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REVEILLE

Telling Ireland's Military Story

SPRING 2015 €7.50/£6.25

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THE 6TH BATTALION CONNAUGHT RANGERS

GODDESS OF THE WAVES

LÉ Emer (P21)

WESTERN CONFEDERATES IRISH REBELS

by Damian Shiels

In the Footsteps of Patrick Cleburne

A photographic essay by Annette Keeter

TEN DAYS IN ÉLISABETHVILLE

Irish Peacekeepers on the Offensive
Interview with Congo Veteran CQMS Jimmy Clarke (Retd)

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Front cover

Irish Defence Forces veteran Jimmy Clarke. Jimmy served in the Congo in 1961. Read his eyewitness account of the Battle of the Tunnel.
(Photo by Billy Galligan)

EDITOR'S NOTE

On our visit to Mayo Peace Park last year we met Michael Feeney MBE, and his team. The work undertaken by them has resulted in one of the most poignant memorials to Ireland's service men and women who fought in all wars since the Boer War. Their research has taken them beyond the park as people came to them from all over the county with similar tales of unknown or damaged graves of forgotten soldiers. One such grave was Lance Corporal Vincent Livesey, the Border Regiment.

Vincent Livesey served with his unit during the Irish War of Independence in Co. Mayo. Based in Castlebar, he died of scarlet fever in April 1920. He was buried in the local cemetery and his comrades paid for a headstone. There is no indication that his family back in Lancashire ever knew what happened to him except that he died in Ireland. Over the decades the headstone became weathered and badly in need of attention. In 2008, Ernie Sweeney, John Basquille and Michael Feeney took it upon themselves to restore the headstone and find Vincent's ancestors. Their research took them to Vincent's home town of Bamber Bridge, near Preston, in Lancashire.

In May 2009, the word went out in the Lancashire Evening Post to try and trace Vincent's family. Amazingly Vincent's nephew, John Browne, saw the article and made contact. John had a picture of Vincent hanging in his house and knew straight away the article was about his uncle. John's late mum Teresa was one of Vincent's twelve siblings who all lived in Bamber Bridge and worked in the cotton industry. John, along with his brother Norman and two sisters, Grace Robinson and Tess Goddard went to Castlebar to attend the rededication ceremony of Vincent's grave. Vincent's family have regularly come back to Castlebar and have become good friends with Michael, Ernie and John. Over the years the three men have restored and rededicated twenty such graves. Forgotten soldiers of Irish, British, American and even Italian origin. As Michael summed up the reason why they do this; 'no one should be forgotten, we will remember them'.

Wesley Bourke
editor@reveille.ie

Wesley Bourke

Interested in submitting an article or photographs?
Here at Reveille we welcome submissions from our readers. For further information please contact the editor at editor@reveille.ie or visit www.reveille.ie/submissions

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COMPETITION WINNERS

www.paracordireland.com

We are pleased to announce the winners of our Winter 2014 issue competition sponsored by Paracord Ireland. Paracord Ireland is the largest supplier of "REAL" Type III Survival Cord in Ireland. The winners are Alex Heath 1st prize, Brian O'Byrne 2nd prize and Joseph Higgins 3rd prize. Well done to all. Great Paracord prizes on their way to you. Thank you to all who entered.



www.thewildgeese.com

We are pleased to announce the digital subscription winners from a competition ran over the Christmas period in the United States in conjunction with TheWildGeese.com. The Wild Geese is a leading internet destination for those looking to explore and celebrate Irish history and heritage. The winners are Ron Redmond, DJ Kelly, John Hurley and Bill Humphrey. Thank you all for entering. Your first issue is on its way to you.



We would like to thank the following for their support in this issue.

A Company 36th Infantry Battalion Association
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Francis FitzDenis, the Lord Thomas Stanley Retinue
Mayo Peace Park and Garden of Remembrance
The Medal Society of Ireland
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The Irish Guards Association Republic of Ireland Branch
The Irish Military Vehicles Group
The Irish Naval Service Press Office
The Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women
The South African Irish Regiment Association



REVEILLE

Telling Ireland's Military Story

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Ireland's First Cross of Sacrifice

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on the wonderful production of your magazine 'Reveille', long may it last. In relation to the article on 'Ireland's First Cross of Sacrifice Unveiled', it has to be pointed out that this claim is historically incorrect. In fact, that honour most definitely belongs to Limerick City. On November 10th, 1929, Major General Sir William Hickie, K.C.B, President of the British Legion in the Irish Free State, and who commanded the 16th Irish Division in France during the First World War, unveiled the 'first' Cross of Sacrifice in Pery Square, Limerick City. The memorial was in the form of a granite cross with a bronze sword on its shaft, twenty feet in height, and was constructed by Harrison and Sons, a Dublin firm. It bore the following inscription:

"To the glory of God, and to the memory of 3,000 officers, NCO's and men of Limerick City and County who fell in the Great War, 1914-18. They died in every quarter of the earth and on its seas, and their names have with reverence and love been inscribed on our rolls of honour. Most of them lie buried in the lands of our Allies, who have set aside their resting place in honour forever."

Unfortunately, during the early hours of Wednesday morning August 7th, 1957, it was destroyed by an explosion. The perpetrator remains unknown. No group or individual ever claimed responsibility for this action. However, like the phoenix rising from its ashes, a new memorial was erected using part of the granite base of the original. This is a relatively simple cross, made of limestone with carved Celtic-style knotwork decoration on the shaft, set on an octagonal-plan limestone faced base. It was designed by Limerick architect, Ronald J. Hickey; in 1960. It is smaller in size than its predecessor and the inscriptions on the front and rear are simpler:

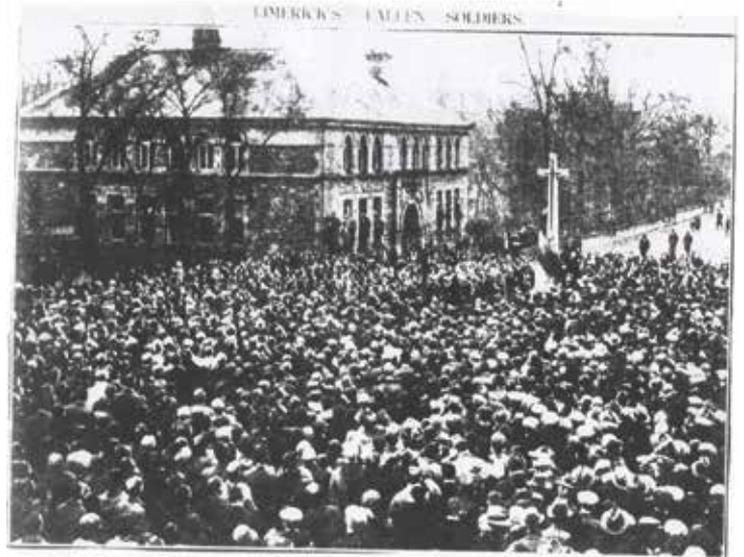
"In Memory of Limerick men who died in both world wars
1914-18
1939-45."

In 1992 a small plaque was placed on the northern face of the base to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the disbandment of the Irish regiments of the British Army in 1922.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Tadhg Moloney,
Limerick.

Dr. Moloney is a member of The Military History Society of Ireland, The Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society and The Royal Munster Fusiliers Association.



Unveiling of Cross of Sacrifice on November 10th, 1929.



Major General Sir William Hickie, K.C.B.



Limerick War memorial as it is today.

LÉ Aoife (P22) Decommissioned After 36 Years Service

The decommissioning ceremony for the longest serving vessel in the Irish Naval Service, the LÉ Aoife, took place on January 31st, along the quayside in Waterford City.

Launched on April 12th, 1979, the LÉ Aoife served the State with distinction for almost 36 years. The vessel travelled in excess of 600,000 nautical miles, an equivalent of circumnavigating the globe 28 times. Over the years her crew conducted over 4,700 boarding's and detained over 440 fishing vessels. The LÉ Aoife was involved in many successful operations most notably in the recovery of the black box from Air India Flight 182 off the south west coast in 1985.

Present at the ceremony was Minister of State at the Department of Defence Paul Kehoe TD. He stated: 'I am pleased to report that the Department of Defence is continuing to progress the Ships Replacement Programme. The first of the ships under the current programme, the LÉ Samuel Beckett was handed over at the end of April 2014, while the replacement vessel for LÉ Aoife, the LÉ James Joyce, is scheduled for delivery in the coming months. Furthermore, last year the Department of Defence placed an order for a third new Offshore Patrol Vessel scheduled for delivery in the middle of 2016'.



The LÉ Aoife is twinned with Waterford and has had a long association with the city. In this context, the Minister commended the crews of LÉ Aoife whom he stated have taken great pride in her close association with the city and have over the years raised many thousands of euros on behalf of the Children's Ward in the University Hospital in Waterford.

(Photo by A/B David Jones, Irish Naval Service Press Office)

1916 Ambulance Log-Book Now on Display

Recently purchased at auction by Dublin City Council the log-book relates to Tara Street Fire Station in 1916 Easter Rising. It records the hour-by-hour response of the Dublin ambulance service to those injured. It contains details of the call-out of ambulances throughout Easter week, giving names, addresses and ages of victims with an account of injuries suffered and the name of the hospital to which they were delivered. Victims include civilians (inc. children) and military personnel. The log-book does not contain details of members of the Irish Volunteers or Irish Citizen Army, as each garrison had its own medical care. As Easter week progresses in the log-book, entries record fires in Dublin City and by the end of the week, both the ambulance and fire brigade had been forbidden by Lieutenant John Myers from responding to calls within areas that had seen fighting, as he deemed this to be too dangerous. Inserted into the volume are loose-leaves giving an account, compiled in July 1916, of the activities of Thomas Street Fire Station during the Rising.

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Christy Burke, was presented with the log-book in the Mansion House on November 20th, 2014, he said that: 'I am delighted that Dublin City Council has obtained this important contemporary record of the 1916 Rising. This volume details the impact of the Rising on Dublin and particularly the citizens who were caught up in these historic events. It also records the bravery of those who staffed the ambulance and fire brigade services, continuing to look after the public even under fire'.

The log-book is currently on display in the reading room at Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. The pages relating to Easter Week 1916 have been digitised and can be viewed at: www.dublinheritage.ie

(Photo courtesy of Lord Mayors Officer and Dr. Mary Clark Dublin City Archivist)



DISPATCHES

Annual Niemba Commemoration

On November 8th, 1960, tragedy struck near the village of Niemba, when an eleven-man Irish United Nations (UN) patrol was ambushed by Baluba tribesmen at a river crossing. Over one hundred Baluba approached the patrol armed with arrows, knives, spears and clubs. Under a shower of arrows the Irish soldiers ran for cover with the Balubas in pursuit. Some were hit by the hail of arrows and some were bludgeoned to death as they lay wounded. There are only two survivors of the ambush, Tom Kenny and Joe Fitzpatrick; they were found two days later in a search operation.

Nine Irish UN peacekeepers were killed that day. From that one incident The Niemba Ambush remains the greatest loss of life in Irish Defence Forces history. The Annual Commemoration is organised by the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women each year in Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin, on the closest Sunday to November 8th.



South African Irish Regiment Celebrates its 100 Birthday

Throughout the months of November and December the South African Irish Regiment held several commemoration events to mark the centenary of its formation. The South African Irish Regiment was formed at the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, when three officers (Major George Twomey, Captain J. Jeoffreys and Captain MacDonald) met at the Irish Club in Johannesburg to raise an Irish regiment from among the citizens of Johannesburg and its surrounding areas.

After a request to The Union Defence Force (UDF)

Headquarters, authority was granted to form the regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Brennan was appointed as its first commanding officer. Major Twomey was appointed as its recruiting officer. The wife of General Louis Botha (a lady of Irish descent with the maiden name of Emmett) was appointed as the regiment's first honorary colonel. To this day the regiment is very proud of its Irish origins. The motto *Faugh a Ballagh* (Clear the Way) is still donned on their flag.

(Photo by South African Irish Regiment Association)



Irish Experience of World War I at National Library of Ireland

The wartime experience of two of Ireland's best-known families, the Leslies of Castle Leslie in Co. Monaghan and the Plunketts of Dublin, are amongst the stories highlighted in a new exhibition at the National Library of Ireland (NLI).

The exhibition, 'World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience', was officially launched by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, on November 20th, 2014. The British Ambassador to Ireland, Dominick Chilcott, also attended the launch.

The new exhibition features letters, diaries, newspapers, photographs, leaflets and posters from the NLI's collections. Nikki Ralston, exhibition curator for the NLI, said, 'Irish people had very diverse and complex reactions to World War I. This exhibition captures those sentiments, and also recounts the tense domestic situation in the Ireland of 1914'.

The four real-life stories featured in the new exhibition focus on the following people: Norman Leslie, second son of the well-known Leslie family from Castle Leslie in Co. Monaghan. He had become heir to the family estate when his elder brother, Shane, converted to Catholicism and became a supporter of Irish Home Rule. An experienced soldier when the war broke out, Norman was shot and killed in October 1914 while charging a German machine gun armed only with a sword (it was considered ungentlemanly for officers to carry guns). The sword he was carrying when he died was eventually returned to the Leslie family, and now hangs in the gallery of Castle Leslie.

Joseph Mary Plunkett was a poet, journalist and revolutionary, perhaps best known as a leader of the 1916 Rising and a signatory of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. In April 1915, he accompanied Roger Casement to Germany to seek German support for an uprising in Ireland. He subsequently fought alongside Pearse and Connolly in the GPO in 1916. Imprisoned in

Kilmainham Gaol, he married Grace Gifford just hours before his execution in May 1916.

Mary Martin, a widow and mother of 12 from Monkstown, Co. Dublin. Three of her children served overseas during the war, including her son, Charlie, who was reported wounded and missing in late 1915. Believing he had been taken prisoner, Mary began keeping a diary in the form of a letter to Charlie. She subsequently discovered he had died of his wounds soon after his capture. Her other children, including her daughter Marie, survived the war. Marie, who had served as a nurse in Malta and France, went on to found the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1937. Mary's wartime diary is included in the NLI exhibition.

Michael O'Leary was a farmer's son from Co. Cork who served with the Irish Guards on the Western Front. In February 1915, he single-handedly charged two German barricades in France, killing eight men and taking two prisoners. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, and became internationally famous, with journalists even flocking to the O'Leary family farm in Cork. The story of his wartime exploits was put to very different uses, inspiring both a recruiting campaign and a satirical play by George Bernard Shaw. He retired from the army in 1921, but re-joined during World War Two. He died in 1961.

Descendants of some of those featured in the exhibition attended the launch, including 98-year-old Sir Jack



Leslie (nephew of Norman).

Launching the exhibition, Minister Humphreys, said: 'This exhibition in the National Library allows us to understand the sheer magnitude of the First World War through very personal stories. By choosing to focus on four people and their different experiences, the Library has brought to life the real-life challenges and dilemmas which they faced 100 years ago. We can walk in their shoes, hear their words and see their hand-written letters'.

'World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience', will run at the NLI's premises at 2/3 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, for the next four years. The exhibition is open to the public every day, free of charge.

(Photo by Patrick Hugh Lynch)

DISPATCHES

90th Anniversary of Army Nursing Corps

On December 9th, the Irish Defence Forces celebrated the 90th anniversary of the formal establishment of the Army Nursing Service. In 1922, the Army Nursing Service was initiated to take over Military Hospitals on behalf of the emerging Irish State from the withdrawing British military. The service continued on an ad hoc basis through 1922 and 1923 until it was formally established in 1924 within the overall establishment of the Defence Forces.

Since their establishment 734 nurses have gone through the ranks of the service. Such an occasion allowed the Defence



Forces to bestow their gratitude to the enormous contribution made by the many members of the Army Nursing Service past and present. The day was commemorated with the launch of a Commemorative Booklet and a Mass held in the Garrison Church Curragh Camp.

(Photos by Sgt Mick Burke, Irish Defence Forces PR Branch)



D-Day Veteran Awarded France's Highest Military Honour

Patrick Gillen, from Galway, was just 18 years old when he landed in France in 1944. For his actions in helping liberate France from Nazi Germany, Pat was awarded the country's highest military award, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in a ceremony last December.

In 1944, Pat was a commando with No. 6 Commando, a Special Forces battalion in the British Army. On June 6th, the battalion participated in the D-Day landings in France as part of Operation Overlord, coming ashore with the 1st Special Service Brigade which was tasked with linking up with the troops from the 6th Airborne Division on the eastern flank of Sword Beach.

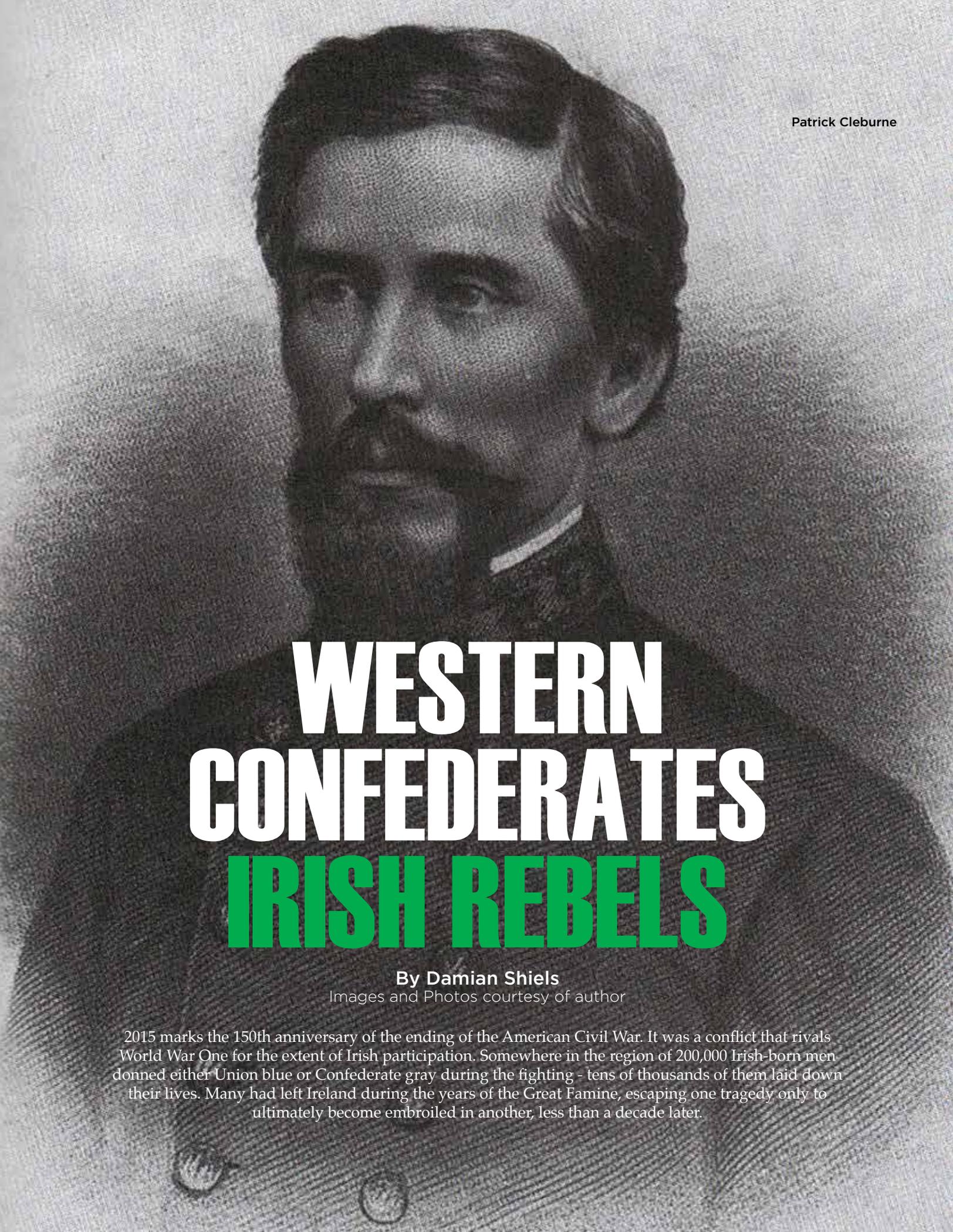
The medal was presented to him by the French Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Jean-Pierre Thébaud, at a ceremony in Mercy Hospital, Cork on December 8th. He had hoped to travel to Normandy for the presentation, but ill health deemed travel out of the question. The French Ambassador said the award is about recognising the commitment and important role of Pat Gillen and what he did on D-Day. Speaking to RTÉ, the D-Day veteran said that he was 'humbled' by the award and never expected to get it at his age. He dedicated it to all his comrades that lost their lives. 'In accepting this award, other brave Irish men,



thousands of young men who lost their lives in pursuit of peace, remain in my memory,' Mr Gillen said. 'This award is as much theirs as mine'.

Pat Gillen passed away on December 27th, aged 89.

(Photos by Niall Carson, Press Association)



Patrick Cleburne

WESTERN CONFEDERATES IRISH REBELS

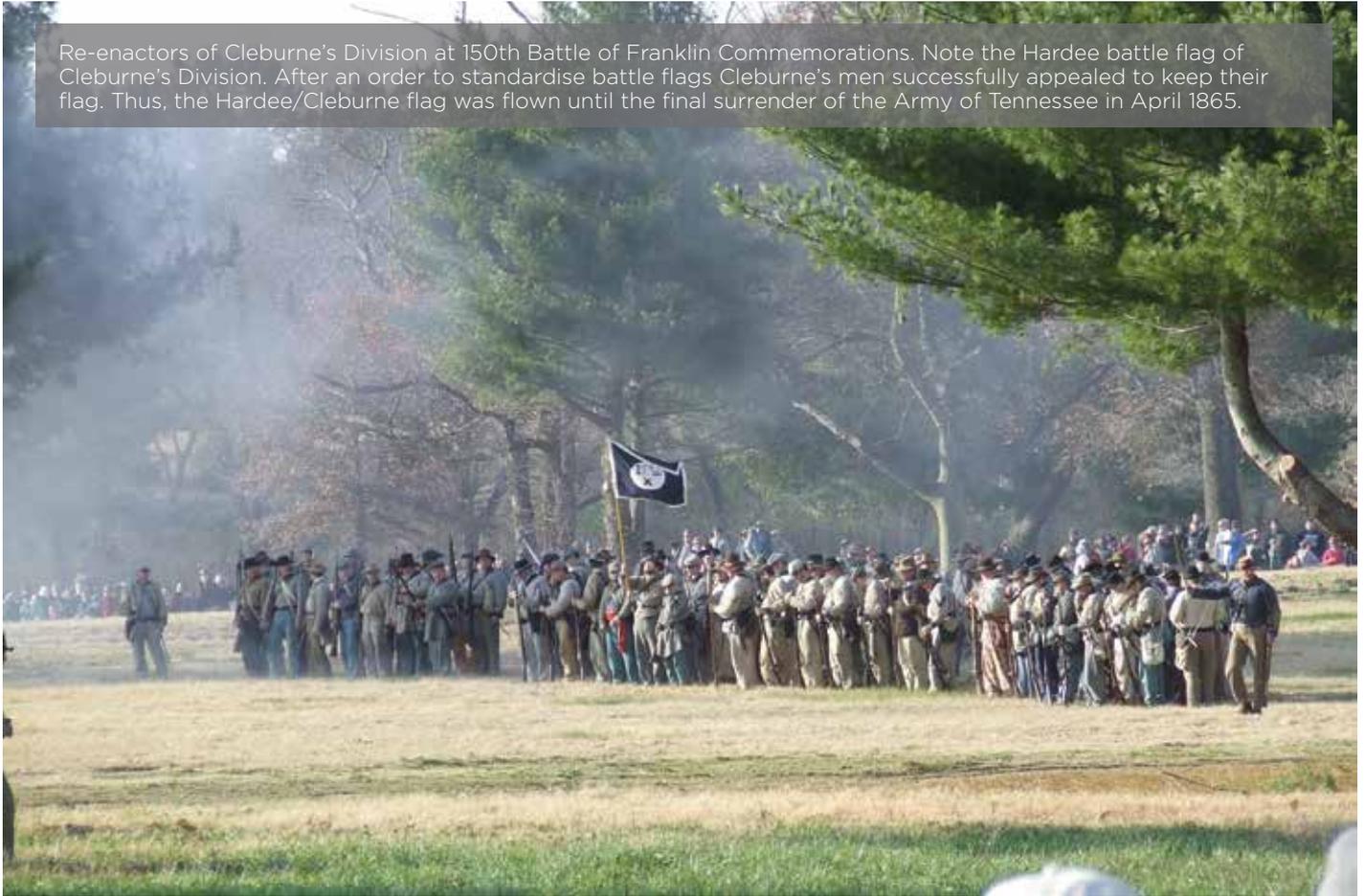
By Damian Shiels

Images and Photos courtesy of author

2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the ending of the American Civil War. It was a conflict that rivals World War One for the extent of Irish participation. Somewhere in the region of 200,000 Irish-born men donned either Union blue or Confederate gray during the fighting - tens of thousands of them laid down their lives. Many had left Ireland during the years of the Great Famine, escaping one tragedy only to ultimately become embroiled in another, less than a decade later.

REMEMBERING OUR PAST

Re-enactors of Cleburne's Division at 150th Battle of Franklin Commemorations. Note the Hardee battle flag of Cleburne's Division. After an order to standardise battle flags Cleburne's men successfully appealed to keep their flag. Thus, the Hardee/Cleburne flag was flown until the final surrender of the Army of Tennessee in April 1865.



I was fortunate enough in 2014 to visit a number of American Civil War sites on the occasion of the anniversary of the engagements that occurred there. These included the scenes of some of the Western Theatre's most bloody encounters of 1864 - notably Franklin, Tennessee, where I was privileged to be asked to deliver the keynote address to mark the 150th anniversary of that battle. Although the Western Theatre fighting has historically received less attention than the more famed engagements that took place in the East, it nonetheless witnessed bloodshed on a horrific scale. It was the 1862 Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee that first awoke America to the scale of butchery they could anticipate in the years ahead, when over 23,000 men became casualties in the woods around Shiloh Church that April. Indeed when taking the war as a whole, only Gettysburg has the dubious honour of exceeding the casualty figures inflicted during the September 1863 Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, where more than 34,000 casualties

were inflicted over the course of two-day's fighting. Many Civil War historians believe that the Western Theatre was where the North won the war, as a result of campaigns such as that at Vicksburg in 1863, which placed the Mississippi under complete Union control and split the Confederacy in two, and Atlanta in 1864, which deprived the South of a vital logistical centre and opened the door for Sherman's advance through the Deep South in his famed 'March to the Sea'.

Large numbers of Irishmen served in both Northern and Southern ranks in the Western Theatre. The vast majority of them fought with the Union; of the total numbers of Irish who served during the war only around 20,000 did so with the Confederacy. This was partially a consequence of the much smaller Irish population in those states

which seceded, but despite their relative numbers, some made a significant impact on the Rebel war effort. One of them was the highest-ranking Irishman to serve on either side during the American Civil War - Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne.

Patrick Ronayne Cleburne was born on March 16th, 1828, in Bride Park Cottage, Killumney, Co. Cork, a rural home not far to the west of Cork City. His family were of Church of Ireland stock; his father Joseph was a medical doctor originally from Co. Tipperary and his mother Mary Anne was from a landowning family near Cobh (then Queenstown). Patrick's mother died when he was just 18 months old, and his father remarried in 1830. When Joseph Cleburne died in 1843, 16-year-old Patrick was sent to Mallow to become an apprentice to surgeon Dr. Thomas Justice. This apprenticeship

“ 200,000 Irish-born men donned either Union blue or Confederate gray ”

culminated with Patrick seeking admission to the Apothecaries' Hall in Dublin, as he prepared to embark on a medical career. But in 1846 he failed the entrance exam, and, as a result, took a decision that would change the course of his life.

Mortified by his shortcomings in the examination, Patrick made the rash decision of enlisting as a private in the 41st Regiment of Foot rather than return home to Cork. More than a year would pass before his loved ones heard from him again, until finally an officer who was a family friend recognised him in the ranks. During the Famine years Patrick moved around the country with his regiment as they provided aid to the civil power, and in so doing witnessed the full horrors of what was taking place. The Famine which killed hundreds of thousands of the country's poor also had an impact on struggling landowners like the Cleburnes. Eventually Patrick's step-mother and siblings decided that the best option was emigration. At the age of 21 Patrick Cleburne bought his discharge from the British Army and within weeks was en-route to America - he landed in New Orleans along with three of his siblings on Christmas Day, 1849.

If Patrick's life in Ireland had been marked with disappointment and failure, his experiences in the United States offered him an opportunity to start over. By early 1850, after a short stay in Cincinnati, Patrick found himself in the frontier town of Helena, Arkansas. Over the course of the next decade he grew from drugstore prescriptionist into a major community leader. By the end of 1851 he was drugstore owner, and he joined the local Masonic Lodge in 1852. By 1854 he decided to study law and seek admission to the bar, and by 1855 he had become involved in local politics. This brought him into contact with fiery Democrat and later Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman, who became a close friend. Cleburne's political associations almost got him killed in 1856, when a shoot-out targeting Hindman left one man dead and Patrick clinging to life with a bullet in his chest. The Irishman recovered and was soon re-focusing his energy on the law and other business ventures. In 1860 his military experience



Patrick Cleburne's birthplace. Bride Park Cottage, Cork, as it is today.



Bullet impact strikes on the buildings around the Carter House, which saw fierce fighting at Franklin.

and social position saw him elected Captain of the recently formed Yell Rifles, and when Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6th, 1861, the stage was set for the last three and a half years of Patrick's life, years that would immortalise him.

Patrick Cleburne rose quickly from Captain of the Yell Rifles to Colonel of the 1st (later 15th) Arkansas Infantry. His talents were quickly recognised by General William J. Hardee, who took him under his wing and encouraged his advancement. Cleburne was promoted to Brigadier General in the

spring of 1862, and led a brigade at the Battle of Shiloh that April. By the end of the year he was a Major General commanding a division. That division quickly became the most famed in the Army of Tennessee, and Cleburne became renowned for his reliability, coolness under pressure and fighting qualities. This was perhaps most dramatically demonstrated at the Battle of Ringgold Gap, Georgia on November 27th, 1863, when the rearguard action of the division saved the army following the debacle of Missionary Ridge - an action

REMEMBERING OUR PAST

for which Cleburne earned the thanks of Confederate Congress.

It was not long after Ringgold, on January 2nd, 1864, that Cleburne made what is now one of the famous proposals of the American Civil War. That we know of it at all is only due to a chance discovery of the only surviving copy in the 1880s, as at the time it was ordered suppressed. In it Cleburne suggested arming slaves to fight for the Confederacy in return for their freedom. He felt that, 'as between the loss of independence and the loss of slavery, we assume that every patriot will freely give up the latter - give up the Negro slaves rather than be a slave himself'. Given the outraged reaction of some of the Generals to whom he initially made the proposal, this was not necessarily the case. When brought to the attention of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate President, he ordered that Cleburne's proposal go no further. Cleburne made his suggestion based purely on the practicalities of the North's numerical advantages, rather than any deep-seated desire to see emancipation. It has been debated as to whether or not Cleburne's proposal prevented him from attaining higher rank in the Army of Tennessee - aside from some occasional periods as acting Corps commander, he would never rise beyond divisional rank.

Cleburne and his division fought throughout the arduous Atlanta Campaign of 1864, which ultimately culminated in the fall of that crucial hub to the Union in September. As Sherman's Yankees pressed on towards their 'March to the Sea', Confederate General John Bell Hood led the Army of Tennessee back to the state from which it had taken its name, hoping to take Nashville and draw Union forces away from the Deep South. It was here, on November 30th, 1864, that Major General Patrick Cleburne would meet his end.

The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee is not one of the better-known engagements of the American Civil War. Despite this it witnessed some of the most savage fighting of the conflict. That November John Bell Hood threw his Army of Tennessee against the fortified Federal positions surrounding the town, in a charge that exceeded the famous Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble charge

Carter Cotton Gin near where Cleburne died.



at Gettysburg both in terms of numbers and distance travelled. Hours of brutal fighting, much of it hand-to-hand, ended that night with the Federal line still intact. The Yankees pulled out of their positions and headed for Nashville during the night, leaving the field to the Rebels, but the fight had bled the Army of Tennessee dry. The carnage resulted in more than 8,500 casualties - more than 6,000 of them Confederate. Front and centre in the fighting had been Cleburne's division, and Cleburne himself. The Corkman's body was found the next morning less than 50 yards from the Union earthworks, pierced by a single bullet to the chest. He was carried to nearby Carnton House where his remains rested on the porch with other officers, including three Generals. One of those Generals was John Adams, the son of an immigrant from Strabane, Co. Tyrone. Cleburne was first interred in Tennessee, but his body was moved back to Helena, Arkansas in 1870, where it remains today.

Patrick Cleburne is one of the most famous Generals of the American Civil War. Jefferson Davis called him the 'Stonewall of the West', while Robert E. Lee referred to him as a 'meteor shining from a clouded sky'. Today a city of nearly 30,000 people

bears his name in Texas, as do counties in both Alabama and Arkansas. He has become a regular focus of biographies as his popularity continues today in the United States. This is in no small part due to admiration for his 1864 slave proposal, combined with the respect he garners for his devotion to his cause and martial prowess.

Although many Irishmen in both the Northern and Southern armies served in non-Irish units, some went to war marching side by side with their fellow Irish-Americans. From a Confederate standpoint, the most notable of these was the 10th Tennessee Infantry, known as the 'Sons of Erin'. They were the only regimental sized 'green flag' formation to serve the Confederacy during the war. Organised from among the Irish community around Nashville, they were captured early in the war at Fort Donelson, but upon exchange went on to fight in battles throughout the west, from Mississippi to Georgia. Among the regiment's commanding officers were Colonel William Grace, mortally wounded at Jonesboro, Georgia in 1864, and John O'Neill, who at one point (unsuccessfully) attempted to bolster the regiment's ranks by seeking recruits among Union Irish prisoners in the notorious Andersonville

“ Jefferson Davis called him the
“Stonewall of the West”

”

POW Camp. The handful of men left in the regiment at war's end surrendered with the Army of Tennessee in North Carolina in April 1865.

Although the 10th Tennessee was the largest Confederate Irish formation in the Western Theatre, many other units boasted large Irish contingents. Among these was the 5th Confederate Infantry, formed as a result of the amalgamation of the 2nd (Knox-Walker's) Tennessee Infantry and the 21st Tennessee Infantry, which contained a large number of Memphis Irishmen. It had been one of their number who in 1864 was credited with shooting Union General James McPherson during the Battle of Atlanta - the only Federal army commander to be killed in action during the conflict. The 5th Confederate served in Cleburne's division for much of the war, and afterwards claimed that at Franklin the Irish General had 'sought out the regiment, charged in with it, and died with it'.

Many company level Irish formations also saw action in the Western Theatre, some bearing distinctively Irish titles such as the: 'Emmet Guards', 'Irish Volunteers', 'Irish Jasper Greens', 'Shamrock Guards' and 'Southern Celts'. Most had their origins in urban population centres where Irish communities were located, such as Mobile in Alabama, Savannah and Augusta in Georgia, and New Orleans in Louisiana.

Aside from Cleburne and the commanders of the 10th Tennessee, a number of other Irishmen also reached high rank in the Western Confederacy. These included men like Tyrone's James Hagan who commanded the 3rd Alabama Cavalry, Fermanagh's Michael Magevney Jr. who led the 154th (Senior) Tennessee Infantry and Armagh's Jack Thornington who commanded Alabama's Hilliard's Legion, to name but a few. A number of the Irishmen who reached high command in the West were also slaveholders, and some would become strong opponents of reconstruction in the post war period.

We are fortunate that some of the ordinary soldiers, such as Pat Griffin of the 10th Tennessee and John O'Brien of the 30th Arkansas, left behind writings which offer an insight into the Confederate Irish experience of life in the Western Theatre.



“ The rearguard action of the division saved the army following the debacle of Missionary Ridge - an action for which Cleburne earned the thanks of Confederate Congress ”

However, these are unusual; for the majority we have only glimpses into their wartime lives, or anecdotes told of them long after the guns fell silent. Such stories can be found for almost every battle in the Western Theatre. At Franklin, veterans would recall long after the war their memories of men like Patrick Canniffe and Dick Cahill. Canniffe had died charging towards the Federal works at the head of the 3rd/5th Missouri; a bullet to the shoulder first ripped him from his mount, before a second projectile crashed through the top of his head, exiting through his chin. Cahill, with the 5th Confederate Infantry, had reached the Yankee line and somehow managed to fight his way beyond. He was found ten feet inside the works the next morning, his body punctured by four bayonet wounds.

Other stories relate to men like Sergeant Denny Callahan, a member of the strongly Irish 1st Missouri at Franklin. As the Rebels shook themselves into line-of-battle for the



Memorial to Patrick Cleburne, Franklin, Tennessee.

impending assault, one Rebel, awed by the sight, recalled Nelson's words before Trafalgar: 'England expects every man to do his duty'. Denny, clearly not a man to miss a trick, quipped back: 'it's damned little duty England would get out of this Irish crowd'. Only a short time afterwards Cockrell's Missouri Brigade would suffer the worst casualties of any brigade at Franklin - among their number was Denny Callahan, cut down in the act of planting the regimental colours on the Federal works, and taken prisoner. Denny was just one of many thousands of Irishmen, virtually unknown in the country of their birth, for which the Western Theatre of the American Civil War would be a defining experience in their lives.

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*Damian Shiels runs the www.irishamericancivilwar.com website and is the author of *The Irish in the American Civil War* (History Press 2013). He has published and lectured widely both nationally and internationally on Irish conflict archaeology and military history.*

10TH 'SONS OF ERIN' TENNESSEE INFANTRY REGIMENT, CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY

The 10th Tennessee was a mainly Irish Confederate unit fighting in the Western Theatre. The unit was formed in Nashville in April 1861 by the city's former mayor, Randal McGavock. McGavock, himself fourth generation Irish, helped recruit recent immigrants, mostly from Ireland, who had helped elect him as mayor of Nashville in 1858. One such immigrant was 17 year old, Galway born Patrick Griffin. Because of the large number of Irishmen, this unit was named the 'Sons of Erin'.

McGavock, now the units Lieutenant Colonel, paid to outfit the regiment. The Ladies Soldiers Friend Society Nashville sewed a green and gold regimental flag with an Irish harp and the words 'Sons of Erin' and 'Go Where Glory Waits You' embroidered onto it.

Initially armed with flintlock muskets the 10th Tennessee Regiment of Volunteers were mustered into Confederate States service with 720 men in July 1861. Garrisoned at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River the fort was attacked in early February 1862, by Federal General Ulysses S. Grant. Before the fort surrendered the 10th escaped marching 12 miles east to Fort Donelson. Much to their dismay they left their flag behind. On February 13th, Ulysses S. Grant attacked Fort Donelson. Three days later the Fort surrendered. The 10th endured many loses, the field and staff officers who survived were captured and sent to Fort Warren, Massachusetts; the non-commissioned officers and privates were sent to Camp Chase and Camp Douglas, Illinois. The officers and enlisted men were later exchanged and paroled and sent down to Vicksburg, Mississippi. From there they were transported by railway and reorganised in Clinton, Mississippi and attached to the Army of Tennessee.

The unit went on to serve with distinction in Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee. It took part in such battles as Raymond, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, and Atlanta. In November and December 1864, the Army of Tennessee was effectively destroyed at the battles of Franklin and Nashville in Tennessee. The remnants of the army, along with the 10th, were sent to North Carolina and fought one last battle at Bentonville in March 1865.

McGavock himself was killed in May 1863, in Raymond, Mississippi. Of the original members of the 'Sons of Erin', only four were still in-the-line in 1865 when the war ended. The rest had been killed, wounded, captured or had deserted.

The soldier shown here is a typical soldier of the Army of Tennessee in 1864. Their uniform was somewhat different compared to their eastern counterparts in the Army of Virginia. In the latter years of its operation, the Army of Tennessee was supplied by at least three depots on a normal basis - Atlanta, Columbus and Athens.



Leather Accoutrements

Every soldier carried a Cartridge Box, Percussion Cap Pouch and a Bayonet Scabbard. The Cartridge box contained readymade black powder .58" calibre lead Minié ball rounds.



Headdress

A wide variety of headdress was issued during the American Civil War. Both the Union and Confederacy styled many of their issued hats on French designs such as the Kepi, which the soldier opposite is wearing. The above two examples are typical civilian headdress of the time. Civilian styled hats were also issued or privately purchased.



Enfield Pattern 1853 Socket Bayonet

Rifle-Musket

Although the 10th were initially issued with flintlock muskets they were later issued with rifle-muskets. There were many examples used in the war. This soldier is carrying a British imported 3-band Enfield Pattern 1853 Rifle-Musket. This was a muzzle-loading weapon that used a percussion cap to ignite the black powder in the barrel.



By striking the brass percussion cap a spark was sent down the chamber to ignite the black powder cartridge.



.58" Minié ball.

Columbus Depot Jacket

This soldier is wearing what is known today as a Columbus Depot Jacket. The name is due to the surviving examples of this type which are attributed to the Columbus Depot. These jackets were made of a butternut coloured wool jean, probably originally gray wool on an unbleached cotton warp. They had medium blue wool kersey or wool flannel collars, and straight cuffs made of the same material. Linings were made of the standard cotton osnaburg. Most had a six button front, although one surviving example has five and another has seven.

Trousers

Issued trousers were made of the same material as the jacket. This soldier is wearing his own civilian trousers. The Confederate soldiers were notorious for wearing their own civilian hats. Soldiers in the Western Theatre were regularly seen wearing civilian hats, jackets and trousers. Sometimes this was due to lack of supplies.

Blanket Roll

Soldiers were occasionally issued with knapsacks made from leather and painted canvas. If the knapsacks wore out and no new issue was available soldiers made a blanket roll. The blanket roll could contain a spare shirt, undergarments, spare rations and if a soldier had one, a ground cloth. The roll was then wrapped around the soldier's body on the march.



Haversack and Canteen

These two items were essential in order for every soldier to carry rations and water. The Confederates, as well as issuing their own, also used captured Union equipment. This soldier is carrying a Union haversack.



DISPATCHES

Irish Defence Forces Carol Service

The annual Irish Defence Forces Carol Service was held on December 10th in Arbour Hill Church. The Defence Force's Army No.1 Band was joined by soprano Celine Byrne, the Mornington Singers and by the Galway Tenors for an evening of seasonal music, prayer and reflection.

This year's theme was based around the anniversary of the outbreak of World War I and the ongoing challenge of building peace and justice in our world. The writings of many chaplains from the trenches (especially the Irish priests like Fr. Gleeson, Fr. Doyle and others) have formed much of the narrative of World War I.

Special prayers and candles were given to personnel who are away from their families over Christmas and New Year serving overseas with the United Nations. A highlight to the night was 'Silent Night Christmas 1915' sung by Lieutenant Cian Clancy, 1st Artillery Regiment.

(Photo by Ken Mooney)



Christmas in the Trenches

The Irish Guards Association - Republic of Ireland Branch, in association with the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, held an evening of remembrance and commemoration on December 12th.

Throughout the day several re-enactment groups and historical displays gave the public an insight to the conditions and the personal stories of Irish men serving in the British Army during the Great War. The night was a beautiful evening of song, prayer and reflection. Letters and writings from Irishmen serving in World War I were read out. The night ended with a silent candle light procession.



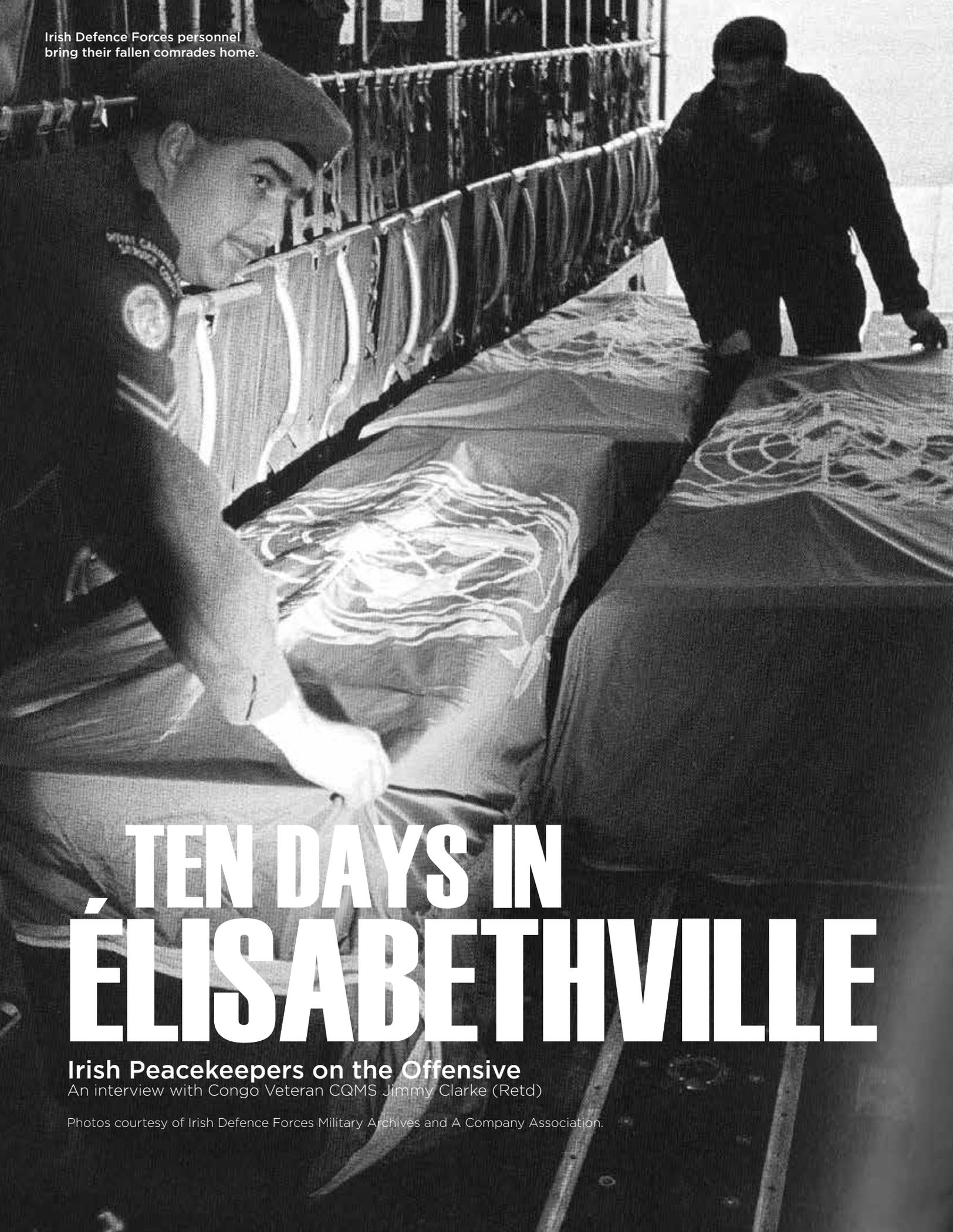
Launch of Ireland 2016

On Wednesday November 12th, last, at the General Post Office, O'Connell Street,



Dublin, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, An Tánaiste, Joan Burton TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, officially launched Ireland 2016; a national initiative which includes a programme of events to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916. Ireland 2016, led by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, will develop, coordinate and deliver a programme of activity to honour and remember those who fought and those who died in the 1916 Rising, and to reflect on the legacy of that period.

(Photo courtesy of Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Press Office)



Irish Defence Forces personnel
bring their fallen comrades home.

TEN DAYS IN ÉLISABETHVILLE

Irish Peacekeepers on the Offensive
An interview with Congo Veteran CQMS Jimmy Clarke (Retd)

Photos courtesy of Irish Defence Forces Military Archives and A Company Association.

EYEWITNESS

Anyone familiar with the Irish Defence Forces United Nations (UN) service in the Congo during the 1960's will be familiar with A Company, 36th Infantry Battalion and the Battle of the Tunnel. For ten days in December 1961, the 166 soldiers of A Company were thrown into a war none of them would ever forget. The battle would cost the unit 4 killed and 15 wounded. For their actions that day 14 Distinguished Service Medals (DSM) would be awarded, making A Company the highest decorated company in the Irish Defence Forces. A veteran of the battle, Company Sergeant Quartermaster Jimmy Clarke (CQMS) gives us this eyewitness account.

After nearly 100 years under Belgian rule the Republic of Congo gained its independence on June 30th, 1960. Almost immediately the country fell into chaos. With Belgian support, two states, the mineral rich Katanga and South Kasai, seceded. Moïse Tshombé was declared prime minister of Katanga. The UN established Opération des Nations unies au Congo (ONUC) under UN Security Council Resolution 143 on July 14th, and soon after a peacekeeping force was deployed. One of the countries to volunteer peacekeepers was Ireland. Irish Defence Forces Lieutenant General Seán MacEoin DSM, was appointed Force Commander of ONUC on January 1st, 1961, serving in that appointment until March 29th, 1962.

Jimmy joined the Irish Defence Forces in 1959. After initial training with the 7th Infantry Battalion in Collins Barracks, Dublin, he went on to serve with 2nd Garrison Supply and Transport Company in McKee Barracks. 'When I volunteered for UN service in 1961 Ireland had already deployed four infantry battalions to the Congo; starting with the 32nd Infantry Battalion. The newspapers were full of stories about the Irish peacekeepers. Soldiers coming home filled the barracks with tales of Africa and what it was like out there. The Niamba Ambush, which cost the lives of nine Irish soldiers, and the Siege of Jadotville, where a whole company had held out for a week before surrendering, was in all our minds. I volunteered'.

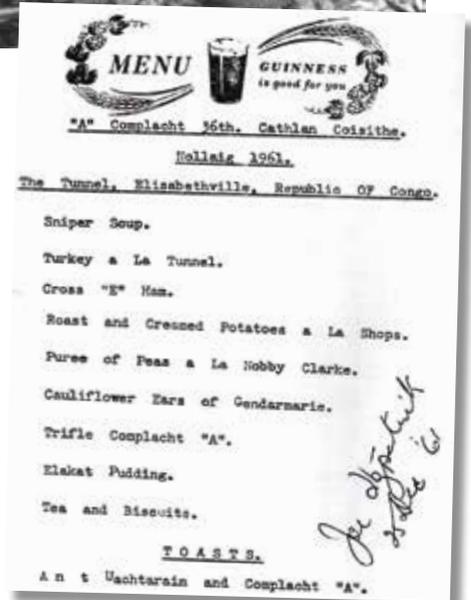
In November 1961 the 36th Infantry

Members of A Company over the Tunnel.



“It was pitch black and pouring rain. You didn't know where you were. The rains had filled the trenches with mud and water. It wasn't long before we heard the ping of small arms over our heads.”

Battalion formed up for deployment to the Congo. After tactical training in the Glen of Imaal the battalion was reviewed by the then Taoiseach, Seán Lemass, TD, in McKee Barracks on December 4th. Transported by United States Air Force Globemasters, the Irish found themselves in the heart of Africa two days later. Little did they know what lay ahead.



After the long hard ten days. The peacekeepers got a well earned rest and celebrated Christmas.

'Most of us had never been outside of Dublin, let alone on a plane. No in-flight movies back then. The Globemaster was a big plane. Two tiers of soldiers with cargo in the middle. For the flight we were given a carton of milk, a sandwich, an apple and an orange'

The first stop for the peacekeepers came after being ten hours airborne. Landing at



Wheelus Air Force Base in Tripoli, Libya where they were provided with a welcome meal and a stretch. Then back in the air, flying across the Sahara Desert to Kano, Nigeria and then onto the Congolese capital Léopoldville (today known as Kinshasa). After being transported to the infamous Martini Transit Camp the peacekeepers were introduced to the common enemy – the dreaded mosquitoes. ‘We were eaten alive’. The 36th Infantry Battalion was originally meant to be deployed to area of Albertville and Nyunzu in the North East.

‘We were not long after arriving in the transit camp when a full muster parade was called. No exceptions. We were informed our destination had been changed to Élisabethville. The situation there had dramatically changed. We were told to expect warlike conditions. Still taking this in, our Chaplains came out on parade. Reverend Fathers Cyril Crean, (Head Chaplin to the Forces), and Colm Matthews. They imparted Absolution on the entire battalion. You can only imagine what most of us thought to ourselves’. In an instant their mission had changed from peacekeeping to peace-enforcement.

Élisabethville was another long flight. Some 1,200 miles away. Waiting in the city was the 35th Infantry Battalion whose tour of duty had run over and they were eager to return home. Approaching Élisabethville in darkness and torrential rain the planes came under fire. ‘The plane ahead of us had two engines knocked out and two fuel tanks punctured. By some miracle no one on that plane was injured. Thankfully my



plane was not hit at all. When we landed the crowd crews were frantic. There was fuel everywhere from the punctured fuel tanks on the first plane. We were wearing hob-nailed boots and there was a fear our boots would spark and ignite the fuel. Fearing an inferno we double quick timed out of there’. There was no rest for the peacekeepers at the airfield. They were loaded onto trucks and transported to the 35th Infantry Battalion positions. ‘It was pitch black and pouring rain. You didn’t know where you were. The rains had filled the trenches with mud and water. It wasn’t long before we heard the ping of small arms over our heads’.

Facing the UN force around Élisabethville were well equipped and trained

mercenaries and Katanganese Gendarmes. Holding key strategic positions the Katanga forces gave the peacekeepers no rest and rained small arms and mortar fire on the UN positions around the clock. For the next ten days it never stopped.

‘I was part of the company Transport Section. Along with Dan McGivern and Pat ‘Chalkie’ White. We operated behind the front lines conveying food and supplies to the forward positions and casualties to the Medical Aid Centre at Leopold Farm. We carried out these duties under great danger. At times under heavy mortar and sniper fire’

The Irishmen were only in their positions two days when they lost their first comrade. 18 year old Corporal Mick Fallon was

EYEWITNESS

killed by a mortar on December 8th. Over the next few days the Irish pushed out their lines and consolidated their positions taking objectives such as Liege Crossroads. At Liege the Irish came under heavy fire for four days solid. 'I can recall some close encounters during this prolonged bombardment. I was in my trench one night when I got a call from Company Sergeant Mick Harte to help the cooks deliver food. As I jumped out of the trench Captain Harry Agnew jumped in. A split second later a mortar landed. Captain Agnew was hit. He lost a finger'.

In the middle of the constant snipping and mortar fire the cooks kept the men fed. Every veteran of A Company remembers Sergeant Tom 'Nobby' Clarke, and Privates Danny Bradley and Jim Murray, DSM. The menu consisted of powdered eggs, powdered milk, powdered potatoes, bullied beef, and dog biscuits. As Jimmy recalls, 'You had two choices: take it or leave it'.

It was during one of these attacks that Sergeant Paddy Mulcahy, DSM, was wounded for the first time. On December 14th, he was hit again, this time badly. 'Paddy was one of those casualties I brought back to the Medical Centre. The Company Sergeant there said "who have you got this time". "It's me again", Paddy said before I could answer. He was still conscious even though his leg was ripped apart. He died of his wounds on the 16th'.

On the 16th, the UN around Élisabethville was given orders to push the Katanganese Gendarmes and mercenaries from the city. Known as Operation Sarsfield, the coming battle would be the first time an Irish Defence Forces peacekeeping unit would be ordered into offensive operations.

In a torrential downpour the battle began at 04:00. A Company's task was to attack and hold the 'Tunnel'. This was a strategic railway bridge over a major road into the city. The Katanganese were well positioned. They had fortified the railway carriages, erected concrete emplacements, and had well dug-in heavy machine guns and anti-tank positions. The Irish announced the battle by opening up with a mortar barrage. A Company moved forward with B Company in support. Other UN forces also took part in the operation, including the Ethiopians and Indians.

Coming under continuous heavy fire the UN were made fight for every inch of ground. Over a 12 hour period A Company advanced, took a position, consolidated, re-supplied and advanced again. During the final assault on the 'Tunnel', No. 1 Platoon's Lieutenant Paddy Riordan and his radio operator Private Andy Wickham were killed. 'Seeing his two comrades fall, Sergeant Jim Sexton immediately ran forward and took over the platoon. The attack did not falter'.

Both sides took casualties. The engagement broke the back of the Katanganese and they withdrew from the city. By the end of the month the UN forces had full control of the city and things began to return to normal for the local people.

For their action that day, 14 members of A Company were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, including Paddy Riordan. 'Many of us believe there should have been two more, including Jim Sexton for taking over the attack and Andy Wickham for staying beside his platoon commander under fire'.

With some of their casualties being repatriated home due to their wounds, the remaining men of A Company, 36th Infantry Battalion settled down to routine peacekeeping for the next five months. 'After those first ten days. Everything was quiet in comparison. There were a few more skirmishes but nothing as serious. We helped the locals as best we could. We learned languages such as French, Kongo, Swahili, and Tshiluba. Sadly Corporal John



CQMS Jimmy Clarke proudly wearing his medals. Jimmy is a member of the Sergeant Paddy Mulcahy, DSM, Branch Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women.

Power died in March of natural causes. For £1 I bought myself a box camera and brought back some photographs for everyone at home to see'.

Jimmy Clarke retired from the Irish Defence Forces after 43 years service with the rank of Company Quartermaster Sergeant. After his tour of duty with 36th Infantry Battalion he served again with the UN in the ONUC Headquarters, Cyprus and Lebanon. Today Jimmy is one of the main organisers of the A Company Association. Every year on the closest Sunday to December 16th, veterans of A Company and their families, hold a commemoration at the Irish Defence Forces plot at Glasnevin Cemetery, to honour their fallen comrades.

'Some went out as boys and came back as men. Some went out as men and came back better men. Today more than half a century later, many are Grandfathers, some are even Great Grandfathers.'



IRISH ANZACS PROJECT

Trace Your Families Australian Great War

By Dr. Jeff Kildea

The town of Cahir in County Tipperary is situated in a delightful setting on the River Suir at the eastern end of the Galtee Mountains. On a rocky island in the middle of the river stands the town's major tourist attraction: Cahir Castle, reputed to be one of Ireland's largest and best-preserved Norman castles. In its shadow stands a less well known landmark, one not shown in the postcards or mentioned in the tourist books: the town's war memorial, on which are inscribed the names of 'the officers and men of Cahir and surrounding district who gave their lives in the Great War'.

An Australian tourist visiting Cahir Castle, used to seeing war memorials

in almost every town and suburb in Australia, might not pay the memorial much attention. Yet, on closer inspection, our hypothetical Australian tourist might be surprised to see on the memorial in bold red lettering the word 'Australians', underneath which appear in black lettering the names: D Clohessy, J Lonergan and TP Holloway.

These names belong to just three of the approximately 6,000 Irish-born men and women who served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the First World War, of whom approximately 900 paid the ultimate price. Most already called Australia home, having emigrated to the new land of opportunity in the South Seas. Some, however, found

themselves in Australia by chance when war broke out and enlisted there rather than returning home to join up, perhaps fearful that the war might end before they did so or in the hope that they might get a free passage home when the AIF sailed.

The Irish Anzacs Project aims to identify all those Irish-born men and women who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the First World War, or as close to all as is feasible, and to compile a publicly accessible database containing information on each of them. Made possible by a grant in 2012 by the Irish government's Emigrant Support Program administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the database provides families with information on

NOW HEAR THIS

their Irish-born family members who served in the war as well as providing statistical information to assist researchers understand the contribution of the Irish to the Australian war effort.

The information in the database has been extracted from the service records held by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) in series B2455, and includes details on each person such as name, town and county of birth, date and place of enlistment, declared age, occupation, marital status, next of kin location, previous military service, religion, and the unit to which he or she was initially posted.

In addition, information has been added from sources maintained by the Australian War Memorial (AWM) such as the Roll of Honour (which records those who were killed or died as a result of their war service) the list of Honours and Decorations and the Australian Red Cross's files relating to wounded and missing soldiers and to prisoners of war. Over time further information will be added from the Embarkation Roll and other sources. Links to the NAA and AWM websites enable searchers to view the original records of the soldiers and nurses they are researching. Ultimately the database will provide for each soldier and nurse a comprehensive record of service in the AIF.

As a significant research project of the Global Irish Studies Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) the database was launched on October 17th, 2014, by the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Charles Flanagan TD, and the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Ruth Adler, at an event conducted simultaneously at University College Dublin (UCD) and at UNSW in Sydney by means of a Skype link.

The Irish Anzacs database contains details of those members of the AIF who were born in Ireland. The project is confined to those of Irish birth rather than of Irish descent for the pragmatic reason that, because AIF service records include place of birth, the Irish-born are capable of identification. In the case of Australian-born soldiers it is not possible

to identify from the records those with Irish parents or grandparents.

Construction of the Irish Anzacs database has involved finding among the 376,000-odd AIF service records those of the Irish-born. Fortunately the service records in series B2455 are available online and all but about 4,600 of them include in the searchable Item Title the soldier's place of birth (POB). Searching the POB has yielded a total of just over 5,740 Irish-born members of the AIF.

In addition to series B2455, the NAA has another document series MT1486/1 which holds a further 76,000 items most of which relate to applicants for enlistment who were rejected or which duplicate records in series B2455. However, about 1 in 4 of those items relate to those not in series B2455 who actually enlisted in the AIF, albeit for home service. Nevertheless, as such they qualify for inclusion as additions to the Irish Anzacs database.

Unfortunately, while the MT series Item Title is searchable on line a high proportion of the Item Titles do not include a POB and fewer than 5,000 of the records themselves are available online.



Gallipoli, 1915. A group of Anzacs making a meal.



Members of 13th Battalion, AIF, occupying Quinn's Post on the heights above Anzac Cove.



Dr. Jeff Kildea reading at Grangegorman Military Cemetery on ANZAC day April 25th, 2014.

Consequently, identifying the service records in the MT series relating to the Irish-born necessitates a physical search of the hard-copy files, which are located in Melbourne.

If the MT series has the same proportion

of Irish-born as series B2455, we would expect to find about 1,150 records relating to Irish-born applicants for enlistment of which about a quarter (approx. 285) would qualify for the database. At the end of the day, therefore, the database is likely to comprise a little over 6,000 names.

Individuals are able to find in the database a wealth of information about their Irish-born family member who served in the AIF. For historians, the database enables the gathering of statistics on a range of variables that will assist in better understanding the contribution of the Australian Irish to the war effort. For instance, from the database we learn that 58.43 per cent of the Irish-born in the AIF were Catholics and that outside of the counties in which Belfast, Dublin and Cork are situated, Tipperary had the most recruits to the AIF – among them those inscribed on the Cahir war memorial – followed by Kerry and Down.

Of course, these statistics mean nothing in particular without comparable figures on the proportion of Catholics among the Irish-born of military age in the general population or the proportions of emigrants from the various counties. But for historians with knowledge of the broader statistics the database provides reliable data from which they can draw meaningful conclusions.

An example of how the database's statistics properly analysed can provide useful information on a contentious historical issue concerns the proportion of Irish-born in the AIF. The database shows that Irish-born enlistments in the AIF represent 1.55 per cent of total enlistments. In 1911, the year of the last census before the First World War, Australia's population was just under 4.5 million of whom almost 140,000 were born in Ireland, i.e. Irish-born Australians were 3.13 per cent of the general population.

At first sight, this suggests that the Irish-born, at 1.55 per cent of AIF enlistments, did not support the war in proportion to their numbers in the population, a claim that was made at the time by anti-Irish elements in Australia including Prime Minister Billy Hughes, who complained to Lloyd George that

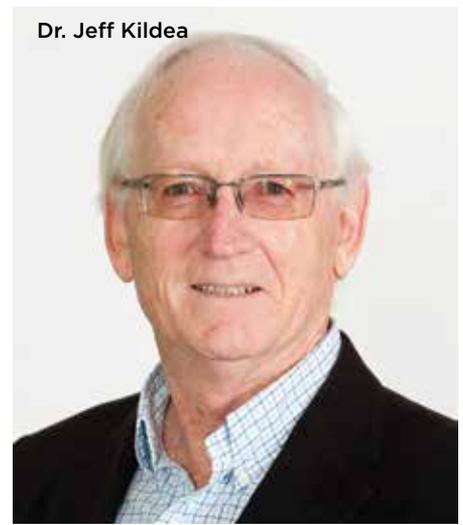
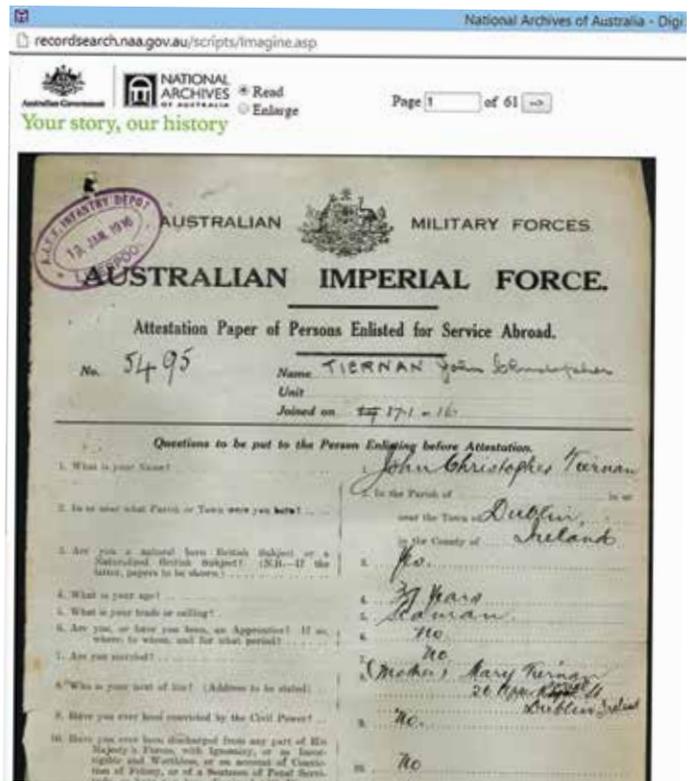
that non-Irish had sent their young men from Australia to fight, while the Irish remained at home to capture the reins of political power. However, a closer examination of the 1911 census reveals that the Irish-born in Australia were an aging population, with 74 per cent being 45 years and over compared to 19 per cent for the population as a whole.

This trend is due largely to the fact that in the second half of the 19th century Irish immigration to Australia slowed both in absolute terms and as a relative contributor to population growth, so that the Irish-born proportion of the population decreased from 15.4 per cent in 1861 to only 3.13 per cent in 1911, with 85 per cent of the Irish-born stating they had been in Australia for 20 years or more.

If one counts only males of military age (between 18 and 44 years), the proportion of eligible Irish-born males to all eligible Australian males is not 3.13 per cent but 1.8 per cent. Furthermore, if you regard the fact that in 1911 it was those aged 15-41 who would be of enlistment age in 1914, the proportion for that cohort is 1.41 per cent. Consequently, the enlistment rate of 1.55 per cent for the Irish-born exceeded the proportion of eligible Irish-born in the population.

This is but one example. The benefits of the database to family and local historians as well as to historians of Irish-Australia more generally are manifold, limited only by one's imagination.

An example of what you will find on the database.



Dr. Jeff Kildea

The Irish Anzacs database can be accessed at <http://repository.arts.unsw.edu.au>
 Dr. Jeff Kildea was Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at University College Dublin 2014. He is currently working in the Irish Studies Centre, UNSW, Sydney Australia.
 You can read more on this subject in Dr. Kildea's book 'Anzacs and Ireland', Cork UP, 2007 or by visiting his website: www.jeffkildea.com



On tour at Mount Street.

1916 Freedom Tour

Taking you to 1916 Dublin

The centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising is fast approaching. The anniversary carries the weight of history and a wealth of meaning, and the manner in which this great story is told is of vital importance. In a new venture three Dublin friends and businessmen have come together to form '1916 Freedom Tour'. This is an interactive open-air bus/truck tour that tells the human story of 1916. The

first bus is due to hit Dublin this April.

The idea for the venture initially came from Chay Bowes: 'I always felt there was a lack of a moving platform that showcased the events around the Easter Rising in Dublin City. We wanted something that was non-political, factual and could tell the personal human stories of how ordinary people got through the battle. When we came together we came up with the idea

of an interactive open-air mobile museum. So this means, that when you are on your tour, you are also getting to see archive film footage, photographs of the time, uniforms and the weapons used'.

The tour will start and finish at the Irish Defence Forces Memorial at Merrion Square. The tour lasts about one hour and takes you around all the key sites of the 1916 Rising including: Mount Street, the General Post

Office, Boland's Mill, St. Stephens Green, James' Gate and more. Throughout the journey you are given a top line insight into the Rising: who the key players were on both sides of the conflict, the Proclamation, the People of Dublin, and the local British units and the subsequent reinforcements. The bus platform is based on a Crossley tender of the time which gives that vintage feel to the tour. The open-air tour allows Dublin to come you and the sounds the smells make the experience real. When it is launched both the driver and guide will be kitted in British and Irish uniforms of the time. It will be as Chay described: 'a moving museum'.

Perhaps the greatest aspects of the tour are the personal stories that Chay spoke about. Many tours talk a lot about the political and military activities of the time but leave out what the local people were going through. Stories such as the dentist on Mount Street risking his life to help the wounded, or the nurses from St. Patrick Dun's Hospital who also cared for the wounded, and the caretaker at Liberty Hall getting shot as he tried to escape or local civilians being shot by both British and Irish troops as they attempted to flee from the fighting. One incredible story is that of Captain Arthur Dickson of the Sherwood Foresters. Dickson had sent his wife to Dublin to avoid the Zeppelin raids on London. She met him as he got off the boat in Dún Laoghaire after his unit had been deployed to Dublin from England to reinforce the British Army in Dublin. He was later killed in action.

The historical enthusiasm and passion for Dublin and the Rising that the tour emanates comes from the three business men's own backgrounds. The three businessmen, Brendan Homan, Martin Durcan, and Chay Bowes, all have military connections and have strong links to the era. Brendan - former 2nd Infantry Battalion and 5th Infantry Battalion - has a great uncle who was a firearms instructor the British Army in Portobello Barracks in Rathmines (today Cathal Brugha Barracks). Upon demobilisation from the British Army he returned to the barracks to join the Irish Army. Martin - who is serving with the Irish Naval Service Reserve - had a great



l-r: Chay Bowes, Martin Durcan and Brendan Homan.

grandfather from Sligo who is recorded as the first man to enlist in the British Army in August 1914 when war was declared. On the other side of his family, his relatives served in Boland's Mill in 1916. While Chay's great uncle was killed at Ypres in 1915.

Stopping at Mount Street Chay explained that of all the areas in Dublin Mount Street had changed very little in 100 years. Some of the first casualties were from a platoon of British reservists returning from hiking in Tibbradden. Turning into Beggars Bush volunteers who had fortified themselves in No. 25 opened fire. The soldiers however had no ammunition in their rifles. Mount Street became one of the bloodiest engagements of the Rising as only a handful of volunteers held up reinforcements as they marched from Dún Laoghaire. Believe it or not the trees that are on Mount Street today are over 100 years old. If only they could talk.

When it opens no doubt the 1916 Freedom Tour will be inundated with bookings. The tour has huge potential and the team are already looking at expanding to other sites around the country.

The Freedom Tour has adopted the Organisation for National Ex-Servicemen and Women and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association as their two charities.



Outside College Green.

The tour is aimed at visitors from at home and abroad. To ensure a spot it is recommended to book online via their website.

E: bookings@1916tour.ie

Web: www.1916tour.ie

FB: [/1916freedomtours](https://www.facebook.com/1916freedomtours)



Belfast Nationalists at War

The 6th Battalion Connaught Rangers

Part 1: By Professor Richard S. Grayson

Images courtesy of 6th Connaught Rangers Research Group

The outbreak of war posed Nationalist leaders with a dilemma. The traditional dictum that 'England's danger is Ireland's opportunity' meant that Nationalists might have sought to undermine the British war effort. In fact, they did exactly the reverse. On August 6th, 1914, two days after Britain entered the war, the Irish News reported the departure on the previous day of 600 British army reservists from the Irish Volunteers who were honouring their commitment to fight, and the Nationalist leadership soon went beyond simply ensuring that reservists did as they were obliged.

There were several reasons for Nationalists to volunteer. The army offered a way out of unemployment and poverty. The prospect of defending plucky little Catholic Belgium against German aggression was a stirring cause. Meanwhile, more than that; the political leadership of Nationalism saw an opportunity for Ireland to show that it could be trusted with Home Rule if it was willing to fight for the British Empire in its hour of need. That led initially to John Redmond's offer of the Irish Volunteers for the defence of Ireland, so that British troops could leave Ireland for the front. A reward for this attitude was the passage of Home

Rule as law on September 18th, though its implementation was suspended for the duration of the war, and there would be special (though as yet undefined) provision for Ulster. Nationalists celebrated, although as the war dragged on, they would find it ever harder to use the promise of Home Rule at some point in the future to restrain more radical elements in their ranks. However, both Volunteer groups were soon to join up. The 36th (Ulster) Division was formed for the Ulster Volunteer Force, and by mid-September Redmond was trying to arrange for a similar 'Irish Brigade' to be set up as an umbrella for the Irish Volunteers to join. His

speech at Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, on September 20th, called on Irishmen to enlist. This led to a split in the Irish Volunteers. Across the whole island, approximately 93% of the Volunteers backed Redmond, although Eoin MacNeill controlled much of the official machinery and so Redmond's majority split to form the Irish National Volunteers (INV).

Following the split, Redmond turned his attention to ensuring that enough Volunteers joined the British army to make real the idea of an Irish Brigade, and he was successful in persuading Kitchener that the 16th (Irish) Division, specifically 47th Brigade within it, should form such a unit. With a division containing three brigades and support troops, and each brigade containing four battalions of up to 1,000 men. At a mass meeting in Belfast's Clonard Picture House on October 25th, Redmond turned up the heat on those considering joining up. How humiliated Irishmen would feel, Redmond said, 'if when this war was over, they had to admit that their rights and liberties had been saved by the sacrifices of other men, while the Irishmen remained safe at home and took no risks'. A week and a half into November, Redmond's pressure was making an impact on the numbers of INV. men enrolling. On November 12th, even the Belfast Evening Telegraph (usually as grudging about Nationalist recruitment efforts as the Irish News was about Unionist ones) admitted that 'during the week efforts have been made by some local Nationalists to get their men to join the army'. By that day, 300 had indicated their willingness to join up, and the first batch of 60 mustered at Berry Street's National Club, and then enlisted at Clifton Street. Among them were the Brennan brothers, Robert and Michael. Both staunch Nationalists, Michael would say in later years that he had joined up to fight for the freedom of small nations such as Belgium.

A steady flow continued from the INV to Clifton Street (which was replaced in February 1915 as the Irish Brigade's recruiting office by 47th Mill Street). As Nationalist recruits left Belfast; there were enthusiastic street scenes on November 19th, when most (600) of the INV recruits departed for Fermoy. They were all initially attached to the 6th Battalion Connaught

Rangers, though many later went into the 7th Leinster Regiment, both battalions being part of 47th Brigade. Thousands watched as they marched behind 'pipers in Gaelic costume, flourishing banners emblazoned with the Red Hand of the O'Neill and distinctively Irish National devices and mottoes', singing traditional Irish military songs. As they reached the Great Northern Station, further Irish songs were sung, plus 'God Save the King' and the Belfast Celtic Football Club 'war song'. Joseph Devlin arrived at the station with them and bade farewell to each recruit individually on the train, which then set off for Dublin. There was no parade in Dublin, merely tea and cigarettes, but having taken another train to Fermoy, the men were greeted there by local bands who marched with them to the Volunteer Drill Hall. There they were met by, and paraded with, INVs from the surrounding area, who accompanied them to their camp. They would be there training for nearly a year when they departed to Aldershot in September 1915 for further training. This would prepare them for the five major battles in which they would take part: the Somme, Messines (Mesen), Passchendaele (Passendale), Cambrai, and the German Spring Offensive.

It was not until the autumn of 1915, when the war had been raging for well over a year, that Ireland's 'political' volunteer battalions began to arrive on the Western Front, first with the 36th (Ulster) Division in October. The 6th Connaughts arrived at Le Havre early on December 18th, 1915, with 36 officers and 952 other ranks. From



Owen Conlon enlisted in the unit with his brother James and his father Owen senior.



Michael Brennan



this time until September 1916, the battalion was periodically rotating in and out of the trenches. While at the front, often around Béthune, they were engaged in a simple routine: repair trenches, survive German bombardment, and repair trenches again.

Their first fatality came on January 27th, 1915, after an artillery bombardment, while they faced an enemy advance for the first time. The 6th Connaughts' machine guns held the Germans off, but lost one man: Private John Lavery, born in Warrenpoint, Co. Down, but living in Belfast. As the weather improved in the spring, the 6th Connaughts would have received news of the Easter Rising in Dublin, although there is no sign that Nationalists became Republicans overnight in the wake of either the Rising or the British reaction to it. One member of the 6th Connaughts was very close at hand to the events. Michael Brennan, a staunch Nationalist, had joined the 6th Connaughts after Redmond had called on Nationalists to enlist. Having been gassed and frostbitten in France, he was lying in a Dublin hospital bed when the hospital was taken over by members of the Rising.



James Conlon

Serjt. J. CONLON,
Connaught Rangers, 6 Omar
Street, Belfast, died of
illness.



P. Brannigan

Pte. P. BRANNIGAN,
Leinster Regiment, 7 Bala-
clara Street, Belfast, danger-
ously wounded (third time).



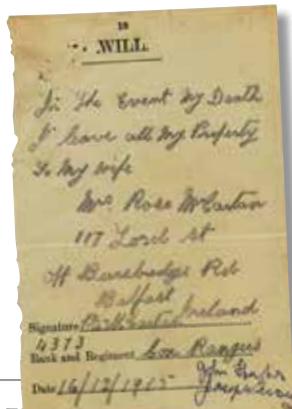
J. Burns

Lieut. J. BURNS,
Connaught Rangers, 24 Upper
Street, Belfast, died of
wounds.

Brennan was one of many Nationalists who had taken the view that they could advance their cause by fighting for the British rather than against them.

The Battalion would have its chance to take the fight to the Germans on the Somme in September 1916. Planning for an offensive in the Somme area began at the end of 1915 as a way of making a decisive impact on overall German numbers. However, the aim of the Connaught offensive changed from February 1916, when the Germans launched their onslaught against the French at Verdun. From then on, the aim of the Somme Offensive, in which French troops

would play only a relatively minor role, was to launch a diversionary attack that would ease pressure on the French who were being bled dry by wave on wave of German attack at Verdun. The British Army launched its attack on July 1st, 1916, with the Ulster Division engaged in some of the heaviest fighting. On just that one day, across the Division, there were approximately 5,550 casualties (many as 2,000 dead) and 58,000 in the British army as a whole, around 1/3 of them dead. For the 6th Connaughts, while the Somme battle was being prepared and initiated, there had been action mainly in the Loos sector. This period saw an effective raid on German lines on the night of 26/27 June in collaboration with the 7th Leinsters, and

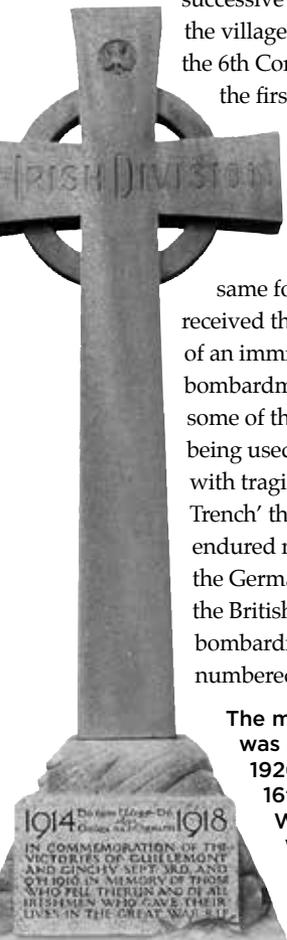


also witnessed acts of individual bravery. One was carried out by Private Patrick McKillen, an INV member and a resident of Oranmore Street. On July 27th, McKillen, 'continued to work his machine gun, single handed, under a heavy fire, after all the remainder of the section had been put out of action. Private McKillen stuck to his gun and held the position for 24 hours'.

In September, 47th Brigade moved to the Somme area, close to the small village of Guillemont. On arriving in the area, the Connaughts faced the familiar routine of improving badly damaged trenches, and the Germans continued to inflict heavy casualties through shelling. On September 2nd, alone, the 6th Connaughts' B Company lost ten men killed, with a further thirty wounded. The next day, they did what they had come to the Somme to do. At 5am the Battalion drew up for the attack. The whole of 47th Brigade was temporarily attached to the 20th Division. The plan was for three

successive waves of troops to take the village. C and D companies of the 6th Connaughts were to attack in the first wave. In the second and third waves, platoons of B Company would plug the gaps in C Company's lines, and platoons from A Company would do the same for D. At 8am, the Germans received the familiar warning of an imminent attack: a heavy bombardment from British lines. Yet some of the heavy trench mortars being used in the attack fell short with tragic results. Waiting in 'Rim Trench' the Connaughts' C Company endured not only retaliatory fire from the Germans but 'friendly fire' from the British lines. By 12 noon, as the bombardment continued, casualties numbered nearly 200.

The memorial Celtic Cross that was erected on August 22nd, 1926, to commemorate the 16th (Irish) Division at Wytshaete its capture of Wytshaete on June 7th, 1917, the opening day of the Battle of Messines. Read more in Part 2.



The only surviving image of Thomas Hughes.

With C Company in no fit state for the first attack troops intended for the second wave replaced them. Then, for three minutes, the Royal Field Artillery let go 'an intense barrage' of the German front. Unlike the bombardment in late June, this was successful. Advancing on the enemy, the Connaughts found opposition weak in some

places, but on the right, there was heavier resistance, but 47th Brigade soon overcame that before cleaning up pockets of resistance holed out in various areas. Private Thomas Hughes of the 6th Connaughts, a native of Co. Monaghan, was wounded in the initial attack, but had his wounds dressed and returned to the firing line. Having done so, he spotted a German machine gun which was causing great damage. Hughes ran out ahead of his company, shot the gunner and captured the gun. He was wounded doing this but went on to bring back four prisoners. For these acts of 'most conspicuous bravery and determination' Hughes was awarded the Battalion's only Victoria Cross of the war.

Make sure to get the summer edition of Reveille to continue reading about the 6th Connaught Rangers at war.

Professor Richard S Grayson (Goldsmiths, University of London) is the author of Belfast Boys: How Unionists and Nationalists Fought and Died Together in the First World War (2009), and edited At War with the 16th Irish Division: The Staniforth Letters, 1914-18 (2012). He has engaged widely with community groups on First World War remembrance especially the 6th Connaught Rangers Research Project. An associate member of the First World War Centenary Committee in Northern Ireland, he contributed to BBC NI's Ireland's Great War, co-edits www.irelandww1.org and chairs the Academic Advisory Group for the Digital Projects run by the Imperial War Museums.

The 6th Connaught Rangers Research Project

By Jonathan Savage, Project Coordinator, 6th Connaught Rangers Research Group.

The 6th Connaught Rangers Research Project was initiated originally by members of the An Eochair Clondara Historical & Cultural Group which is based in Belfast. The role of the 'Irish Nationalist and WW1' was a subject that the Group had a keen interest in and wished to develop further. Some members of the Group had family relatives who had enlisted, along with hundreds of others from the Falls Road area, in the 6th Battalion Connaught Rangers Regiment at the outbreak of WW1 in August 1914. The question posed was why?

Many of these men were members of the Irish National Volunteers and were ardent supporters of the Irish Parliamentary Party who, under the leadership of John Redmond and Joe Devlin, were campaigning for Home Rule for Ireland. It was agreed that in order to take the Project forward other local people should be encouraged to become involved as well. An appeal for information from other interested members of the general public was sent to the Irish News, which published an article about the proposed research Project on the April 26th, 2006.

The interest generated by the article resulted in a number of local people

coming forward to take part. They assisted in forming 'The 6th Connaught Rangers Research Project' and the time and commitment given by them on a voluntary basis has proven invaluable to the whole endeavour.

Through the photographs, letters, documents, medals and related memorabilia supplied by them, and others involved, the human stories of men from that time in our common and shared history could finally be told. The 6th Connaught Rangers Research Group aim to vivify the memory of the men from West Belfast who joined the 6th Battalion Connaught Rangers by piecing together their stories for information that still survives today with the descendants of the men who volunteered.

The group launched a booklet on the research that has been carried out. The success of and the resulting interest in the original publication led all those involved in the project to seriously consider a second edition of 6th Connaught Rangers 'Belfast Nationalists in the Great War' which ultimately consisted of a 'Revised Edition' with additional stories, photographs and historical material. The book was launched in 2011 and since then the project has gone from

strength to strength drawing worldwide interest especially from soldier's descendants who form part of the Irish diaspora.

2014 saw the beginning of the 6th Connaught Rangers Research Group Exhibition. It initially launched in the Falls Road Library on August 4th, 2014, to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. The Exhibition then moved on to the Belfast City Hall where the opening of the exhibition was attended by a large number of guest and distinguished dignitaries from both sides of the border. The exhibition gives the public a chance to view and read the photographs, letters, artefacts and stories from the men and families of the 6th Connaught Rangers.

Each public display of the exhibition continues to draw more people who have stories and memorabilia relating to the Connaught's. Local people continue to bring items to the group and many people have donated information and artefacts. The exhibition will continue to travel around Ireland in 2015. It is currently located in the Central Library in Belfast. For details of the exhibition and its tour around Ireland please follow us on Twitter: @6thConnrangers or Facebook: 6thConnRangers.



The last crew of LÉ Emer.

LÉ EMER GODDESS OF THE WAVES

Photos courtesy of A/B David Jones, Irish Naval Service Photographic Section

The Irish Naval Service may be small but it packs a huge punch. Patrolling a sea to land ratio of 12:1 naval vessels operate out to a distance of 350 nautical miles (nm) which includes an area of 1 million square kilometers. The eight vessel fleet has to deal with a variety of missions including Maritime Security Operations, Territorial Defence, Arms and Drug Interdiction, Fishery Protection, Search and Rescue and Pollution Prevention. For over forty years the Deirdre Class Patrol Vessel was the backbone of the small service. Designed and built in Co. Cork, Republic of Ireland, the class consisted of the LÉ Deirdre (P20), LÉ Emer (P21), LÉ Aoife (P22), and LÉ Aisling (P23).

In 1970 the Irish Naval Service consisted of three World War II era Corvettes: the Cliona, Maev and Macha. In 1970, the Cliona and Macha were withdrawn from service and scrapped, leaving the Maev as the sole ship in the Irish Naval Service. To meet the

needs of an expanding portfolio the Irish Government sanctioned the modernisation of the Irish Naval Service. In 1971, the Naval Service commissioned three 1950's Ton Class minesweepers: the Gráinne, Banba and Fola. In addition the Verolme Dockyards in Cork were commissioned to design and build a new patrol vessel for the Irish Naval Service that could operate in the Atlantic Ocean carrying out a number of roles. This resulted in the LÉ Deirdre (P20) which was commissioned in June 1972.

The ongoing Troubles in Northern Ireland and the joining of what was then known as the European Economic Community (EEC) led to a further demand on the Irish Naval Service. The service now had to conduct Maritime Counter-Insurgency operations on a daily basis and carryout Fishery Protection operations out to 200nm. With EEC funds the Verolme Dockyards was commissioned to build three more patrol vessels based on the Deirdre. This class of patrol vessel would subsequently become known as the

Deirdre Class. These new vessels would be named LÉ Emer (P21), LÉ Aoife (P22), and LÉ Aisling (P23). Starting with the Emer they were laid down in 1977, 1978 and 1979 respectively.

After evaluating the Deirdre some significant modifications were incorporated into the Deirdre design including:

- Increased hull length by 4%.
- Improved seaworthiness by partially raising the foredeck and providing collapsible open rails.
- Raising the bridge slightly, to improve the all-round visibility.
- Rearranged and improved accommodation to reduce noise levels and vibration.
- Improved watertight integrity.
- The installation of two single Oerlikon 20mm abaft of the bridge (which were then later replace by two Rheinmetall RH 202 20mm)
- The installation of more powerful propulsion machinery.

LÉ Emer (P21)

BUILDER:	Verolme Dockyard, Cork
YARD NUMBER:	29
LAI D DOWN:	February 28th, 1977
LAUNCHED:	September 26th, 1977
COMMISSIONED:	January 16th, 1978
DECOMMISSIONED:	September 20th, 2013
HOMEPORT:	Haulbowline Naval Base
FIRST CAPTAIN:	Lieutenant Commander John Jordan
LAST CAPTAIN:	Lieutenant Commander Alan O'Regan
NUMBER OF OFFICERS COMMANDING:	23
TOTAL FISHERY BOARDINGS:	6,220
NUMBER OF INFRINGEMENT WARNINGS ISSUED:	146
NUMBER OF FISHERIES DETENTIONS MADE:	236
TOTAL MILES STEAMED:	518,000nm
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	
CLASS:	Deirdre Class
TYPE:	Patrol Vessel
DISPLACEMENT:	1,019.5 Tonnes Standard
LENGTH:	65.2m (214ft)
BEAM:	10.5m (34ft)
DRAUGHT:	4.4m (14ft)
MAIN ENGINES:	2 x SEMT- Pielstick Diesel, 4,800 HP, 1 Shaft
SPEED:	17 knots
RANGE:	6750nm @ 12 knots
COMPLEMENT:	46 (5 officers and 41 ratings)
ARMAMENT:	1 X BOFORS L40/70 2 X RHEINMETALL RH202 20MM 2 x Browning .5" HMG 2 x FN 7.62mm GPMG





The Bridge of LÉ Emer



LÉ Emer Crest

Emer is named after the wife of Ireland's most famous warrior, Cúchulainn. Emer was a proud and dominant woman. She has been described as hot tempered and violent, tolerating no rivals for her husband's affections. Despite being a famed warrior, Cúchulainn always treated Emer with respect, and many suspect that he actually feared her.

Emer was the daughter of a Chieftain from Rush, Co. Dublin. The golden harp of Leinster signifies this link. The fire in the crest relates to Emer burning strong with the seven virtues of womanhood and there are seven flames rising from the fire to symbolise this.



QUARTERMASTER'S STORE

LÉ Emer floating out of Verolme Dockyard
September 26th, 1977



Only a year after commissioning, the Emer was given a task which was a first for the Naval Service. In 1979 it was tasked with a re-supply mission to Irish troops serving with the United Nations in South Lebanon. It carried out 14 such missions to Lebanon up to 2001.

Counter Terrorism operations during the Troubles regularly took the Emer away from its routine Fishery Protection operations. In the early 1980's the Provisional IRA attempted to upset maritime traffic and cut off the port of Derry by sinking two coal ships in Lough Foyle. The first ship sunk was the MV Nellie M in 1981, and a year later the MV St. Bedan. The Emer was requested to enter Lough Foyle and assist in securing and making safe to maritime traffic the sunken vessels.

Two years later the Emer was the principal vessel in one of the biggest arms interdictions operations of the Troubles. Late on the evening of Friday September 28th, 1984, Emer's Captain, Lieutenant Commander Brian Farrell, received a message from Naval Headquarters in Dublin. A suspect vessel, the trawler FV Marita Ann (under the new name Darragh Liam), was reported to being used to smuggle illegal arms into the south west coast of the Republic of Ireland for the Provisional IRA. Emer's Captain plotted an intercept course.

In order to keep the Emer's approach obscure on the Marita Ann's radar, Lieutenant Commander Farrell used the massive jagged outcrops of the Skelligs to obscure the Emer's approach. In heavy seas this required a huge amount of experience and skill on behalf of the Captain and crew of

the Emer. By the time the crew of the Marita Ann knew what was happening it was too late. Trying to avoid arrest they made an attempt for the open seas. Tracer rounds fired across her bows by the Emer forced the trawler to stop. Armed Naval boarding personnel boarded the trawler and assisted members of An Garda Síochána in arresting the crew.

The total cargo found aboard consisted of:

- 1 x Browning .5" HMG with 1,000 rounds of ammunition.
- 300 American made Ruger, M-16 and M-15 (Armalite) assault rifles.
- A large number of pump-action shotguns, 5.56mm rifles, FN SLR and Heckler and Koch 7.62mm Sub-machine guns.
- 50,000 rounds of mixed ammunition.
- An unspecified quantity of handguns, ammunition and Korean made hand grenades.

In addition a number of flak jackets, radio equipment, military training manuals and medicines were also found.

It was estimated that the Provisional IRA smuggled an estimated 90% of its arms via the sea. An arrest such as the Marita Ann went a long way in stalling terrorist operations.

Emer was involved in several Search and Rescue operations. She was on scene to assist with casualties at the tragic Fastnet Race disaster in 1979, and her crew also assisted the Aisling on scene during the Air India disaster in June 1985. More recently Emer was present for the aftermath of the tragic sinking of the trawler Pere Charles.

In November 1986 Ireland experienced

one of the worst oil pollution disasters in its history when the MV Kowloon Bridge ran aground off the South West coast. The vessel was carrying a cargo of iron ore and nearly 2,000 tonnes of fuel oil. After losing steerage in severe weather the Kowloon Bridge was abandoned by its crew. She drifted unmanned for over twenty four hours before finally going aground on the Stags, a jagged rocky outcrop near the village of Glandore. She immediately started to leak fuel oil into the sea, which resulted in the pollution of a large area of coastline and killing thousands of seabirds and wildlife.

Along with two salvage tugs the Emer was on scene to try and get the merchant vessel back out to sea. Personnel from the Emer went aboard the Kowloon Bridge in an attempt to repair the damage to her hull and to attach lines. Unfortunately this was not possible. After a number of days pounding on the rocks from the storm, the Kowloon Bridge's back broke and she sank to the sea floor on Wednesday December 3rd, 1986.

The Deirdre Class are coming to the end of their naval careers. Like the Emer, her three sister vessels had very successful careers and are a testament to Irish design. LÉ Deirdre (P20) was decommissioned in 2001. It was sold and replaced by the LÉ Niamh. According to internet sources the Deirdre has since been scrapped. LÉ Emer (P21) was decommissioned on September 20th, 2013, and sold to a Nigerian buyer. LÉ Aoife (P22) was decommissioned on January 31st, this year. LÉ Aisling (P23) is due to be decommissioned in 2016. The latter three vessels are being replaced by three Samuel Beckett Class Offshore Patrol Vessels.



Forgotten Heroes

Remembered Forever

The Mayo Peace Park and Garden of Remembrance

It is not often that you are left speechless on the heritage trail. Historical tours, museums, castles, and battlefields of Ireland give you a certain insight into the past but they don't tend to touch the heart as often as they should. It often proves difficult to identify with the past, being so far removed. Last year as we were putting together the foundations of Reveille, telling Ireland's military story, we travelled to Castlebar in County Mayo to visit Michael Feeney MBE and his team of historians. Just a short walk from the town centre on the Lannagh Road is their project, the County Mayo Peace Park and Garden of

Remembrance. On entering the Park you will feel like your heart has beaten its final beat and that the world around you has fallen silent.

The park is a memorial to the Mayo men and women who perished in wars and conflicts of the 20th century. The project grew out of a desire to recognise the generally forgotten contribution of Mayo people in World War I. Dominating the park is a huge wall that has the names of over 1,200 service men and women, a considerable amount of names from just one county in Ireland, many of these names that for decades were remembered all too often only in silence

by their families. As Ernie Sweeney told me: 'sadly for many of the names on the wall, they had been lost to history. The Park is a tribute to them all. It is a place where family and friends can come and reflect'.

The Mayo Peace Park also recognises Mayo people who served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and those serving in the Irish Defence Forces. There are special memorials to the nurses and civilians who lost their lives in these conflicts and a memorial to the members of An Garda Síochána who gave their lives in the service of our country and to all who gave their lives for Ireland.

MILITARY HERITAGE TRAIL



Just a few names give you an idea of men, where they were from, their units, and the wars they fought in.

- Joseph Vesey, 155th Infantry US Army, from Achill, killed at Ypres, November 1st, 1918
- Patrick Caffrey, 2nd Battalion Irish Guards, from Ballina, killed in Flanders, September 15th, 1916
- Mathew James Rowley, Canadian Infantry, from Mayo, killed in Flanders
- Michael Gallagher, 1st Battalion Border Regiment, from Swinford, died at sea, September 19th, 1915
- William Gavin, 1st Battalion Argyll & Southerland Highlanders Service, from Castlebar, died Casino, May 31st, 1944
- Patrick Nevin, Paratrooper US Army, from Brize Claremorris, killed near Saigon, February 23rd, 1966
- Billy Kedian, 85th Infantry Battalion UNIFIL, from Ballyhaunis, killed in Lebanon, May 31st, 1999
- Robert McKibben, Royal Marines, from Westport killed in Afghanistan 2008



Army in 1911. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914 he was mobilised and returned to the Colours to serve with the Connaught Rangers once more. He was buried in the Royal Irish Graveyard in Laventie, France. Michael pointed out, 'For decades nobody remembered those who had served in the British Army during World War I. They weren't even spoken about'. Remarkably after Michael wrote an article about his grandfather in the local parish newsletter people started to approach him with stories of their relatives who had served in World War I or World War II. From there a team of like minded historians began to research and dig for Mayo's forgotten soldiers. It did not take long to discover that around the





l-r: Michael Feeny, Ernie Sweeney and Donal Buckley.

county that in certain areas almost every second family had someone killed in the First World War.

The work of the historians extends beyond the Park. They have found over 20 graves around Mayo of former service personnel. They then clean up or repair the grave if needed. One such grave is that of Major Thomas Falcon Hazell, DSO, M.C. DFC & Bar, Royal Flying Corps. Major Hazell was a pilot during the First World War. His was one of those graves that had been forgotten. Last August the Peace Park rededicated his grave in Burrishoole, Church of Ireland Cemetery, Newport.

Our journey to Mayo Peace Park does not stop here. The research historians like the Mayo men have done is a treasure trove for all. We will be travelling back to find out more about Mayo's military past. To give you a glimpse of one upcoming story is that

of Paddy Horkan. Paddy served during the First World War and on his return fought for Irish independence and later went on to fight in the Irish Civil War. His son Edward has compiled a monumental account of his father's involvement in these conflicts.

The names on the wall and memorials at Mayo Peace Park, along with the graves that the team have since found and repaired, are those that could be found in any county in Ireland. Ireland has come a long way in 100 years. It is time for every county to remember their fallen heroes before some names are lost forever.

For further reading on the research carried out by the historians check out their book 'Remembering Mayo's Fallen Heroes. A chronicle of stories and articles about Mayo's involvement in the World Wars, conflicts and UN peacekeeping operations'.

The Co. Mayo Peace Park and Garden of Remembrance
 Address
 Old Cemetery, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

How to get there:
 The Park is just a short walk from Castlebar town centre. Head out the Lannagh Road. It is located directly across from the Harlequin Hotel
 The Mayo Peace Park is open all year round to the public and commemorations are held on key anniversaries including Ireland's National Day of Commemoration, Armistice Day, the Annual Remembrance Day, Anzac Day and various regimental and family events.
 Web: www.mayopeacepark.ie
 E: info@mayopeacepark.ie



Left to Right:
1914 Star with Clasp
1915 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Campaign Medals of the First World War

By Patrick J. Casey - Medal Society of Ireland

In the previous issue I discussed the different types of medals awarded for Gallantry during the Great War and this in turn brings us to the subject of Campaign Medals.

Campaign Medals were distributed to soldiers who served in certain areas between certain dates. There were four medals in this category: the 1914 Star, the 1915 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

The first of these is the 1914 Star which is often erroneously referred to as the Mons Star. This, as can be seen from the photograph, is a simple bronze medal in the shape of a four pointed star with an Imperial crown forming the top point, and the Royal Cypher appearing above the lower point. Beneath a circular wreath two swords are crossed with points aimed downward and entwined around them is a banner with the wording, 'Aug 1914 Nov'. The back of the medal has an impress on the plain surface with the number, rank, name and unit of the recipient. This is one of the features which makes the collecting of campaign medals so popular. The recipient can be in turn

researched and information with regard to his war service and personal history can be obtained.

The medal was authorised by Special Army Order 350 in November 1917, to be issued to those who served in France and Belgium between August 5th, and November 22nd, 1914. A Bar, to be worn on the medal ribbon, was authorised by Army Order 361, 1919. The Bar, with the wording '5th Aug-22nd Nov 1914' was awarded to all those who served under fire between those dates. Recipients of the Bar were entitled to wear a silver rosette on the medal ribbon when the medal itself is not being worn.

It is believed some 378,000 medals were issued to British troops along with 350,000 Bars. The medal was never issued on its own but always in conjunction with the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The 1915 Star is similar in style to the 1914 Star except that the dates 1914 -15 appear in place of Aug 1914 Nov. It was issued under Special Army Order 20, 1919. It was available to those who served between August 5th, 1914 and December 31st, 1915. It was not

available to those who were entitled to the 1914 Star. Some 2,360,000 of the Stars were issued.

The British War Medal is a silver medal which was authorised by Army Order 266, 1919. Over 6,000,000 were produced by the Royal Mint and 250,000 medals in bronze were produced elsewhere. The medal was given to all those who served in the War.

Lastly the Victory Medal was authorised by Army Order 301, 1919 to commemorate the Allied Victory. Over 5,330,000 were issued. All recipients of the Victory Medal also received the British War Medal. All recipients of either the 1914 Star or 1915 Star also received the British War Medal and Victory Medal. The British War Medal was the only medal of the four which could be issued on its own.

Though the medals described above are fairly common each medal represented the part that an individual played in the Great War and the most humble medal to the least favourite unit may possibly hide a story of courage and hardship the likes of which we can only imagine.



Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers: Colchester 1898

This image captioned '2nd Battalion Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers Colchester 1898' was sent to us by John Laking from Gillingham, Co. Kent UK. John found the image in a photo album of Victorian photographs in his attic.

The regiment was formed in 1881 by amalgamating the 87th (Royal Irish Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot and the 89th (The Princess Victoria's) Regiment of Foot. Originally named The Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers), its title changed to The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) in 1920.

The image is certainly a rare find. Thanks to John for sharing this with us.

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If you have any images, documents, or artefacts that you would like to share or are looking for information on please contact us at info@reveille.ie

Group photo of a platoon on exercise.



Irish Defence Forces Through the Years

The Irish Defence Forces Military Archives is the unit responsible for acquiring, preserving and making available to the public the documentary heritage of the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence.

The Military Archives has been the official place of deposit for records of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board since 1990, as defined in the National Archives Act, 1986. Their brief is to collect material from the foundation of the State up until the present day, including records from overseas missions. From as early as 1924, the National Army, recognising the importance of the 1913- 1921 period, undertook to preserve historical documents from that time. Some of the earliest collections preserved by the then Historical Section include the Collins Papers, Civil War Operations and Intelligence files and Captured Documents (Civil War

up to 1925), which continue to be made available today.

Over the decades tens of thousands of photographs have been taken of Defence Forces personnel serving both at home and overseas. Many of these photographs were donated or deposited in Military Archives and a great number have never been seen. Military Archives have kindly allowed us to reproduce the images you see here of the Defence Forces throughout the 20th century. The images consist of the Defence Forces (Army, Air Corps, Naval Service) in its early years, the Emergency, overseas service and exercises and courses at home.

When deposited not all the images came with all the information. Military Archives needs your help in providing any information at all in relation to the images shown. Any information can help such as; who took the image, who is in it, where was it taken and when.



These two photos show Air Corps students under instruction in Casement Aerodrome.



Troops receiving orders from their Section Commander



Troops from the 80th Infantry Battalion serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.



Ceremonial colour party marching towards a review parade which was held in the Phoenix Park on September 11th, 1926.



Colonel Leo Buckley OC 2nd Brigade with Two Star privates on completion of their recruit training in Collins Barracks, Dublin.



Combined Army Bands.



Can you identify the location, date or the personnel in the above image?



Image from the Naval Service.



This image is categorised as the United Nations Mission in Lebanon. Can you help identify the individual in the image or date?



Officer taking the Salute is retired Commodore Liam Brett.



Pipe Band in Collins Barracks.



The ceremonial troops for Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins Commemoration at the Cenotaph, Leinster Lawn, on August 17th, 1924.



The soldiers in the photo are wearing fatigue suits over their green bulls wool tunics and trousers. Fatigue suits were brown and came with brass buttons that had to be polished.



Non Commissioned Officer provides instruction to his section on the Gustaf sub machine gun.



All Army Boxing Team who were selected to represent the Irish Army against the British Army in 1926. The Irish team came second during this competition



Troops preparing in the billet for the day ahead.

The Irish Defence Forces Military Archives section can be contacted by the following methods:

Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

T: +353 1 8046457

E: militaryarchives@defenceforces.ie

Web: www.militaryarchives.ie



Willie and his father, Billy, looking over records of the Royal Irish.

Tracing My Grandfather's Wars

By Willie Whelan

When I was growing up I knew my Grandfather, Christopher 'Christy' Whelan, had fought in World War I. I never knew him. He had passed away when my father, Billy, was 17. I never had any huge interest in history.

After reading a book on the Great War I was taken aback by the sheer horrors of the conflict which my Grandfather had fought in. My father had said that his father had never spoken about the war. All he knew was that he had served in the Royal Irish Regiment and had a picture of King

George V hung in the house to the day he died. When I started the research back in the late 1990's and early 2000's there was only limited information available on the internet, now you can find everything. After several trips to archives here in Ireland and England it was proving to be a

monumental task. In England I employed the services of Military Genealogy and Military Operations. They came back with a comprehensive record of my Grandfather's military service. The War Office records of the Royal Irish are very detailed. A full and rich history began to develop which I will now share.

Christy Whelan was from a tenement house on Greek Street, Dublin. It is speculated that he was born on October 14th, 1880, though the exact date cannot be confirmed. Along with his brother Thomas, they enlisted in the Militia, 4th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers. In the records he is listed as Rifleman 322. His military record states he was a labourer in Dublin. My research has not yielded any information on his political views. At the time I can only assume life in Dublin was full of hardship. It is well known that the conditions in the tenements were not exactly pleasant. With the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War the two brothers enlisted in the Royal Irish Regiment in January 1900. For the two brothers this may just simply have been an adventure.

The brothers were attached to 1st Battalion which had left for South Africa in December 1899. They would not arrive in South Africa until August. Along with the 2nd Bedfordshire, 2nd Worcestershire, and 2nd Wiltshire, the 1st Battalion were part of the 12th Brigade under Major General Clements. This brigade was intended to be part of the 6th Division, but it was briefly under General Kelly-Kenny's command. Once they arrived in South Africa the Royal Irish played a very prominent part, and frequently gained the praises of High Command. In referring to the taking of Bethlehem on July 7th, Lord Roberts in his despatch of October 10th, 1900 said, 'On this occasion the 1st Battalion specially distinguished itself, capturing a gun of the 77th Battery Royal Field Artillery which had been lost at Stormberg'. After being driven from Bethlehem, the Boer army; about 7,000 strong, retired into the Brandwater basin, where it was hoped they would be captured.

The Royal Irish were once again engaged on July 23rd, at Slabbert's Nek where they assisted in bottling up the Boers. The

Boers had occupied a formidable position and had brought up several guns and pom-poms. Sir Archibald Hunter's despatch August 4th, stated, 'Major General Clements directed his troops to bivouac on the night of the 23rd, on the positions they had gained, and at 4:30 on the 24th, Lieutenant Colonel Guinness with four companies Royal Irish and two companies 2nd Wiltshire, favoured by some clouds which obscured the crest, was able to gain a ridge to the west of and overlooking the enemy's position'. The Boers were completely cut off and over 4,000 of them surrendered on July 30th.

I am uncertain as

“ My father had said that his father had never spoken about the war. **All he knew was that he had served in the Royal Irish Regiment** ”

to when the two brothers joined the battalion, it is believed to have been sometime in August. At that time the 1st Battalion were brigaded under General Sir Horace Lockwood Smith-Dorrien along with the 1st Gordons. They advanced on Lydenburg via Dulstroom in order to aid General Redvers Buller, who had been brought to a standstill at Badfontein. The battalion was taken to Pretoria to



The two brothers Christy and Thomas in South Africa.

represent Ireland at the ceremony which proclaimed the Annexation of the Transvaal on October 25th.

When Belfast was attacked on the night of January 7th/8th, 1901 the Royal Irish were garrisoned there. After severe fighting, the attack, which had been favoured by a dense mist, was driven off. The battalion suffered casualties, 9 men were killed and over 20 wounded. In his book, 'My Reminiscences of the Anglo-Boer War', General Ben Viljoen of the Boer Army, said about the Royal Irish, 'of which regiment all Britain should be proud'. For his actions on January 7th, Private J. Barry was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

In 1901 the battalion supplied the infantry of Colonel Park's column, one of several that operated in the Eastern Transvaal with much success under Sir Bindon Blood. Subsequently, until the close of the war, the battalion were on garrison duty at Lydenburg, and also took part in many expeditions under General F. W. Kitchener and other commanders.

In April, Christy was arrested and later

FAMILY HISTORY



Christy with his wife Elizabeth in Blackpool sometime between the wars.

Court Martialled for striking an officer. It is unknown who was on the receiving end, or indeed why it had happened. Following this offence he received six months hard labour. He wasn't long out of prison when he was arrested again for falling asleep at his post. He was sentenced again for another six months hard labour. Christy was fortunate, as at the time such crimes were punishable by the death penalty. The army was certainly a tough place back then. I can only imagine the boredom and ennui that awaited the soldiers once the fighting had ceased. The unit were sent to India in 1905. The two brothers did not see home again until 1908 and were later put on the reserve list.

When war broke out in Europe, Christy was living in tenements at 22 Chancery Street in Dublin's inner city. By this time he had married and had three children. On August 6th, the regimental HQ in Clonmel issued orders recalling all reservists. On August 9th, the two brothers were in Devonport forming up with the rest of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). They were assigned to 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment. The BEF was made up of over 50% recalled reservists like the Whelan brothers.

Although the BEF was small it was a formidable force. The experience for many units in the Boer War had taught them valuable lessons such as fire-and-manoevre, camouflage and marksmanship. The 1,000 strong 2nd Battalion, were part of the 8th Infantry Brigade, II Corps, under Brigadier General Beauchamp Doran. The brigade consisted of 2nd Royal Scots, 4th Middlesex and 1st Gordon Highlanders. The battalion landed at Boulogne on August 14th, eventually making its way to Aulnoye, 20 miles from the Belgian border. From here they marched to Taisnieres and according to one Royal Irish veteran, 'All along the route we were greeted by enthusiastic French soldiers and civilians looking for "un souvenir" and calling "vivent les Anglais". We left them in no doubt about our nationality and we would reply with "nous ne sommes pas Anglais, nous sommes Irlandais". They apparently liked that and replied "vivent les Irlandais".' By August 21st, the battalion was at Bettignes.

On August 22nd, the battalion was ordered further north to St. Symphorien and Villers St. Ghislain on the western fringes of Mons where they hastily dug in using tools borrowed from the locals. The records show that the reservists were suffering from

the long marches. They had become unfit after so many years of inactivity. The hottest summer France had seen in years did not help. At Mons the BEF took the brunt of a full on German assault.

On August 23rd, the Royal Irish were in action for most of the day. That day nine and half BEF battalions would face six German infantry divisions. As it happened, the Irish; who were in reserve, were interrupted from having their breakfast and called upon to support the Middlesex, and from hastily dug rifle pits they defended the line against massed German infantry assaults. The outnumbered BEF soldiers inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans. At 12:30 just as dinner was being brought up, the Royal Irish were ordered into action again, this time to hold open the salient at the neck so that the other battalions could retreat and thus avoid encirclement. The battalion did just that but lost their entire machine gun section as well as over one third the battalions strength in the process. With their own line of retreat blocked they were obliged to make good their escape by means of a long and hazardous detour around Bois la Haut.

The final German attack of the day came against 1st Gordons, 2nd Royal Scots and

the remainder of the Royal Irish, along the Harmignies road. The Germans who were advancing over open ground suffered heavy casualties. Almost every bullet found a target. One German unit suffered 370 casualties in a matter of minutes. For his actions that day the 2nd Battalion's Quartermaster Sergeant was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. That day the Royal Irish suffered 300 killed, wounded or missing.

Retreating from Mons one Irish soldier wrote, 'We got ten minutes rest every hour and what rest you got during the night depended on the proximity of the German army that was advancing after us. Sometimes you got three or four hours. After a few days with the lack of proper rations we began to have hallucinations'. The Royal Irish retreated to Caudry about 20km away and proceeded to have their first meal in three days. They billeted at Audencourt.

On August 26th, II Corps turned to face another heavy German assault. At 06:00 the German artillery bombardment began. The Royal Irish were split up to support, at various times during the day; the Royal Scots and the Gordons. No entrenching tools were available so the men had to endure the German bombardment from poorly protected positions. Later in the day the order came to evacuate. However this order did not reach the rearguard of the brigade, which was made up of Gordons and two companies of the Royal Irish. Isolated, they withstood repeated attacks by the massed artillery and two German infantry regiments for six hours. By doing so they gave the rest of the division the time to disengage and withdraw. Only 200 of the Gordons and the Royal Irish companies made it back to British lines. That day the Royal Irish suffered a further 250 casualties. The sheer loss of men that these units suffered is hard to fathom.

At 02:00 the next day the remainder of the Royal Irish left Beaufeuvois. The battalion retreated with little rest until September 5th, when it reached Retal. Here for the first time in days they received proper food and medical attention. On September 7th, the Allied armies turned to face their pursuers at the Marne River close to Paris. By this

“ The Royal Irish were again engaged on July 23rd, at Slabbert's Nek where they assisted in bottling up the Boers”
“The outnumbered BEF soldiers inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans. At 12:30 just as dinner was being brought up, the Royal Irish were ordered into action again ”

time Christy and the rest of the Royal Irish had marched some 200 miles in two weeks under constant fire. The unit did not take a major role in this battle. At this time the battalion received a compliment of replacements including: 1 lieutenant and 91 men, as well as 81 of the missing men from Mons and Caudry. This brought the strength of the battalion up to 11 officers and 536 men. For the rest of September the Royal Irish were positioned along the Aisne. From the 12th – 25th, they took another 112 casualties.

Along with the rest of the BEF the Royal Irish was moved to the northern part of the line to Flanders. On October 10th, Christy was promoted to Corporal. He was probably acting in this capacity for some time. While crossing the canal at Vielle Chapelle on the 13th, the battalion came under fire and their advance was halted. Two days later the battalion received a draft of 6 officers and 353 men, nearly bringing the unit back up to full strength. That same day the battalion launched an attack on St. Vaast. The Irish advanced capturing the enemy trenches and drove the Germans back through the town at bayonet point. That night the Germans retreated further and the following day they launched an artillery bombardment of the Irish trenches.

At Ypres on October 19th, the Royal Irish received orders to attack Le Pilly in conjunction with a French attack on Fournes. A squadron from 15th Hussars and a section of field artillery were placed under the command of the battalion. After artillery bombardment of the village the infantry attack went in. Although they were under heavy fire the battalion made good progress. During the fighting another draft came in and these men were sent straight into the line. Le Pilly was reached. The French however did not achieve their objective and a gap appeared between the battalion and the Royal Fusiliers. The unit was isolated. Reinforcements would not be available until morning. That day cost the Royal Irish 200 casualties.

It was during this assault that Christy received a wound to the right hand that resulted in the loss of three fingers. Unknown to him the wound probably saved his life. That night the rain was incessant.



Cap Badge and Shoulder Title of the Royal Irish Regiment

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 17 FEBRUARY, 1915. 1661

<p>2ND BATTALION, WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT. Phillips, Lieutenant-Colonel G. F.</p> <p>1ST BATTALION, EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT. Bogle, Major B. W. Young, Major W. H. Anderson, Captain D. F. Brown, Captain H. R. S., Reserve of Officers. Markham, Lieutenant (temporary Captain) J. A. Frost, No. 9577 Corporal A. H. Burton, No. 9694 Lance-Corporal J. D. Ptolomy, No. 7679 Lance-Corporal C. E. A.</p> <p>1ST BATTALION, BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT. Griffith, Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. J., D.S.O. Allason, Major W. Thorpe, Major E. I. de S. Geff, Captain C. E., Liverpool Regiment (attached). Macready, Captain J. Milling, Captain J. MacM. Coventry, Lieutenant W. St. J. Davenport, Lieutenant J. S. Garrod, Second Lieutenant A. G. R., 3rd Leicestershire Regiment (attached). Rendell, Second Lieutenant L. W. (killed in action). McGinn, No. 5288 Company Serjeant-Major M. J. Sharp, No. 5559 Company Serjeant-Major W. Watson, No. 3318 Company Serjeant-Major E. Cattle, No. 8389 Private H. C.</p> <p>2ND BATTALION, BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT. Stares, Major R. P. (killed in action). Traill, Major J. M. (commanding), (killed in action). Foss, Captain C. C. Garnett-Botfield, Captain S. C. (died of wounds received in action). Pastard, Lieutenant W. (killed in action). Funchard, Lieutenant E. E. (killed in action). Fernandes, Second Lieutenant D. L. de T. (killed in action). Thurley, 7129 Regimental Serjeant-Major F. W. Bliss, No. 5313 Company Serjeant-Major F. W. Coe, No. 6597 Company Serjeant-Major J. Flint, No. 7389 Company Serjeant-Major L. Geevin, No. 7959 Company Serjeant-Major J.</p> <p>1ST BATTALION, LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT. Croker, Colonel H. L. Tidwell, Captain E. S. W. Wilson, Captain W. C. Bayfield, Lieutenant H. L. Prain, Lieutenant T. (killed in action). Waller, Lieutenant (temporary Captain) J. T. Redwood, No. 4918 Company Serjeant-Major (now Second Lieutenant) J. Heath, No. 7512 Serjeant R. Morsby, No. 6457 Corporal W. H. Burfield, No. 9476 Private S. Keightley, No. 9745 Private W.</p> <p>2ND BATTALION, LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT. Hickadeser, Lieutenant-Colonel C. G., D.S.O. Gordon, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Grant, Captain H. A. (killed in action). Seton-Browne, Second Lieutenant M. W. (killed in action). Foister, No. 7336 Serjeant P. Gray, No. 8244 Corporal G.</p>	<p>Chamberlain, No. 9409 Private W. O. (died of wounds received in action). Chasten, No. 9600 Private E. W. Garton, No. 9139 Lance-Corporal F. E. Taylor, No. 8569 Lance-Corporal J.</p> <p>2ND BATTALION, ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT. Daniell, Major E. H. E., D.S.O. Furnell, Captain G. O. M. Ferguson, Captain H. G. Farrison, Captain M. C. C. Laing, Lieutenant D. P. Phillips, Lieutenant E. G. D. M. Downing, Second Lieutenant H. G. O. Cooper, No. 9930 Company Serjeant-Major H. E. Heaton, No. 9530 Company Quartermaster-Serjeant H. Atley, No. 8099 Acting Corporal W. Turnbull, No. 6833 Acting Corporal W. Whelan, No. 6817 Lance-Corporal C. Barry, No. 7000 Private S. Duggan, No. 10805 Private C. Gowton, No. 7581 Private J. Roberts, No. 10532 Private W.</p> <p>2ND BATTALION, YORKSHIRE REGIMENT. King, Lieutenant-Colonel C. X. C. (killed in action). Jeffery, Captain C. G. (died of wounds received in action). Moss-Blundell, Captain B. S. Peel, Captain L. Brooksbank, Lieutenant H. G. Kreyer, Lieutenant H. S., D.S.O. Ledgard, Lieutenant F. C. Palmer, Lieutenant A. E. G. Pickard, Quartermaster and Hon. Lieutenant E.</p> <p>2ND BATTALION, LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS. Blencowe, Lieutenant (temporary Captain) A. J. W. Luker, Captain R. Spooner, Captain A. H. Woodman, Captain J. E. S., D.S.O. Clague, No. 6885 Company Serjeant-Major.</p> <p>1ST BATTALION, ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS. Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) W. D. Barrett, Captain C. J. C. (killed in action). Boyle, Captain Hon. J. Hurt, Captain S. F. A. A. (killed in action). Stuart, Captain Hon. R. S. Traill, Captain T. B., D.S.O. Critchley-Salmonson, Lieutenant D. G. C. Mann, Second Lieutenant S. Brown, No. 6015 Company Quartermaster-Serjeant G. (killed in action). Hamberstone, No. 9634 Lance-Corporal A. Ferrier, No. 9348 Lance-Corporal B. Blythe, No. 8601 Private J. Burt, No. 10662 Private W. Fleming, No. 11874 Private J. Morgan, No. 8325 Private C. (killed in action). Melvin, No. 9763 Private S.</p> <p>2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS. Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. B. Bruce, Captain A. G. Eurgoyne, Captain R. M. Horn, Captain R. V. G. Stewart, Captain H. W. V., D.S.O. Whigham, Captain J. C.</p>
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The wounded were evacuated under the cover of darkness. The next day, on realising the Irish were cut off, the Germans launched a full scale assault on the 2nd Battalion. The battalion was virtually wiped out. The Germans took over 300 prisoners. Less than 100 could walk. Only 30 men made it back to British lines. Recuperating behind the lines Christy was wounded again on October 25th, most likely by shrapnel from artillery fire. The next day he was shipped back to England. For Christy the war was over.

For his actions on October 19th, Christy was mentioned in Dispatches. The following February he appeared in the London Gazette for gallant and distinguished service in the field;

Whelan, No. 6817 Lance Corporal C. Reassigned to 3rd Battalion, Christy was sent to India just before the 1916 Rising in Dublin. From what we can tell he acted as a cook for the remainder of his service. He was discharged in 1919. We do know his brother Thomas survived the war but died of Tuberculosis in 1918. On his return home Christy went on to work in Jacobs. Remarkably in 1939 the British Army asked Christy to re-enlist to train new recruits for the next war in Europe. Christy declined the invitation.

He died in May 1950. We can only speculate but I suspect that he suffered from the traumas of the war for the rest of his life.

Dispatches published in the London Gazette, February 1915,

Timeline

1900

January 23rd. Enlisted in the Royal Irish Regiment
January 29th. Posted to Regiment Depot
July 20th. Posted to 1st Battalion Royal Irish Regiment
July 22nd. Departs for South Africa

1901

April 20th. Under arrest for striking a superior officer
May 7th. Court Martialled and sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour
October 3rd. Under arrest for sleeping at post
October 5th. Court Martialled and sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour

1902

April 5th. Returned to duty

1904

April 1st. Extended service with the colours to complete eight years service

1905

January 22nd. Unit moves to India

1907

October 4th. Posted to 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment
October 26th. Returns home

1908

January 22nd. Transferred to Reserve

1912

January 11th. Re-engaged for four years reserve service

1914

August 6th. Mobilised
August 13th. Deployed with BEF to France
October 10th. Promoted Corporal
October 19th. Wounded in action
October 25th. Wounded behind the lines
October 27th. Returns to UK
November 24th. Posted to 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment

1915

February 17th. Mentioned in Dispatches London Gazette

1916

February 12th. Sent to India
March 11th. Posted to 2nd Garrison Battalion
October 18th. Transferred to 1 Garrison Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers

1919

November 2nd - December 2nd. En-route to UK
December 16th. Discharged. 'No longer physically fit for war service.'

LIVING HISTORY

The newly restored
FV603 Saracen
'Holly'.



TEN YEARS ON THE ROAD

The Irish Military Vehicles Group

In January we were invited down to the Irish Military Vehicles Group (IMVG) workshops and yard in Naas Co. Kildare, to see how they bring history alive.

For the vast majority of military enthusiasts and historians the past is confined to books, documents, magazines and movies. Learning about a time in history is one thing but imagine having the opportunity to touch, hear, and drive in an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) from the 1950's, or an ambulance that actually landed on D-Day 1945, or a troop transport that served with the United Nations in Africa. Well if you pay a visit to the IMVG you may just get that chance.

For ten years now the IMVG has been carefully and meticulously restoring and preserving military vehicles that date back to the 1930's. When we visited them in their yard in Naas a Dodge Weapons Carrier had its hood off

and the mechanics of the IMVG were replacing a head gasket. We spoke to Ciarán Flynn, the group's first chairman about the group and their vehicles.

Ciarán started off his collection many years ago with a Sanglas motorcycle. One by one the group began to develop as other military vehicle enthusiasts got together to help each other out and share their passion for the past. You don't have to own a vehicle to be a member. For many it's the joy of restoring and preserving the past. With now over 30 vehicles the IMVG have a wide collection ranging from former Irish Defence Forces motorcycles to ex-British Army APC's.

For anyone who has served in the Irish Defence Forces familiar vehicles will include the Nissan Patrol, an Explosive Ordnance Device truck, and a Panhard AML 90 and 60. As part of their Irish Defence Forces collection the IMVG

has three ACMAT VLRA TPK420 SM3. This series of French built cross-country tactical vehicles were known for their reliability, simplicity, ruggedness and their commonality of parts across the entire product-line. Variants of the vehicle are still serving with the Irish Defence Forces today. One particular variant preserved by the IMVG served in Somalia as a gunship. It still proudly wears the white colour scheme of United Nations. When you hear an ACMAT in action it gives off the vibe 'I am a military vehicle. Nothing can stop me'. As Ciarán told us, 'this vehicle never gives trouble. It travels to every show in Ireland and the UK. Not once has the hood ever had to be lifted. It is a real testament to the manufacturer'.

Vehicles of World War II vintage will no doubt be recognisable by all. A beautiful Willys Jeep has to be one of the most famous vehicles ever built. It still requires a drip



Former Irish Defence Forces Explosive Ordnance Device (EOD) truck with the Dodge Ambulance.

LIVING HISTORY



tray to follow it everywhere, according to Ciarán; who then smiled. One vehicle that stands out is the Dodge WC54 Ambulance. This ambulance is a real classic. You will recognise it from World War II or Korean War movies. The vehicles in the IMVG collection actually landed on D-Day, 1944. Today it is still in perfect condition and takes centre stage at World War commemoration events. Another vehicle of this era is the 1938 BSA M20 motorcycle. This is the oldest vehicles in the group's collection. The BSA M20 was a British motorcycle made by Birmingham Small Arms Company and served in the military until the 1960's. This vehicle served with the Irish Defence Forces throughout the Emergency years.

One of the group's most recent projects was the full restoration of an ex-British Army FV603 Saracen. Now when you look at photographs showing the condition that this six-wheeled Saracen arrived in it is hard to image anything but the scrap heap. For over 12 years the Saracen had rotted away up in the Wicklow mountains in a paintball site. The hatches had been left open. As a result the vehicle was full of foliage, mud, and water. The vehicle had rusted red in colour and hinges seized up. Surprisingly there was still an engine in it. As Ciarán explained, 'Once we got it back to the yard we all got stuck in and cleaned her out. We sent her off to be sandblasted and primed. The IMVG has experts in every field, including: mechanics, upholsterers and sprayers - which meant we were able to do the rest. Everything we need we have here in the workshops'. The result of all their hard work is a vehicle that looks like it just came off the assembly line. 'The armour was still in very good condition', Ciarán said, 'The Rolls-Royce B80 Mk.6A, 8 cylinder engine needed a lot of work and



The beautifully restored BSA M20.

there is still more to be done. With so many people helping on a project the past quickly comes back life'. The Saracen is named Holly B after Ciarán's first grandchild.

Many of these vehicles are considerably larger and more unwieldy than a commercial car. The question of transporting and manoeuvring such vehicular behemoths is often raised. Well the answer is very simple, as Ciarán mentioned; 'Nearly every member of the IMVG have served in the Irish Defence Forces. This means our members have come with military driving courses done. It also means they all know how to form and operate within a convoy. Before each show we sit down and plan our route and convoy just as we would have in the military. It's safe and it works'.

Last year the IMVG did 20 military shows, a wedding, and a funeral. You have plenty of opportunity to meet them as they are regular attendance at military shows all over the country and the UK including the Curragh, Listowel, Duncannon Fort, and the War and Peace show in the UK. Their own annual show is on June 20th – 21st, in Nass Racecourse Co. Kildare, make sure to put it in your diary. It is at these shows were you will get the chance to see the vehicles in action. The IMVG put on both driving and static displays.

Without groups like the IMVG these vehicles would simply rust away. We are



Members of the IMVG at their yard in Naas, Co. Kildare.



looking forward to meeting up with them again in the near future.

If you are interested in joining the IMVG or would like to ask them a question they can be contacted at:

E: info@imvg.ie

FB: www.facebook.com/IrishMilitaryVehiclesGroup

IrishMilitaryVehiclesGroup

Web: www.imvg.ie

Handover of Royal Barracks Dublin

Once the Anglo/Irish Treaty had been signed the first British military post to be evacuated was Clogheen in Co. Tipperary on January 25th, 1922. The last post was the Royal Barracks Dublin (Collins Barracks) on December 17th, 1922. At a re-enactment training event in the National Museum of Ireland Collins Barracks earlier this January several groups recreated the handover of the Royal Barracks from the British Forces to the Free State National Army.

Our photos show members of the Irish Great War Society and the D-Day Dodgers portraying the British Army, handing over to Free State forces portrayed by members of the Lord Edward's Own, Kilkenny Flying Column, the Enniscorthy Re-enactment Society and Ashbourne Re-enactment Group.



Re-enactors recreate the 1914 Christmas Truce

There could not have been a better setting for Living History Ireland to re-enact the Christmas Truce of December 20th, 1914, than Dixon Park, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim. Dixon Park is the grounds of Ballyclare Comrades Football Team, the only football team formed out of veterans from the Great War in 1919.

This special event commemorated the centenary of the unofficial ceasefire that took place along the front during Christmas Week 1914, which saw men emerge from the trenches on both sides and approach each other for a respite from the fighting. The soldiers exchanged Christmas greetings and gifts and joined in with Christmas carols. Some German and British soldiers joined together to play football. As well as the Irish men in the various units of the British Army there were, along the front at that time; three distinct Irish units: 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1st Royal Irish Rifles, and 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers.

100 years on it seemed appropriate to play a football match between a team from Ballyclare and a team from Dorsten, Germany who happen to be twinned with the local church and the local council of Newtownabbey. Living History Ireland opened the afternoon with a battle across the lines. Live fire from machine guns and rifles with a dramatic background battle was heard over the PA. Retreating back to their lines white flags were raised and the wounded and dead were retrieved, Father Eugene O'Hagan from the singing priests led the choir from the trenches with 'Silent Night' sung in German and joined by the Ballyclare Male Voice Choir and the Victoria Silver Flute Band; both of which owe their origins to veterans of the Great War.

After this the re-enactors took to the pitch for a 10min kick about to the cheers of the stands. The Rev. Bell gave a short address and Christmas message. Both local mayors expressed the importance of re-enactors and how they can go to great lengths to depict life as it would have been.



(Photos by Joseph O'Deorain)

In the Footsteps of Patrick Cleburne



A photographic essay by Annette Keeter

1 50 years to the day re-enactors gathered from all over the United States and as far away as Europe, to retrace the final charge of Major General Patrick Cleburne. The Cork born general had made a new home for himself in Arkansas and on the outbreak of the American Civil War volunteered for military service with the Confederate States. He rose quickly to a division commander. Cleburne participated in many successful military campaigns, especially the Battle of Stones River and the Battle of Ringgold Gap. His strategic ability gained him the nickname 'Stonewall of the West'.

The Battle of Franklin was fought on November 30th, 1864, at Franklin, Tennessee, as a result of a Confederate attempt to retake the State. It proved to be one of the worst disasters of the war for the Confederate States Army. Confederate Lieutenant General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee conducted numerous frontal assaults





against fortified positions occupied by the Union forces under Major General John M. Schofield.

Hood massed six infantry divisions containing 18 brigades with 100 regiments numbering almost 20,000 men. It was a scant shadow of its former days. The repeated frontal assaults resulted in devastating losses to the men and the leadership of the Army of Tennessee. Fourteen Confederate generals (six killed or mortally wounded,

seven wounded, and one captured) along with 55 regimental commanders wounded or captured. Some 6,252 confederates fell that day.

On the same day 150 years later re-enactors wearing Confederate grey formed up in-line-of-battle and marched across the same ground Hood's men did. They were met by dug in Union re-enactor's who gave them a taste of hot lead and cold steel. As they charged flags wavered and fell. A

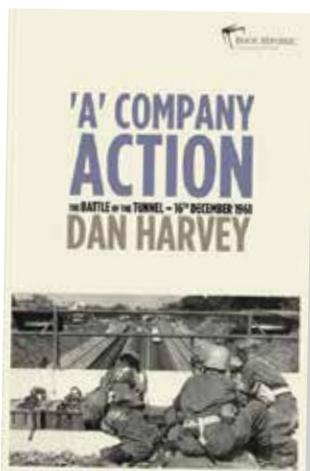
tribute to the Army of Tennessee and their favourite Irish General.

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Annette Keeter is from Spring Hill, Tennessee. She works as a Center Manager for the US Healthworks. Annette has had a love for photography since she was young and took images with her father. Living in an area with such amazing Civil War history she became very interested in not only the history but also the living history which she captures through her camera.

'A' Company Action

By Dan Harvey
eBook €4.99

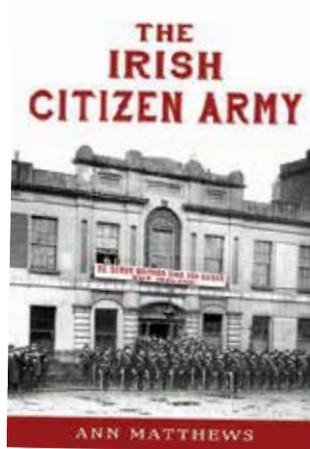
This is the remarkable story of the most decorated company in the history of the Irish Defence Forces, Under the flag of the United Nations, 'A' Company's actions in the Congo resulted in heavy casualties and 14 Distinguished Service medals were awarded to members of the company, two posthumously. Covering the seize-and-hold operation to take control of a crucial approach to Élisabethville in very hostile conditions, this book offers a fascinating insight into the actions of 'A' Company, 36th Infantry Battalion, on December 16th, 1961.



The Irish Citizen Army

By Ann Matthews
Paperback €13.49

The Irish Citizen Army (ICA) was originally established as a defence corps during the 1913 Lockout, but under the leadership of James Connolly its aims became more Republican and the IRB, fearing Connolly would pre-empt their plans for the Easter Rising, convinced him to join his force with the Irish Volunteers. During the Rising the ICA was active in three garrisons and the book describes for the first time in depth its involvement at St. Stephen's Green and the Royal College of Surgeons, at City Hall and its environs and, using the first-hand account of journalist J.J. O'Leary who was on the scene, in the battle around the GPO. The author questions the much-vaunted myth of the equality of men and women in the ICA and scrutinises the credentials of Larkin and Connolly as champions of both sexes. She also asserts that the Proclamation was not read by Patrick Pearse from the steps of the GPO, but by Tom Clarke from Nelson's Pillar. She provides sources to suggest that the Proclamation was not, as has always been believed, printed in Liberty Hall, and that the final headquarters of the rebels was not at number 16 Moore Street, but somewhere between numbers 21 and 26.

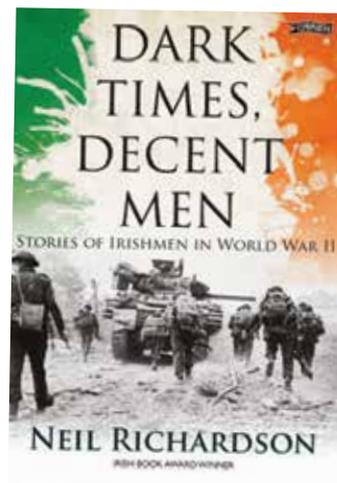


Dark Times Decent Men

Stories of Irishmen in World War II
By Neil Richardson
Paperback €19.99

At least 130,000 Irish - from north and south of the border - served during the Second World War. Seven thousand never returned. They fought as soldiers in Europe, North Africa and the Far East, as sailors in U-boat infested seas, and as airmen in the dangerous skies. Once again, the politics of home disappeared on the battlefields as Irishmen from different religious and political backgrounds struggled and died side by side.

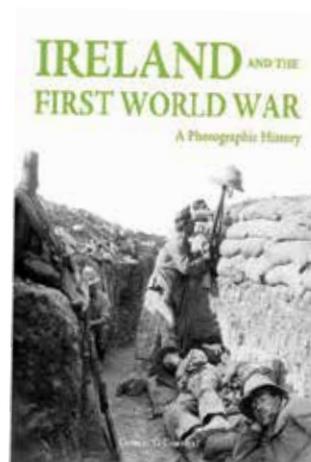
In this poignant yet detailed book, award winning author Neil Richardson documents veterans' stories with personal interviews, military records, diaries and letters. The time has now come to honour and acknowledge all those Irishmen who went to war.



Ireland and the First World War: A photographic History

By Cormac Ó Comhraí
Hardback €25.00

Dismissively called 'Cogadh an Dá Ghall' (The War of the Two Foreigners) by some Irish speakers, the First World War saw the mobilisation of hundreds of thousands of Irish people as soldiers, sailors and nurses. The war brought massive suffering, heroism, personal liberation, profit and economic hardship, and also provided the conditions necessary for a rebellion against British rule. Using striking photographs from a wide range of sources, this book shows the experiences of the Irish at home and abroad as the 'Great War' raged across Europe.



Author's Corner

Guide to tracing your Kildare Ancestors

Karel Kiely, Mario Corrigan & James Durney

Paperback: €13.00

Flyleaf Press has published a new edition to their series of county guides. This latest addition 'Guide to tracing your Kildare Ancestors' is by Karel Kiely, Mario Corrigan & James Durney. The three authors are centrally involved in Kildare genealogy as researchers, archivists and/or authors. The publication is a comprehensive guide to all of the records available for tracing families in the county and is filled with information on what the records contain, and how and where they can be accessed. It is well illustrated with maps of the various administrative divisions; with examples of the types of records to be found; and with other relevant material. It also provides background on the social history of the counties and how this history has affected the keeping and survival of records. There is also a comprehensive index.

Karel Kiely has run the County Kildare Genealogy Service for over twenty-three years. A native of Newbridge, Co. Kildare, she is a graduate of both Trinity College and Maynooth University, where she completed her MA in Local History in 1994. Her minor thesis on Naas Workhouse during the Famine reflects her interest in Irish social history and the Great Famine period. She has been the secretary of the Irish Family History Foundation since 2006 and the manager of its website www.rootsireland.ie, since 2007. She has contributed articles to various publications over the years and currently edits Clann, the newsletter of the Irish Family History Foundation.

Mario Corrigan is the Executive Librarian in charge of Kildare Collections and Research Services for Kildare Library & Arts Services. He has professional qualifications in History and Library & Information Science from University College Dublin. He has written, edited and compiled many books, booklets and articles relating to County Kildare including 'Hearth and Home: A history of social housing in Kildare Town 1889-2009' with James Durney and Joseph Connelly which won the Nilsson Local Heritage Publishing Award in Listowel Writer's Week in 2013. Mario has taught introductory genealogy courses as well as delivering many presentations, talks and walks on Kildare history and heritage.

James Durney is an author/historian who works in the Local Studies and Genealogy Department of Kildare Library & Arts Services. He is the author of twelve books on local and Irish history. He has written extensively on the history of his native County Kildare and on Irish history in general. James has worked on several TV projects for RTÉ and TG4 as a researcher and two of his books have been the basis of TV documentaries - 'Mobs Mheirica' and 'War Stories - Korea.' His essay 'From defiance to defeat: the Curragh internees 1916-24,' won the 2011 Lord Walter Fitzgerald Literary Award for Original Research. Heart and Home: A history of social housing in Kildare Town 1881-2012 won 1st Prize for the Nilson Heritage Award at the Listowel Writer's Festival 2013. He is Chairman of the Co. Kildare Federation of Local History Groups; Chairman of Naas Local History Group; and a Committee member of the Co. Kildare Archaeological Society. His latest book is 'In a Time of War. Kildare 1914-1918', published by Merrion Press.

For readers interested in military history the book has a chapter dedicated to military and police records. Mario advised: 'If people have a query about ancestors who were in the armed forces or the police we would ask them to contact us directly. Records for Irish men within the British Army will either necessitate a trip to KEW in London or the services of Ancestry.co.uk (.com) or military websites. It is important to continually look online to see if there are regimental sites or message boards etc. available. Talk with other people and read as much as you can. In terms of Irish Defence forces the starting point for information and genealogical research has to be the excellent site of the Irish Military Archives'.

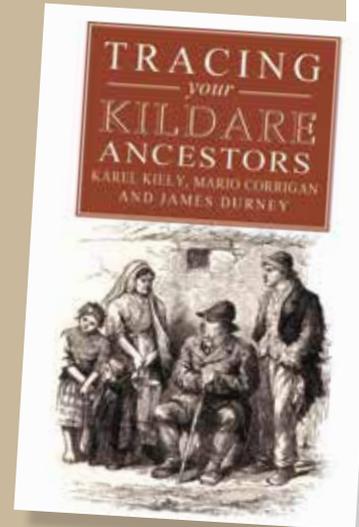
You can contact the author's at:

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives, Kildare County Library & Arts Service, Riverbank, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Opening hours Tues. - Sat. 10a.m - 1p.m ; 2p.m - 5p.m (Closed for lunch)

Tel: +353 (0) 87 9871046 ; 00353 (0) 45 448351

E: localhistory@kildarecoco.ie



Emmet Dalton: Somme Soldier, Irish General, Film Pioneer

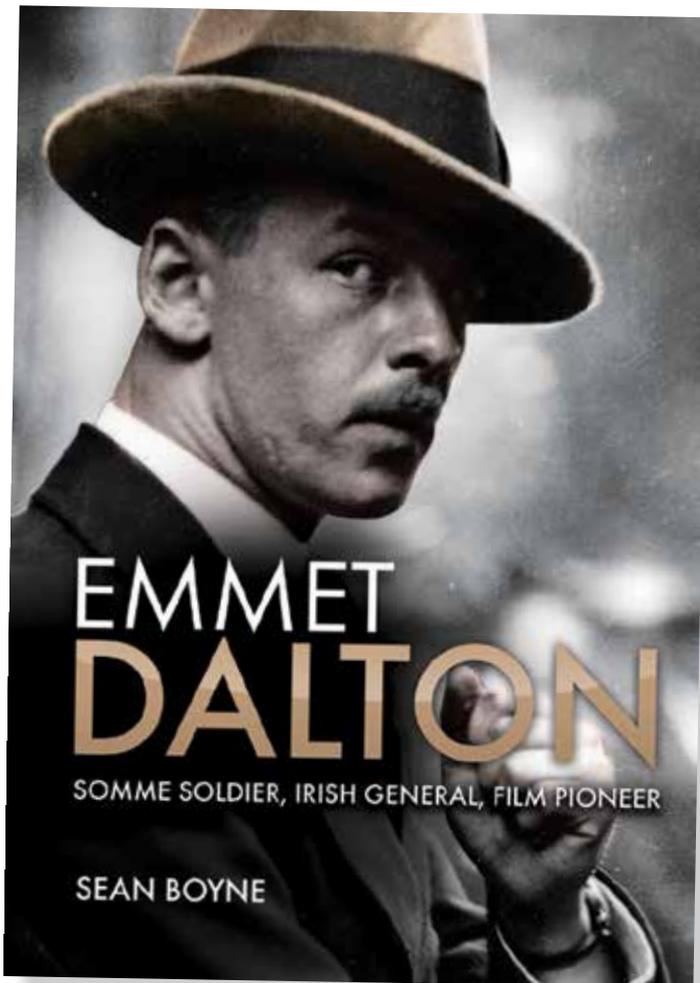
Hardback €23.40

By Sean Boyne

This is the first-ever biography of Emmet Dalton, an American-born Dubliner, Home Ruler and later Republican, whose extraordinary military career as a British officer, IRA leader and General in the Free State army brought him from Flanders to Beal na Bláith. A decorated hero of the Battle of the Somme, he returned from the war with the rank of Captain and transferred his military expertise to the now rampant IRA, serving as Director of Training, and greatly impressing Michael Collins with his extraordinary daring and nerve.

Soon befriending Collins and becoming his close confidant, he accompanied him to the Treaty talks in London in 1921, and in the Civil War that followed Dalton oversaw the bombardment of the Four Courts, personally manning an 18-pounder artillery gun. He then masterminded and led the audacious seaborne landings and successful recapture of Cork City and 'Munster Republic' from Anti-Treaty forces, but was ultimately traumatised when Collins died in his arms at Beal na Bláith.

In his expansive biography, Sean Boyne vividly portrays Dalton's experiences and the vital role he played in the politics and wars that created the independent Irish state. Dalton was the first Senate Clerk and he became a pioneer of the Irish film world, founding Ardmore film studios and establishing the Irish Film industry. An attractive and high-achieving figure in Irish life in war and peace, Dalton's heroism allowed him to live his many lives to the full, and this



compelling biography does justice to a figure who will captivate all those interested in modern Irish history and the birth of the state.

Ireland's Great War

By Kevin Myers

Paperback €20.00

Here, name by name, parish by parish, province by province, Kevin Myers details Ireland's intimate involvement with one of the greatest conflicts in human history, the First World War of 1914 to 1918, which left no Irish family untouched.

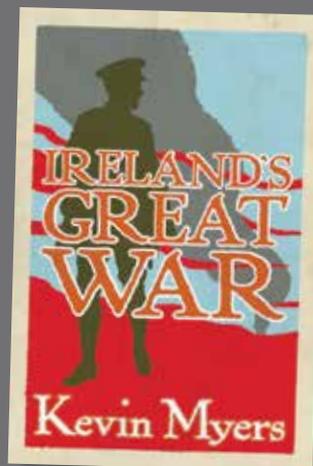
With this gathering of his talks, unpublished essays and material distilled from *The Irish Times* and elsewhere, Myers lays out the grounds of his research and findings in Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. He revisits the main theatres of war in Europe - The Somme, Ypres and Verdun, the war at sea and Gallipoli. He documents these bloody engagements through the lives of those involved, from Dublin to Cork, Sligo to Armagh, to the garrison towns of Athy, Limerick, Mullingar and beyond.

In *Ireland's Great War* Myers uncoils a vital counter-narrative to the predominant readings in nationalist history,

revealing the complex and divided loyalties of a nation coming of age in the early twentieth century.

This remarkable historical record pieced together the neglected shards of Ireland's recent past and imparts a necessary understanding of the political process that saw Sinn Féin's electoral victory

in 1918 and the founding of the Irish Free State. By honouring Ireland's forgotten dead on the centenary of the Great War, Myers enables a rediscovery of purpose that will speak to future generations.



5th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Basingstoke, 1915. (Hampshire County Council Museums Service)



5th Royal Irish Fusiliers landing at Suvla, August 7th, 1915. (Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum, Armagh)



“Neither Unionist nor Nationalist” the 10th (Irish) Division in the Great War

By Stephen Sandford

Published by Irish Academic Press

Paperback €22.45

Hardback €45

Review by Patrick Casey

In 1918 Bryan Cooper, an officer in the 5th Connaught Rangers, published his unique account of the first Irish division ever raised in the British Army. The book entitled “The 10th (Irish) Division in Gallipoli” was reprinted by the Irish Academic Press in 1993, and now some 96 years after the original publication Stephen Sandford has written a new history of the 10th Division from an entirely different perspective.

Cooper stood too close to the events of the time and was too much involved in them to be able to give that same impartial and critical analysis that we get from Stephen Sandford. Cooper wrote his history in haste during a period of sick leave relying on his memory and information obtained from fellow officers. He avoided controversy and contentious issues and never claimed his account to be an actual military history of the Division.

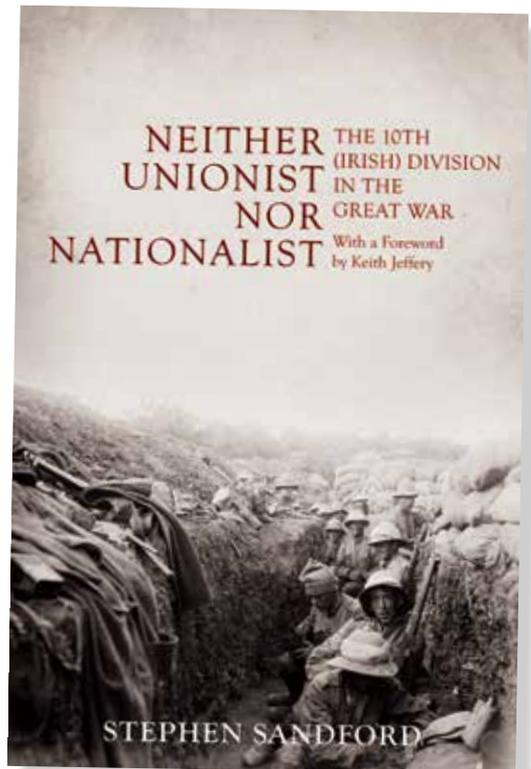
Sandford on the other hand has at his disposal the huge amount of military records which have now been released to the public. The result is a remarkable study of the 10th Division. Stephen relies heavily on statistics to prove his theories and if there is any criticism it is that there are too many of these scattered throughout the text. In addition to the data throughout the book there are nearly thirty pages and charts at the end which will only appeal to the most fanatical enthusiast.

The title of the book ‘Neither Unionist nor Nationalist’ refers to the political composition of the 10th (Irish) Division. Making the assumption that most Catholics were Nationalist and most Protestants were Unionist it can be seen from Table 2.11; that three of the five Irish infantry battalions in the division had a majority of Catholics,

while the other two had a majority of Protestants. The overall figure for the Division was 38% Protestant and 62% Catholic.

The body of the book is highly readable and covers many aspects of the life of the Division including recruitment, the background of the officers, and the morale and discipline of the men during its campaigns. The book is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in the role played by Irishmen in the Great War and is a welcome contribution to the history of Irish units.

Dr. Stephen Sandford is a retired Civil Servant with a deep-rooted interest in the First World War and particularly in the part played by the 10th (Irish) Division in that War. He lives in Belfast and has been a long standing member of the Western Front Association.



CONTACTS

Our contacts page is for veteran, regimental, historical, and living history associations/charities/groups. Contacts are rotated each issue. It is free of charge. To put your association/group on the list please contact the editor at editor@reveille.ie

VETERANS AND SOLDIERS WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS AND CHARITIES

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers

ARCO Freepost
PO BOX 10414
Freepost F4129
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Rep. of Ireland

E: submission form on website

Web: www.iarco.info



Irish Veterans

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Dublin 1

Rep. of Ireland

E: info@irishveterans.org

Web: www.irishveterans.org



Irish Defence Forces Veterans Association United Kingdom

For Northern Counties contact: Eamonn Byrne BEM RE via facebook @ idfvauk
For London and Southern Counties contact: Edward Bell via facebook @ Edward Bell

E: idfva.uk@aol.com



Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women

Brú na bhFiann
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Dublin 7

Rep. of Ireland

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Tel: +353 (01) 4850666

Web: www.oneconnect.ie



Irish Defence Forces Veterans Association

C/O Jim Kavanagh
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Web: www.idfva.org



Radio Officers Association

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Loughrea

Co. Galway

Rep. of Ireland

E: shaughnessy@eircom.net

Web: www.radioofficers.com



Irish Naval Association

C/O Naval Service Reserve HQ
Cathal Brugha Barracks
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E: irishnavy@gmail.com

Tel: +353 (01) 2986614

Web: www.homepage.eircom.net/~navalassociation



Royal Air Forces Association

Web: www.rafa.org.uk

Rep. of Ireland Branch

Secretary: Pam Alexander

E: pamale@eircom.net

Web: www.rafaroi.org



Royal Naval Association

Belfast Branch
 E: robertwhite2@sky.com
 Cork and County Branch
 E: rerridge@eircom.net
 Dublin Branch
 E: rnadublin@outlook.ie
Web: www.royal-naval-association.co.uk



Tel: +44 20 7730 2400
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 Rep. of Ireland
Contact Pam Alexander:
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The American Legion Rep. of Ireland

Fr Frances Duffy Post IR-02 (Killarney)
 Patrick Mulcahy (Commander)
 C/O Rainbow Ranch
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The Officers Association

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 12 Elizabeth Street, London, SW1W 9RB
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Web: www.officersassociation.org.uk
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Contact Pam Alexander:
 pamale@eircom.net



Commodore John Barry Post IR-03 (Mayo)

Ron Howko (Commander)
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John F. Kennedy Post IR-63 (Dublin)

Liam Kane (Adjutant)
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 Enniskerry
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Tel: +353 (01) 2868687
Web: www.americanlegion-ireland.com

The Royal British Legion

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 The Capel Building, Mary's Abbey
 Dublin 7, Rep. of Ireland
E: submission form on website
Tel: +353 1800 992294
Web: http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/ireland



The Royal British Legion Northern Ireland

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 Belfast, BT1 5EB
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E: submission form on website
Tel: +44 0808 802 8080
Web: http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northern-ireland



The Irish Guards Association

Irish Guards Association
 R.H.Q. Irish Guards
 Wellington Barracks
 Birdcage Walk
 London, SW1E 6HQ
 United Kingdom
Web: www.iga-london.co.uk
E: igoalondonbranch@gmail.com
 For all of Ireland contact Emmet Bourke via Rep. of Ireland Branch.
 Rep. of Ireland Branch
E: submission form on website
Web: www.roimicks.com



The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association

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 SSAFA Branch
 26 Frederick St, Dublin 2
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E: ssafairl@eircom.net
Tel: +353 (01) 6772554
Web: www.ssafa.org.uk



The Not Forgotten Association

4th Floor
 2 Grosvenor Gardens
 London
 SW1W 0DH
 United Kingdom

Irish United Nations Veterans Association

Arbour House
 Mt Temple Rd,
 Arbour Hill
 Dublin 7, Rep. of Ireland
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Tel: +353 (01) 6791262
Web: www.iunva.ie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar of events		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
February 2nd-April 30th	Theatrical experience: 'Pals: the Irish at Gallipoli'. The show will run Wednesday to Sunday each week, with five public performances a day. Performances on Tuesdays will be reserved for and specifically targeted at transition year students.	Location: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.
March 5th 19:00	Glasnevin Trust Spring lecture series: Eunan O'Halpin (TCD) 'General Maxwell: Maker of martyrs'. Entry fee: €10, booking essential.	Location: Glasnevin Museum, Dublin.
March 11th 19:00	Lecture: Ronan Fanning on the Intelligence War in Dublin during the War of Independence. 'Tinker, tailor, shinner, spy'.	Location: Little Museum of Dublin, 15 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.
March 12th 19:00	Western Front Association lecture: Dr. Stephen Sandford (Queen's University Belfast) '10th Irish Division'.	Location: Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, Co. Antrim.
March 12th 19:00	Glasnevin Trust Spring lecture series: Maeve Casserly (NLI) 'Rosie Hackett': 'Bridging the divide - trade unionist, nationalist and women's rights activist'. Entry fee €10, booking essential.	Location: Glasnevin Museum, Dublin.
March 12th 20:00	Navan Historical Society: 'Remembering Gallipoli' An evening of stories, poetry, song and history.	Location: St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Navan, Co. Meath.
March 13th 20:00	Military History Society of Ireland lecture: Colonel Donal O'Carroll 'Waterloo - a close run thing'.	Location: Griffith College, SCR, Dublin 8.
March 19th 19:00	Glasnevin Trust Spring lecture series: Séamas Ó Síocháin (Maynooth University) 'This awful calamity in Europe': Casement in Germany, 1915'. Entry fee: €10, booking essential.	Location: Glasnevin Museum, Dublin.
March 21st 11:00 - 17:00	'Waterloo Day, Review of the Irish Redcoats'. 2015 marks the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Come along to see re-enactors of the Irish regiments perform Napoleonic drill.	Location: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks. Dublin.
March 26th 19:00	Glasnevin Trust Spring lecture series: Sinead McCoole (Jackie Clarke Collection) 'Elizabeth O'Farrell before 1916'. Entry fee: €10, booking essential.	Location: Glasnevin Museum, Dublin.
March 26th 19:00	History Ireland 'Hedge School': as part of a free public evening of debate on 1916. Admission free, booking essential.	Location: Ulster Museum, Belfast, Co. Antrim.
April 5th 11:30	1916 Easter Commemoration.	Location: General Post Office, O'Connell St, Dublin.
April 9th 19:00	Western Front Association lecture: Trevor Adams Verdun 'One reason for disaster on the Somme?'.	Location: Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, Co. Antrim.
April 10th 20:00	Military History Society of Ireland lecture: Mr. Tom Brace 'The command and staff structure of the IRA'.	Location: Griffith College, SCR, Dublin 8.
April 18th 14:00	Western Front Association lecture: Mal Murray 'Gallipoli'.	Location: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.

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**Please contact us if you would
like your events added to our
calendar**



April 24th 20:00	Military History Society of Ireland lecture: Dr. Mark Phelan 'Gallipoli, 1915 - the first phase: the April landings'.	Location: Griffith College, SCR, Dublin 8.
April 24th	Commonwealth and Ireland Commemoration Service.	Location: Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Cape Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.
April 25th 12:00	Gallipoli Commemoration.	Location: Cenotaph, Whitehall, London.
April 25th 13:00	Glasnevin Trust Tour: 'Remembering Gallipoli', special tour led by curator and resident historian Connor Dodd. Booking essential.	Location: Glasnevin Museum, Dublin.
April 24th-26th	Conference: 'Gallipoli 100'.	Location: Church of Ireland, Kells, Co. Meath.
May 1st-4th	Listowel Military Tattoo. For further information check facebook.com/ListowelMilitaryTattoo	Location: Listowel, Co. Kerry.
May 2nd 10:00	The Salonika Campaign Society has organised a tour from May 2nd-9th, to commemorate the 10th (Irish) Division's campaign in the former Serbia and in Greece in 1915-17.	For further information contact: chair@salonikacampaignsociety.org.uk
May 3rd-4th	Irish Military War Museum-Living History Festival. For further information check out www.imwm.ie	Location: Irish Military War Museum, Starinagh, Collon, Co. Meath.
May 8th 12:00	TBC Centenary commemoration of the Last Absolution of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.	Location: Glasnevin Museum, Dublin.
May 9th-10th	Irish Model Solider Society Annual Show.	Location: Hilton Hotel, Charlemont Place, Dublin.
May 16th 10:00-15:00	International Militaria Collectors Club Fair.	Location: North Star Hotel, Amiens St. Dublin.
May 16th 14:00	Western Front Association lecture: Steve Binks 'A Western Front Cemetery Pilgrimage'.	Location: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.
May 16th-17th	Irish Military Vehicles Club Show.	Location: Curragh Racecourse, Co. Kildare.
May 20th 17:30	Lecture: Eunan O'Halpin on British Intelligence and Irish Neutrality during the Emergency 'Spying on Dublin in World War II'.	Location: the Little Museum of Dublin, 15 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.
May 26th 14:30	Military Heritage of Ireland Trust Annual General Meeting.	Location: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.
May 30th-June 1st	Duncannon Military Show.	Location: Duncannon Fort, Co. Wexford.

COMPETITION



This issue's competition is sponsored by the Irish Military War Museum, in Starinagh, Collon, Co. Meath.

The Irish Military War Museum offers a fascinating insight into Irish participants' involvement in World War I, World War II & other historical conflicts. A great day out for any military enthusiast and loads of activities for the entire family.

Visit: www.imwm.ie

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For this month's prize the owner of the museum, William Sullivan, has kindly offered a VIP Family Pass. The pass entitles you and your family to a guided tour of the museum by William. To finish off your day the family will get a ride in a GKN Sankey FV 432 Armoured Personnel Carrier.

Please submit your answers along with a name, address, email and or contact number to:

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(please mark subject Competition)

or

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To be in with a chance to win a VIP Family Pass to the Irish Military War Museum simply answer the following:

Question 1: What does ANZAC stand for?

Answer:

Question 2: What year was Lé Emer built?

Answer:

Question 3: What is the name of the unit that Nationalists from Belfast joined at the beginning of World War I?

Answer:

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