

The Old Tough

Newsletter of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association
(Registered Charity No 20038816)



Issue 13: Summer 2024

Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Old Tough*.

It has been a very busy few months for the Association as we have been involved in twenty remembrance and other notable events. Chief among these was the poignant ceremonies in Belgium in July which rededicated the graves of six unknown Dublin Fusiliers whose identities were recently established more than 100 years after their deaths. The Association was proud to join family members at the rededication services in three locations on 10 and 11 July last.

In this edition of *The Old Tough*, we recall the service of one of these men, Sergeant Larry Connell MM, 1st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was killed in action on 5 October 1918. We hope that our article does justice to the sacrifice of this man and his family and helps to compensate for the fact that his grave has lain unidentified for so long. It is certainly in keeping with our mission of remembrance that we properly honour his death now.

Other articles in this edition include:

- a review of our recent activities in the latest Dubs' News article;
- a tribute to the Dubs' sacrifice at Gallipoli in a new book on WW1;
- Sir Anthony Weldon's talk on the disbandment of the Irish Regiments in 1922;
- a listing of known WW1 remembrance events for the coming months;
- our latest merchandise list, together with information on the new bound version of *A Brief History of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers* which we recently produced for presentation to dignitaries and friends of the Association, and
- an appeal by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the relatives of Private Thomas Merna RDF 4937 and other WW1 soldiers, buried in Glasnevin and Deansgrange Cemeteries, to get in touch with the Commission.

We hope that you enjoy this extended edition of our newsletter. If you have any views on our articles in *The Old Tough* or on the Association's general work, please send your feedback to rdfa1918@gmail.com. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

The Editorial Committee

Paul Appleby, David Buckley, Philip Lecane, Thomas Murphy and John F Sheehan

Dubs' News

Your Association has had a very busy few months of recent engagements. Unfortunately space does not permit us to give every event the attention it deserves, but we outline below information on some of the more notable events.

Day Trip to Kildare

On 10 May 2024, twenty members of the Association visited three sites in Co Kildare in which we had an interest or which had an association with 'the Dubs'. David Buckley was the hero of the trip, as he procured a mini-bus in which most of the group were transported from our pick up point outside the Custom House to Kildare and back.

The first place visited was The Curragh Museum, where we met Lieutenant-Colonel Des Healy who opened the Museum especially for our visit. His passion for the Museum and its artefacts was obvious. He is determined to expand it and to create links with associations like ours. Among the items we saw there was *Sliabh na mBan*, the Rolls Royce armoured car which formed part of the convoy which accompanied Michael Collins to West Cork on 22 August 1922. The convoy was ambushed at Béal na mBláth, and Collins was killed. Following our Museum visit, Sergeant Brian O'Connor brought the group to the Mess Hall, where we had very welcome tea and sandwiches, organised by RSM Tom Mullen.

Next stop was the gateway (pictured) to the former Devoy Barracks in Naas. Prior to 1922 when the Irish Regiments in the British Army were disbanded, the Barracks was the depot of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. The gateway is all that remains. Members of Naas Historical Society met us there, and Ger McCarthy, Liam Kenny and Josephine Cashman spoke knowledgeably about life in Devoy Barracks in its heyday.



Our final visit was to St David's Church of Ireland Church in Naas, where Stephanie Jones gave us a tour - pointing out relevant memorials to former Dubs - and an interesting talk on the Regiment's associations with the Church.

All in all, it was a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Combined Irish Regiments Parade, London

The Combined Irish Regiments Association (CIRA) organises this annual Parade which concludes at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. The aim of the CIRA is to preserve the names and honour the deeds

of the brave men of the Irish Regiments. The CIRA is now chaired by our good friend, Sir Anthony Weldon, who gave a lecture at the Masonic Hall in Molesworth Street some months ago (see separate article in this edition).

On 16 June last, Brian Moroney, Mark O'Brien and John Sheehan represented the Association at the Parade, together with Seán Ryan, our Standard Bearer, when we laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. The Parade was conducted by Association friend and member, RSM Eddie Rooney of the Irish Guards. Whitehall was closed for the spectacle. The Parade was well attended and enjoyed by many visitors.

Eddie had very kindly arranged tickets to attend the Trooping of the Colour the previous day which is held annually at Horse Guards Parade and marks the King's official birthday. We witnessed a wonderful display of military precision at the event.



Trip to Liverpool

Twenty members enjoyed a very successful trip to the vibrant City of Liverpool from 2 to 5 July. On Day 1, a local tour guide joined our coach to give us a light-hearted and informative tour of the City, focussing particularly on the early lives of The Beatles and the areas which influenced them.

Over the following two busy and interesting days, we visited the following:

- the Maritime Museum where we got a guided tour of the excavated remains of The Old Dock now lying under the modern City. The Museum also featured displays on the Lusitania, the Titanic, Liverpool's premier role in the slave trade for many decades and its importance in facilitating emigration to the New World;
- the Western Approaches Museum which was the hub for the Battle of the Atlantic between German submarines and Allied convoys in WW2. Here too, the guided tour was informative;
- the Royal Naval Association premises in Wallasey, where the Association's Chairman informed us of its support for veterans and its links with the local community;
- the Anglican Cathedral which included a section honouring those from Liverpool who died in WW1, WW2 and other wars. Some old military standards were also on display;
- the Museum of Liverpool which included displays on the King's Liverpool Regiment, the 8th Battalion of which was Irish during WW1;

- the Bombed Out Church, devastated by incendiary bombs in 1941. Its grounds contain a replica of the Christmas Truce Sculpture commemorating the cessation of front line hostilities at the end of 1914 and a Memorial to the Great Irish Famine (see the accompanying photo);
- St John's Church in Kirkdale, where member Berni Egan's relative, Sgt William Dowling VC, is remembered. He was born in Thomastown, Co Kilkenny, in 1825, was awarded his Victoria Cross for bravery at the siege of Lucknow in India in 1857 and died in the Parish in 1887;
- the memorial to Noel Godfrey Chevasse, VC and Bar MC, and other VC recipients.



On our return trip to Holyhead, we visited a WW1 memorial at the model village of Port Sunlight and a memorial to a rail disaster in 1868 near Abergele in north Wales which killed 34 people, many of whom had connections to Ireland.

Members George Jones and Suzanne O'Neill, who had organised the successful trip under the able stewardship of Brian Moroney, were thanked by all of the participants. Member Seamus Moriarty will write a more detailed report for the 2024 edition of *The Blue Cap*.

Rededication of Royal Dublin Fusilier Graves in Belgium

For some 100 years, six graves in Belgium were known to contain the bodies of Royal Dublin Fusiliers, but the headstones merely recorded their identity as unknown. All of them belonged to the 1st Battalion, and all were killed during the 100 Days Offensive in late 1918.

Recently meticulous work by researchers, the results of which were confirmed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the National Army Museum in London and the UK Ministry of Defence's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), have enabled these men to be formally identified. As a result, the CWGC commissioned new headstones naming the soldiers in these six graves, and the JCCC arranged for the graves' rededication on 10 and 11 July last in the presence of a number of the men's relatives. The religious ceremonies were conducted by the Reverend Jason Clarke MBE CF, Chaplain to the Royal Irish Regiment, in the company of serving members of that Regiment. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association was very proud to be represented at the three poignant ceremonies as follows:



- 10 July at Dadizeele New British Cemetery (see photo, preceding page):
 - Sergeant Laurence Connell MM;
- 10 July at Stasegem Communal Cemetery (see photo opposite):
 - Private William McCann;
- 11 July at Hooge Crater Cemetery (see photo below):
 - Corporal Edward Doyle;
 - Lance Corporal James Edward Freer;
 - Private Bertie George Reynolds MM;
 - Lance Corporal George Washington.



In its own press release on the rededication ceremonies, the CWGC gave prominence to the participation of the Association. See <https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/news/graves-of-royal-dublin-fusiliers-rededicated-in-belgium/>. Particular credit is due to Thomas Murphy, John O'Brien and our Standard Bearer, Seán Ryan, for representing the Association so well at these ceremonies.

This is the first occasion that the Association has ever attended such an event, and it is our intention to do so again if another similar occasion arises.

Other Events

In addition to the above, the Association was represented at many meetings and other remembrance events in the last four months including those listed below. An asterisk (*) beside a date signifies that the RDFA Standard was present for the remembrance event:

- 21 April*, ANZAC Forces Remembrance, Kilkenny City Peace Park;
- 25 April*, dawn, ANZAC Day Ceremony, Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin 7;
- 25 April, evening, ANZAC Day Service of Remembrance, Saint Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin 2;
- 8 May, meeting with His Excellency Mr Giovanni Buttigieg, the Maltese Ambassador to Ireland, about the history of the disbanded Irish Regiments in Malta;
- 9 June, D-Day Commemorative Service, McDonagh Railway Station, Kilkenny;
- 30 June*, Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate, Ypres/Ieper, Belgium;
- 1 July*, Somme Commemoration, Ginchy Cross, Guillemont, France;
- 2 July*, Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate, Ypres/Ieper, Belgium;

- 12 July*, Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate, Ypres/leper, Belgium;
- 12 July, meeting with His Excellency Mr Mehmet Hakan Olcay, the Turkish Ambassador to Ireland, about enhancing Irish and Turkish historical research;
- 13 July*, Somme Commemoration, War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin 8;
- 14 July, National Day of Commemoration, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin 8;
- 28 July, Somme Commemoration, Clare Peace Park, Ennis, Co Clare (see the accompanying photo).



Trip to Cork, 16 August

A small group of members will travel to Cork on Friday, 16 August, to visit the WW1 Heroes' Column in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral (which contains the names of fifteen Dublin Fusiliers) and the Museum at Collins Barracks, Cork. Most of the group will travel to and around Cork by minibus. A report on the trip will be included in the next *Old Tough*.

Trip to the Somme, 9 to 14 September

About thirty members are expected to travel overland to the Somme in a few weeks' time. Some twenty locations are on the itinerary including Hoge Crater Cemetery (where four Dublin Fusilier graves were recently rededicated), Bethune Town Cemetery, the lost village of Fay, Rancourt, Delville Wood Cemetery, Guillemont, the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing and the Ulster Tower. It will be a very busy few days, and a full report on the trip will be included in the next *Blue Cap*.

Nick Broughall RIP

We are saddened to report the death on 30 July last of Nick Broughall, aged 94, who was one of the Association's earliest members and a long-time Committee Member. With the agreement of his family, a number of his former Association colleagues, accompanied by our Standard, formed a guard of honour after his funeral Mass in St Agnes's Church, Crumlin, on 2 August. Nick was a regular visitor to the Western Front, and he is pictured on the following page in his wheelchair in 2013 with Tom Burke, Seán Connolly and Seamus Greene.

His death notice may be viewed here:



<https://rip.ie/death-notice/nicholas-broughall-dublin-perrystown-564059>. A tribute to Nick will be included in the next *Blue Cap*.

Ken Kinsella RIP

The death has also occurred of Andrew (Ken) Kinsella, aged 85, on 11 August last. Ken had roots in Blackrock and Foxrock in Dublin and Kilkenny City. He was a stalwart RDFA member for many years and a great supporter of our many overseas trips. Ken was the driving force in renewing the names on the Kilgobbin WW1 Memorial, Dublin, after the original names had been eroded by weathering and had become illegible. His book, *Out of the Dark 1914-1918: South Dubliners who fell in the Great War*, is an outstanding historical record.

Ken was also involved in the very active Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee. That Committee and our Association were both represented at his Funeral Mass on 14 August. Our Chairman, Brian Moroney, has separately offered our condolences to his grieving family and friends. Ken's death notice may be viewed here: <https://rip.ie/death-notice/andrew-ken-kinsella-dublin-blackrock-565214>.

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Advance Notice

Some Forthcoming Lectures of Possible Interest to Members

The Military History Society of Ireland (MHSI) has recently published its Lecture Programme for 2024/2025. Of possible interest to members of the Association are the following:

- 6 December 2024: The Irish in the Battle for Normandy 1944 – Colonel Don Bigger;
- 7 March 2025: An Empire in Search of Subjects: Catholic Irish and the British Army in the 18th Century – Dr Macdara Dwyer;
- 28 March 2025: 'Bravery Deserving of a Better Cause': The East India Company's Irish Soldiers 1830-1860 – Dr Gerry O'Keeffe.

These lectures are usually held at 8 pm in the Conference Centre, Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Non-members of the Society are welcome to attend its lectures.

Sergeant Laurence (Larry) Connell MM 20012, 1st Battalion, RDF**Paul Appleby and John F Sheehan**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission rededicated the graves of six Royal Dublin Fusiliers (RDF) in Belgium and France in early July in the presence of family members and representatives of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association. All six men will be remembered in an article in the next edition of our annual journal, *The Blue Cap*, which will be finalised at the end of 2024. By way of preview, we remember in this *Old Tough* newsletter one of these men and his family.

Sergeant Laurence Connell MM 20012, 1st Battalion, RDF, was aged 21 when he was killed in action on 5 October 1918. He is interred in grave VI.B.23 at Dadizeele New British Cemetery in Belgium. Until recently his grave was just marked with a headstone to an 'Unknown Serjeant' of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, although he has been remembered for many years on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Panel 144 to 145.

Laurence Connell was born on 25 January 1897 at 8 Charlemont Square, Charlemont Street, Dublin. He was one of six children of John Connell (a Park Constable, born in Queen's County), and Elizabeth (his wife, née Doyle, born in Dublin City). He was the second youngest of the five still living at the time of the 1911 Census (four boys and one girl). All were born in Dublin.

It is not known when precisely Laurence enlisted, but he first saw service in France on 20 December 1915. This service ultimately resulted in the award of the 1915 Star, British War and Victory Medals. As he was wounded at some point, he also qualified for the Silver War Badge. Records indicate that his next-of-kin was his mother, Mrs E Connell of Concrete Lodge, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

The War Diary for the 1st Battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers in October 1918 indicates that the Battalion withdrew from the front line on 3 October to Ypres where they rested and cleaned up before returning on 5 October to the front line in the vicinity of Ledegem. Casualties are reported for this period in the entries for 3 and 9 October only. Sergeant Connell's death is not individually recorded under either entry.



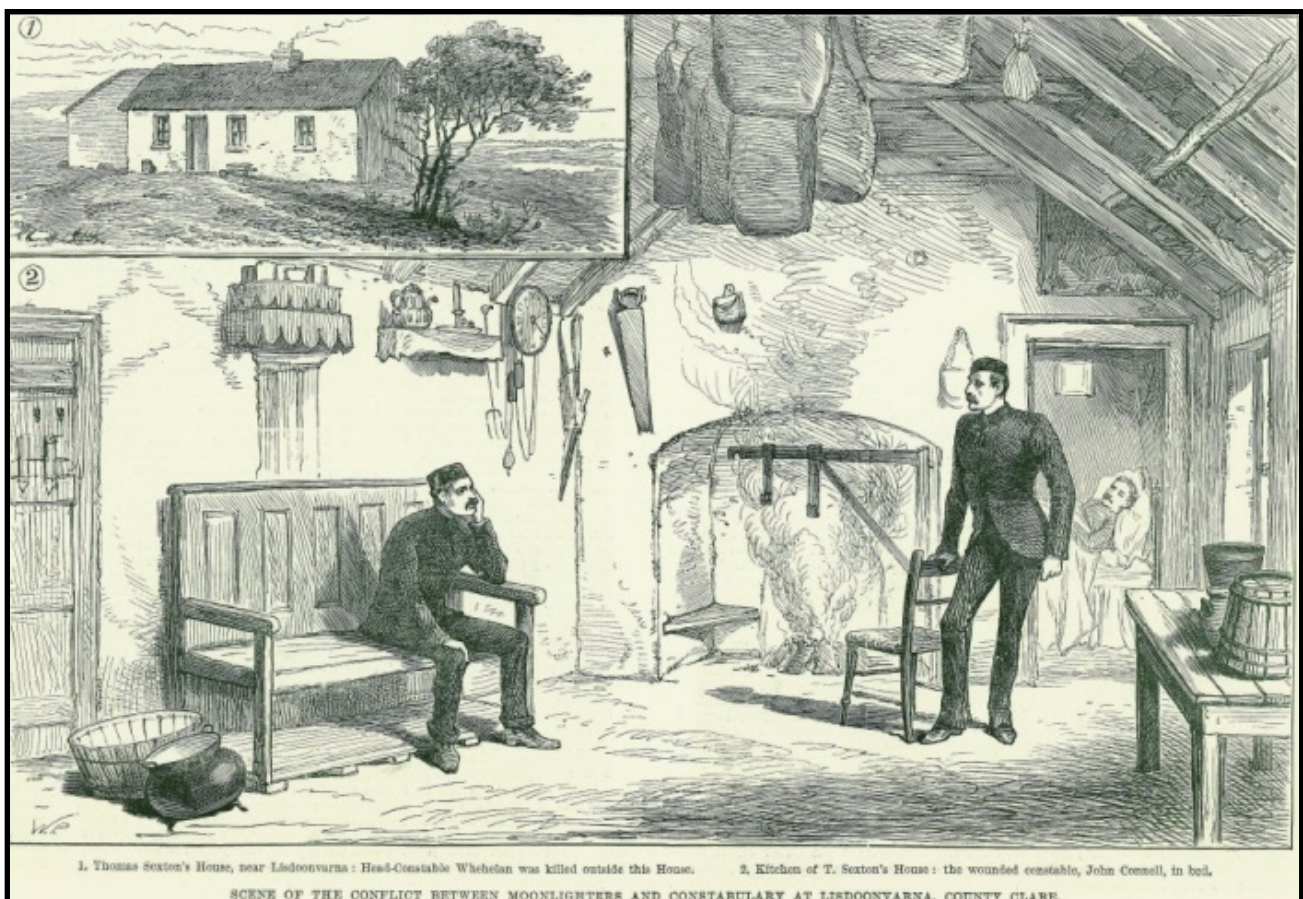
On 2 November 1918, Dublin's *Saturday Herald* (page 3) included this Roll of Honour notice:

"CONNELL – Oct. 5, 1918, killed in action, Sgt. Laurence (Larry) Connell, R.D.F., aged 21 years, dearly-loved son of John and Elizabeth Connell, Concrete Lodge, Phoenix Park, and grandson of Jas. Doyle, late R.N.; deeply regretted. R.I.P."

In *The London Gazette* of 11 February 1919 (page 2119 of Issue 31173 - Supplement), '20012 Cpl. (A/Sjt.) Connell, L.,' 1st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was posthumously awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the Field. Unfortunately no record has been located to indicate the circumstances which led to this award.

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Sergeant Connell's Military Medal was not the first award for bravery in his family. When his father John was in the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC no 48014), he received the Constabulary Medal, the police equivalent of the Victoria Cross, for helping to defend Thomas Sexton's house near Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare, from attack by 'moonlighters' on 11 September 1887. Sexton had been boycotted locally for letting land which he had inherited from his father and from which the former tenant had been evicted. Although the Land League denounced violence in pursuit of their campaign for improved tenant rights, this policy was not uniformly respected. When the local RIC were alerted to an imminent attack on Sexton's home, they moved to protect him. In the resultant *melée*, Head Constable Whelehan was killed and Constable Connell and many of the attackers were wounded. See the accompanying illustration which shows John Connell lying injured in bed.



When John Connell married Elizabeth Doyle in St Andrew's Church, Westland Row, Dublin, on 14 July 1890, his occupation was an insurance company agent. However he joined the Board of Works as a Park Constable for St Stephen's Green on 29 July 1895. At age 47, he was appointed to the Phoenix Park on 30 May 1904 where he and his family lived in Spa Lodge beside Dublin Zoo. He transferred within the Park to Concrete Lodge and District on 1 May 1911, and shortly afterwards, his family occupied the Lodge. John Connell retired on 4 January 1922.

Concrete Lodge (pictured) is located on the Park's North Road between the National School and the Hole-in-the-Wall Pub. It dates from the 1870s and was apparently so named because it was the first building in the Phoenix Park to be constructed of mass concrete.

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The recent rededication of the six Dublin Fusilier graves in Belgium and France was an important day for the men's families and for the Association this year. It is heartening that some 105 years after their deaths, their resting places continue to be honoured and respected. In the case of Sergeant Connell, it was particularly fitting that Ms Bonita Fish, his grandniece, and her family were present at the rededication ceremony.



Sources

www.census.nationalarchives.ie

www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/moonlighters.htm

www.cwgc.org

www.fold3.com

www.findmypast.ie

Jim Herlihy, *The Royal Irish Constabulary*, Revised Edition 2016.

www.irishgenealogy.ie

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The Office of Public Works (for the information on John Connell's career)

John A McCullen, *An Illustrated History of the Phoenix Park: Landscape and Management to 1880*, Stationery Office, Dublin, 2009, pages 269 and 271

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk>



Talk on 'The Disbandment of the Irish Regiments'

Summary of Remarks by Sir Anthony Weldon, 29 April 2024

On 12 June 1922, the Colours of six Irish Regiments (the Connaught Rangers, the Leinster Regiment, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the South Irish Horse) were laid up in Windsor Castle following an elaborate ceremony presided over by King George V. To mark the 100th anniversary of this event on 12 June 2022, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association (in conjunction with representatives of the other disbanded regimental associations) organised a well-attended Remembrance Service in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. This notable anniversary was also later recalled in a ceremony in Windsor Castle on 24 November 2022, attended by representatives of all of the regimental associations.

At a fund-raising event in the Masonic Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin, on 29 April last for the Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland Region of the UK's Armed Forces charity, the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), Sir Anthony Weldon delivered an interesting presentation on the disbandment of the Irish Regiments. Before an audience of about 80 people (including at least five members of the Association), he paid tribute to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association for organising the Remembrance Service in Saint Patrick's and recalled the proud history of the Irish Regiments up to their demise.

Sir Anthony highlighted the concentration of Irishmen in the British Army in the 90 years before Independence. In 1832, over 40,000 Irish-born were serving constituting 42% of the Army's establishment, and this had increased to more than 55,000 (31%) by 1868. By 1913, there were still over 20,000 Irishmen (11%) serving. Even in the troubled Anglo-Irish period of 1918-1922, 8,482 Irishmen enlisted.

Although five of the named Regiments were only formed in 1881 (the South Irish Horse being the exception in 1902), some of their antecedents emanated in the mid-1600s. In their short 41 year glorious history, these Regiments accumulated a remarkable 242 battle honours between them, and their soldiers earned a combined 15 Victoria Crosses. If their antecedent pre-1881 regiments are included, a total of 29 Victoria Crosses were awarded.

Despite the inevitable departure of the British Army after Independence, the economic impact was considerable. Towns suddenly lost the expenditure which supported the Army's presence, and many businesses were directly or indirectly affected.

During his remarks, Sir Anthony recalled the story of Captain Standish Smithwick, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who chatted with a German officer about their common interests during the Christmas Truce in 1914. By chance some months later, they again met while alone during reconnaissance operations around Mouse Trap Farm, when both chose to walk away from one another rather than shoot their enemy. Marjorie Quarton, Standish's daughter, was a member of the Association for many years.

Tribute to the Dubs in New Book on WW1

The Army Records Society in Britain has just published a new book entitled 'The Military Papers and Correspondence of Major General Guy Dawnay, 1915-1919'. Based on the Dawnay papers in the Imperial War Museum and material in private hands, Aimée Fox, as editor of these papers, has brought to light the WW1 service of Dawnay in Gallipoli (1915), Egypt (1916), Palestine (1917) and the Western Front (1918-1919). In all four theatres, he served as a headquarters staff member, initially at the lowest General Staff Officer position in Gallipoli gradually rising to Major General, General Staff, in the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front in early 1918. Dawnay was demobilised in May 1919.

Although the Royal Dublin Fusiliers participated in all four theatres of war at the time of Dawnay's service, the only substantive reference to the Regiment in the 400 page book relates to its involvement in the assault on the Gallipoli Peninsula at V Beach on 25 April 1915. Writing in a letter to his wife, Cecil ('Cis'), some 2½ weeks later on 13 May, Dawnay gave the following fulsome tribute to the Dubs and its counterparts in the 29th Division:

“The 29th Division came out of the firing line last night for the first time for 18 days! It has behaved too magnificently for any words to describe. No one could have believed what it has done in 2½ weeks of incessant fighting, almost night and day, and in the face of the heaviest casualties. The Dublin Fusiliers, for instance, lost every officer, but one, killed or wounded, on the first day of the operations!... The whole force has been magnificent, but the 29th Division has outdone the feats of all the rest... I think no troops, even in Flanders, have been so highly tried within so short a time after arrival in the theatre of war; and no troops have ever come through all trials more splendidly. It is a division of heroes!...” (page 58).

While welcome, this tribute somewhat glosses over the horrendous casualties sustained by all units of the 29th Division in the chaotic landing at V Beach that day.

Strictly speaking, the above information relating to the Dubs is not wholly accurate. A handful of Dubs' officers did survive the first day of operations at V Beach unscathed, although it is the case that only one, Lieutenant Henry Desmond O'Hara, remained unwounded a few days later. However Lieutenant O'Hara sustained wounds later and died at sea on 29 August. He is buried in Gibraltar.

Sources

Aimée Fox (Editor), *The Military Papers and Correspondence of Major General Guy Dawnay, 1915-1919*, Army Records Society, 2024.

Lecane, Philip, *Beneath a Turkish Sky – The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Assault on Gallipoli*, The History Press Ireland, 2015.

Remembrance and Other Notable Events, August to November 2024

The following list indicates the known public remembrance and other events over the next four months in which the Association expects to be involved in some capacity. An asterisk (*) beside a date below signifies that the RDFA Standard is scheduled to be present that day.

Date/Time	Event	Place
18 August, 3 pm*	WW1 Commemoration and Wreath-Laying	Dungarvan Castle, Co Waterford
7 September, 10.45 am	Regimental Veterans' Day	Clonaver Army Reserve Centre, Belfast BT4 2EY
12 September, 10.20 am (approximately)*	Remembrance Event (as part of the RDFA's Trip to the Somme)	16 th Division Memorial Cross, Guillemont, Belgium
15 September, 2.30 pm*	Remembrance of 178 Irish Policemen who died as WW1 Soldiers (Harp Society)	Barberstown Castle, Straffan, Co Kildare
30 September, 6.30 pm	Dublin Festival of History Talk by RDFA Committee Member, John Sheehan, on the RIC men who served in WW1	Pearse Street Library, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2
3 October, 6 pm	Dublin Festival of History Talk by RDFA Committee Member, Philip Lecane, on Cornelius Ryan, Dublin-born author of the best-selling books, <i>The Longest Day</i> and <i>A Bridge Too Far</i> (both later blockbuster films)	Kevin Street Library, 18 Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 2
10 October, 1 pm	Talk by RDFA Committee Member, Philip Lecane, on the <i>RMS Leinster</i> , marking the 106 th anniversary of its sinking off Dún Laoghaire	Lexicon Library, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin
3 November, 3 pm*	Royal Irish Regiment's Service of Remembrance	St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast
7 November, 11 am*	Remembrance Service at the grave of Pte Joseph Letty, RDF (Claddagh Branch, RBL Rol)	Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin 7
November* (date/time to be confirmed)	RDFA Annual Remembrance Service for deceased family/friends	City Quay Church, Dublin 2

Members are encouraged to attend as many events as possible in their local areas.

Merchandise Price List

The attractive merchandise which is available to Association members principally comprises a tie, a scarf, a blazer badge and a metal pin as shown in the following photograph.



After a recent review, your Committee has agreed a new merchandise price list as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Member's bundle – option A (tie or scarf, blazer badge and metal pin) | €34 |
| • Member's bundle – option B (tie and scarf, blazer badge and metal pin) | €44 |
| • Tie | €24 |
| • Scarf | €19 |
| • Blazer badge | €16 |
| • Metal pin | €10 |

The above prices include standard postage. If registered post is required, add €7 to the listed price. Destinations outside the island of Ireland may incur an additional postal charge.

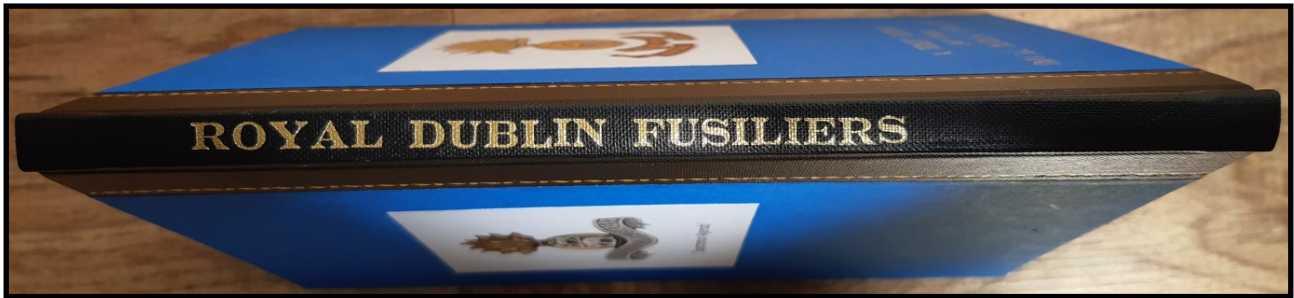
All enquiries for purchase of RDFA merchandise should be addressed to the Membership Secretary by email: rdfa1918+Membershipsecretary@gmail.com or by post to Suzanne O'Neill, RDFA Membership Secretary, c/o The Old Pound, Ballybrittas, Co Laois R32 E1C5.

Please clearly state the destination address in your enquiry. Payment for merchandise must be received by the RDFA via cash, cheque or bank transfer before merchandise is dispatched. For electronic bank transfers, the RDFA account details are as follows:

IBAN: IE57 BOFI 9013 5180 5058 76
BIC: BOFIE2D

Bound Copies of Our 'Brief History of the Dubs' Now Available

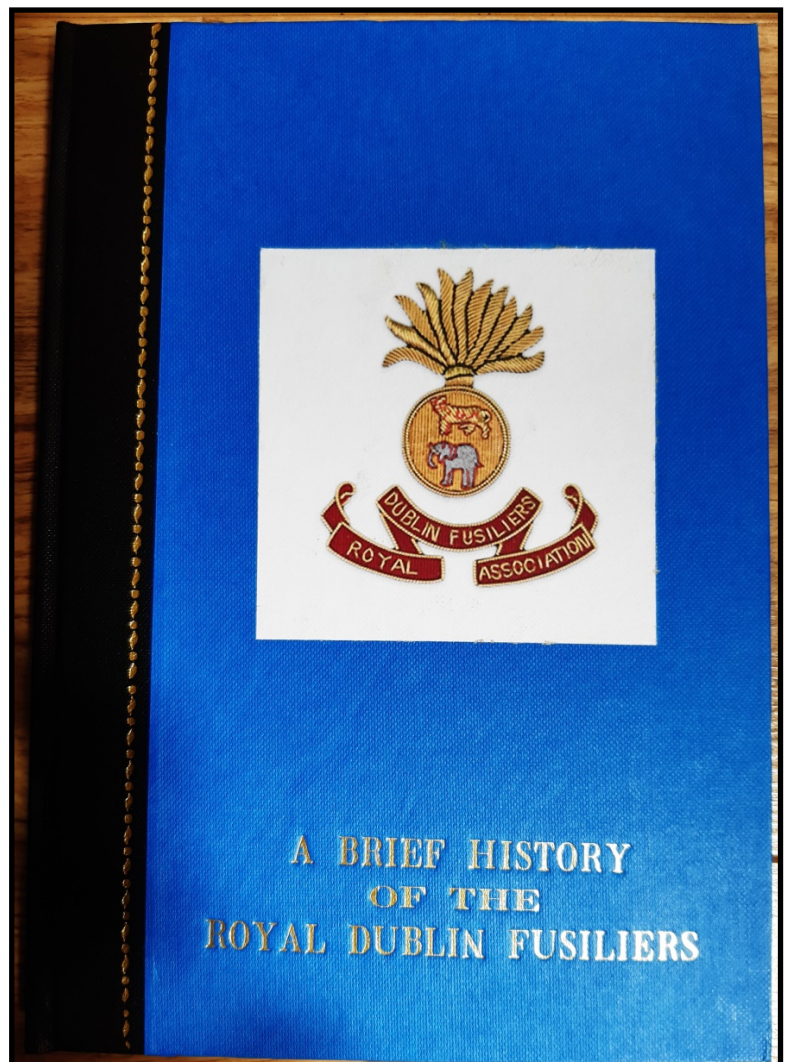
Your Association recently decided to produce a bound version of *A Brief History of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers* for presentation purposes to dignitaries, guests and friends of the Association. As indicated in the accompanying photographs, the bound A5 format copy is attractive and would be a welcome addition to any member's home library.



Accordingly, the Association has decided to offer members the opportunity to purchase a copy of the bound version. The cost is €40 (including postage to Ireland and Britain). An additional charge may apply for transmission further afield.

Any member wishing to purchase a copy should contact Thomas Murphy, our Association Secretary, at rdfa1918@gmail.com. We will then get in touch with you to arrange for payment and subsequent dispatch of the bound edition to you.

The popular paperback version of our Brief History remains available for €10 (including postage to Ireland and Britain). Some past editions of *The Blue Cap* may also be purchased for the same price by contacting Thomas at rdfa1918@gmail.com.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Appeal for Relatives

On 9 August last, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) launched one of its regular appeals for the relatives of named WW1 soldiers to make contact. These appeals arise because research has identified the locations of the graves of the deceased WW1 soldiers. The Commission then proceeds to erect a headstone with each soldier's name over his grave and rededicate it in the company of family members.

The CWGC's latest list includes five men buried in Glasnevin Cemetery and one man in Deansgrange Cemetery, Dublin. One of the listed soldiers in Glasnevin is a Royal Dublin Fusilier, Private Thomas Merna 4937, who died on 7 February 1919. The Association intends participating in any rededication of his grave in due course. The name, number, unit, date of death and grave location of each of the six soldiers in question are as follows:

- Driver Laurence Coulter T/32691, Royal Army Service Corps, 2 February 1919, Glasnevin;
- Acting Bombardier Michael Devereux L/42203, Royal Field Artillery, 17 January 1918, Glasnevin;
- Private Thomas Merna 4937, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 7 February 1919, Glasnevin;
- Rifleman Patrick Reilly 1753, Royal Irish Rifles, 11 February 1921, Deansgrange;
- Gunner Nicholas Lawrence Whelan 282193, Royal Garrison Artillery, 15 June 1918, Glasnevin, and
- Driver Christopher White 34692, Royal Field Artillery, 4 December 1920, Glasnevin.

Any relative of these men can contact the CWGC's Enquiries Team by phoning +44 (0) 1628 507200 or by emailing them via their website at www.cwgc.org.



Spectamur Agendo