as a WW2 memorial was sadly never commissioned. In all there are now 47 parishioners commemorated from both world wars. Amongst those commemorated on the new memorial are six Royal Dublin Fusiliers:

2 Lt. James Neville Herbert Murphy, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (att 2<sup>nd</sup>). KIA: Frezenberg Ridge, Flanders, 9/10 May 1915.

Private. Godfrey Joseph Bingham, 10<sup>th</sup> (Commercial) Battalion. KIA: Maisnil-Les-Ruitz, France, 31<sup>st</sup> August 1916.

Private. Charles M. Linton, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. KIA: Ginchy, Somme, France, 9 September 1916.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Louis Godfrey Doran, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (att 2<sup>nd</sup>). KIA: Le Transloy, Somme, France, 23 October, 1916.

Lt. Walter Blackwell, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion (att 1<sup>st</sup>). Wounded: Gheluvelt, Flanders, 28 September 1918. D.O.W. : Haringhe, Flanders, 28 September 1918.



**CAPTAIN ROBERT ERNEST LEE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS  
COMMEMORATED ON A EMPTY CHAIR**

Lt. John McDonald Bradley, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion (att 9<sup>th</sup>) RDF, subsequently, attached 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Wounded: Noyelles, France. 27/29 September 1918. D.O.W.: 30 September 1918.

**Source: Michael Lee**

## Rose shows how YouTube can be used to promote First World War stories

Philip Lecane

Cork woman Rose McCarthy is a genealogist who has made a number of short films on family history on YouTube. On a trip to Holyhead last year she visited the local maritime museum. There she heard a story of which she had previously been unaware, that of the sinking by UB-123 of the Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead mailboat *RMS Leinster*. The sinking, on 10 October 1918, resulted in the loss of 571 lives. It was the greatest ever loss of life in the Irish Sea and the highest death toll on an Irish owned ship.

Using film clips, dramatic music, photographs, poetry and interviews with descendants of those aboard the ship, Rose has narrated the story in a gripping 45 minute YouTube film. Available on YouTube since the end of April, to date the film has had a staggering 101,000 views and 12,000 likes. On 10 October 2025, on the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking, Rose showed her film to an enthralled capacity audience on a big screen in the Lexicon Library in Dun Laoghaire.

To watch Rose's incredible film go to YouTube and type in *Forgotten: The Greatest Tragedy Ever on the Irish Sea*. **Please 'Like' and share this amazing story.**



**AFTER THE SHOWING OF HER FILM IN THE LEXICON LIBRARY, ROSE WITH THE “OSCAR FOR BEST FILM” PRESENTED TO HER BY PHILIP LECANE**

## **The Story of the Standard Bearer.**

### **John O'Brien**

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Old Comrades Association was first created in 1910. The objects of the association were:

- To maintain connection between the men serving in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Old Comrades, to promote friendship and an association amongst those now in civilian life interested in their old Regiment.
- To promote the welfare of discharged soldiers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who are members of this association, by assisting them to obtain situations, and to aid members in establishing themselves respectably in civilian life.
- To assist financially any member who, through no fault of his own, has fallen into bad health, and is unable to earn his own livelihood or who is out of employment and in distressed circumstances, if the committee to whom application is made deem the applicant worthy; and also to assist financially widows or children of members who are in distressed circumstances.
- In case of death to provide for the burial of any member if aid is required.
- To foster esprit de corps and promote recruiting for the Regiment and to make widely known the advantages of service in the Regiment, and to create a brotherhood between the non-commissioned officers and men after discharge from either Battalion.
- To make applications to the authorities on behalf of veterans for pensions where none have already been granted, for the increased allowance where only small sums are received.

Keeping the above objects in view, any member of the association should inform the committee of any suitable situation which he may know to be vacant.

Members who are desirous of employment should make their wants known to the secretary.

The association Patrons were.

Field-Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught K.G. K.T. K.P. G.C.B G.C.S. I G.C.M.G. G.C.I.E. G.C.V.O. G.B.E.

Colonel-in-Chief the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

President; Major-General C.D. Cooper C.B.

Colonel of the Regiment

Vice-President: Brigadier-General G Downing.

Hon. Treasurer; Lieutenant-Colonel E. Sr. G. Smith.

Secretary; Major Robert Baker D.S.O.

Hon. Medical Adviser; Colonel Sir W.T. de C. Wheeler, F.R.C.S.

23 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin.

Temporary Office; seventy-seven, Grosvenor Square, Rathmines Dublin.

The membership of the association was vibrant, and they paraded annually at the Phoenix Park Dublin. On the nearest Sunday to Remembrance Day the association attended services in Saint Patricks Cathedral, Saint Patricks Close , and the Pro Cathedral Marlborough Street Dublin. The previous day they would parade initially at College Green but that changed to the Phoenix Park where the Ginchy cross was displayed. Various newspaper advertisements noted various events and notifications of meetings to its membership (see photograph). The Royal Dublin Fusiliers was a proud Irish regiment, but it became a casualty of the reduction of the British army, and it was one of the six disbanded Irish Regiments in 1922. Its Regimental colours were paraded to Windsor castle and handed over to their custodian, King George V where they would be displayed until, like their membership, they will fade away. It is well worth a visit to see the first and second Battalions Kings colours and Regimental colours in all their splendour.

The six disbanded Irish regiments were.

The Royal Irish Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), the Royal Munster Fusiliers, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and the South Irish Horse.

The original Royal Dublin Fusiliers Old Comrades Association standard was paraded at events but was later replaced from a banner type to a single pole type standard. As members died and numbers dwindled leading to the decision to 'Lay up the Colours' in Saint Patricks Cathedral Dublin on the 1st of April 1984. They are displayed there proudly. My Grandfather John O'Brien paraded with his comrades and photographic evidence exists of him at the Pro Cathedral in 1931 and later as a mature



man in the Phoenix Park Dublin, (see photo). During research Major Herbert Crozier, Military Cross with Bar, was photographed leading a parade and was frequently mentioned in local papers as attending funerals of his comrades and so too was Major Robert Baker DSO as running the association from his home in 77 Grosvenor Square Rathmines. My grandfather was a proud member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and after his service in 1922 he joined the Old Comrades Association and was an active member.

In 1996 Tom Burke, Sean Connolly, Seamus Greene, Brian Moroney, Nick Broughal, Pat Hogarty (R.I.P.) Philip Lecane and Jack Sinclair, with a few likeminded people were struck by the story of the First World War and the almost erasing of the history of that period for returning soldiers. As we are all aware this was a turbulent time in Irish history with the terrible loss of life and many experienced great sacrifice. Tom felt strongly that their story needed to be told, and they should be remembered. These men embraced that very task and took up the banner where the Old Comrades Association left



off and formed the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association. It consists of likeminded descendants, historians, authors, and people who have an interest in this subject. Unlike their predecessors, the new association would be primarily an historic group, but they decided to also create a new standard for the association and a similar design was modelled from the Old Comrades Association standard. The standard bearer was Seamus Greene who carried the standard from then at numerous events, and adapted the traditions of the Regiment on ceremonial occasions until 2022. I was then asked by our chairman to take over the duties of standard bearer for the association.

When I retired from the Irish Defence Forces, I decided to research my grandfather's military career where possible. I began to research him in 1983 and I had no idea where this journey would take me, as is documented in my film of 'the tour'. I had joined the association but had no desire to ever parade again or wear a beret, not that it was a requirement, so another chapter of 'The Story of the Machine Gunner' began. I trained up as a standard bearer with the Royal British Legion as we felt that the traditions of the Regiment should be retained and demonstrated. It was a big task in the centenary year of the disbanding of the Irish Regiments and various high-profile parades. The instructors Ciaran Crone, Geoff Barry and Alan Pickett were exact and instilled that pride in the drill movements. It was a very proud moment in the family history to be afforded this opportunity to follow in my grandfather's footsteps. When I joined the RDFA I was unaware that my grandfather was a member, I knew he paraded from the family photograph, so it was a very humbling experience to realise that I was truly following in his footsteps.

The daunting task of being a standard bearer began and as it was stated that the standard is the standard, which is to say, a standard bearer should attain to achieve the highest standard possible and always endeavour to improve where possible (Ciaran Crone). The standard bearer is the public figure of the association and should project the best possible image that represents the association. To return to what was second nature during an active military life that had the motor skills to carry this task off, I rehearsed and regained my instincts to the ceremonial parade ground ethos. I entered a new order that drilled differently to what I had previously done but I was quite comfortable and ventured into the world of the standard bearer. Various events presented and the ultimate was the re-enactment of the handing over of the 'colours' during the centenary year in Saint Patricks Cathedral Dublin. The association is well structured, and various teams exist to carry out respective tasks, i.e. the editorial team, social media team etc. It was decided in the interest of the association to create a ceremonial team that would oversee events and to put in place structures and a standard to streamline ceremonial events. Sean Ryan, Seamus Greene, Sean Chambers and I would be the members and liaise with each other to create a dress code acceptable to all in the best interest of the association. Places such as the War Memorial Gardens Island Bridge Dublin, Menin Gate, Ypres, Guillemont France, and Cenotaph London would be areas where the team were likely to be involved in ceremonial events. Travel and the organisation would be templated with each member taking a task in the organising of the trip. This year we paraded two standards at the Menin Gate Ypres which was a first for the association.

My grandfather while serving in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers was sent to the western front in 1915 and was almost immediately in action at the infamous Mousetrapp farm. We know that he was part of one of the second battalion machine gun team. He survived the tragedy at mousetrapp farm and later that year was posted to the newly formed Machine Gun Corps. He had extensive service with the MGC alongside the tenth brigade who he returned to as the tenth company MGC. After the war he returned to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

I became a member of the Machine Gun Corps Old Comrades Association UK. for the same reasons as I joined the RDFA, to gain more qualified information and to network with likeminded people. During a zoom call meeting one night I asked the secretary, Judith Lappin if it would be possible to borrow a standard to parade it for the ceremonial year 2023 with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association. Without hesitation it was agreed, and I was to be the sole custodian. I became a standard bearer with a dual role with both associations which I threw myself into. I was also nominated as the Ireland representative for the MGC'OCA. It was a very successful year as there was keen interest at places like, the Menin Gate, Guillemot, London Combined Irish Regiments Parade, National War Memorial Gardens to name a few. (See attached sheet). I set out to promote awareness of the Machine Gun Corps and the interwoven nature of all the regiments within it. The standard was warmly welcomed at various events, especially in London by Company Sgt Major Eddie Rooney Irish Guards and parade marshal for the Combined Irish Regiments association. Pride of place was demonstrated for the attendance of both standards at the parade. At the Menin gate Johan Moors and his team from the Last Post association made it a special visit and posted that it was a special occasion to have both standards present.

The Machine Gun Corps were nicknamed 'The Suicide Club.' To find out why, please visit our [website/history](http://www.machineguncorps.co.uk/history).



A Brief History of the Machine Gun Corps Old Comrades Association Standard.

[www.machineguncorps.co.uk](http://www.machineguncorps.co.uk)

[info@machineguncorps.co.uk](mailto:info@machineguncorps.co.uk)

Ireland Rep John O'Brien [machineguncorpsireland@gmail.com](mailto:machineguncorpsireland@gmail.com)

The Machine Gun Corps Old Comrades Association was established in 1919 by veterans of the corps. The reason for the formation of the association was not dissimilar to other associations, being to support the welfare of veterans, to provide an opportunity for them to meet socially, and to commemorate their fallen comrades. In its time, branches of the MGCOCA were dotted around the landscape and were active with large membership. This tradition is carried on today by their ancestors who have continued their tradition in their name. We remember them with pride.

The standard paraded today is the original standard from that era. Two standards still exist; the HQ and the London branch, and they are distinguishable by their gold and green tassels. Other branch standards have been laid up in their branch local churches as membership declined due to age and other factors, there is a healthy current membership who are active in remembrance annually at the MGC dedicated memorial, The Boy David in Hyde Park corner, London. The standard on parade today is that which was loaned to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association for the ceremonial year 2023 by kind permission of the MGCOCA. A third standard exists and is laid up in Saint Wulframs Church Grantham (original home of the MGC) this standard was commissioned especially for the unveiling of the book of remembrance. The standard design was



approved by the Garter of Kings at arms. The standard was paraded at various remembrance events such as, the coronation assembly 1937, Albert, Ypres, the VC paver's events, and armistice events throughout the years. (Many thanks to Judith Lappin and Mike Mearns to facilitate this occasion)

The Machine Gunners were called 'Emma Gee's for MG's, but sounded like Emma Gee's, which which the MGCOCOA Magazine is also named. JO'B 2023





### BANNER PRESENTED

#### DUBLIN FUSILIERS WAR VETERANS PARADE

A handsomely embroidered banner bearing the arms of their old regiment was presented to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Old Comrades' Association on Saturday afternoon in Lord Iveagh's grounds, Dublin.

Over 200 members of the Association paraded, whilst there were also present a number of widows and mothers wearing the medals of husbands and sons killed in the Great War. The parade was inspected by General Sir William Hickie, who gave a short address when handing over the emblem to Major H. E. Crozier, M.C.

In the course of his remarks, General Hickie said: "On Wednesday next, November 11th, we hold our annual remembrance day, and I take this opportunity to beg all Irishmen, whatever their shade of political opinions may be, to share with us in our remembrance of our fallen comrades. Over and over again I have urged that this is no occasion for political or party demonstration. We honour the memory of men who went out to fight at the bidding of their then political leaders, with no thought of politics or of private gain, with no other object than that of a Great Ideal, and who went again and again into battle with no other name but that of Ireland on their lips. Your Association will march in the procession, and I look to you to give an example of the manner in which our Day of Remembrance should be observed, and that no word or deed of yours should be distasteful to or give offence."

Major Crozier acknowledged the presentation, and the Lord Mayor of Dublin (Senator Alfred Byrne) expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the ceremony.

The parade then observed a minute's silence in memory of fallen comrades.

Sunday Independent 8th November 1931

ROYAL DUBLIN FUSILIERS' OLD COMRADES



Group formed by William Hickie, G.C.B., presenting a banner to the R.D.F. Old Comrades Association at Iveagh Grounds, Dublin (yesterday).

### FAMOUS EXPLOITS

#### New Banner for Dublin Fusiliers

THE Royal Dublin Fusiliers' Old Comrades' Association were presented with a new standard, on which the arms of their old regiment were beautifully embroidered, by Major-Gen. Sir Wm. Hickie, at Lord Iveagh's grounds, St. Stephen's Green, yesterday.

#### Record as Fighters.

General Hickie recalled that when he joined his own regiment 46 years ago it lay alongside a battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers at Gibraltar. They were together in succession in Egypt and in India. When he (the General) was appointed in 1915 to command the 16th Irish Division there were in the 48th Brigade two battalions of the R.D.F. Regiment, the 6th and 9th, and later on these were joined by the 10th Battalion (the Pals), and still later by the two regular battalions, the 1st and 2nd. He brigaded the whole into one command—the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Brigade—and as such the regiment fought in the battles of Wytsae-Plachy, in the third battle of Ypres, in the battle of Combray, and in the final battle of the 16th Division at Epshy and Renssly in March, 1918. The services of the brigade during this time could never be forgotten.

On Wednesday next they will hold their annual remembrance day, and he begged all Irishmen to share in remembrance of their fallen comrades. He looked to the members of the Association who would march in the procession to give an example of the manner in which the day of remembrance should be observed, and that no word or deed should be distasteful to or give offence to any of their fellow-citizens.

Major H. E. Crozier, M.C., who received the flag on behalf of the Association, said although the name of the regiment had disappeared, the spirit of comradeship existed.

The Lord Mayor, Senator Alfred Byrne, expressed his pleasure at being present at the ceremony, and a minute's silence was observed in remembrance of the fallen comrades.

### AN R. D. F. VETERAN

#### DEATH OF MAJOR R. J. BAKER D.S.O.

Major R. J. Baker, D.S.O. (75), died at his residence, Fortfield Rd., Up. Rathmines. He was regarded as the oldest living member of the famous R. Dublin Fusiliers. He was the elder son of the



Major R. J. Baker, D.S.O.  
Irish Independent Photo (II.).

late Mr. J. Baker, Donnybrook. He won many distinctions in the South African War, and during the Great War he served in the remount service.

Major Baker was honorary trustee of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers' Old Comrades' Association, in which he took a deep interest.



Ex-Service men moving off from the Quay to the Remembrance Sunday Service in the Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough St., Dublin.



ROYAL DUBLIN FUSILIERS' OLD COMRADES.



Senator General Sir William Hickie, C. B.G., presenting a standard to the R.D.F. Old Comrades Association at Iveagh Grounds, Dublin, yesterday. "Sunday Independent" Photo.

**No. 7938 Private J McPartlin**  
**'B' Company, 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers -**  
**A survivor's story.**

**Tom Burke and Berni Egan.<sup>[1]</sup>**

War Diaries of Irish or any other regiment who fought in the First World War can be very boring documents to read. Occasionally however, the monotony can be broken by the gem of a sentence that is very rare and inviting for further exploration. Reading the War Diary of the 7th Royal Dublin Fusiliers I came across the following entry. <sup>[2]</sup>

*Sunday 26 May 1918.*

*At sea. Service for RCs (Roman Catholics) in the morning, C of E (Church of England) Services morning and evening. Left Alexandria (Egypt) at 15:00. Our ship is one of a convoy of six transports escorted by seven destroyers. When about eight miles out of the harbour and before we had cleared the channel, one of our men, No. 7838 Pte. T. McPartlin of 'B' Coy. jumped overboard. He was admitted to hospital this morning suffering from a touch of sun, was sent to hospital and from there made his escape and jumped overboard. He was picked up by a patrol boat and is believed to have been taken aboard the Leso Castle, the third ship of the convoy leaving the harbour. The convoy is sailing in two lines, four ships in front and two behind. All ranks stood to boat stations until 17:15 when the channel was cleared, and the above formation assumed.*

*Monday 27 May 1918.*

*At sea. The alarm for boat stations – five hoots on ship's siren – at 0:15. The men were sleeping about, and below the decks and it naturally took some time to get them together. The Leso Castle was torpedoed, and it is said to have sunk in a very short time. All remained at boat stations till about 02:30. Later on, but before daylight, a ship proceeding from Port Said, joined the convoy, making it again six in number.*

The ship that John McPartlin jumped overboard from was named *The RMS Kaiser-I-Hind*, a Hindi name meaning the Empress of India; she was was 'a rather fine P and O Boat.' <sup>[3]</sup> On board that day too was 35 Officers and 812 Other Ranks (ORs) of the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Munster Fusiliers. <sup>[4]</sup>

The lifeboat training the men carried out on board *The RMS Kaiser-I-Hind* before she left Alexandria was put to good use just after midnight on Sunday 26 May 1918. The Battalion War Diary recorded that the alarm was sounded for, 'Boat Stations' at 0:15 a.m. on Monday 27 May, a safety drill in the event of being attacked and the ship sinking. The men were sleeping above and below decks. The drill lasted until about 2:30 a.m. The alarm signalled bad news. One of the other transport ships in the convoy, the *HMT Leasowe Castle*, the ship that Private McPartlin was taken to after he jumped overboard from the *RMS Kaiser-I-Hind*, was torpedoed, and sunk, 'in a very short time.' A Battalion of the Warwickshire Yeomanry were on board

the *Leasowe Castle* when she was hit by a torpedo fired from a German U Boat. According to the Warwickshire Yeomanry's historian Philip Wilson: [\[5\]](#)

*At about 12:25 a.m. (27 May) about 100 miles (161 kilometres) from Alexandria, the Leasowe Castle was struck by a torpedo on the starboard side, a little forward of amidships. Perfect order was maintained on board, the men standing quietly at their stations as on parade, while those detailed for the work assisted in lowering the boats. Of these, forty were filled and away in forty-five minutes, transhipping their freights to the Japanese Destroyer and on their return to refill were able to pick up men in the water or on rafts... Suddenly about 2:00 a.m. a bulkhead in the after part of the ship gave way and with a loud rendering noise, the Leasowe Castle sank rapidly by the stern, the bows rearing straight on end. The casualties amounted to 102 all ranks included Captain E. J. Holl (the ship's Captain) and eight of his crew.*

Many men from the *Leasowe Castle* spent hours in the water; the survivors were returned to Alexandria. That night, i.e., 27 May, as she steamed across the Mediterranean, a concert was held on board the *RMS Kaiser-I-Hind*. Captain A. E. Kemp of the 7<sup>th</sup> RDF gave a musical recital in the ship's music room. The 7<sup>th</sup> RDF, with a Battalion strength of 35 officers and 844 ORs, less one, safely sailed into Marseille on Saturday 1 June 1918.[\[6\]](#)

One of the men rescued from the sinking *Leasowe Castle* was Private T. McPartlin of 'B' Company, 7<sup>th</sup> RDF. [\[7\]](#) John was admitted to the hospital on board the *RMS Kaiser-I-Hind*, 'suffering from a touch of sun' when he jumped overboard into the cold sea. The reality was this unfortunate young man tried to commit suicide. When brought back to Alexandria, he was admitted to the No. 19 General Hospital suffering from pneumonia. [\[8\]](#)

John McPartlin's life had been one of utter misery and deprivation. He was only twenty-six years of age when he tried to commit suicide. He was born on 12 January 1893 at No. 50 North King Street, Dublin. His mother, named Mary Hynes, was a Dubliner from Temple Buildings, Dominick Street, Dublin. His father, Michael McPartlin, was a carpenter born at Temple House estate, Co. Sligo. They were married in St Michan's Church, Halston Street, Dublin on 29 June 1891. [\[9\]](#)

John, named after his grandfather, was the eldest of seven children born to Mary and Michael between 1893 and 1908. By 1911, the family were one of nine families living a tenement building at No. 16 Henrietta Street, Dublin which was also home to fifty-six men, women, and children. The neighbouring house at No. 14 Henrietta Street was home to seventeen families making up 100 men women and children. [\[10\]](#)

Each of John's siblings were born at different locations around the tenements of Dublin's inner city. His family had no fixed abode and were at the mercy of Dublin Corporation and charity for somewhere to live. The tenements John and his family lived in were once referred to as being 'the worst slums in Europe.' [\[11\]](#) The poverty and squalor of much of Dublin in the early years of the twentieth century appalled all who encountered it. A British government report issued in 1914 assessed, that of a Dublin Population of 304,000, some 194,000 or approximately sixty-three per cent could be reckoned as working class. The majority of these working-class lived in tenement houses, almost half of them with no more than one room per family. [\[12\]](#) Some thirty-seven per cent of the entire working class of Dublin lived at a density of more than six persons per room; fourteen per cent lived in houses declared unfit for human habitation. [\[13\]](#) The only water supply for houses that sometimes contained as many as ninety people was often a single tap in the outside yard. 'We

cannot conceive,' wrote the committee who presented the report, 'how any self-respecting male or female could be expected to use accommodation such as we have seen.' <sup>[14]</sup> Of the non-tenement houses in which the rest of the working-class population lived, the report stated that some, 'scarcely deserve the name house and could be more aptly described as shelters.'<sup>[15]</sup>

Mary was lucky to give birth to all her children. Sadly, one died as a baby on 11 November 1903 from tuberculosis. The death rate in Dublin in those years was higher than many other large centres of population in the United Kingdom. The same report reproached Dublin Corporation over its housing commitments.<sup>[16]</sup>

A couple of months after John's sister was born, things got so bad for John and his family that his mother and her baby were admitted to the North Dublin Union Workhouse near the Richmond Asylum Hospital; John was only seven years of age. They remained in the Workhouse for about four months. John's father had a history of neglecting his young family. His neglect landed him in Kilmainham Jail, Dublin as he was in breach of the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act of 1847. His neglect was reported in *The Irish Daily Independent* newspaper on Thursday 1 March 1900 under the heading, 'Neglect of a wife and four children.' The notice presented a tragic story.<sup>[17]</sup>

*Michael McPartland of 1 Dorset Street was charged with having neglected his wife and four children. Mr David Fagan, receiving officer of the North Dublin Union deposed that in September last, Mrs McPartland came to him and asked him for relief, she got outdoor relief for three weeks. Her husband, she said, was in the country. On the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, she came again to him and said she could no longer stay out of the Union. She and her four children were admitted to the Union and have been there ever since. She was in a very bad state of health. Inspector Slattery, of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, deposed that from what he heard he went on 25<sup>th</sup> January last to 1 Dorset Street, and there saw the prisoner's wife and four children. She asked not to expose them. He visited the room again on 27<sup>th</sup> January. It was very poorly furnished, the bedding being almost black with dirt. There was neither fire nor food in the room. Mrs McPartland was suffering from very sore eyes. It was a Saturday night, and he gave her the price of some food. She told him her husband was out and had been out all day. She then made a most pitiful statement. The prisoner as remanded for a week. Mr Gerald Fitzgerald, solicitor, appeared for the Guardians of the North Dublin Union.*

One cannot judge or condemn Michael McPartlin for his actions. But what a brave, proud, and devoted mother Mary was. Sadly, her admission to the North Dublin Union Workhouse continued. Having been discharged on 19 June, she and her young family were re- admitted on 3 September 1900. Her husband was back in prison, this time in Mountjoy Prison. Young John was sent to the dreaded workhouse for a period during 1901. The 1901 Irish census lists John's father Michael, age thirty-four as a carpenter, mother, Mary age thirty and a little girl aged six, living in a house at No. 66 Wellington Street, Dublin in which there were five families living comprising of twenty-two men women and children. There was no mention of John, and his other siblings; the chances are they were in the workhouse. <sup>[18]</sup>

The cycle of Mary and her children moving from tenement to tenement and spending periods of time in the Dublin Workhouse and her husband continuing to receive custodial sentences for neglecting his children along with committing other petty crimes

such as drunkenness and begging, continued over the coming years up to 1912 and indeed beyond. John, then age eighteen, was working as 'a labourer.' His oldest sister, age fifteen, was working as 'a factory girl.' The few shillings that came into the family from John and his sister must have helped. The father's name was not on the 1911 census. Mary was rightly noted as being the 'Head of Family.' [\[19\]](#)

Living in such dreadful conditions and a broken home, working as a labourer, the opportunity to escape from this life came when John turned nineteen. Like many more young men who came from the same poor quarters of tenement Dublin, John enlisted into the Royal Dublin Fusiliers on 29 August 1912. [\[20\]](#) He was in the army as a Regular soldier for two years before the war broke out. However, he was not sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. By that time, things at home had not got any better for John's mother. In fact, they got worse. On 12 August 1914, John's young brother Christopher followed his father into petty crime and both he and his father were sent to Mountjoy Jail in breach of the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act of 1847 on a charge of 'wandering abroad and begging.' [\[21\]](#)

It was not until 14 April 1915 that John was sent to France as part of a draft of men sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RDF.[\[22\]](#) At that time, the Battalion was in billets in Bailleul until 24 April when they marched to St. Jean on the outskirts of Ypres. At 6:30 a.m. on 25 April, the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, within which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> RDF, attacked the Germans at St. Julien on the northern outskirts of Ypres. Three days previous, the Germans had launched a chlorine gas attack nearby using gas cylinders that resulted in horrific injuries and deaths. The 2<sup>nd</sup> RDF remained in the line facing St Julien defending intermittent attacks until 4 May when they were relieved to camp near the Chateau des Trois on the east bank of the Yser canal.

Between 24 April and 5 May 1915, a total of 137 men from the 2<sup>nd</sup> RDF were either killed in action or died from wounds. On 25 April alone, the Battalion War Diary recorded a loss of seven Officers killed, with eight Officers wounded along with forty-five ORs killed, eighty wounded and 371 missing.[\[23\]](#) John McPartlin's name was among the list of wounded men who arrived by train at Leicester on Friday 14 May 1915. [\[24\]](#) When he recovered, John was sent back to the Front, this time to the 1<sup>st</sup> t Royal Dublin Fusiliers who were in Gallipoli. A newspaper cutting from *The Western Times*, a daily newspaper published in Exeter dated Tuesday 18 January 1916 under the heading '*Torquay*', recorded the names of eight members of 1<sup>st</sup> RDF who were wounded in action in Gallipoli. Among the names was 7938 Private J. McPartlin.[\[25\]](#) *The Western Times* took a particular interest in the 1<sup>st</sup> RDF. The newspaper referred to the wounded men of the 1<sup>st</sup> RDF as '*Torquay's Own*.' At the outbreak of the war, the 1<sup>st</sup> RDF returned to England from Madras in India and on 7 January 1915, at a ceremony held in Torquay, the then Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> RDF, Lieutenant – Colonel Richard Rooth, 'handed over the Colours to the safe keeping of the Mayor of Torquay.' [\[26\]](#) Another name recorded as one of '*Torquay's Own*' was 17079 Private Robert Milne reported as being previously wounded and missing. In fact, he was dead. He died on 13 July 1915. His body was never found, and his name is listed on the Helles Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Private Milne came from Edinburgh. [\[27\]](#)

On 1 January 1916, the 1<sup>st</sup> RDF received orders to evacuate the Gallipoli peninsula. Travelling through the Suez Canal to Alexandria and on to Marseilles where they eventually arrived after several prolonged stops on 19 March 1916.[\[28\]](#) John may have received treatment for his second wound on the island of Mudros when the Battalion stopped there because when he recovered, he was transferred from the 1<sup>st</sup> RDF to the 7<sup>th</sup> RDF who at the end of January 1916 were in Salonika. For much of 1916, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> RDF in the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division, spent most of their time digging roads and new trench systems north of Salonika.[\[29\]](#)

On 2 September 1917, the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division departed Salonika bound for Alexandria and Palestine. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> RDF made no combat contribution to the capture of Jerusalem in early December 1917; their roll was mainly one of support. However, they did participate in the capture of the hills north of Jerusalem in late December 1917 and March 1918 after which both Battalions were deployed to the Western Front in late May 1918 to take part in the Allied summer offensive of that year. It was during this deployment of the Dublins to the Western Front, that John's life took its tragic turn.

Having spent about two weeks in hospital in Alexandria, on 20 June 1918, John was placed on a sick convoy sent to England. Ironically, he was placed back on board the *RMS Kaiser-I-Hind*. [\[30\]](#) John McPartlin survived the war. Little is known about him from the date he left Alexandria in June 1918 to the date he was discharged from the army on 18 March 1919 due to mental illness under King's Regulation Para. 392 Section xvi, being 'No longer physically fit for war service.'[\[31\]](#) He was no longer mentally fit either. John was awarded The British War Medal, The Victory Medal, and the Silver War Badge.

Moreover, he was awarded a war pension because he suffered from 'Feeblemindness' that was 'aggravated' due to war service. He received twelve shillings a week up to September 1921 when his pension was ceased. [\[32\]](#)

At the time John was discharged from the army, his family were still living in poverty in the tenement house at No. 116 Dorset Street Upper, Dublin. His mother still had a young family and the mentally ill John living with her. John's twelve shillings weekly pension would have helped things a bit with the family. Unfortunately, John's father and his tragic way of life had not changed during the years John was away at war. Perhaps in an effort to escape from the miserable life he too led, John's younger brother Christopher had followed John into the Royal Dublin Fusiliers during the war. He enlisted into the 9<sup>th</sup> RDF as 23276 Private Christopher McPartland. However, he deserted on 22 February 1917; he was by then just twenty years of age. He 'fraudulently' re-enlisted into the Royal Field Artillery as 205803 Driver Michael Doyle on 4 June 1918. [\[33\]](#) The brief time in the army did little to help Christopher straighten his life out either. In the early 1920s, he joined his father in a life of petty and sometimes violent crime around Dublin city. On 29 October 1923, Christopher and his father were sent to Mountjoy Jail on a charge of 'assault and wilful damage.'[\[34\]](#) Michael McPartlin died on 19 August 1931 of cardiac failure and bronchitis at the Whitworth Hospital, a general hospital on Morning Star Avenue in Grangegorman, Dublin. He was sixty-six years of age and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. [\[35\]](#)

By the early 1930s, the Dublin slum and tenement problems had not gone away and was as bad if not worse than they were in 1914. The passing of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1931 empowered Dublin's local authorities for the first time to deal with the slum problem in a systematic way. Tenements and slums began to be demolished and their inhabitants housed. In the mid-1930s, Dublin Corporation built housing estates in the suburbs of Dublin. [\[36\]](#) Many families living in dreadful tenement conditions were given houses in these suburbs. One of those families was the McPartlin's of No. 116 Dorset Street, Dublin. Mary and her family were housed at No. 52 Elizabeth Street, Drumcondra on Dublin's north side. Mary lived out her remaining life in a comfort far from the misery of tenement Dublin. Unlike the tenement, she had her own toilet and garden. She died on 29 September 1966 from heart failure at her home in Elizabeth Street; she was noted as being eighty years of age. [\[37\]](#)

Christopher died on 4 June 1973 of heart failure in Leopardstown Park Hospital, Dublin, a veteran's hospital. He died a single man. His occupation noted on the Glasnevin Cemetery Register was, appropriately that of being a 'Soldier.' He was seventy years of age. [\[38\]](#) A little over six months after Christopher died, John McPartlin died of pneumonia at St. Brendan's Mental Hospital in Dublin on 13 December 1973 aged eighty. He died an 'Invalid' and sadly not recorded like his brother as being a soldier. [\[39\]](#)

An epilogue.

John McPartlin was a brave Irish soldier and a Dublin Fusilier. He had fought his way through some of the major battles the Dublins took part in during the war from beginning to end. He physically survived; alas, like thousands of his comrades, he did not mentally survive. John suffered from the generic term of neurasthenia given to such mental casualties. When I read the line in the Battalion War Diary about him jumping overboard from *The RMS Kaiser-I-Hind*, I felt compelled to find out what happened to this young



man, write his story, and place it somewhere in our history. How many more 'feble-minded' John McPartlins' were there whose story died with them ?

He was born into the misery of a Dublin tenement. He worked as a child labourer. The emotional and humane deprivations John and his siblings suffered were restored to the best of her ability by his brave and devoted mother. It was these mothers, wives and loved ones who silently carried the miserable legacy of war long after it ended. Mary McPartlin's story needs to be included in the story of her son too.

I approached the archivist at St Brendan's Mental Hospital in Dublin and asked where John McPartlin might be buried. All I wanted to do was to lay a wreath on this man's grave, nothing else. Understandably, I was informed that since I was not a member of the McPartlin family, such information could not be given to me. However, I was led to believe that John was possibly buried in a mass grave in Glasnevin Cemetery as some patients from St. Brendan's Hospital were. On enquiring at the Glasnevin Cemetery genealogy office, to my amazement and absolute delight, I was given details of where John was buried in the cemetery. He was not in mass grave but buried in a family plot owned by his sister who had died three years before him and Christopher. His grave reference is NJ. 225.5 St. Patricks.<sup>[40]</sup>

On a cold late November Saturday afternoon back in 2021, I cycled to Glasnevin Cemetery to find John's grave and lay my wreath on it. The light was fading when I eventually found it. It was difficult to read the inscription on the headstone, moss and time had blurred the wording. The headstone had a small white enamelled insert of the Virgin Mary holding her baby son Jesus. The inscription read: '*In loving memory of my dear mother Mary McPartlin died on 29th September 1966 and my sister Margaret, father Michael McPartlin also my sister Agnes McPartlin RIP.*' John or Christopher's names were not on the headstone. I laid my poppy wreath, offered a Hail Mary prayer to them all, saluted and walked away back to where I parked my bike, a happy man.

Rest in peace John.

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[\[1\]](#) I would like to thank Berni Egan of the RDFA and Kilkenny Great War Memorial Society for her wonderful research on the biographical history of the McPartlin family and her contribution to this story.

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[3] *Ibid*.

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[5] Wilson, Philip, <https://www.warwickshire-yeomanry-museum.co.uk/> *Leasowe Castle* Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum.

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[22] *Medal Rolls British War and Victory Medals of Royal Dublin Fusiliers Other Ranks* WO329/1709-1712. (London: The National Archives). Date of Disembarkation 14 April 1915. p.B.267

[23] *War Diary 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers*. WO95/1481. (London: The National Archives, August 1914 to September 1916). 24 April to 5 May 1915. For further account of the action the 2<sup>nd</sup> RDF took part in in April

and May 1915, see also Burke, Tom, *The 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Tragedy of Mouse Trap Farm April and May 1915* (Dublin: The RDFA, 2005).

[24] *Sick and Wounded - Largest Trainload Arrives in Leicester, The Leicester Mail* 14 May 1915. As a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RDF at the time, John was among 278 war casualties that arrived in Leicester from France. They were distributed among the local hospitals for treatment.

[25] *Torquay, The Western Times* 18 January 1916.'

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[33] *Medal Rolls British War and Victory Medals of Royal Dublin Fusiliers Other Ranks* p.B.656. 23276 Pte Christopher McPartlan 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers. His Medal Card notes that Christopher served overseas as a Driver with the RFA and not the 9<sup>th</sup> RDF.

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[35] *Death Register Superintendent Registrar's District: Dublin No 43 Michael McPartlin*. (Dublin: General Register Office, 19 August 1931). See also *Registration of Grave of Mcpartlin Family*. Grave Reference NJ 225.5 St. Patrick's. (Glasnevin, Dublin: Dublin Cemeteries Trust). Sexton BGLA 12617. There is some confusion as to the age of Michael McPartlin when he died. According to his death register, Michael McPartlin was 54 years of age when he died on 19 August 1931; thus born 1877. However, the 1901 census noted he was 34 years of age in 1901; thus, born in 1867. His birth cert notes he was born on 2 July 1865; thus, he was 66 years of age when he died.

[36] Murphy, Frank. Pp.108-109.

[37] *Death Register. Superintendent Registrar's District: Dublin No 382 Mary McPartlin*. (Dublin: General Register Office, 29 September 1966). See also *Registration of Grave of Mcpartlin Family*. Sexton BGLA 00309. Like her husband Michael, there is some confusions as to the age Mary was when she died in September 1966. According to 1901 census, she was 30 years of age, implying she was born in 1871. The 1911 census noted she was 43 years of age; thus, she was born in 1868. His birth cert noted she was born 2 October 1868, thus making her 98 when she died. The record in Glasnevin Cemetery noted she was 80 years of age when she died in 1966, thus making her born in 1886. Her death cert note she died on 29 September age 80, thus making her born in 1886.

[38] *Registration of Grave of Mcpartlin Family*. Sexton BGLA 12617. According to 1911 census, Christopher was 13 years of age, thus he was born in 1898. That being so, when he died in 1973, he was 75 years of age.

[39] *Ibid*. Sexton BGLA 13509. Glasnevin Cemetery records John aged 80 when he died. According to 1911 census, 17 years of age which would mean he was born in 1894 and was therefore 79 when he died. Another source records John being born 12 January 1893. This would mean when he died in 1973, he was 80 years of age.

[\[40\]](#) *Registration of Grave of Mcpartlin Family*. Sexton BGLA 13509. I would like to thank Conor Dodd and Lynn Brady, Genealogist at Dublin Cemeteries Trust, Glasnevin Cemetery, for their assistance in locating the McPartlin family grave.

## James Grogan and the Dubs first reinforcement draft in Gallipoli

**Philip Lecane**

*My book "Beneath a Turkish Sky: The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the assault on Gallipoli" tells the story of the landing at V Beach on 25 April 1915 and its aftermath. In telling the story of the first draft of reinforcements received by the battalion after the landing, this article is in a sense a postscript to the book. The article is dedicated to my wife Kate Lecane (née Grant) 1955-2020.*

James Grogan was born in Bolton, Lancashire in 1896, the son of Ellen (née Flaherty) and James Grogan. James senior was a self-actor minder, a man who operated or 'minded' a self-acting mule, a type of automatic spinning machine in the textile industry. The family, on both sides, was of Irish descent: James senior's father had emigrated to England as a young man. As the family had relatives in Enfield, County Meath, the Grogan family may have originated in this area. At the time of the 1901 census the family was living at 62 Horsa Street, Bolton. The census recorded two boys had been born in the interim, Daniel (1897) and Thomas (1899). Ten years later, the 1911 census recorded the family living at 50 Pole Street, Bolton with the additional children Mary Teresa (1902), Joseph (1905) and Francis (1908). As the family eventually had 14 children, it is possible that some of the older children had moved out. Having left school at 14, James junior was working as a piecer (joining broken threads) at Mill Hill No. 1 Mill. As this was a job which for workers could put forward by members of their own family, his father secured the position for him.



**JAMES GROGAN**

On 5 December 1914, James enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. After initial training of "a few days" duration in Ireland, he was sent to Sittingbourne, where the 4<sup>th</sup> (Extra Reserve) and 5<sup>th</sup> (Extra Reserve) Battalions of the Dubs were stationed. He remained in training until he was sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Gallipoli, arriving in May 1915.

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As part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers landed at V Beach, on the southern tip of the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915. The battalion – and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers – sustained very heavy casualties during the landing and in fighting the following day. On 29 April, the two battalions were temporarily amalgamated into one battalion. Designated the Dubsters, the battalion was commanded by Major William Hutchinson of the Munsters, with the Munsters making up W and X companies and the Dublins making up Y and Z Companies. The Dubs had only one officer remaining and 344 men, by far the lowest numbers of the twelve battalions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division. The officer was Lieutenant Henry Desmond O'Hara, who had gone from commanding a platoon during the landing to commanding a company the next day and then, on or about 28 April to commanding the battalion. His command did not last for long, however, as the Dubsters were created on 29 April.

On 3 April, three weeks before the Gallipoli landings, General Sir Ian Hamilton had sent a message to the War Office stressing the urgency of the despatch of his "*first reinforcements*" i.e. the 10 per cent drafts of officers and men which customarily accompanied units overseas to replace battle casualties. On 30 April, one officer and forty-six men of each of the regular battalions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division sailed from England. These drafts were approximately 5 per cent of the battalions. The drafts reached Gallipoli in the first half of May. Presumably because the Dubs had only one remaining officer, their draft contained three officers – Captains Cecil Riccard, Walter Stirling and Adrian Taylor. There was also one sergeant, two corporals and forty-three privates.

Of the three officers who arrived with the draft, Cecil Bampfylde Riccard went on to achieve the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The Times of 19 April 1919 recorded his marriage. He died on 10 January 1939. His address was 89 Piccadilly, London, W1. Two of his executors were his widow Nora Inez and his son Squadron Leader Cecil Stanley Riccard, Royal Air Force. Adrian Aubrey Charles Taylor had been commissioned in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1897. In the Boer War he served with the Mounted Infantry. He was severely wounded at Stinkhoutboom on 24 July 1900. Mentioned in despatches, he was awarded the Queens Medal with six clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps. He served in Aden in 1903. He was attached to the Egyptian Police. Killed on 28 June 1915, he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.



The following men were among the forty-three privates in the draft of reinforcements. Thirty-nine year old Edward Droghan, 19020, had served with the Dublins in the Boer War. Afterwards he settled in Carrick-on-Suir, got a job in the local creamery, married and had five children. He re-enlisted after the outbreak of war. On 7 August, Private Edward Droghan (39), son of Mary (née Connors) and David Drohan, husband of Johanna (née Meaney), John Street, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Tipperary was killed during an unsuccessful offensive against the Turks. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. Nineteen-year-old Francis McCoy, was from Newry, County Down. On 4 June, Francis was one of thirty men from the battalion killed that day. Private Francis McCoy (19), 17448, is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. He was the son of Rose (née Burns) and James McCoy, 5 Collins Row, County Down. Family legend says a robin flew into the kitchen of his family home on the day he died.



**WILLIAM HENRY HOLDEN**

Private William Henry Holden, 18089, enlisted in the town of his birth in Farnworth, Lancashire on 5 January 1915. The son of Catherine (née Hope) and William James Holden, a timber sawyer, he was recorded on the 1891 census living with his parents at 6 Albert Place, Farnworth. By 1901 they had moved to 37 Albert Place. William James died in 1903. Catherine married Benjamin Jones Hughes in 1909. Also that year, William married Ann Watson at St. Peter's Church, Farnworth. The 1911 census recorded them at 161 Ellesmere Street, Farnsworth with their daughter Mary Elizabeth (1910). Three children were subsequently born: William (1911), George (1913) and Wilfred (1915). William was employed as a journeyman clogger with Martin Wolfendale, Albert Road, Farnworth (making and repairing clogs: an important skill in industrial areas.) Afterwards he set up his own clog-making repair business at the junction of Albert Road and Longcauseway. Following enlistment, William trained at Sittingbourne, Kent. Wounded in action, he was evacuated to hospital on Lemnos island. He died on 17 June 1915 and was buried in Grave I.C. 67, East Mudros Military



**JOHN WILLIAM  
NIGHTINGALE**

Cemetery, Lemnos. By the time his details were recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, his wife had died.

Private John William Nightingale, 17472, was born in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1893, the son of Eliza (née Burlison) and Moses Nightingale, a cotton spinner. Recorded as William, John was recorded on the 1901 census living with his parents and brothers Robert (1894) and Walter (1897) at 2 Dover Street, Bolton. By 1911, he was living at 6 Moaty Street, Darcy Lever, Bolton with his parents and siblings Robert, Walter, Alice (1902) and Albert (1903). He was employed as a cotton piecer. At the time of his enlistment in Bolton, John was a piecer at Messrs Gray, Darcy Lever Bridge Mills and lived at 29 Maze Street. He was a regular attender at Darcy Lever Wesleyan Church. His brothers Robert and Walter were also serving in the forces. Killed on 30 June 1915, he is recorded on the Helles Memorial.

Private Thomas O'Brien, 17474, was born in Farnworth, Lancashire, the son of Mary and Patrick O'Brien, a labourer. He was recorded on the 1881 census living at Kent Street, Farnworth with his parents and siblings John (1866), Julia (1868), Mary (1872) and Edward (1881). In 1891 the family was living at 121 Bridge Street. In

1901 they were living at the same address and Thomas was working as a drawer in a coal mine. In 1905, Thomas married Mary Ann McAtee. In 1911 they were living at 115 Bridgewater Street, Farnworth with their sons Thomas (1906) and John (1908). Thomas was employed as a bricklayer's labourer. He enlisted on 3 December 1914, at which time he was employed as a hod carrier by Messrs Cope, Bank Street, Farnworth. (A hod carrier is a construction worker who carries bricks, mortar and other supplies to masons and brick layers). Killed on 4 June 1915 (the same day as Francis McCoy), he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.



**THOMAS O'BRIEN**

Private Cornelius Seeler, 17844, was born on 10 May 1875 in the townland of Clashatlea, Ballymacelligott, Kerry the son of Johanna (née Canty) and Henry Seeler. He was recorded on the 1901 census living in Bristol and working as a grain porter. At the time of the 1911 census he was living as a boarder at 55 Matthew Street, Bolton in the house of Michael and Annie Kennedy. He was employed as a sewage labourer. In 1913, he married Sarah Jane Cotterell née Peart, a widow with four young children. The couple had two more daughters Mary (1913) and Sarah (1914). Both died in infancy. He enlisted in Bolton in December 1914. At the time of enlistment he was living at 9 Hengist Street, Tonge Fold, Bolton. He was employed by Messrs Parington and Co., builders and contractors. He attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church, While in training he was allowed home to attend a daughters funeral. Killed on 29 June 1915, he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

Private George Taubman, 17397, was born in Douglas on the Isle of Man in 1885, On 2 December 1908, he married Edith Jane Devereau at St. Georges in Douglas. In 1911 the couple were living at 15 Heywood Place, Douglas with their daughter May (1910). George was working as a fireman (i.e. a stoker) for the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. Twin sons were born in 1913: George and John and a daughter Dora (1915), all born in Farnworth, Lancashire. George was employed as a stoker at the Farnworth and Kearsley Gas Works and

living at 27 Elizabeth Street, Farnworth when he joined up around December 1914. He used to work in the gas works in the winter and at sea during the summer. His wife and children moved to her parents in the Isle of Man after he joined up. He died of wounds in hospital in Alexandria, Egypt on 28 June 1915. He is buried in Grave L.70 in Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery.



**ALBERT EDWARD WILLIAMS**

On 21 November he was discharged from the army as being "*not likely to become an efficient soldier.*" Presumably he omitted to mention this fact when he enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in Bolton Town Hall the week before Christmas 1914. Albert Edward Williams died of wounds on 29 June 1915, two days before his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is commemorated on Special Memorial C.458 in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery. He left behind his wife Annie and two children living at 16 Radcliffe Road, Haulgh, Bolton. Ironically, this man who was discharged from the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment as "*not likely to become an efficient soldier,*" was mentioned in despatches while serving in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Spectamur Agendo.

Born in Bolton, Private Robert Wood, 17479, enlisted at Bolton Town Hall in December 1914. The son of Nancy Ellen (née Faulkner) and Edward Wood, a collier fireman, he was recorded on the 1901 census living at 70 Hacken Lane, Bolton with his parents and siblings Mary Ann (1892), Robert

Private Albert Edward Williams, 17750, was born on 1 July 1887 in Bolton, Lancashire. He was the son of Margaret Elizabeth (née Bedlow) and Richard Williams, a pudler in an iron forge (converting pig iron into wrought iron). At the time of the 1891 census the Williams family was living at 6 Burlington Street, Bolton. As well as Albert and his parents, the family comprised of Alice (1878), Mary Jane (1882), William (1894), Thomas (1896) and Sarah (1890). In 1901, the family lived at 15 Jenny Beck Street. As well as the previously mentioned, also present were Richard (1884) – not present for the previous census, Ruth (1895), Agnes (1897) and Harry (1900). Albert was working as a piecer in a cotton mill. On 1 May 1909, Albert married Annie Harris at St Peter's Church, Bolton. On the night of the 1911 census Albert was recorded at the house of his mother and siblings at 66 George's Street. He was employed as a railway waggon shunter. On 1 September 1914, Albert enlisted in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. His occupation at the time of enlistment was forgerman at Walmsey's Forge.



**RDFA MEMBER DAVID BUCKLEY ON THE ASSOCIATION'S RECENT VISIT TO GALLIPOLI**

(1894) , William (1896) and Sydney (1899). At the time of the 1911 census, the family was living at the same address with the addition of Joseph (1902) and Emily (1904). Having attended St. Stephen and All Martyrs' Schools, Robert was employed as a piecer at the Lever Bridge Mill of Messrs William Gray and Son Ltd. Killed on 28 September 1915, Private Robert Wood (22) was buried in Grave 11.H.17, Hill 10 Cemetery, Gallipoli. His parents were living at 99 Radcliffe Road, Bank Terrace, Darcy Lever, Bolton at the time of his death.

*Neill's Blue Caps* says that around the time the draft arrived five other officers were attached to the battalion. These were Captain G.E. Bruce from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Captain Laurence Edgar George (killed 28 June 1915. Son of Mrs Susannie Gale George, The Keep, Old Fort Road, Shoreham, Sussex. Commemorated on the Helles Memorial), Lieutenant A.G. Cripps (Percy Gusille Howard Cripps, later Captain 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and Temporary Major Tank Corps), Second Lieutenant Herbert George Rogers (killed 29 June 1915. Aged 24. Son of Francis Edward and Kate Rogers, 41 Wellington Park, Clifton, Bristol. Commemorated on the Helles Memorial) and Second Lieutenant F.G. Young, all from the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, a reserve battalion based in England.

On 19 May 1915, the Dubsters ceased to exist and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers were reconstituted.

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Of the two corporals who arrived with the reinforcement draft, one was the man with whom this article began, Lance-Corporal James Grogan, 17513 from Bolton, Lancashire. He was put in charge of a Maxim machine-gun. He survived for about two months, being killed on 12 July 1915. His parents were told of his death in a letter from Private Joseph Kindred, 17518, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was also from Bolton. Given the closeness of their regimental numbers and the fact that Kindred wrote to Grogan's parents, it seems likely that they were friends who joined up together. It also seems likely that Joseph Kindred was another member of the reinforcement draft. [Showing that soldiers records sometimes contain clerical errors, Kindred's medal card incorrectly states that on 14 May 1915 he arrived **in France**. Kindred himself had been twice wounded by this time. Lance-Corporal James Grogan (20), 17513, was buried in Grave VII. D.19 Twelve Three Copse Cemetery. The inscription on his headstone reads "*On whose soul sweet Jesus have mercy.*" His name was read out at all masses in St Mary's Catholic Church, Bolton on the Sunday following receipt of news of his death. At the time his details were recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, James's parents were living at 12 Eldon Street, Tonge Moor, Bolton.

Joseph Kindred eventually was promoted to Corporal in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He survived the war. In 1921 he married Elizabeth Dewhurst, a cotton weaver, in Bolton. In 1923, they settled in Manjimup, Western Australia, where Joe was employed as a timber worker. They had three children Patricia (1924), Marie (1925) and Kevin (1935).

Jim Grogan's brother Dan joined the army around the same time as Jim. He served in the Cameron Highlanders and survived the war. When he came home the family cat jumped into his lap. A younger brother Tom was 16, though he looked older. Women kept giving him white feathers. He told his father he wanted to join up. His father refused permission. Eventually fed up with the white feathers, he arrived home in army uniform. His father was very angry. Tom went off to the Western Front from where he wrote to his parents asking them to get him out of the army as he was under age. His father refused. Private Thomas Grogan (18), 57152, 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment was killed in the German offensive on 27 March 1918. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.



**JAMES GROGAN**

After Jim Grogan's death in Gallipoli, another boy was born to the family. He was christened James. Jim had a steady girlfriend at the time he enlisted. The family kept in contact with her. After the war the family was offered a free trip to Gallipoli. Jim's father couldn't go because he couldn't afford to lose six week's pay. His mother couldn't go because their youngest child was aged two.

A few years ago, Mary Grogan, a niece of Jim's who lives in Dun Laoghaire, attended a Soroptomists conference in Istanbul. When the conference was over she went on an optional tour to Troy and Gallipoli. While the group visited a museum in Gallipoli, Mary slipped away and visited Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, where she visited her uncle Jim's grave. The tour bus arrived and sounded its horn. Mary expected to be reprimanded by their Turkish tour guide who was waiting at the cemetery gates. But she felt it was worth it to have visited Jim's grave. The guide asked if Mary had found the grave. When she said she had, he asked to see it, whereupon the whole bus disembarked and accompanied Mary to the grave. James Grogan had been remembered, Spectamur Agendo.

Sources:

Mary Grogan.

*Neill's Blue Caps* by Colonel H.C.Wylly C.B.

*Beneath a Turkish Sky: The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the assault on Gallipoli* by Philip Lecane

[www.dublin-fusiliers.com](http://www.dublin-fusiliers.com)

[www.bmillsdesigns.co.uk](http://www.bmillsdesigns.co.uk)

[museum.wa.gov.au](http://museum.wa.gov.au)

## **Casualties of occupation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers in post-war Constantinople**

### **Philip Lecane**

Following Turkey's surrender in October 1918, the Allies occupied parts of the Ottoman Empire including its Capital, Constantinople (now Istanbul.) At the end of November 1919, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers was stationed at Aldershot when orders were received to proceed to Constantinople to form part of the army of occupation.

On 4 December 1919, the battalion left Aldershot for Tilbury port in Essex. There they boarded the *Rio Pardo*. [Originally named the *Dalmatia*, it was built in 1905 for Hamburg America's Hamburg-Rio Grande service. Surrendered to the Allies at the end of the war, it was allocated to the Shipping Controller, London and operated by the Orient Steam Navigation Company. Now named after a municipality in Brazil, it was 4,588 tons and had a speed of 11 knots. With accommodation for fifty first-class passengers and 230 steerage class passengers, it was a tight squeeze for about 800 men]. Men from the battalion who remained behind for various reasons were attached to the RDF's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion which was stationed at Witley in Surrey.

Serving with the battalion were three officers who had landed at V Beach with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on 25 April 1915. What must have been their thoughts as the *Rio Pardo* sailed past V Beach and entered the Dardanelles, carrying the battalion unopposed on its way to Constantinople? The officers were Major David French (in command of C Company), Captain Colin Carruthers M.C. and Captain Cuthbert Maffett. David French had been a Captain in Y Company at the time of the landing. He was wounded in the first few days of fighting. Following the disbandment of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, he retired on half pay on 25 August 1922. A Lieutenant with X Company at the time of the landing, Colin Carruthers had been wounded in the first few days of fighting. He returned to the battalion after recovering from his wounds. He was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 18 July 1919. When the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were disbanded, he would command the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's colour party at Windsor Castle on 12 June 1922. Following the disbandment he transferred to the Border Regiment on 12 August 1922. On 23 September 1914, the then Second Lieutenant Cuthbert Maffett, together with another Second Lieutenant had brought a reinforcement draft of 90 men to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in France. He had been transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion prior to its setting out for Gallipoli. A Second Lieutenant with X Company at the time of the landing, like Carruthers, he had been wounded in the first few days of the fighting. By the time the battalion evacuated from Gallipoli, he had been promoted to Captain. I have not found a record of when he transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. On the disbandment of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, he transferred to the Black Watch on 12 August 1922.

On 20 December 1919, the *Rio Pardo* arrived in Constantinople. The battalion disembarked at Haidar Pasha and marched to the Turkish Medical School and Cavalry Barracks, where it was billeted. Turkish Nationalists – including Gallipoli war commander Mustafa Kemal – resisted Allied plans to divide parts of the Ottoman Empire between them. On 20 June 1920, Private Brennan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers was killed in fighting with Nationalist troops. In what was a very confused situation the battalion was engaged in further clashes with Turkish forces. A number of Dublin Fusiliers died in Turkey over the following few months. Unfortunately, not only does *Crown and Company* – the official history of the battalion – not mention the cause of their deaths, it does not mention the fact that they died. Private Brennan is the only one mentioned, when he is described as "*the first casualty sustained by the Battalion.*"

On the afternoon of 22 September 1920, Privates Richard Flynn and Francis Hardy M.M. left barracks wearing side-arms, which was standard practice in Turkey at the time. Flynn, however, also carried a rifle, which was forbidden. They went to the small village of Soghanli. There Flynn fired his rifle through an open gate and shot dead a man named Mustapha Salim. Flynn and Hardy then entered a house, took money and fled with the home owner, Emur Mustapha, in pursuit. They then encountered a man named Aarif Dai. Flynn shot him dead with his rifle. He also wounded Emur Mustapha in the wrist. The men were arrested and tried for murder. Four witnesses testified against them. Both were found guilty and sentenced to death. The sentence against Private Francis Hardy, 7075007, was commuted to Penal Servitude for life. His medals were forfeited, including his Military Medal. He was discharged from the army and sent to Portland Prison. Private Richard Flynn, 7076018, was shot in Bostandjik Prison on 6 November 1920. He was buried in Haidar Pasha Cemetery. (Further details about him are available on the website [www.dublin-fusiliers.com](http://www.dublin-fusiliers.com)).

On 1 November 1920, orders were received that the battalion – less those due to return to the United Kingdom would proceed to India. On 17 November, the battalion – apart from some men left behind: mostly in hospital – embarked aboard the transport *Field Marshal* [Originally named the *RPD (Reichspostdampfer – Imperial Mail Steamer) Feldmarschall*, it was commissioned in 1903 with the German East Africa Line. Captured by the British, it was operated by Union-Castle Mail Steam Ship Company, who renamed it *Field Marshal*.] On 22 November, two officers and 154 non-commissioned officers and men were landed at Port Said, Egypt for conveyance to the United Kingdom. The remainder of the battalion sailed for India, where it remained until called back to England for disbandment in 1922.

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In 1855, the Turkish government gave Haidar Pasha Cemetery to Britain. Haidar Pasha is a suburb of Istanbul between Scutari (Uskudar) and Kadikoy on the Asiatic side of the Bosphoros. The cemetery is on high ground behind the Haidar Pasha pier head and railway station. It contains about 6,000 graves from the Crimean War (1854-1856), most of whom died in a cholera epidemic in Constantinople/Istanbul. The cemetery also contains the graves of Commonwealth soldiers from the two World Wars and British civilians. The First World War burials



**Haidar Pasha Cemetery**

include Commonwealth prisoners-of-war. Post First World War burials include men from No. 82 General Hospital. In addition 119 burials are from smaller cemeteries.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the following burials are Privates and all are from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion RDF. The dates are the date of death. Apart from Private P. Brennan, the cause of death is not known.

P. Brennan, 21719. 20 June 1920. Grave I.A. 17. [Killed in fighting with Nationalist forces.]

Joseph Carroll, 32196, 18 February 1920. 19 Years old. Grave I.J.9  
Son of Joseph T. And Mary Carroll, 73 Eccles St., Dublin  
Inscription on headstone *73 Eccles St., Dublin, Ireland, R.I.P.*

Thomas Condron, 32396, 19 February 1920, 21 years old. Grave I.J.8.  
Son of Patrick and Ellen Condron, Prosperous, Sallins, Co. Kildare.  
Inscription: *Rest in Peace.*

W. Feeney, 32380, 6 February 1920. Grave I.19

Richard Flynn, 7076018, 6 November 1920. Grave I.J. 5,.

Sergeant P. Hearn, 7075036, 8 November 1920. Grave I.K.15.

J. McDonnell, 32580, 18 April 1920. Grave I.K. 11.

J. O'Shea, 31339, 13 March 1920. 20 years old. Grave I.K.1  
Son of Mrs Sarah O'Shea, Turnpike, Ennis, Co. Clare.

M. Quirk. 32342, 22 June 1920. Grave I.A. 18.

6<sup>th</sup> Battalion RDF M. Lennon, 13422, 29 November 1915. 29 November 1915. Grave II. E. 17..  
[Presumably he was a prisoner-of-war who died in captivity.]

Sources:

*Crown and Company* by Colonel H.C. Wylly, C.B.

*Beneath a Turkish Sky: The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the assault on Gallipoli* by Philip Lecane

[www.dublin-fusiliers.com](http://www.dublin-fusiliers.com)

[www.bandcstaffregister.com](http://www.bandcstaffregister.com)

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

## Royal Dublin Fusiliers Annual Quiz. 2025.

- 1) Earl Kitchener and Viscount Plumer shared the same First name. What was it?
- 2) H.M.S Dublin, present at Gallipoli was: A) A pocket Battleship, B) A light Cruiser or C) A submarine?
- 3) The Senussi people supported the Ottoman Forces in the Great War. True or False?
- 4) The battle of Coronel was fought on A) The Western Front, B) The Pacific Ocean or C) East Africa.
- 5) During the course of the landing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1915 at V Beach three VCs were won by men on the Landing Ship the River Clyde. Were these men serving with: the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, The Royal Munster Fusiliers, The Royal Navy or the Hampshire Regiment?
- 6) During the Boer War what was the alternative name for the British 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade?
- 7) On which front was the Battle of Kosturino fought?
- 8) True or False: Oxo cubes were part of a soldier's emergency food pack in the Great War.
- 9) What is the 'Official' name for the tin helmet introduced to the British Army in September 1915?
- 10) The British soldier was commonly called 'Tommy'; The French soldier was called 'Poilu'. But what does Poilu (s) mean?

## R.D.F. Open Day

### John F Sheehan

This year we were again invited by the National Museum at Collins Barracks to hold our Open Day and this we did on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November. This took place in the form of displays of memorabilia of the disbanded Irish Regiments. An extensive display was presented by our exhibits officer David Buckley along with items on view from all our sister associations who were in attendance. Anyone seeking information on a relative who took part in WW1 could go to Thomas Murphy and Gerry White who offered guidance and assistance.

Denis Kirby represented the Leinster Regiment, Adrian Foley represented the Royal Munster Fusiliers, Kay Nagle & Mary Ann Maher, represented the South Irish Horse & 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of foot and the Royal Irish Regiment was represented by Alison Hallahan.



A series of talks in the adjoining lecture room were also a large part of our day. The day began with a very interesting presentation from Kevin Martin on the Killester Garden Village and as to how it came about. Following that Des Healy and Donal McAllister the curators of the Curragh Museum gave a very informative talk about the museum, what is available to see now and their future plans. With the energy and enthusiasm of Des and Donal we are in no doubt that under their direction it will expand. Part of the future plan is to include a space relating to the disbanded Irish Regiments which we are all looking forward to.

Following a short break for lunch Kay Nagle gave us the history of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of foot and Mary Ann Maher spoke of the history of their association. Denis Kirby spoke about the Leinster Association both here and in the U.K. Next was Adrian Foley who had an interesting photo of officers of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, he gave a short profile of each of these men and their family connections in

Cork and Kerry.

Our sincere thanks to the Museum for facilitating our Open Day and to Dermot Bolger from the Museum who was most helpful in contributing to the success of the day. The Museum staff also organised two guided tours of the Soldiers and Chiefs exhibition during the day. The day was a tremendous success and we look forward to next year when we hope to repeat it. In appreciation of our organising the event a most impressive poster was presented to our association of WO's Officers and Sergeants R.D.F. Depot in Naas taken in May 1919 see photo below by Des and Donal from the Curragh Museum.



## Remembering Kevin Cunningham

One of the great benefits of being a member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association is the large number of wonderful people one gets to meet. We are all united in our desire to see the rich history of the men of the Regiment be told and appreciated. and ,of course, by extension, that of their family.

So the loss of any member is a cause for sadness and this year on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February the Association lost one of its greatest and most generous supporters and one of our earliest members, Mr. Kevin Cunningham, and I, like so many lost a great friend.

No sooner had the Association begun life when Kevin joined us and over the almost 30 years since we took our first tentative steps, he has resolutely marched alongside us, offering continuous support, encouragement and, along the way, plenty of stories and not a few laughs.



For Kevin, his main motivation in joining the Association was to tell us of his father Tommy, a soldier of the Regiment. A man who fought in some of the most difficult battles the Dubs faced in The Great War and who indeed was captured in March 1918 during the great German offensive of that fateful year.

For Kevin, his father's story, like that of so many, looked as if it would, like the man himself simply fade into history. But with Kevin's support that story grew and in many ways came to a wonderful culmination when two members of the Association, John O'Brien and Sean Ryan in particular, organised a rededication of Tommy's grave with a suitable ceremony, at which the Association Standard was proudly Displayed:

Tommy was given a moving and emotional send off, one Kevin had felt was missing for so long. But Kevin never ever forgot his father. On many trips he would regale us with stories from his own military past in

the RAF Regiment and would often compare his time with how it must have been for Tommy. In 2018 close to Enfer Wood, part of the 1918 Battlefield, he told us of the day his father was captured and how, in the midst of the carnage of battle, Tommy survived. Kevin painted a word picture of fight, fear, horror, bloodshed and survival. Of his father's time in a prisoner of war camp, and tellingly of the Ireland that Tommy came home to, how he lived and reared a family.

On any occasion that Kevin was with us he was always found sharing a joke or adding to the flow of conversation. He was ever popular and, if you needed a hand, then Kevin was first in the Queue. He never let us down when asked to give of his time, energy or knowledge and on a personal level he always found time to talk with me of his life, his love of his family would happily and listen to me when I too offered up my thoughts on life.

He was never done praising the Association. We shall never be done remembering him. He cherished his wife Madeline, his family and friends. The motto of the The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association is Spectamur Agendo, Kevin lived that motto.

May he R.I.P , Brian Moroney



**Kevin Cunningham**

**Michael O' Malley**

**Eamon Sheridan**

## The Dubs at Suvla Bay, August – December 1915

Paul Appleby

### Introduction

After the start of World War One, political leaders like John Redmond encouraged Irishmen to join the British Army believing that this would strengthen the case for Home Rule in Ireland. While other factors (for example, a steady income, desire for adventure, etc) also played a part, the result was a surge of Irishmen enlisting in Irish and non-Irish regiments particularly in the War's early years. This public support necessitated the formation of new regimental battalions like the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. D Company of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers came to particular public attention, because many of its officers comprised middle/upper class Dubliners including prominent rugby players. However most volunteers were working class including many from inner city Dublin.<sup>[1]</sup>

The new recruits of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers experienced war for the first time at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula in the summer of 1915 after Turkey entered the War on the side of the Central Powers. The landing at Suvla and the related attacks from Helles and ANZAC Cove were an attempt to overcome the stalemate which had existed since the previous April when British, Commonwealth and French forces only managed to secure precarious footholds on the southern end of the Peninsula. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers which was decimated in the initial landings at Helles was also redeployed to Suvla Bay that summer.<sup>[2]</sup> This article outlines the involvement of all three Dubs' battalions in the fighting at Suvla in late 1915.

### Preparations – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers

Over the winter of 1914/1915, the new Battalions were based at The Curragh for training. The accompanying photograph<sup>[3]</sup> shows 'D' Company of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers leaving Dublin's Royal Barracks (now Collins Barracks) en route to England on 30 April 1915. From May, they underwent further training while based in Basingstoke. In late May, they were inspected by the King, followed a few days later by Lord Kitchener. On 10 July, they left Devonport near Exeter aboard the liner Alania and reached



[1] 'Come on the Dubs' - A Brief History of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, 2022,

[2] 'Come on the Dubs' - A Brief History of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, pages 15-17.

[3] National Museum of Ireland – [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie).

Alexandria in Egypt on 20 July. After staying a few days, they were temporarily repositioned to Mudros Harbour on the Greek island of Lemnos on 24 July and then on the following day to the island of Mitylene further to the south-east (now known as Lesbos) where they stayed for a fortnight. On 6 August, they embarked aboard the Fauvette and Sania for Suvla Bay, 120 miles away.<sup>[4]</sup> <sup>[5]</sup>

At Suvla, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers, together with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Munster Fusiliers, formed the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division which was under the overall command of General Sir Bryan Mahon. The 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigades were also part of the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division together with artillery, engineers, field ambulance and other details.<sup>[6]</sup>

The 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division was originally planned to attack Turkish positions on the Kiretch Tepe Sirt (KTS) Ridge to the north and east of Suvla Bay. However as the landing neared, plans changed, and the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade was detached to support the ANZAC forces further south. In the initial landing, A Beach where the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Brigades were due to land was found to be impractical, because sandbanks/reefs offshore prevented the landing craft reaching the beach. Accordingly the 31<sup>st</sup> Brigade and two battalions of 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade were redeployed to C Beach below Nibrunesi Point and far from their intended objective (see the map on the following page). A suitable landing spot on the west side of A Beach was eventually identified, and General Mahon and his remaining three battalions of 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade landed there. This dispersion of troops inevitably resulted in confusion.<sup>[7]</sup> <sup>[8]</sup>

### **The Attack on Chocolate Hill, Saturday, 7 August 1915**

Turkish defences around Suvla Bay were comparatively light initially. There was no barbed wire and only limited artillery, but there were localised trenches on the coastal hills of Lala Baba, Hill 10 and on the lower reaches of the KTS ridge. In the event of an attack, these positions were intended to slow any advance, permit the surviving defenders to withdraw to higher ground in the rear and give time for reserves elsewhere on the Gallipoli Peninsula to arrive to bolster the limited manpower in position around the Bay.<sup>[9]</sup>

The immediate objective of the Allied attack at Suvla Bay was to seize and hold the heights of the KTS and Tekke Tepe heights which overlooked the Bay. Chocolate Hill was an intermediate point well in front of the Tekke Tepe ridge. The attack at Suvla was secondary to the simultaneous planned breakout by ANZAC forces from their existing positions further to the south. The main purpose of the Suvla attack was to develop a safe harbour and army base for future combined Suvla and ANZAC operations.<sup>[10]</sup>

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<sup>[4]</sup> Richard S Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, Boydell Press for the Army Records Society, 2022, principally pages 15, 16, 31-33, 45 and 46.

<sup>[5]</sup> Henry Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, E Ponsonby Ltd, 1916, pages 17-60.

<sup>[6]</sup> Tom Johnstone, *Orange Green & Khaki*, Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1992, pages 87-90.

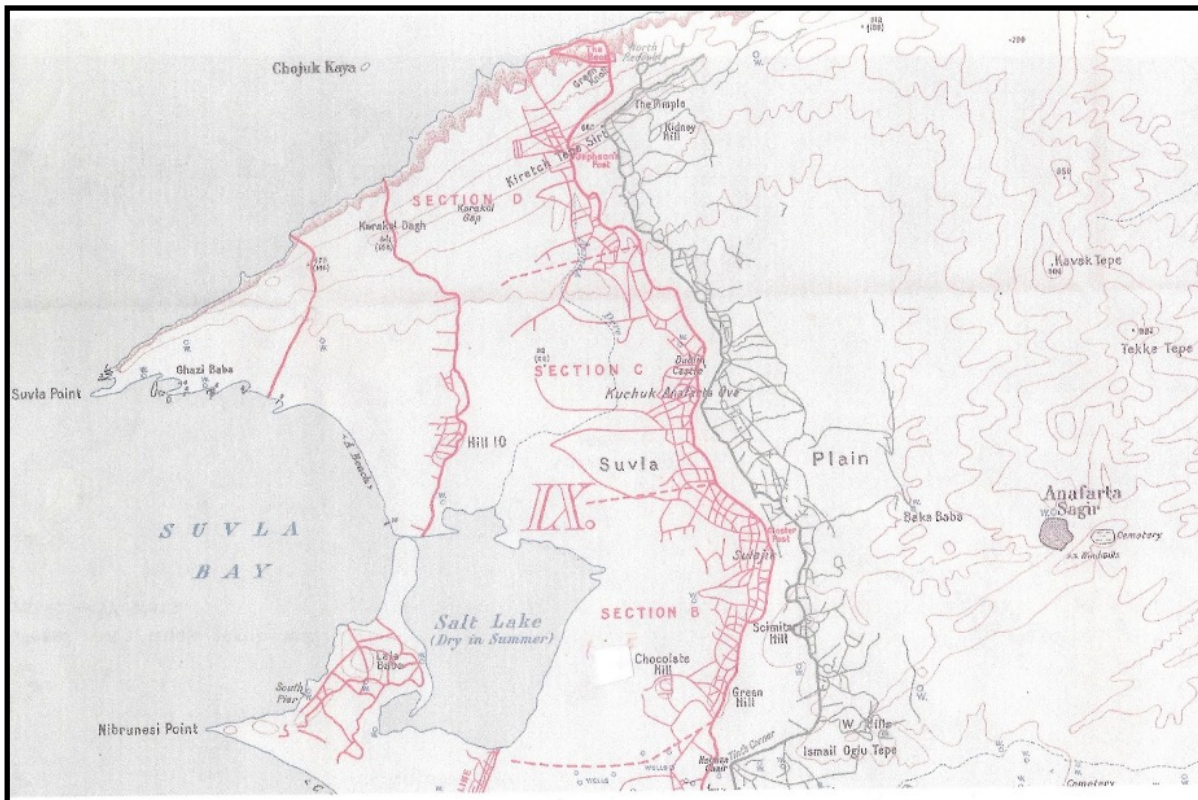
<sup>[7]</sup> Peter Hart, *Gallipoli*, Profile Books, 2013, page 345.

<sup>[8]</sup> Tom Johnstone, *Orange Green & Khaki*, pages 123 -125.

<sup>[9]</sup> Hart, *Gallipoli*, pages 282 and 283.

<sup>[10]</sup> Hart, *Gallipoli*, page 330.

Shortly before midnight on 6 August, the first wave of 11<sup>th</sup> Division comprising mainly newly recruited English troops landed successfully on B Beach below Nibrunesi Point to the south of Suvla Bay. Their aim was to attack Lala Baba Hill and Hill 10 and secure the right flank of the invading force.<sup>[11]</sup> The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers were part of the second wave which landed at C Beach close to Nibrunesi Point early on the morning of 7 August 1915 - see the following map<sup>[12]</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs had no orders on arrival and could find no staff to establish what they were required to do. As noted by Captain Noel Drury in his diary, 'we went to Gallipoli without any orders, and without any maps'.<sup>[13]</sup> The initial lacuna vis-à-vis orders was eventually resolved.



Now part of 31<sup>st</sup> Brigade due to the revised landing arrangements, the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers, specifically 'A' and 'D' Companies, were deployed to take Chocolate Hill with the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers. The 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs and 'B' and 'C' Companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs were left in reserve, where they spent part of the day carrying stores and ammunition over a distance of about three miles through difficult soft terrain.<sup>[14] [15]</sup>

Inadequate interpretation of intelligence led to the faulty belief that Hill 10 was lightly defended and that the defences on the seaward side of Chocolate Hill were strong. This led to the decision

[11] Hart, Gallipoli, pages 332 and 333.

[12] This map was sourced by David Buckley, RDFA, from the History of the Royal Corps of Engineers.

[13] Grayson (Editor), The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers, pages 46, 50 and 51.

[14] Hanna, The Pals at Suvla Bay, pages 70 and 71.

[15] Grayson (Editor), The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers, pages 51-53.

to avoid a direct attack on Chocolate Hill in favour of an indirect approach via a long clockwise advance around the Salt Lake.<sup>[16]</sup>

The initial advance of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers stalled under a terrific fire to their front. When the main Turkish fire was reduced, they advanced along the dune to the west of the Salt Lake, which was described as resembling 'Dollymount'. After a time, they were ordered to abandon their heavy packs, but they retained their rations. Crossing the muddy outflow from the Salt Lake known as the Cut, they advanced in a clockwise direction around the Salt Lake where there was no cover. After crossing the Asmak watercourse, the ground afforded better cover, and they waited for a time while the naval guns pounded the Turkish positions. Resuming their advance towards the high ground to the north of Chocolate Hill, they were met with heavy shrapnel, machine-gun and rifle fire.<sup>[17]</sup>

However it was now about 7 pm, and Chocolate Hill had to be taken before dusk. After the Navy ceased firing on the Turkish defences on Chocolate Hill, the men were ordered to take the Hill at all costs. 'D' Company of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers reportedly advanced 'with a dash for all the world like a wild forward rush at Lansdowne Road', closely followed by 'A' Company who were anxious not to be left behind. This attack was successful, and the adjacent Green Hill was also taken later that evening by the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers. The troops then consolidated their positions overnight.<sup>[18]</sup>

The following photograph<sup>[19]</sup> shows Suvla Bay and A Beach (centre), the Salt Lake beyond the narrow spit of land ('Dollymount'), Lala Baba Hill (centre right) and Hill 10 (centre left). Chocolate and Green Hills lie in the middle distance on the left.



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[16] Hart, Gallipoli, pages 330 and 331.

[17] Hanna, The Pals at Suvla Bay, pages 68-71.

[18] Hanna, The Pals at Suvla Bay, pages 73-76.

[19] This photograph was taken by the Author in September 2025 from the lower reaches of the Kiretch Tepe Sirt Ridge overlooking Suvla Bay.

Based on information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), it seems that about 16 officers and men from the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers were killed in the attack.<sup>[20]</sup> One of those who died was Lieutenant Ernest Julian, the Reid Professor of Law in Trinity College Dublin before enlisting.<sup>[21]</sup> Later holders of that prestigious academic office included former President Mary Robinson.

### **Chocolate Hill – Sunday, 8 August**

The following day was comparatively quiet. According to Hanna, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers acted that day as the fatigue battalion carrying up water, ammunition and supplies to those on Chocolate Hill.<sup>[22]</sup> The scene at the Beach was however chaotic. No bulk containers for water were available, and only 50 mules had been landed. Quartermasters did what they could. Lt ‘Stuffer’ Byrne of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs used open camp kettles as containers, and typically spillage lost half its contents when carried three miles to the front line. Later biscuit tins, petrol cans and even ammunition boxes were utilised.<sup>[23]</sup>

According to Drury, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers were ordered early that morning to move towards Chocolate Hill but were later sent back. He commented:

“I cannot understand the delay in moving inland. There has been no fighting all day and the Turks haven’t fired a shot and are probably moving up reinforcements and digging new trenches. The men are all talking about the waste of valuable time.”<sup>[24]</sup>

The 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers spent part of Sunday improving their trenches and burying dead Turks. A fire that day on the adjacent Green Hill eliminated the little cover there was and exposed the defenders of Chocolate Hill to fire any time they moved.<sup>[25]</sup>

Hanna reported that the nearby Hill 70 (aka Scimitar Hill) was taken by British troops that day but that they were withdrawn after dark. Hanna criticises this withdrawal as a serious failure, because at dawn the following day, the Hill was found to be occupied by the Turks who never relinquished control for the remainder of the campaign.<sup>[26]</sup>

### **The Attack on Scimitar Hill – Monday, 9 August**

Early on Monday, 9 August, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers were ordered to return to Chocolate Hill to help regain Hill 70/Scimitar Hill and support an attack on Hill 112 further inland. The fighting had hardly started when reinforcements were sought, and ‘B’ and ‘C’ Companies were sent forward. Not long after, ‘D’ Company was also dispatched. According to Drury, the first wave of Lincolns, Borderers and South Staffordshires had abandoned the attack and had either<sup>[20]</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (accessed in September 2025).

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<sup>[21]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, page 202.

<sup>[22]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, page 83.

<sup>[23]</sup> Johnstone, *Orange Green & Khaki*, page 128.

<sup>[24]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, page 53.

<sup>[25]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 84 and 85.

<sup>[26]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, page 85.

retreated or lay about under cover.<sup>[27]</sup> Hanna considered that the Turks had been strongly reinforced overnight.<sup>[28]</sup>

The attack was now being primarily pressed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers and 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers. Although both reached the top of Hill 70/Scimitar Hill around noon with significant casualties, they believed that the troops on their left flank were being turned and accordingly withdrew to a partially built Turkish trench about 300 yards from the summit. According to Drury, this trench saved the line, as they would never have held the scattered units together without this rallying point. He described his day as divided between trying to keep the first wave of English troops on the Hill, while simultaneously trying to keep the Turks off the Hill. He recorded the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs' casualties as 11 officers and 259 other ranks.<sup>[29]</sup> CWGC figures suggest that about 75 of them died in the attack.<sup>[30]</sup>

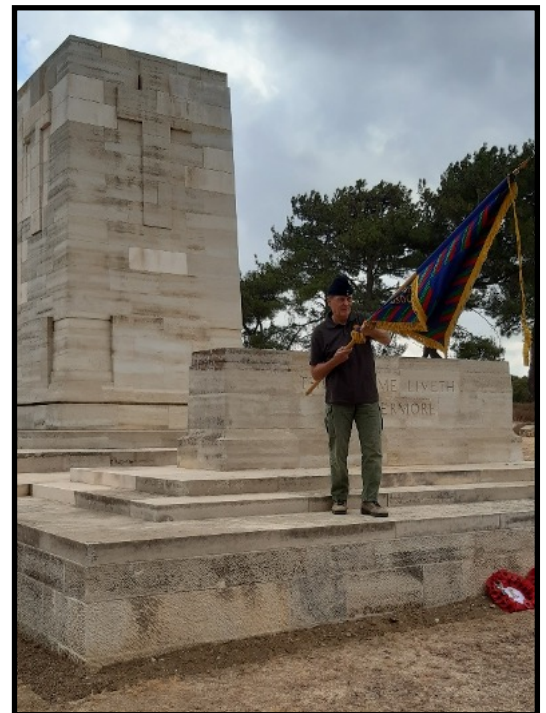
During the attack on Hill 70/Scimitar Hill that day, 'D' Company of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs was called upon to re-supply the right flank with ammunition. This they successfully did under severe fire suffering a number of casualties in the process. Indeed Captain Paddy Tobin and some of his men spent much of the day in the dangerous front line.<sup>[31]</sup> (See the later text box recounting the circumstances of the death of Captain Tobin at Suvla.)

### Chocolate and Green Hills – 10-12 August

In the evening of 10 August, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs were ordered to relieve the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers on Green Hill. They spent their time there improving trenches and being targeted by Turkish snipers. Water remained in short supply.<sup>[32]</sup> The 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs remained on Chocolate Hill during this period.<sup>[33]</sup>

The water shortage was exacerbated by swarms of flies which assaulted the dead, the latrines and any exposed food. Everyone was dirty, unshaven and soiled with sweat, blood and filth. In these conditions, many men began suffering from diarrhoea, enteritis, sunburn or heat cramp due to exposure and inadequate fluid intake.<sup>[34]</sup>

The picture opposite shows David Buckley with the Association's Standard at Green Hill Cemetery in



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<sup>[27]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 54-57.

<sup>[28]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, page 86.

<sup>[29]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 58 and 59.

<sup>[30]</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (accessed in September 2025).

<sup>[31]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 87 and 88.

<sup>[32]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 62 and 63.

<sup>[33]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 89-91.

<sup>[34]</sup> Johnstone, *Orange Green & Khaki*, page 134.

September 2025 when wreaths were laid on our own behalf and on behalf of the Association of Disbanded Irish Regiments in memory of the fallen.<sup>[35]</sup>

### **The Attack on Kiretch Tepe Sirt Ridge, 13-17 August**

Around 2 am on Friday, 13 August, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers were relieved and relocated to a 'Rest Camp' close to Suvla Point, where they rejoined the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Munster Fusiliers and the rest of 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade.<sup>[36]</sup>

Within hours of their arrival however, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs were ordered to go up to the front line on the KTS Ridge. Saturday was spent improving the position. On Sunday, a full-scale assault was ordered on the Ridge and the adjacent spur of Kidney Hill.<sup>[37]</sup> Peter Hart has commented:

“...what would have been a laudable initiative with some hope of success a couple of days earlier was near suicide when the 10<sup>th</sup> Division attack went in supported by the 162<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 54<sup>th</sup> Division at 13.00 on 15 August. The Turks had been reinforced by several battalions from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 127<sup>th</sup> Regiments.”<sup>[38]</sup>

The attack was preceded by a bombardment which was so limited that it was described by an Inniskillings officer as merely warning the Turk 'to rise from his siesta'.<sup>[39]</sup> The 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs were deployed to the left of the 6<sup>th</sup> Munster Fusiliers in a line which ran from Jephson's Post on the ridge towards the sea to the left. The plan envisaged them advancing along the left side of the ridge and wheeling clockwise to take the Turkish positions on the crest, while other troops advanced along the right side of the Ridge. Initially held up by snipers, the advance continued slowly through dense scrub and precipitous terrain for over four hours. Shortly before 6 pm, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs and 6<sup>th</sup> Munsters charged and drove the Turks off the crest around the feature called 'The Pimple' suffering a number of casualties. Their exuberant yells were cheered by the watching sailors and soldiers.<sup>[40]</sup>

According to Drury, the Turks also evacuated their trenches on Kidney Hill, and urgent messages were sent to 54<sup>th</sup> Division encouraging them to occupy the empty trenches. But they never moved having been subject to serious casualties that day. The result was that the British defensive line was now a salient with the Dubs' position exposed. That evening, the 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs relieved the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs who retired about 600 yards.<sup>[41]</sup>

That night, the Turks made two serious attempts to recover their position. In the first soon after 10 pm, a wave of Turks advanced in the worst rifle and machine gun fire that the 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers had experienced since their arrival on Gallipoli. However the line held, and the advancing Turks were mown down. A second even stronger attack took place around 2 am in

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<sup>[35]</sup> Photograph by the Author.

<sup>[36]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 96 and 98.

<sup>[37]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 64-66.

<sup>[38]</sup> Hart, *Gallipoli*, page 361.

<sup>[39]</sup> Hart, *Gallipoli*, page 362.

<sup>[40]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 66 and 67.

<sup>[41]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, page 67.

which the Turks took up sheltered positions just below the crest and lobbed hand-grenades into the 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs' positions causing terrible casualties. A Private Wilkin distinguished himself by catching five incoming grenades and returning them to the Turks before a sixth blew him to pieces. As the Dubs had no bombs themselves, some men attempted with no great success to crawl to the crest and fire down on the sheltering Turks or roll boulders down on top of them. As casualties were mounting, it was considered that the line could only be held if a charge were made to root the bombers out of their positions. Few survived this brave attempt, and the only surviving Dubs' officer, Lieutenant Hamilton, decided to remain on the defensive until reinforced or relieved. At 9 am, the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs and two companies of the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Regiment relieved the surviving 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs.<sup>[42]</sup>

Throughout that day, the Turks enfiladed the 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs from Kidney Hill and continued lobbing grenades at them. Drury reports that one of his men, Fritz Cullen, did great work fielding and returning them. Colonel Cox made a number of unsuccessful pleas to organise an attack towards Kidney Hill, and he eventually sent Drury to see General Nicol who was in charge of 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade. At dusk, the General decided that they should evacuate The Pimple under a covering bombardment and return to a line near Jephson's Post. The withdrawal was conducted in good order with all of the wounded being brought back in darkness.<sup>[43]</sup> The Turks held the KTS Ridge for the remainder of the Gallipoli campaign.

The following photograph<sup>[44]</sup> taken from the Ridge in September 2025 shows the dominant perspective enjoyed by the Turks over the British trenches in the plain below. The fortification which became known as Dublin Castle (see later text) was located in the area on the centre left of the photograph.



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[42] Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 104-108.

[43] Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 68 and 69.

[44] Author's photograph.

According to CWGC figures, 61 officers and men of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 21 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion were killed between 13 and 17 August during the time spent by them on the KTS Ridge.<sup>[45]</sup>

### **Attack on Scimitar Hill, 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Fusiliers, 18-21 August 1915**

The attack on Scimitar Hill/Hill 70 and the nearby W Hill on 21 August was to be led by the 29<sup>th</sup> Division and the 11<sup>th</sup> Division respectively. The 29<sup>th</sup> Division included the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers which had been devastated on their arrival at Helles on 25 April and whose numbers, despite receipt of extra manpower, remained below strength. In preparation for the attack, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was sent on 18 August from Helles to Suvla Bay where they were deployed on the following day, initially at Chocolate Hill and then on Green Hill.<sup>[46]</sup>

The preliminary bombardment of 30 minutes duration on 21 August had little effect on the Turkish defences.<sup>[47]</sup> Although some of 29<sup>th</sup> Division managed to gain the top of Scimitar Hill on a couple of occasions, they were unable to maintain their position due to the severity of the Turkish enfilading fire. The attack was also hampered by a fire which gave rise to confusion and made it difficult for officers to maintain control.<sup>[48]</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Fusiliers were due to attack the right side of Scimitar Hill, but their official history recounts that those in the 11<sup>th</sup> Division on their right moved across their line of advance, apparently because of the thick smoke from the fire, and hampered their advance. The raging fire also prevented any cooperation with the 87<sup>th</sup> Brigade which was attacking on the left side of the Hill.<sup>[49]</sup> A later text box towards the end of this article tells the story of Private Charles Cummins 20116, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was severely wounded in Gallipoli in Autumn 1915, most likely at the Battle of Scimitar Hill on 21 August.

In his book, Peter Hart described the attack on 21 August as a 'pointless battle' and a 'useless gesture'. Some 5,300 men were killed, wounded or missing, he said, for nothing. The ground already gained at Suvla was sufficient to facilitate British logistical organisation. In his view, securing a few more inland hills was not going to change the overall situation as the Turks would still hold the higher hills behind.<sup>[50]</sup>

This failure constituted the last major offensive operation in the Suvla Bay area.

### **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers, 18 August 1915 – 1 October 1915**

For the attack towards Scimitar Hill/Hill 70 and the nearby W Hill on 21 August, the 10<sup>th</sup> Division was in support. Both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions advanced under heavy fire and suffered some casualties, but they were not called on to participate in the fighting. Afterwards, they rotated in and out of the front line and regularly endured both rifle and shellfire. Time was spent

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<sup>[45]</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (accessed in September 2025).

<sup>[46]</sup> Colonel HC Wyllly CB, Neill's 'Blue Caps', Volume 3, 1914-1922, The Naval & Military Press Ltd in association with the Imperial War Museum (reprint of 1923 book), page 53.

<sup>[47]</sup> Hart, Gallipoli, page 371.

<sup>[48]</sup> Johnstone, Orange Green & Khaki, pages 141 and 142.

<sup>[49]</sup> Wyllly, Neill's 'Blue Caps', Volume 3, 1914-1922, page 54.

<sup>[50]</sup> Hart, Gallipoli, page 369, 378 and 384.

improving defences, and illnesses like dysentery began to afflict the men on top of the casualties caused by sniping and shellfire. The locations where they served for this period included Lala Baba, Green Hill and areas north and south of Chocolate Hill.<sup>[51]</sup> <sup>[52]</sup>

For much of September, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs were located around Ali Bey Chesme just north of Chocolate Hill. The 6<sup>th</sup> Dubs' War Diary reported that on 27 September, sanction was given to naming two new trenches 'Dublin Road' and 'Sackville Street'.<sup>[53]</sup> The place name of 'College Green' was also a location in the defensive network indicating the extent to which the Dubs were prominent in the area.<sup>[54]</sup>

Overall strategic considerations dictated that some of the Gallipoli force would have to be withdrawn to support their allies in Serbia following Bulgaria's entry into the War on the side of the Central Powers. The 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division, including the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dublin Fusiliers, was accordingly withdrawn from Gallipoli on 1 October.<sup>[55]</sup>

CWGC figures indicate that another 54 Dubs lost their lives in Gallipoli after 18 August, 27 from each of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions.<sup>[56]</sup> Dealing solely with 'D' Company of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dubs, Hanna has indicated that of the 239 who landed at Suvla Bay in early August, only 79, or 33% of them, departed the Peninsula for Serbia less than two months later.<sup>[57]</sup>

#### **'Dublin Castle' and Later Deployments, 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Fusiliers, 22 August 1915 – 1 January 1916**

Notwithstanding the setback at Scimitar Hill, work continued on improving and strengthening defences along the whole line. By way of example of the risks involved in this work under the gaze of the Turks, the War Diary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dubs for 28 and 29 August describes an entrenching operation over a 24-hour period which resulted in four men being killed and eight wounded from 'Z' Company and an unspecified number from 'Y' Company also being wounded. This extract from the War Diary relates the start of the construction of a blockhouse based around two existing small buildings/huts:

"On this date [28 August] ordered (sic) were received to commence a new fire trench in order to straighten out our fire trench which was too much of a re-entrant. A new trench therefore was marked out and entrenching was commenced after dark. To cover the working party and to create a diversion it was decided to seize & hold a small hut in front of one flank of the proposed new trench. About 8.30 p.m. 16 men under Lt. Tooth followed by 16 men under Capt. de Wolf crept into position opposite the hut. The men under Lt. Tooth then rushed the hut and Capt. de Wolf's party moved up with picks & shovels to place hut in a state of defence. About 1 a.m. Capt. De Wolf had to be

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<sup>[51]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 117,119, 120, 123 and 127.

<sup>[52]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, pages 76-92.

<sup>[53]</sup> War Diary, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

<sup>[54]</sup> Grayson (Editor), *The First World War Diary of Noel Drury, 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers*, page 89.

<sup>[55]</sup> Hart, *Gallipoli*, page 387.

<sup>[56]</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (accessed in September 2025).

<sup>[57]</sup> Hanna, *The Pals at Suvla Bay*, pages 113 and 129.

reinforced by 10 men from 'Y' Coy. owing to casualties. Previous to this Capt. de Wolf had taken 30 men of his company with sandbags to complete the defences of the hut. Meanwhile 'X' Coy under Capt. Carruthers had been entrenching hard. About 2.30 p.m. [on the following day] the hut could no longer be retained owing to the heavy fire and frequent casualties. The dead and wounded were all evacuated. The diversion was successful in as far that it drew the enemy's fire and 'X' Coy. had no casualties while entrenching, and the essential part of the trench was completed that night..."<sup>[58]</sup>

On 8 September, the 1<sup>st</sup> Dubs were withdrawn to the Greek island of Imbros for rest and recuperation but returned to Suvla on 21 September. They spent the next 56 days in the front line until they were relieved on 17 November. Much of this time was occupied labouring in the vicinity of the blockhouse. Their work included trenches, saps, barricades, parapets, roofing, shelters, sandbags, drainage, sanitation, wiring, brushwood clearance as well as night patrols. Because of its prominence, the area surrounding the blockhouse seemed to attract a greater rifle and shell fire than elsewhere resulting in near-daily Battalion casualties. Sickness was also a regular event.<sup>[59]</sup>

On 7 October, Major General de Lisle visited the blockhouse and praised the 'splendid' work. He decided that it would henceforth be known as 'Dublin Castle'.<sup>[60]</sup> 'Dublin Castle' is visible in very small type to the right of **SECTION C** in the middle of the map included earlier in this article. (Note: During the Association's visit to Gallipoli in September 2025, Association members, guided by David Buckley, visited the former location of Dublin Castle.)

The War Diary entry for 31 October records that the following Dubs' soldiers were officially recognised for the work on Dublin Castle:

"The following rewards have been approved by the C. in C. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in connection with the work done in & around DUBLIN CASTLE. Military Cross: Tempy. Capt. H.L. de Wolf, 16<sup>th</sup> King's Liverpool Regt., attached 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. R. Dublin Fusrs. Lieut. W.P. Oulton, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. R. Dublin Fusiliers. Distinguished Conduct Medal: No. 9809 Coy. Sgt. Major C. McCann and No. 10774 A/Sergt. S. Byrne..."<sup>[61]</sup>

In late November, the weather dramatically turned. Storms and heavy rain first resulted in waterlogged trenches, and it then became freezing cold. A few Dubs died of exposure as a result, and others suffered frostbite. Officers could no longer accurately record the numbers out sick when large numbers required hospital treatment.<sup>[62]</sup>

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<sup>[58]</sup> WO 95/4310, War Diary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

<sup>[59]</sup> WO 95/4310, War Diary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

<sup>[60]</sup> WO 95/4310, War Diary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

<sup>[61]</sup> WO 95/4310, War Diary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

<sup>[62]</sup> Wylly, Neill's 'Blue Caps', Volume 3, 1914-1922, pages 58 and 59.

On 4 December, the trenches were described as 'being thigh deep in mud, and water, after the thaw of yesterday', a situation which resulted in 24 being sent to hospital that day due to exposure. Another 21 followed the next day for the same reason.<sup>[58]</sup>

On 14 December, the Battalion was initially withdrawn to Mudros before redeployment to Helles at midnight the following night. A short time later, the Battalion departed the Peninsula for good on 1 January 1916.<sup>[59]</sup>

According to CWGC figures, 78 members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion died between 18 August and their departure from Gallipoli on 1 January 1916.<sup>[60]</sup>

## Conclusion

According to Hart, the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 was 'doomed from the outset', and it entailed enormous loss:

"Overall the campaign was a huge drain on Allied military resources involving nearly half a million troops across the eight-month campaign, of which 410,000 were from the British Empire with a further 79,000 from France and her North African colonies. Of these the British Empire lost 205,000 (115,000 killed, wounded or missing; 90,000 evacuated sick) while the French had 47,000 casualties (approximately 27,000 killed, wounded or missing with some 20,000 evacuated sick). This compares with 251,309 Turkish casualties (186,869 killed, wounded or missing; 64,440 evacuated sick)..."<sup>[61]</sup>

Set against these huge numbers, the losses sustained by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers seem small. But each death was mourned by the man's family and friends, and it proved to be a traumatic loss for Dublin as a whole and for other affected communities. According to CWGC figures, 788 Royal Dublin Fusiliers are commemorated at Gallipoli. Of these, about 291 fell in the actions around Suvla Bay. Approximately 60, 125 and 106 of these men belonged to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions respectively.<sup>[62]</sup> As an Association, we must continue to remember their sacrifice.

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<sup>[63]</sup> WO 95/4310, War Diary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

<sup>[64]</sup> Wylly, Neill's 'Blue Caps', Volume 3, 1914-1922, pages 60 and 61.

<sup>[65]</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (accessed in September 2025).

<sup>[66]</sup> Hart, *Gallipoli*, pages 452, 453 and 462.

<sup>[67]</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (accessed in September 2025).

Tom Johnstone, Orange Green & Khaki, Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1992

Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, Come on the Dubs' - A Brief History of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 2022

UK National Archives: Gallipoli War Diaries for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions, Royal Dublin Fusiliers (sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

Colonel HC Wyllly CB, Neill's 'Blue Caps', Volume 3, 1914-1922, The Naval & Military Press Ltd in association with the Imperial War Museum (reprint of 1923 book)

## Private Charles (Charlie) Cummins 20116, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers



In a letter dated 18 October 1915, Mrs Mary Cummins, 10 Abercorn Terrace, Inchicore, was informed that her son, Pte Charles Cummins 20116, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, had been wounded in the forehead and admitted to hospital in Cairo on 2 October. Earlier on 13 September however, a casualty list had classified Charlie as missing. His wounding was also reported in the Evening Herald of 6 November 1915 when it profiled footballers who had enlisted. Charlie had played with the Railway team for many years as a centre half or centre forward and earlier with Harwich FC in England.

Charlie Cummins (pictured) recovered from his wound but was discharged from the Army on 7 February 1916, as he was no longer fit for war service. He was unable to resume his trade as a brass finisher in the Inchicore Works of Great Southern and Western Railway, but the company did re-employ him as a bartender in their dining hall, where he met his future wife, Jane Leonard. He died in 1948 aged 63.

Charlie's story was that he lay on the battlefield for three days before being collected with the dead. He was fortunate to be one of the last to be tossed into the mass grave, and the jolt made him realise that he was about to be buried alive. While he could not speak, he managed to move the fingers on his raised arm, and one of the burial party (a man from Tullow, Co Carlow) saw the movement and shouted 'stop' to the other men who were covering the bodies with quick lime. They retrieved Charlie from the trench and got him medical attention which led to him being shipped to Cairo. He had a bullet removed from his head there, and fortunately it had not penetrated his brain.

Army records confirm that Charlie was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Dubs in Gallipoli from 3 July 1915. His wounding must have happened in the three weeks between the Battalion's deployment to Suvla Bay on 19 August and its withdrawal to Imbros on 8 September. The most likely occasion is the attack on Scimitar Hill on 21 August which was the only large-scale advance by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in its time at Suvla Bay.

Main Source: Seamus Fleming, *The Leonard Side of Our Living Family History – Part 1* (unpublished), pages 50-53.

## Postscript

Strangely, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's Gallipoli War Diary includes the following entry for 28 September 1915:

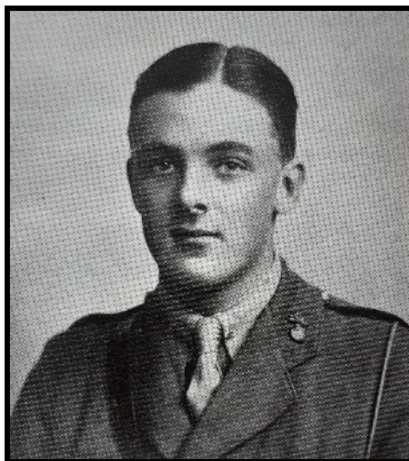
"...Work in forward fire trench had to be discontinued at 11 a.m. as one man was killed, and 2 wounded (one since died of wounds) and one man wounded by accident (R.E. [Royal Engineers] blasting). The men were. Killed: No. 20215 Pte. Gorman M. 'Z' Co. Died of wounds: No. 7479 Pte. R. Woods 'Z' Co. Wounded: No. 20116 Pte. €-W Cummins, 'W' Co.; and No. 7046 Pte. A. White, 'Y' Coy..."

In the written record, the initial 'W' is superimposed in thicker script on the letter 'C' which indicates that 'W' was a correction. Army records indicate that a Cpl W Cummins 6603, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was wounded on 8 June 1915 in Gallipoli. However no similar record has been located to indicate that he was later wounded on 28 September as well, perhaps because of the confusion over the soldier's name.

In the circumstances, it is not possible to reconcile Charlie's account of the circumstances of his wounding and recovery from the battlefield with the above War Diary entry. One likely possibility is that the War Diary entry is wrong, because it failed to complete the task of correcting the details for W Cummins by including his actual rank and number.

Main Source: WO 95/4310, War Diary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, at Gallipoli. This UK National Archives record was sourced at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (accessed November 2025).

## Captain Richard Patrick (Paddy) Tobin, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers



Paddy Tobin was a son of Richard (Dick) and Frances Tobin, 60 Merrion Square, Dublin. Dick Tobin was the Head Surgeon in the old St Vincent's Hospital nearby and as a young man had served as a surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps including in the Sudan.

Paddy enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Dubs on the outbreak of war, took part in the capture of Chocolate Hill on 7 August 1915 and as mentioned earlier, behaved gallantly in the unsuccessful attack on Scimitar Hill two days later. On 16 August, he was tragically killed in the struggle with the Turks for control of the Kiretch Tepe Sirt Ridge overlooking Suvla Bay.

Lieutenant Ernest Hamilton, a fellow Trinity College medical student and the only surviving officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the struggle for the Ridge, wrote to Dick Tobin on 19 August in the following terms:

"Since our battalion arrived here, I have been fighting side by side with your noble son. I have witnessed his gallantry, which no one could excel, and saddest of all, I stood fighting by his side when he fell.

Well we – 'D' Company – occupied the highest knoll of the hill against which the enemy made his main attack. They brought up a huge supply of bombs, and throwing them over amongst us caused huge damage. We were then ordered to charge – which we did. Alas, the enemy were in an inaccessible position and few of us came back. We lost Major Harrison, Captain Hickman, and nearly all the men who took part in the charge.

Your son now took command of the Company. Our men at this time were getting badly knocked down. Paddy and I took up a position on the top of the knoll [and] from there he controlled the fire and steadied the men. Such gallantry and coolness I have never witnessed. We fought like demons against three times our numbers and held on too. Our knoll came in for at least six attacks. During one of these your son

Was killed, shot through the head. He caught me by the shoulder, and when I turned he had passed away. I carried him back some distance, and placed him under shelter, but had to get back to my position and try and follow his magnificent example.

His death affected the men so much that I thought all was finished, but spurred by his example they fought for another hour as they have never fought before..."

Paddy's death greatly affected his parents. His mother who was already in poor health never got over her loss and died in 1916. His father channelled his grief into his work and is reputed to have uttered the following remarkable words of compassion and reconciliation shortly after Paddy's death:

"When my son sits down in Paradise I pray that the Turk who killed him may sit down beside him."

This noble sentiment came to be replicated in the famous 1934 statement of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, then the President of the Republic of Turkey, who had earlier commanded the Turkish troops defending Gallipoli in 1915:

"Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives on this land!

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 now here in this country.

You the mothers who sent your sons from faraway 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."

**Main Source:** Paul GJ Murphy, 'Paddy Tobin's Story', The Blue Cap, Volume 20 (December 2015), pages 12-17:  
[www.greatwar.ie](http://www.greatwar.ie).

## Chairmans Report 2025.

Dear Colleague,

It affords me great pleasure to tell you that 2025 was an excellent year for the Association. Our standard was on parade from the centre of Dublin to the shores of Suvla Bay and many points in between. Thanks to the efforts of our Standard Bearers John O'Brien, Sean Ryan, David Buckley, Sean Chambers and the able support of Seamus Greene and Thomas Murphy we were represented at many occasions during the year. Indeed, John and Sean made such an impact at the Menin gate that they and our standard feature a number of times in the Last Post Association annual review!!

If that were not enough our editorial team of Paul Appleby, John Sheehan, Philip Lecane, Thomas Murphy, Paul Taylor and David Buckley ensured our two publications, The Journal and The Old Tough, were produced to our usual exceptionally high standards. Excellent and, in fact, work that demands time and energy freely given by the team.

As usual our secretary Tom Murphy kept us on track for our numerous meetings and debates. With a dedicated committee of ten persons that's no sinecure and congratulations to Thomas for an excellent job!!

Our Treasurer George Jones made sure that all our accounts were kept fully up to date and provided us with timely information and advice during the year to make sure we maximised the use of our membership fees and donations. As you know we have limited access to funding the Association and George makes sure we give our members full value for their money. Splendid work George and thanks again.

Without members we would not exist and it is down to the trojan work by our renewals and membership secretary Suzanne O'Neill that I can tell you we still number over 113 members fully paid up to date. A magnificent effort by Suzanne and please remember she values you and your assistance in maintaining our membership in good standing.

I would also like to commend David Buckley who in addition to guiding us around the battlefields of Gallipoli also provided artifacts for Philip Lecane's talk on the Dubs at Gallipoli in a talk in Dun Laoghaire, but also more recently at our open day in The National Museum Collins Barracks. We are truly blessed that David is our exhibits officer, his expertise and willingness to assist our ventures is wonderful.

Sadly, Paul Appleby and Sally Keogh both stood down as our Charities Commission Liaison and we were very lucky indeed to have had two such capable persons in that role. They remain closely attached to us and can be assured we will not forget their work lightly.

Members of the committee have travelled far and wide over the last year representing our Association. From Cork to Belfast, London to the Somme, Istanbul to Suvla Bay, our Association was on parade. Sean Ryan, John O'Brien and David Buckley braved all that the weather could throw at them and still stood tall with our Standard. Thanks men!!

My Co Chairman John Sheehan is ever on hand to remind me how lucky I am to have such a talented group of people running our Association. Long may that continue. I commend them all to you.

Our AGM this year will sadly miss those members who graced our Christmas Event over many years. I think of them all now and the role they played in our Association. Our latest loss was Kevin Cunningham, one of our earliest members and great supporter. We will Remember them all.

**Spectamur Agendo.**



**Secretary's Annual Report,**  
**Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association 2025 AGM**  
**12.00pm 6th December**

## **Introduction**

The Association held its 2024 AGM on Friday, 6th December, in the Freemason's Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin, at 6.30 pm.

I am pleased to report that since our 2024 AGM your Committee has endeavoured to keep the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association vibrant and active.

The Committee members for 2025 were Brian Moroney (Chairperson), Thomas Murphy (Hon Secretary), Sally Keogh, Paul Appleby, David Buckley, Seamus Greene, George Jones, (Hon Treasurer) Philip Lecane, John O'Brien, Suzanne O'Neill, (Membership Secretary) John F Sheehan and Paul Taylor. This year Paul Appleby and Seamus Greene stepped down from the committee. They were long standing very valuable members of the committee and we would like to thank them for their contributions over the years.

During the year, the Committee met 10 times both in person and online. The committee members take on special areas of responsibility and work in teams eg, publications, finance, trips and events. Where possible the Association is represented at many ceremonies and remembrance events at home and abroad.

## **Remembrance Events**

Members of the committee have travelled far and wide over the last year representing our Association. From Cork to Belfast, London to the Somme, Istanbul to Suvla Bay, our Association was on parade. Sean Ryan, John O'Brien and David Buckley braved all that the weather could throw at them and still stood tall with our Standard. Thanks all.

- Presentation by RDFA member Sean Ryan at Warrenmount Adult Education Centre
- IUNVA Trip to Malta which included our member Sean Ryan.
- 23rd / 24th\* March Menin Gate
- 26th\* March Rededication of World War 1 Royal Dublin Fusiliers soldiers graves in Ypres
- April Tour of St Patrick's Cathedral
- 3rd April Harp Society at Dublin Castle.

- 25th April Kilkenny City Peace Park.
- 25 April 6.30am (ANZAC forces Remembrance Day), Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin.
- 25 April, Service of Remembrance, St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin.
- May Wreath laying in Casement Aerodrome
- 24th\* May Mousetrap farm 110th Anniversary Tom Burke, Sean Ryan and John O'Brien represented the RDFA at a ceremony in Mouse Trap Fram organised by Erwin and local people.
- 25th\* May Menin Gate
- 30th June\*, Last post Ceremony Menin Gate Ypres Belgium
- 8 June, Combined Irish Regiments Annual Parade, Whitehall, London.
- 1st July\*, Somme Commemoration, Ginchy Cross, Guillemont, France.
- 2nd July\*, last post Ceremony Menin Gate Ypres Belgium 97th Anniversary.
- 3rd July, Commemoration at Sligo Great War Memorial Garden, Cleveragh Park, Sligo.
- 12th July,\* Somme Commemoration, War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin.
- 12th July, National Day of Commemoration, The Royal Hospital Kilmainham.
- July Somme Commemoration, Clare Peace Park, Ennis Co Clare
- Annual Dinner of the Irish Guards, Dublin.
- 26th July Visit to King House Boyle, Co Roscommon, historic & cultural centre and home to the Connaught Rangers museum. Thanks to the CRA for their invitation and hospitality.
- August\* WW1 Commemoration and wreath laying Dungarvan Castle, Co Waterford
- 17th September Presentation by Philip Lecane "Assault on Gallipoli"
- 22nd to 28th September RDFA Gallipoli Trip 2025 ( Thanks to Brian Moroney and David Buckley, John F Sheehan for organising this trip)
- September 10th Regimental Veteran's Clonaver Army Reserve Centre Belfast
- 10th October, RMS Leinster Commemoration, with a talk by Philip Lecane on the RMS Leinster at the Lexicon Library Dún Laoghaire.
- November Presentation By Sean Ryan at Saint Catherines church Meath St Dublin.
- 8th November, Remembrance Ceremony, Killester Garden Village, Dublin.
- 6th November\* Remembrance Service Claddagh Branch RBL Grangegorman.
- 8th November, Dedication of War Dead Monument, Oldtown, Co Dublin.

- 11th November annual Armistice Day commemoration, Glasnevin Cemetery
- 12th November\*, Remembrance Service, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.
- 14th November,\* RDFA Service of Remembrance, City Quay Church, Dublin.(cancelled due to bad weather)
- 15 November\* Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association open day in Collins Barracks Dublin with the ADIR
- 16th November, German Day of Remembrance at Glenree, Co Wicklow
- 27th November\* Commemoration at Hyde Park corner at Saint Patrick's chapel 2025

Dates with \* are events where our Association standard was present

## Publications

The Spring edition of The Old Tough was published and circulated to our members. A special booklet was prepared and provided for those travelling to Gallipoli which included maps, general information on the campaign, specific information on the Dubs during the campaign and additional information on the role of the ANZAC.

The Editorial Committee thanks members for their contributions to the journal. We need you, our members, to continue to send us your stories and articles for publication. Please contact the Editorial committee with your contributions for future editions. *forward to* [rdfa1918@gmail.com](mailto:rdfa1918@gmail.com)

Many thanks to Paul Appleby of the Editorial Committee who did tremendous work over many years.

## Website

Our website at [www.greatwar.ie](http://www.greatwar.ie) contains a host of material relating to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and World War 1 in particular, also The Blue Cap and Old Tough newsletters. Every effort continues to be made to keep it up- to-date and to address promptly any issues. Please contact [rdfa1918@gmail.com](mailto:rdfa1918@gmail.com) if you experience any such difficulties.

## Social Media

Over the last year, our Facebook and Twitter accounts have had many hits and visits from members and the general public. Our Facebook and Twitter addresses are <https://www.facebook.com/RoyaDublinFusiliersAssociation/> and [@RoyalDubsFus](https://twitter.com/RoyalDubsFus) respectively. Our Social Media Committee closely monitors the content of the messages.

## Membership

The Membership Secretary Suzanne O'Neill has updated our application for membership. The application form can be accessed online

At the end of 2025 we have 133 members, Unfortunately a number of our members, passed away this year. They were stalwarts of the Association, and they are sadly missed. May they rest in peace. (See Suzanne's Membership Secretary report)

## Governance

As a registered charity (no 20038816), the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association is compliant with the important provisions of the Charities Governance Code which was finalised by the Charities Regulator and became effective in 2021.

In reviewing the Code's provisions in early 2025, the Association's trustees updated the Schedule of Trustee Roles and Duties and agreed the Association's Activity Plan for 2025/2026. They also confirmed that other Association policies (e.g., the Statement of Internal Financial Controls) remained valid. The required internal form detailing our compliance with various aspects of the Charities Governance Code was also completed.

In submitting the Association's most recent annual return to the Charities Regulator earlier this year, the trustees notified their conclusion that we were fully compliant with the Code.

## Mount Jerome Cemetery Remembrance project.

Members John O'Brien and Seán Ryan have continued their research into the Royal Dublin Fusiliers buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin. If you know of any Royal Dublin Fusiliers buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, please contact [rdfa1918@gmail.com](mailto:rdfa1918@gmail.com),

## Merchandise

Our merchandise team is very busy in reorganising our merchandise and adding new items to the list. Members may purchase our ties, lapel badges, blazer badges, poppy badges and remembrance CDs, our ladies' scarves are back in stock printed copies of some of our older Blue Caps are also available for purchase. Contact our Merchandise officer David Buckley for further details. [rdfa1918@gmail.com](mailto:rdfa1918@gmail.com),

## Correspondence

Most correspondence to our email account, [rdfa1918@gmail.com](mailto:rdfa1918@gmail.com), was from members and the general public interested in looking to join our Association or to find out information on relatives who were members of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Every effort was made during the year to respond to these queries promptly.

# Thomas Murphy

Thomas Murphy  
Honorary Secretary,  
Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

## Membership Secretary's Report

2025

We started 2025 with 131members and we are finishing the year with 133.

Whilst the number of members has been maintained we have lost three valued long serving members in Kevin Cunningham, Eamon Sheridan and Michael O'Malley. We have also had six new members join the Association and a few who have allowed their membership to lapse.

The Association continues to be active in the many areas of commemoration, and organisation of events and trips related to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. This year we had a very enjoyable visit to the Gallipoli battlefields, and in the New Year we will be drawing up an event schedule for the coming months. We hope as many of you as possible can join us.

The Association is only as strong as its membership, and we urge all members to become involved in our activities. Our regular newsletters, *The Old Tough* and *The Blue Cap*, will keep you informed of what is happening in the Association. We are also delighted to welcome new members and if you know anybody who has similar interests then please give them our contact details. They can contact me on [rdfamembershipsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rdfamembershipsecretary@gmail.com)

I would like to wish all members and their families a happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy new year.

Hoping to meet as many of you as possible in 2026.

Suzanne O'Neill

RDFA Membership Secretary

## Answers to Quiz:

- 1) Herbert.
- 2) A Light Cruiser.
- 3) True!!
- 4) The Pacific Ocean.
- 5) The Royal Navy.
- 6) The Irish Brigade.
- 7) Salonika/ Bulgarian.
- 8) True, OXO even supplied a little water heater to make the Oxo drink.
- 9) The Brodie Helmet.
- 10) The Hairy One(s).

