Claremen in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

Approximately 810 Claremen served in the Royal Munster Fusiliers in WW1. Enclosed below and in two other documents are the details on over 664 of these Claremen. 150 in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn, 185 in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, 217 in the 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 4\textsuperscript{th}, 5\textsuperscript{th}, 6\textsuperscript{th}, 7\textsuperscript{th}, 8\textsuperscript{th} and 9\textsuperscript{th} Battalions, and another 112 Battalion unknown. At least 184 Claremen died with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in WW1.

The 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion landed at Gallipoli, Turkey, on the 25\textsuperscript{th} of April, 1915, and remained there until the following January. It arrived on the Western Front in April, 1916, where it remained until the end of the war.

At least 69 Claremen died during combat or from wounds fighting with the 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers during WW1. Another 40 were reported wounded in Clare newspapers. In this document are details of over 150 Claremen and the battles they fought in Gallipoli, Loos, at the Somme, Messines, Passchendaele, Cambrai, the German Offensive and the Advance to Victory with the 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Battalion landed in France on the 13\textsuperscript{th} of August, 1914, and remained on the Western Front until the end of the war.

At least 68 Claremen died during combat or from wounds fighting with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers during WW1. At least another 31 were reported wounded in Clare newspapers. 52 were reported to be POW’s in Clare newspapers. See details of over 185 Claremen and the battles they fought in, including the Retreat From Mons, the 1\textsuperscript{st} Battle of Ypres, the Defense of Givenchy, the Battles of Aubers Ridge and Loos, the Somme, Passchendaele, the German Offensive and the final advances of 1918.

The 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 4\textsuperscript{th} and 5\textsuperscript{th} were Reserve Battalions and not in combat. They did however provide soldiers for the combat Battalions. The 6\textsuperscript{th} and 7\textsuperscript{th} Battalions landed in Suvla Bay on the 7\textsuperscript{th} August 1915, and later fought in Salonica and Palestine. The 8\textsuperscript{th} and 9\textsuperscript{th} Battalions landed in France in Dec 1915.

36 Claremen were killed in action or died of wounds, and 11 more died of other causes with the 3\textsuperscript{rd} to 9\textsuperscript{th} Battalions of the Royal Munster Fusiliers during WW1. At least 59 were reported wounded in Clare newspapers, with 5 more reported to be POW’s. See details of over 217 Claremen in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} to 9\textsuperscript{th} RMF and the battles they fought in that include Suvla Bay, Struma, Jerusalem, Hulluch, Loos, Guillemond and Ginchy.
Index

Page 3  Timeline for the 1st RMF.

Page 4  The Battles that Claremen fought in with the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers.

Page 5  Gallipoli, Loos, Ginchy, Messines, Passchendaele, Cambrai and Tincourt.

Page 34  The German Offensive and the Advance to Victory.

Page 43  Awards Won by Claremen in the 1st Battalion of the RMF.

Page 46  82 Individual Profiles of Claremen in the RMF 1st Battalionn.

Page 125  RMF Disbandment.

Page 127  The 69 Claremen who died with the 1st RMF Battalion.

Page 137  Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers Battalion Unknown.

Page 149  Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers and where they came from.

I would like to especially thank Eddie Lough for all his help and knowledge of WW1 and the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

I would also like to thank Tom Burnell who wrote ‘The Clare War Dead’, The ‘History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922’ by Captain S. McCance, The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton, ‘The 2nd Munsters in France’ by Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Jervis. The research done by Peadar McNamara and Keir McNamara, Joe Power who wrote ‘Clare and the Great War’, the Kilrush Men engaged in WW1 Website (KM), Charles E Glynn’s List of Kilrush Men in the Great War, Brian Honan, Paul O’Brien, Morgan Roughan, Paddy Waldron, British Army WW1 Pension Records for Claremen in Service. (Clare Library), The Commonwealth War Grave Commission Burials in County Clare Graveyards (Clare Library), findagrave.com, ancestry.com, the In Flanders website, The Clare Journal (CJ), The Saturday Record (SR), The Clare Champion, The Clare People, The Clare Museum, The Clare Library Local Studies Centre, Dolores Murrhy, Daniel McCarthy, Helen O’Connor, Eric Shaw, Joe O’Muircheartaigh, Paddy O’Meara, all those who sent on information and finally Larry Brennan and the Clare Roots Society for all their help and support.

During WW1 346 Officers and 8,000 Other Ranks served with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. The Irish Army in 2016 has 7,310 permanent personnel with 2,188 in the Reserve.
Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion

Timeline for the 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers

**August 1914**: in Rangoon, Burma. Returned to UK and landed at Avonmouth on 10 January 1915. Moved to Coventry and came under orders of 86th Brigade in **29th Division**.

**16 March 1915**: sailed from Avonmouth for Gallipoli, going via Alexandria and Mudros, where it halted on 10 April.

**25 April 1915**: Landed at Cape Helles. Between 30 April and 19 May 1915, following heavy casualties, the battalion and 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers formed one composite unit, called the 'Dubsters'.

**1 January 1916**: evacuated from Gallipoli to Egypt.

**13 March 1916**: sailed from Port Said to Marseilles for service in France.

**25 April 1916**: transferred to Lines of Communication.

**28 May 1916**: transferred to 48th Brigade in **16th (Irish) Division** and absorbed troops from disbanded 9th Bn.

**22 November 1916**: transferred to 47th Brigade in same Division and absorbed more than 400 troops from disbanded 8th Bn.

**19 April 1918**: absorbed troops from 2nd Bn and next day transferred to 172nd Brigade in **57th (2nd North Midland) Division**.

**12 June 1922**: The Royal Munster Fusiliers were disbanded.

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**Private John Keane**: Born in Ballyvaughan, lived in Lisdoonvarna, died 27th Aug 1914 in **India**, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Yangon (Rangoon) Myanmar (Burma). The 1st Bn RMF were based in Rangoon (the Capital of Burma at the time) in August 1914. He died before they returned to Britain. (TB)
The Battles that Claremen fought in with the 1\textsuperscript{st} RMF.

Battles at Cape Helles and Suvla Bay in Turkey 1915
- Gallipoli: Landing at V Beach April 25\textsuperscript{th} 1915 (Cape Helles)
- Gallipoli: Sedd-el-Bahr 26\textsuperscript{th} April 1915 (Cape Helles)
- Gallipoli: Krithia: May - July 1915 (Cape Helles)
- Gallipoli: Suvla Bay - Scimitar Hill Aug 21\textsuperscript{st} 1915
- Gallipoli: Suvla Bay – September to December 1915

Battles in Flanders and France 1916 - 1918
- France: The Somme March – April 1916
- France: Loos - May to August 1916
- France: The Somme - Ginchy September 9\textsuperscript{th} 1916
- Flanders: Messines October 1916 – May 1917
- Flanders: Messines Ridge (Wytchaete) June 7\textsuperscript{th} – 14\textsuperscript{th} 1917
- Flanders: Passchendaele 31\textsuperscript{st} July – 10\textsuperscript{th} Nov 1917
- France: Cambrai 20\textsuperscript{th} Nov – 7\textsuperscript{th} Dec 1917
- France: Tincourt Jan – Feb 1918
- France: The German Offensive March 21\textsuperscript{st}- 23\textsuperscript{rd} 1918
- France: The German Offensive – Proyart March to April 1918
- France: The Advance to Victory – Hendecourt August 21\textsuperscript{st} to September 1918
- France: The Advance to Victory - Graincourt Sept 27\textsuperscript{th} to Oct 1\textsuperscript{st} 1918
- France: The Advance to Victory - Cambrai Oct 8\textsuperscript{th} to 9\textsuperscript{th} 1918
April 21st 1915

“Soldiers of France and of the King. Before us lies an adventure unprecedented in modern war. Together with our comrades of the fleet we are about to face a landing upon an open beach in face of positions which have been vaunted by our enemies as impregnable. The landings will be made good, by the help of God and the navy; the positions will be stormed, and the war brought one step closer to a glorious close…” General Ian Hamilton……

‘The configuration of V Beach was that of an amphitheatre 300 yards across...to the west high cliffs surmounted by Fort No 1, and to the east the Fort of Sedd-el-Bahr ...a tier of trenches ran just under the crest with three transverse wire entanglements, the wire so thick that the ordinary wire cutters could make no impression...’
Gallipoli: Landing at “V” Beach April 25th 1915

April 25th 1915

‘At 1am on April 25th the River Clyde (with 2,100 men on board) left her moorings and slowly moved to her objective. That night there were not many who slept. Cocoa was issued to the men before dawn….Sunday morning broke with a slight mist, and no wind: the sea was as smooth as glass, and as dawn came the outline of the coast could be seen about two miles away….. Making a big circle the River Clyde came round and headed for the beach, was run ashore at 6.25am, and grounded without the slightest jar in water….

When the gangways were ready…the men instantly responded, and dashed for the shore under a tornado of shot and shell…very few of the men got ashore, those who did took cover behind a bank about eight feet high that ran along the beach ten yards from the water’s edge. In front of this bank was a line of barbed wire entanglements about 25 yards distant. The cross fire was so heavy…that any man who left the cover of the bank for an instant was killed… Till about 4pm things were practically at a standstill…” (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

Martin Earls/Earles: Kilifarboy, Miltown Malbay, killed in action 25th April 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Bridget Earls.(TB)

Patrick Frawley, Turnpike Ennis, killed in action 25th April 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Brother of Peter who also died. Six brothers who served, two of whom were killed.

John Griffin: Ballyvaughan, killed in action 25th April 1915 age 24 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Helles Memorial Turkey. Son of John and Bridget Griffin Ballyvaughan. (TB)

George O’Brien: The Upper Market Ennis, died of wounds 25th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mr Martin O’Brien.(TB) Also reported wounded in Nov 1914 in Lincoln Hospital.

Private Thomas Dwyer: Kilrush, Co. Clare. 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 4836. Dwyer was born in Kilrush and was a pre war regular serving with the 1st Bn on the North West Frontier in 1908. He landed with the 1st Munsters on V Beach fron the River Clyde at Gallipoli on 25th April, 2015. He was awarded the Long Service & Conduct Medal in 1916.(Eric Shaw & Eamonn Dillon)
April 26th 1915

At daybreak next day just three companies of Munsters, two of Hampshires and one company Dubliners had made it to the shelter of some dunes. On the 26th they took fort Sedd-el-Bahr overlooking the bay, charging and taking the village behind. Turkish counter-attacks were held off. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Doughty-Wylie and Captain Garth Walford led the survivors on the beach to the capture of Sedd el Bahr village and the old castle above it. Both won the Victoria Cross but were killed during the fight.

‘By 12.30am on the 26th all the troops from the River Clyde had been got ashore and nearly all the wounded had been got back to the vessel... At daybreak they forced their way into the courtyard of the Fort; by 8am the Fort was occupied, and the advance through the village of Sedd-el-Bahr commenced...

In spite of a stubborn opposition and heavy losses the troops on the right pushed forward...to the attack of Hill 141... The summit was gained before 2pm, and the enemy driven from the old Fort... By 5pm the Battalion was in outpost position half a mile in advance of the old Fort...During the night the Turks attacked in force two or three times, but were driven off...’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

Patrick Carpenter: Clare Road Cottages, Ennis, **killed in action 26th April 1915** in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Private Michael Keane: The Glen Kilrush, **killed in action 26th April 1915** in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. His four brothers also enlisted. Son of Patrick and Mary Keane. Brother of Pat and Thomas. ‘In reference to his Majesty’s congratulations to Mr Wm Slade, commercial porter at Reading, for having six sons in his Majesty’s Forces, we call attention to the fact that Mr Pat Keane, Kilrush, Co Clare, has five gallant sons in his Majesty’s Forces.’ Clare Journal Nov 1914. (TB) KM

Michael Magee/ McGee: Born and lived in Scariff, **killed in action 26th April 1915** age 36 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9792, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. Killed in action in Gallipoli. Son of Michael and Johanna McGee, St John’s Street, Killaloe. (TB) Michael McGee: Killaloe, died April 1915. RMF 1st. Gallipoli. (PMcN)
Peter Loftus DCM: Ennistymon, died of wounds 19th May 1915 age 19, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Alexandria, Egypt. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (3rd of July 1915). ‘On the 26th April 1915 at Sedd-El-Bahr, for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ Son of W. and Annie Loftus. He was also Mentioned in Despatches (5th Aug 1915). (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

Drummer Hassett: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. He wrote a letter to the Clare Champion from Malta where he was recovering from wounds in July 1915. ‘The battalion have done their duty and also the Dublin Fusiliers. We landed together and we were the first two regiments to land at Seddul Bahr – The 1st battalion Munsters, and the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers. We cleared the way for the English regiments behind us. We lost heavily, both regiments, but we captured the Turkish positions at the point of a bayonet. It was splendid to see them charging at night, every man with a brave dash in him. I am here in Malta, but I am going back again to get a piece of my own back from the Turk. I belong as you know in Ennis.’ (Clare Champion July 2015)

Paddy Sherlock: Bogberry, Ennistymon, (March 1896 - 20th Sept 1956) He served in France first, and then his regiment was transferred to the Dardanelles and from there to Upper Silesia in Poland, in the Great War of 1914-1918. From: Ennistymon Parish Magazine 1989. He landed at V Beach in Gallipoli aboard the River Clyde as a member of the 1st Munster Fusiliers.

Corporal M Murphy: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Wrote a letter from the front to the Clare Journal in Sept 1915 about the Gallipoli landing (‘Ennis men who did their duty’). (CJ)

April 27th 1915

About 7am on the 27th the Battalion was relieved by the French, who took over the line; the Battalion moved back to the V Beach and rested……about 600 non-commissioned officers and men were killed or wounded… Thus ended the first stage in the Gallipoli Campaign the Battle of the Landing… Sir Ian Hamilton says of it that it “involved difficulties for which no precedent was forthcoming in military history” …’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

April 29th 1915

‘The various battalions were ordered to reorganize owing to the great losses they had sustained. A composite battalion was made up with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers… The Battalion numbered 8 officers and 770 men , and was nicknamed “The Dubsters”. …’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)
THE MUNSTERS IN GALLIPOLI.

A STORY OF HEROISM AND SLAUGHTER.

One of the things that must not be forgotten in connection with the war is the landing of the Munsters and the Dublin’s in Gallipoli. For two reasons it must not be forgotten.

When one reads the account in Sir Ian Hamilton’s dispatch of the conditions under which the landing was made, the question could not but be asked—Why was the attempt ever made under such circumstances? This question will have to be answered sooner or later. The reason may be sufficient, but, as I have said, it is the general’s own description that makes the question unanswerable. That is one thing.

The other thing is the dauntless courage of the Irish soldiers in charge of ashore, wave after wave of them, in face of the most deadly all round fire.

Mr Redmond in Parliament last week drew attention to the fact that in Admiral de Robeck’s description the landing was referred to without the names of the regiments being given, an amazing fact as to which no official apology or statement has yet been made.

The main facts of the awful day are, of course, known, but one by one descriptions are being added to our material for a full account of the most glorious, as it was the most terrible day’s fighting of the war. The latest of these is a vivid little article in the “Westminster Gazette” by Lieut. Commander John Wedgwood, M.P., who was present on the River Clyde at the landing. The River Clyde was the streamer from which the landing was made. It was run ashore, it will be remembered, and from the openings which had been cut in the sides the landing parties made their way to the beach.

“I never noticed the grounding,” says Mr Wedgwood, “for the horror in the water on the beach. Five rows of five boats, each loaded with men, were going along side of us. One moment it had been early morning in a peaceful country, and the next, while the boats were just 20 yards from the shore, the blue sea round each boat was turning red. Of all those brave men two thirds died, and hardly a dozen reached unwounded the shelter of the five-foot sand dunes. Then they charged from the wooden horse. From the new large ports on the lower deck they ran along gangways to the bows, then edged three lighters to a spit of rock, twenty slippery yards over the rocks, and there was shelter. I think theirs was more terrible. In the first rush none got ashore to land, and they repeated these rushes all day. There was no room on the rocks, there was no room on the lighters and boats they were so covered with dead and dying.

“It was the Munsters that charged first with a sprig of shamrock on their caps. Then the Dublin’s, then the Worcesters, the Hampshires. Lying on the beach, on the rocks, on the lighters, they cried on the Mother of God. Ever when I looked ashore I saw five Munsters. They at some moment had got ashore. They had been told off to cut the wire entanglements. They had left the shelter of the bank, charged fifteen yards to the wire, and there they lay in a row at two yards interval. One could hardly believe them dead. All the time great shells kept hitting the shivering ship and doing slaughter in the packed holds. These shells were fired from Asia, but it was the maximus and pom-poms in Sedda Bahr and on the amphitheatre that kept our heads down below the bulwarks and boiler plate.

Mr Wedgwood concludes with a brief statement which is even more startling than anything that has gone before. When the village of Sedda Bahr was cleared it was found that there were two wounded survivors of the Munsters and Dublin’s. He gives the reason in these words—Two German officers were found and killed. These facts, it appears, had instigated the things done to these dying Irishmen, and we never afterwards found similar Turkish atrocities.”

Clare Journal Nov 1915
May 1st 1915

Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn: On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn (May 2nd) the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days.

‘On May 1st the Turks attacked in force about 10.30pm....A platoon of W Company which was in reserve..put up a great fight... The Turks charged time after time, but were beaten back each time with the bayonet. At dawn the Battalion was reinforced by the 1st Essex, and a final charge forced the Turks to retire, leaving piles of dead in front of the trench... As the Battalion had no bombs of any sort, the men were at great disadvantage, but outfought the enemy when it came to close-quarter work.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

Michael Kearney: Drumbiggle Road Ennis, killed in action 1st May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. Son of Mrs Ann Kearney. (TB)

John Leahy: Corrovorin, Ennis, killed in action 1st May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli on the Helles Memorial, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs Hannah Leahy. (TB)


John McNamara: Ennis killed in action 1st May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

John Moloney: Kilrush, killed in action 1st May 1915 age 33 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Johannah Moloney, Crofton Street, Kilrush. (TB)
**Patrick Lyons**: Newmarket on Fergus, killed in action 3rd May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. (TB)

**John Regan**: Kilrush, killed in action 3rd May 1915 (2nd May in the newspapers) in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 45. Private John Regan: Chapel Street Kilrush. RMF. Killed in landings at Gallipoli. KM

**Private (The Turk) Gormley**: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. He sent a letter from the front to the Clare Journal in June 1915. (CJ) He was next to John Regan when he died.

**Michael Thynne**: Church Hill Ennistymon, died of wounds 4th May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey.(TB) Brother of John and Patrick who both also died in the War. Son of John and Catherine Thynne. (Guss O’Halloran)

**Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO**: Glendree Tulla, died 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) (and Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) and was Mentioned in Despatches(5/11/15).Son of Judge R R Kane and Eleanor Coffey, Dublin and Glendree Co Clare. ‘Entered army 1908. Joined 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1908 at Rawalapindi, and served in India and Burma (where his sister also lived) until 1914. Present at the Gallipoli landings until 13 July 1915. Wounded in action 4 May 1915…’ From Who Was Who 1916-1930.
Gallipoli: Krithia May 11th 1915

When the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion landed at V Beach on April 25th 1915, they were close to full strength, numbering 26 officers and 900 other ranks. When roll call was taken on May 11th 1915, only 7 officers and 372 men had survived the V Beach landing and subsequent fighting.

On May 11th the Battalion paraded and received orders to convert the space allocated to the Battalion on Y Beach into a permanent base.

Lawrence Curtin: Kilbahaer, Carrigaholt, died of wounds 12th May 1915 age 17 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Egypt. Son of Mrs Mary Curtin Grace St Kilrush. (TB)

Peter Loftus DCM: Ennistymon, died of wounds 19th May 1915 age 19 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9843, G/M in Alexandria, Egypt. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (3rd July 1915). (TB) ‘On the 26th April 1915 at Sedd-EL-Bahr, for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ Son of W. and Annie Loftus. He was also Mentioned in Despatches (5th Aug 1915). (Guss O’Halloran)

Michael Burley: Cornmarket St Ennis (Drumcliffe), killed in action 24th May 1915 age 22 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Pte Burley: Ennis, RMF 1st, died April 1915 in the Dardanelles. (P McN) (TB)

John Stokes: Ennis, killed in action 28th May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

John Quinn: Kilrush, died May 1915, Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF 1st. (PMcN)
Gallipoli: Krithia June 1915

Receiving new drafts on 29 May, the Munsters and Dubliners were separate units again, the Munsters by 17th June numbering 23 officers and 588 other ranks, though handicapped by the new recruits being much too young and inexperienced.

By the middle of June the flies had become a veritable plague, in addition to the dust storms, high wind and constant heavy shelling.

John O’Brien: Doonbeg, died 15th June 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)


The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn took part in the Division’s assault on 28 June 1915 securing five trench lines. This provoked a general attack by the Turkish side along the Cape Helles front on 5 July, the Turks losing heavily.

‘On June 28th the Battalion left the Eske lines for Bruce’s Ravine at 9.45am, and assembled for the attack. The 87th Brigade captured the first three lines of trenches, and at 11.30am the Battalion and the rest of the 86th Brigade ....captured a further two lines of trenches-a total advance of 1000 yards....two further lines of enemy trenches ...were gained. The casualties for the 28th and 29th were 20 killed; wounded 8 officers and 112 other ranks; missing 19 other ranks.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

Martin O’Brien: Kildysart, killed in action 28th June 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Edmond Colgan: Ennis, died of wounds 30th June 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs M E Colgan Clonroad Cottage Ennis. (TB) He died during the battle of Gulley Ravine.

Private Thomas Butler: Old Mill Street Ennis. He was a Labourer aged 21 when he enlisted in 1911 into the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers 5637. He was in Gallipoli with the 1st RMF from May to July 1915 where he suffered from shell-shock. He was married Agnes Flaherty. (British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)
'On 2 July Pte. T. Davis of the 1RMF was executed, having been found guilty of ‘quitting his post’ while on duty without the orders of a superior officer on 20 June. As one of a number of men on guard duty at Battalion H.Q., his task had been to patrol the perimeter as a ‘flying sentry’ for a two hour patrol starting at 1am. A sergeant discovered him missing an hour and a half later and reported him to the guard room. Pte. Davis turned up three hours later and was charged.

At his trial on the 22nd he said he had needed to find a latrine but was disbelieved in the light of a bad previous military record which included a ten year suspended sentence to penal servitude. Five men of the 1RMF had previously had death sentences on a charge of ‘behaving in such a manner as to show cowardice before the enemy’ on 9 May, commuted in the light of the gallant performance of the rest of their Battalion....

‘The Battalion is in an awful state. It is about 450 short but full of soldiers with about 2 months service.’ .. The decision to carry through the execution on 2 July of Private T. Davis in contrast to previous sentences which had been commuted, may have been influenced by the unhappy state of the Battalion described by Nightingale.’ (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton)

‘On the 5th July the Turks made a general attack on the whole line, the Battalion was in the Worcester Flat Trenches....the turks lost heavily...The attack fizzled out at 6am, a hopeless failure. Our casualties numbered 30..’

Patrick Tierney: Ennis, died of wounds 6th July 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)
The landing at Suvla Bay took place on the night of 6 August 1915 against light opposition, but the British commander, Lieutenant General Frederick Stopford, had limited his early objectives and then failed to forcefully push his demands for an advance inland, and little more ground than the beach was seized. The Ottomans were able to occupy the Anafarta Hills, preventing the British from penetrating inland, which reduced the Suvla front to static trench warfare. The Suvla landing was reinforced by the arrival of the **10th (Irish) Division on 7 August**.

‘The usual routine was carried on till August 6th, when a landing was effected at Suvla by the 10th, 11th, 53rd and 54th Divisions. To assist this a feint was made at the head of the Gulf of Saros, and a strong offensive was carried out against the old objective Achi Baba. ...The Battalion was in reserve, and moved into the front trenches at night.....(History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

The final British attempt to resuscitate the offensive came with the Suvla attack on 21 August in the **Battle of Scimitar Hill** the last great battle of the campaign. Control of the hills would have united the Anzac and Suvla fronts but both attacks failed. The Turks inflicted severe casualties, the scrub bushes then catching fire killing many wounded and others taking cover. The unsuccessful attack cost the Munsters 79 men and three officers that day alone.
Joseph Brennan: Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 21st August 1915 in Gallipoli, age 44, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on the Helles Memorial Turkey. Husband of Bridget Brennan Grace Street Kilrush. (TB)

John Clohessy: Ennistymon, killed in action 21st August 1915 in Gallipoli, age 28, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Helles Memorial, Turkey. Son of Mrs Anne Foran of Deerpark. (TB)

John Ensko: Lifford, Ennis, killed in action 21st Aug 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Helles Memorial, Turkey. Was a POW in Limburg. (TB)

John Fitzpatrick: Ennistymon, killed in action 21st Aug 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Son of John Fitzpatrick of 5 New Road Ennistymon. Brother of Eileen O’Brien of New Road. (Guss O’Halloran)

Michael Meade: Kilrush, killed in action 21st Aug 1915 age 35 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Annie Kearn Meade. (TB) Sergeant Michael Meade: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in Action in France. KM During the Suvla Bay offensive of August 1915, CQMS Michael Meade was again in the thick of battle, the 1st battalion was gathered on the slopes of 'Chocolate Hill', in preparation for the attack on Scimitar Hill on August 21st. Fighting on that day was intense, made difficult by dense prickly scrub. Michael Meade lies somewhere on the slopes of Gallipoli, but his name is not forgotten, for it is commemorated for posterity on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli. (Geraldine Quinn of London and John Meade of Cork.)

Lance Corporal Simon Smyth: Lisgreen Kilkee, Co Clare, died of wounds 21st Aug 1915 (or 7th July CWGC) in Gallipoli, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Turkey. (TB)
On September 1st 1915 the Battalion took over the front line from the Dublins. The trenches were very good...The Turks were about 400 yards distant.... The men were in excellent form and the nightly working parties made excellent progress with new trenches... On September 8th the Battalion moved down to the beach, and proceeded to Imbros where it encamped.... On the 21st the spell of rest came to an end, and the Battalion embarked again for Suvla.

**Martin McGrath:** Kiltrush, died of wounds at sea 15th Sept 1916 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st G/M in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire in England. Son of Martin McGrath Pella Road Kilrush. (TB)

‘October 1915 was spent in the usual trench warfare, relieving and being relieved, working-parties, sniping. There were no actual engagements.’

**John Howard:** Ennistymon, died 19th Oct 1915 (killed by shrapnel) on Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

For the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers there was little further action other than holding front lines through November 1915, when the weather worsened. Late in the month gales swept over the peninsula, hundreds were drowned in the flooded trenches or from exposure or frostbite, followed on 28 November by a blizzard. The battalion was evacuated as it arrived, on the River Clyde sailing 2nd January 1916 for Alexandria.

**Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO:** Glendree Tulla, died 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) (and Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) and was Mentioned in Despatches(5/11/15). Son of Judge R R Kane and Eleanor Coffey, Dublin and Glendree Co Clare. ‘Entered army 1908. Joined 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1908 at Rawalapindi, and served in India and Burma (where his sister also lived) until 1914. Present at the Gallipoli landings until 13 July 1915. Wounded in action 4 May 1915...’ From Who Was Who 1916-1930. On Feb 7th 1918 he assumed command of the 1st Bn RMF (leaving the RMF 2nd Bn.)
2nd Lieutenant J C R Delmege: Castlepark Limerick. Royal Munster Fusiliers 5th Bn. ‘He was the son of James O’Grady Delmege of Castlepark Limerick, a former High Sheriff of the County who became Controller of Recruiting for Limerick City and County during the war. In November 1915 he was evacuated from Gallipoli with frostbite following service with the 1st RMF. He was in command of a company when wounded and captured 2 years later at Tournament Farm, Passchendaele and after his release, saw action in North Russia in 1919, against the Bolsheviks.’ (The story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton)

Michael ‘Robineen’ Gallagher: Kilrush. Royal Garrison Artillery. He enlisted in Dec 1914 at the age of 17. He was discharged subsequently for being under age. He went back to Kilrush, and a few weeks later re-enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery in Cork. From there he was sent to fight in all the major battles of the war. After the war he re-enlisted again and was sent to India. He died in Dec 1988. (Joe Power) Gunner Michael Gallagher: Burton Street Kilrush. He served in Egypt and Greece and Gallipoli (Nov 1915) with the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 7748 from Feb 1915 to March 1916, and was discharged for medical reasons. British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Corporal Martin Honan: Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM Only one Martin Hogan in RMF 5619. He served in the Balkans. [Rolls show him in 2 Bn. and later transferred to 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough

Sergeant Thomas Keane DSM: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, Gallipoli, one of 5 Keane brothers from The Glen Kilrush (inc Michael and Pat). He received a pension. KM Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. (C E Glynn)


Sergeant William O’Halloran: His family lived in the Turnpike Ennis. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4800 (16th Div). He was killed 4th Nov. 1916. He was a sergeant in the Royal Munsters. Brother of John Joseph. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guilemont and at Ginchy at the Somme in Sept 1916. He died in an area south of Ypres. (Eddie Lough) G/M in Belgium.
Michael Roche: Lisdoonvarna, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, posted to Gallipoli 1915, Discharged due to sickness October 1916. He joined the Irish Army as a Sergeant in the 1st Western Division in April 1922. He died in 25/08/1922, when a grenade fell from a hand when on a patrol near Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee, killing Lt Timothy McMahon instantly while trying to save his men and mortally wounding four others. His parents were Patrick and Susan Roche (nee Butler), Aughiskamore, Lisdoonvarna. He married Bridget Gutherie in March 1919 in Ennis. He is buried in Killilagh Graveyard Doolin. NCS

Private John Skerritt: Newmarket on Fergus. He was a Groom aged 18 when he enlisted in 1897 into the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 5688. He was discharged in Feb 1919. He had served in South Africa and the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. His parents were John and Mary, brothers Patrick and Michael and sisters Margaret and Annie. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Sergeant Patrick Tierney: Corofin, Co Clare. He was aged 37 when he enlisted in 1919 with the Army Ordnance Corps 9991. He had previously served in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force with the 1st (Aug-Dec 1915), 6th (1916-17) & 3rd (1918) Royal Munster Fusiliers 5717 and received gunshot wounds. He was discharged in Oct 1919 for medical reasons. His mother was Mary Tierney. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) Sgt P Tierney: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in March 1917. (CJ)

John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359 (16th Div), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis. Killed in action in Ginchy. (TB)(CJ) On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’. He fought in Gallipoli before being transferred to the western front in France.

Private Martin Casey: Alley Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Wounded in Gallipoli. Invalided with a pension. KM

The battalion was evacuated as it arrived, on the River Clyde sailing 2 January 1916 for Alexandria. From there it sailed with the rest of the 29th Division arriving in France on 22 March. Three years of warfare still remained for the battalion in France and Flanders on the Western Front. It had already suffered 45% of its total losses for the entire war.
The Battles in France and Flanders fought by the 1st RMF

Passchendaele
Messines / Wytschaete
Lille
Advance to Victory
Loos
Graincourt
Cambrai
Gommecourt
Auchonvillers
The bridge at Peronne
Tincourt
Proyart
Mazingarbe
Les Bribis
Hendecourt
Ginchy
Lille

Reference -
Front Line 1914-1916
Final Advance: 1st Bn
Final Advance: 2nd Bn
International Boundary

Scale of Miles -
0 10 15 20

Cities:
Ypres
Hooge
Zillebeke
Courtrai
Armentieres
Vermelles
Lieven
douai
Douai
La Bassée
Lille
Cambrai

Trenches:
Gommecourt
Auchonvillers
Mazingarbe
Les Bribis
Hendecourt
Graincourt
Ginchy
Tincourt
France: The Somme March –April 1916

‘The Battalion remained at Suez all January, various detachments and drafts having joined; the strength on the 31st was 18 officers, 193 other ranks... Marseilles was reached .on the 22nd March...The Battalion relieved the Iniskillings in the line in front of Auchonvillers, facing Beaumont Hammel, on April 13th. This was the first experience the Battalion had of the trenches of France.’

Thomas Collins: Sixmilebridge, died 31st March 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in the Maison Roland Churchyard in France. (Just north of Amiens on the Somme). (TB)

France: Loos Salient - May to August 1916

May – August 1916   Loos Salient

‘In consequence of its having been decided to replace the 9th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, which had suffered heavily in counter-attacking the enemy at Loos, by the 1st Battalion, it received orders to join the 48th Brigade of the 16th Irish Division, and left Boulogne on May 28th.... at Mazingarbe, where 6 officers and 283 other ranks from the now disbanded 9th Battalion RMF joined the Battalion. There was also a meeting with the 2nd Battalion which was with the 1st Division at Les Brebis, and with the 8th Battalion, which was in the 47th Brigade and the same Division as the Battalion...The Battalion remained from May 29th to August 29th in the Loos Salient. (at Bethune)

‘An enemy mine was exploded opposite the front line trench, about 3.30pm on the 27th July, and they at once attempted to rush the crater. ...Corporal Stewart and Private Donoghue... immediately attacked the advancing enemy with bombs and drove them back. The sap was badly damaged and the occupants much shaken and covered with showers of earth.’

James Brennan: Bunratty, killed in action 27th July 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Lance Corporal Patrick Carney: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded June 1916. (CJ) A POW in June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record)[ Carney 9658 probably to 1st. Bn. Further search shows 1Bn. and later 2Bn.] Eddie Lough

### France: Loos Salient - May to August 1916

**John Costello**: Kilkee, killed in action 30th Sept 1918 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street Kilkee. **(TB)** He was named in the list of badly wounded in the Clare Journal in June 1916 (Possibly Loos). He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street, Kilkee.

**Private Thomas Devers**: Burton St Kilrush. One of 5 brothers who served. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn (16th Div). **KM.** Wounded in Oct 1916. **(CJ)** He received a **parchment certificate** from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme (Probably at the Battle of Ginchy, 9 September). His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. **(CJ)** T Devers: Kilrush. Leinster Regiment. **Wounded in July 1916. (CJ)** (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)


### France: The Somme - Guillemont Sept 3rd 1916

The **47th Brigade** (16th Irish Division) was assigned the task of capturing the German strongpoint at the village of **Guillemont**. This had withstood repeated attacks since July. On 3 September, the 6th Connaught Rangers, 7th Leinster and the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers & the 8th Royal Dublin Fusiliers took the position in a feat of outstanding bravery. Lt. John Holland of the Leinster was awarded the Victoria Cross.

‘The 1st Battalion (strength 27 officers, 675 other ranks)...then marched to .. **Bernafay Wood**, which was reached on September 4th 1916... under a continuous bombardment chiefly gas shells....The Battalion met the 8th Battalion here; they had just come from the capture of Guillemont in which they had taken a prominent part....’ **(History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)**
On 9 September, the 48th Brigade (16th Irish Division), consisting of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers succeeded in taking another heavily fortified German position at Ginchy which is about 1 km from Guillemont. This was the only success of the British attack on that day which cost 4,330 casualties, including 50% of the officers. Among those killed was the Irish Nationalist MP Tom Kettle, MP, who went into battle leading a company of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

‘The attack on Ginchy which had previously repelled the attacks of five divisions, was carried out by the 56th Division on the right and the 16th on the left - the 16th Division attack being carried out by the 47th Brigade on the right, and the 48th on the left...When the Battalion left the trenches at zero for the attack on Ginchy (Sept 9th) only 8 officers and under 400 men remained out of the original strength who had marched into Bernafay Wood.... At zero time (4.45pm) it left the trenches in four waves...With the exception of 2nd Lt Baily all the company officers and the Second-in – Command were either killed or wounded within the first 50 yards....Baily pushed forward towards the first objective, but finding that the right flank was exposed, owing to the fact that the 8th RMF Battalion were being mowed down from the left flank by two machine-guns, he wheeled to the right and dug himself in.....CSM Harris wheeled the left of his company and charged, driving the enemy out... on continuing the advance, he found the enemy strongly entrenched, so dug in opposite them, and with the assistance of one machine gun, held his position until relieved... The Battalion marched back to Carnoy on the 10th. Strength after the attack, 5 officers, 305 other ranks.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)
John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, killed in action in Ginchy 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of Ginchy at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359 (16th Div), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis.(TB)(CJ) On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’. He fought in Gallipoli before being transferred to the western front in France.

Private John Keane MM: Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 age 20 (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal. (21st Oct 1916)’ The death is announced of a brave Kilrush soldier, Private J Keane, of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action. He received the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street.’Clare Journal 1917.(TB) Brother of Michael. KM

Thomas Kelly: Clarecastle, (Tulla) killed in action 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9373 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB) Was taken prisoner in Etreux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany. POW Dec 1915 (CJ)

Thomas Muldoon MM: Born in India, lived in Feakle, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7857 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. He won the Military Medal (23rd Aug 1916). (TB) Wounded in July 1916. Son of Thomas Muldoon.(CJ) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Patrick O’Neill: Lived in Feakle enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 age 26, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5571 (16th Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of William O’Neill Ballylongford, Co Kerry. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme)


Michael Burke: Born in Ennis lived in Clarecastle, died 12th Jan 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 8202 (16th Div), G/M in Belgium. Killed in action. (TB) (Also wounded in Sept 1916 at the Somme. Probably at Ginchy.) (CJ)
John ‘Jack’ Kelly: The Turnpike Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. He spent 15 months in the trenches and got wounded in the Battle of the Somme. He suffered an abdominal injury and he was sent to Ypres in Belgium to recover. (Flan Hehir) J Kelly: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ)

Private Thomas Devers: Burton St Kilrush. One of 5 brothers who served. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn (16th Div). KM. He received a parchment certificate from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. (Probably at the Battle of Ginchy, 9th September). His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. (CJ) T Devers: Kilrush. Leinster Regiment. KM Wounded in July 1916. (CJ) Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) (an employee M Glynn & Sons)

Sergeant Thomas Keane DSM: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, Gallipoli, one of 5 Keane brothers from The Glen Kilrush (Inc Michael and Pat). He received a pension. KM Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. (C E Glynn)

P Garvey: Feakle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On wounded list in Oct 1916. (CJ) 3 Patrick Garvey’s in the RMF. [Garvey 5916 has Silver War Badge record. Only one was wounded. Award rolls show 1Bn.] Eddie Lough

P Guilfoyle: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Oct 1916.(CJ) The only P Guilfoyle in RMF 6823 & 35276. [No Silver War Badge but may not have been discharged. Enlisted 8 Bn. And later 1Bn. ref award rolls] Eddie Lough
Flanders: Messines October - December 1916

After the Battle of Ginchy the RMF 1st Battalion was then moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium, to the Messines Sector.

Michael Kildea: Miltown Malbay, killed in action 19th Oct 1916 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie Kildea Ennistymon Road. (TB) ‘I go into battle, after saying a few prayers and a light heart.’ (After the Battle of Ginchy on the Somme, the RMF 1st Bn was moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium, in the Messines Sector.)


Sgt. William O’Halloran: His family lived in the Turnpike Ennis. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4800 (16th Div). He was killed in action 4th Nov. 1916. He was a sergeant in the Royal Munsters. Brother of John Joseph. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemon and at Ginchy at the Somme in Sept 1916. He died in an area south of Ypres, in the Messines Sector. G/M in Belgium. (Eddie Lough)

‘On November 23rd 1916 the 8th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion at the Curragh Camp…. The strength of the Battalion was raised by December 1st 1916 to 48 officers and 1069 other ranks….The winter of 1916-17 was very trying and bitter, but the health of the troops was excellent.’

Michael Foran: Kilkee, killed in action 27th Dec 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB) Next of kin Mrs Curtin Pound St Kilkee.

Christmas 1916 was spent in the trenches, but as the New Year arrived, an official report relates "as if by mutual consent both sides ceased fire a minute or two before the close of the old year. On the stroke of midnight the pipers tuned up and gave us The Old Year out and the New Year in, A Nation Once Again, God Save Ireland, and a few more songs of the old country, N.C.O.s and men joining lustily in the choruses".
Flanders – Messines Sector January to May 1917

‘In January, February and March, 1917, the Battalion spent most of its time, when in the trenches, in the Spanbrock section in turn with the 7th Leinsters.’

Up to the middle of March rotating routine trench duties continued with light casualties (2 officers and 20 men killed). The battalion rehearsed special training during April and May for the assault on the strategic Messines Ridge.

**Michael Burke**: Born in Ennis lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 12th Jan 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 8202 (16th Div), G/M in Belgium. (TB) (Also wounded in Sept 1916 at the Somme. Probably at Ginchy.) (CJ)

**Lt James Richard Colfer**: Born in New Ross Co Wexford, worked in the Munster & Leinster Bank in Ennis. Killed in action 26th Feb 1917 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 9th Bn (then the 8th and later the 1st Bn RMF), G/M in France. (TB)

**Sergeant G Crowe**: Kilrush. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in March 1917. (CJ) [Sergeant Francis G Crowe RMF 6940 KIA, from Waterford?, perhaps lived in Kilrush for a time, date suggests 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough

‘The Battle of the Somme had given the British command of the high ground there; then followed the Battles of Arras with the capture of Vimy Ridge etc; The Battle of Messines was planned to continue the capture of the high ground from the neighbourhood of Ploegsteert to Hill 60 and Mount Serel in the north...

South of Ypres lies a ridge on which stood the villages of Wytschaete and Messines, the ridge formed a salient in the German line, and had dominated our positions since the end of 1914. Sir Douglad Haig saw clearly that it was necessary to capture the ridge before a new offensive could be launched from the Ypres front.’
Flanders: Wytschaete: June 7th – 14th 1917

The Flanders offensive began at 3.10am on 7 June 1917 with the detonation of nineteen huge mines previously burrowed under the German lines. There followed the advance of the 16th Irish Division (incl 1st RMF) opposite the village of Wytschaete, to the right the 36th (Ulster) Division opposite the village of Messines, the largest ever concentration of Irish soldiers on a battlefield. Their advance has been reported by all who saw it as a sight never to be forgotten, a captured German officer stated that they moved as if on parade.

‘..The Battalion is one selected to be the first over the Wytschaete Ridge, and the historic town of Wytschaete is allocated to our share. In a few days Great Britain and Ireland will be ringing with the name of the Munsters, and the Irish Division, and another honour will be added to the long list of the Regiment. Good luck and success to you all.’ Lieut-Colonel R H Monck-Mason DSO 6th June 1917.

‘At 3.10am, on June 7th the mines were exploded.... At the same moment our troops dashed up the slopes and in three hours had cleared the crest...The Battalion arrived at the second objective on time and deployed at 6.50am...The third objective was reached at 7.20am...They captured or killed many of the enemy in dug-outs as they advanced, and at 7.50am the fourth objective was taken and consolidation commenced.... By 8am everything was taken....The artillery barrage was excellent; the Battalion was able to follow it closely, and was on the enemy before they could offer any serious resistance.....Over 7 thousand prisoners were taken that day...The Battalion was relieved on the 8th at 7.45am...Casualties: Killed 1 officer, 5 other ranks: wounded 2 officers 63 other ranks; missing, 43 other ranks.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S McCance)

Lance Corporal John Walsh: Ennistymon, killed in action 7th June 1917 age 32, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

Pte John Dewar: Scariff. Trench Mortar Battery, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 4850. He was awarded a Parchment Certificate by Major-General Hickie for his gallant conduct and devotion to duty in June 7th & 8th 1917. (The Battle of Messines 7-14th June 1917) and his name was entered in the record of the Irish Division. (SR)

Corporal Luke Coote: Ennis. He enlisted in the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn when he was 16. On June 16th 1917 he was shot in the arms, stomach and chest, just after the Battle of Messines Ridge. By then he had been promoted to the rank of corporal. When he had recovered from these very serious injuries he returned to Ireland. Later he used his military experience to support Michael Collins in the War of Independence. He was the eldest of Michael and Mary Coote’s five sons. He died in 1968. (Joe Power)
Sergeant John Joseph O’Shea DCM: Miltown Malbay. 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9487. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (25/8/1917 RMF Book) age 24. ‘For gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty’. His brother Pat was killed in Ypres. (CJ) Sergeant J O’Shea: Flag Road, Miltown Malbay. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wrote a letter from the front in the Clare Journal Sept 1915. (CJ) ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in bombing and capturing an enemy post. He set a fine example of courage and coolness combined with sound judgement, and later he pushed forward and obtained valuable information enabling a trench to be captured and further facilitating the success of the advance.’ London Gazette 25th Aug 1917. Possibly at Wytschaete.
In the **Third Battle of Ypres** an offensive was mounted to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the **end of July**, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of **Passchendaele**.

‘On July 16th the Battalion moved via Broxelle to St Omer, entraining there on the 23rd for the Ypres Sector to take its part in the Third Battle of Ypres, for possession of the Passchendaele Ridge. The Battalion relieved the 7th Leinsters on August 4th on the Ypres-Roulers railway and was heavily shelled. **Casualties: wounded 23 as well as 52** to hospital from trench fever, swollen feet etc.

On the next day (August 5th) **84 other ranks** went to hospital. On the 6th August ...the Battalion proceeded to Brandhoek. **Casualties: 6 killed; wounded 20; to hospital 20 other ranks.** The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. **Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11; on the 14th August wounded 13.** During the operations of the Frezenberg Ridge on the 16th the Battalion... **lost 1 killed; 15 wounded.’

From the 4th to the 18th August the Battalion had the task and drudgery of holding the line under heavy bombardments, lying in shell holes full of water...with no overhead protection, with everything soaked, and sore feet, whilst the continuous bombardment banished all chances of sleep... On October 17th the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Royal Irish Regiment.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

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**Daniel Falvey**: Ennis, **died of wounds 10th Aug 1917** age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Daniel and Ann Falvey Inchbeg Ennis. *(TB)*

**Robert Walsh**: Kilrush, **died of wounds 12th Aug 1917** (at the Frezenberg Ridge near Passchendaele) age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of John and Bridget Walsh Hector Street. *(TB)*

**R Walsh**: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. *(CJ)*

**Robert Walsh**: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Killed In Action in France. *(KM)*

**Thomas Russell**: Kilmaley, **killed in action 15th Aug 1917** (at the Frezenberg Ridge near Passchendaele) age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. Son of John and Catherine Russell, Culleen Kilmaley. *(TB)*
Flanders - Passchendaele: 31st July – 10th Nov 1917

**Alfred Quinlivan**: Market Street, Ennis, killed in action 15th August 1917 (at the Frezenberg Ridge near Passchendaele) age 33, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) France. Son of Mrs Mary Quinlivan. (TB)

**Private Thomas Killeen**: Doonbeg Co Clare. He was aged 23 when he enlisted in 1915 in the Machine Gun Corps 3515 (later transferred to the 1st RMF). He was wounded in action in August 1917 and then discharged. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**Private Stephen McKnight MM**: Kilrush, killed in action 22nd March 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn in Pozieres, G/M in France. (TB) He won the Military Medal (and 2 parchment Certificates on the 17th Sept 1917 in Passchendaele. (SR) (KM) Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street. Brother of James. (Morgan Roughan)

**Michael ‘Micko’ Canny MM**: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (Military Medal 28th Sept 1917) and the French Medal Militaire for saving British and French officers under heavy gunfire in Sept 1917 in Passchendaele. (CJ) Private Michael Canny: 1st RMF 5414. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 29/9/1917. (RMF Book Capt McCance)

**James (Sonny) Moroney 8084 (Joseph Kennedy)**: Mill Street, Ennis, died 3rd Jan 1919. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Fifth son of Charles Moroney. James Kennedy 8084: Ennis. A POW in June 1918 (SR) ‘He was taken prisoner at the opening of the big German Push, on March 22 1918, and was kept a prisoner in Germany until the armistice. He was released on Nov 29th 1918, but was so prostrated from bad treatment and starvation, that he had to be sent to a hospital at once in France, being unable to travel home, and never rallied’. From the Sat Record Jan 1919. (TB) He had been badly wounded in August 1917, but recovered and rejoined his regiment.

**John Fogarty**: Quin, died of wounds at home on the 27th Dec 1918 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Crusheen. Son of Thomas Fogarty, Corbally, Quin. (TB) J Fogarty: Quin. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Sept 1917. (SR)

**Private Michael Dooley**: Scariff. He was a labourer aged 30 when he enlisted in 1916 in the Royal Munster Fusiliers 7103 (5th Bn and later in 1917 the 1st Bn). He was previously in the Royal Garrison Artillery. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
France: Cambrai 20th Nov – 7th Dec 1917

‘In the middle of November 1917 the Battalion proceeded to Durrow Camp, where special training was undergone over prepared ground in preparation for the Battle of Cambrai, which commenced on the 20th... The objective was not Cambrai itself, but to break through as far as Bourlon and beyond, and then take the enemy in reverse... Every device for saving the infantry was in use, artillery and machine-gun barrage, smoke screen, 450 tanks etc..<br>

At zero (6.20 am 20th Nov 1917) the barrage opened. At zero plus two minutes the front wave left the trenches.....At 6.24 the first wave entered the German trench...The charge for the enemy’s trench was made so swiftly, and with such dash that no time was given to the enemy to man his parapet... At 7am consolidation commenced and continued all day....Casualties 13 killed; wounded 60; missing 5......The enemy counterattacked on November 30th...and we had to withdraw to Bourlon Wood and and give up about half the ground we had gained.... On December 2nd the Battalion was relieved...’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance) Much of the ground gained in the initial days of the attack was lost.

The Battle of Cambrai: The proposed method of assault was new, with no preliminary artillery bombardment. Instead, tanks would be used to break through the German wire, with the infantry following under the cover of smoke barrages. The attack began early in the morning of 20th November 1917 and initial advances were remarkable. However, by 22 November, a halt was called for rest and reorganisation, allowing the Germans to reinforce.

Patrick Scanlan: Kilrush, killed in action 20th Nov 1917 at Cambrai, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France.(TB)

J Flaherty: Ennistymon. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Dec 1917. (SR) Possibly wounded at Cambrai. 2 J Flaherty’s in the RMF.[5001 date suggests 8 Bn. confirmed in a doc. If he is the man can’t have been too badly wounded as he was discharged to the reserve.] (Eddie Lough) On November 23rd 1916 the 8th Battalion amalgamated with the 1st Bn RMF.

Sergeant Stephen Scales: Miltown Malbay. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Dec 1917 (possibly Cambrai). (SR) [This man was in the 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough

Private John Nihill: Miltown Malbay. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Aug 1916 (CJ) and Dec 1917. (SR)
The Western Front was very quiet during January and February 1918. The Germans were preparing for their big attack and the Allies were preparing to resist it, but they did not know what portion of the Front Line it would come. The Germans were particularly anxious to bring off their attack before the Americans could make their power felt.

‘On February 7th 1918 .... Lieut-Colonel R R G Kane DSO (from Tulla) assumed command...On February 18th...’Z’ Company left Tincourt in lorries for the front line. The raid took place at 4am on the 19th; an hour after the Company reported that they had captured five of the enemy, had killed a considerable number, and had only the following casualties: **killed 1; wounded 17.**

**John Quinn MM:** Lahinch, died of wounds 23rd Feb 1918 at Tincourt, 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 5897, G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 10/4/1918. (TB)

**Corporal Patrick O’Loughlin MM:** Ennistymon. 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 3855. He was awarded the Military Medal 13/3/1918. (Michael O’Loughlin Clare Library)
France: The German Offensive March 21st - 23rd 1918

‘The Germans had 192 Divisions on the Western Front.....On the 21st March at St Emilie.. at 5pm the enemy attacked in great force, but got no farther than the wire, on which he left many dead. Successive attacks in massed formation continued every half hour till 9pm, when the enemy fell back exausted....On the 22nd the enemy started a heavy bombardment at 5am....An hour later he attacked in great force, but beyond suffering very heavy losses made no progress...at 3pm it appeared the enemy was still making progress round the right flank, for orders were received.. that the whole line was to fall back to Tincourt. ....

The Battalion was now 7 officers, 450 other ranks, out of 24 officers, 950 other ranks on the morning of the 21st... On the 23rd at ..10am the Battalion was again heavily attacked; orders were received shortly after that it was to retire...to the other side of the Somme....(at Peronne)
(Captain S Mc Cance)

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John Molony/Moloney: Kildysart, killed in action 21st March 1918 at St Emilie age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Simon and Katie Molony, Derrylea, Kildysart.

Joseph Griffin: Miltown Malbay, killed in action 22nd March 1918 at St Emilie age 35 in Pozieres, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB) J Griffin Miltown Malbay wounded at the front in May 1916. Son of Mrs Anne Griffin Armagh, Miltown Malbay. (CJ)

Private Stephen McKnight MM: Kilrush, killed in action 22nd March 1918 at St Emilie, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Pozieres France. (TB) KM He won the Military Medal (and 2 parchment Certificates KM)in Sept 1917. (SR) Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street. Brother of James. (Morgan Roughan)

Patrick McMahon: Ennis, killed in action 22nd March 1918 at St Emilie age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of James and Margaret McMahon Cahercon, Shanahlea. (TB)

James (Sonny) Moroney 8084 (Joseph Kennedy): Mill Street, Ennis, died 3rd Jan 1919. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Fifth son of Charles Moroney. James Kennedy 8084: Ennis. A POW in June 1918 (SR) ‘He was taken prisoner at the opening of the big German Push, on March 22 1918 at St Emilie, and was kept a prisoner in Germany until the armistice. He was released on Nov 29th 1918, but was so prostrated from bad treatment and starvation, that he had to be sent to a hospital at once in France, being unable to travel home, and never rallied’. From the Sat Record Jan 1919. (TB)
France: The German Offensive – Proyart March - April 1918

In the early morning of the 26th March all the bridges over the Somme were blown up. The Battalion then moved to Proyart. On the 28th March information was received that a counter attack would be made on the enemy. This attack failed... and at the 10am the force commenced to retire. The Majority of the Battalion succeeded in getting away, but all the wounded had to be left... the Battalion now numbering approximately 5 officers and 170 other ranks... On the 29th March... Aubigny was reached at 6pm... for rest and refitting.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance) The 16th (Irish) Division was reduced to cadre having suffered the heaviest losses of any British division in the March retreat.

James Meaney: Kilkee, killed in action 2nd April 1918 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Ellen Meaney Ball Alley Lane, Kilkee. (TB)

M Frawley: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in April 1918. (SR) 2 M Frawley’s in the RMF. [Martin 5706 was in the 8 Bn. and the 1 Bn. who absorbed the 8 Bn. Nov 1916. Ref. award rolls] Eddie Lough

Private Martin Duggan: Pound St /Hector St, Kilrush. 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4609. Wounded in France. Hospitalised in England. KM On the wounded list in May 1918. (SR) [He was in 9 Bn. ref. SWB number 9/4609. Later found transferred to 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough

M Kinnane: Clarecastle. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4547. On the wounded list in May 1918. (SR) Only one M Kinnane in the RMF. [Listed as 8 Bn. and then 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough

George Myles: Corofin. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 8594. On the wounded list in May 1918. (SR) [This man was in 1 Bn. RMF in Balkans, Africa and Europe] Eddie Lough

Private George McMillin: Corofin. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4669. A POW in June 1918 (SR) He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record. On November 23rd 1916 the 8th Battalion amalgamated with the 1st Bn RMF. Eddie Lough

Peter Connell: Killaloe. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 3693. A POW in June 1918 (SR) He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record. [Agree 8 Bn.] Eddie Lough. On November 23rd 1916 the 8th Battalion amalgamated with the 1st Bn RMF.

Private James O’Halloran 4724: Ennis. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4724. A POW in June 1918 (SR) He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record. [Agree 8 Bn.] Eddie Lough
19 April 1918: absorbed troops from 2nd Bn and next day transferred to 172nd Brigade in 57th (2nd North Midland) Division, which had not seen action since its arrival in February 1917.

‘On May 5th 1918 ...the Battalion took up their positions in front of Gommecourt Wood (a quiet sector during the summer). The ordinary trench routine was carried out all May, June and July 1918. Nothing out of the ordinary happened.’

John McMahon: 17 Clare Road, Ennis, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers (previously with the 2nd RMF). Wounded in July 1918 in Gommecourt. (SR) He was a porter with the Great Southern and Western Railway.

John Patrick Ryan: Kildysart (Born in Lissycasey), died of wounds 1st July 1918 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Ryan, Effeman Kildysart. (TB)
France: The Advance to Victory – Hendecourt (near Croiselles):
August 21st to September 1918

‘August 21st marks the beginning of the great Allied push which spread from the North Sea to Verdun...During the night of the 27th August the Battalion assembled behind Riencourt and Hendecourt...at 2.42pm (Aug 28th) the two leading companies advanced....and came under considerable machine-gun fire, but they forced their way forward, and the final objective was reached by 1.15pm...(taking enemy support trenches on the Hindenburg Line). The enemy showed signs of making a counter-attack about 5pm, so the companies engaged them with rifle grenades, and the attack did not develop...The Battalion was relieved the next day.’

Private Stephen Scully MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 5540. He was awarded the Military Medal (24/1/1919) for gallantry and fearless conduct. On the 28th Aug 1918 ‘as a stretcher bearer he rendered most valuable assistance to the wounded of his own Battalion. He worked fearlessly and untiringly from 2pm on the 28th to 6am on the 29th and cleared a whole area of wounded... On Sept 2nd he displayed the same gallantry in an intense barrage, bandaging the wounded and carried them to an Aid Post’. (SR). (RMF Book Capt McCance)

‘September 2nd was the date for the main attack (on the Drocourt–Queant Line south of the river Scarpe) ..the Battalion advanced again to a system of trenches west of Hendecourt..at 5am...The advance was very successful and the Battalion fought their way with bayonet and bomb down the whole line of the German position and thus cleared the front.... By 8.40 consolidation had been commenced... 5 officers were killed and about 300 men mostly wounded.’

Stephen Cleary: Ennis, killed in action 2nd Sept 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

France: The Advance to Victory – Graincourt Sept 27th to Oct 1st 1918

‘On September 27th the Battalion moved to the assembly trenches...At 7.30 am Lt Col R R G Kane DSO, reconnoitred the way across the Canal-du-Nord and captured 1 officer and 21 men at Lock No 5. The Battalion afterwards crossed by this lock and moved towards Graincourt... the advance being about 3000 yards.. further advance was stopped in front of Cantaing...

On the 30th September the Battalion crossed the Canal-de-L’Escaut...but was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire.... At noon ..it moved forward and took up a line of posts in Provile. The strength of the Battalion had been reduced to about 10 officers and 150 other ranks....At 1.30pm the Battalion suffered a great loss, for Lt Col R R G Kane DSO, who had for so long and so brilliantly led it, was mortally wounded in the head by machine-gun fire....The enemy delivered a strong counter-attack at 4pm...During the night the Battalion was relieved.. From 1st-4th October the Battalion rested in Folie Wood...and was continually shelled.’
Private Arthur Flynn: Killaloe, died 27th Sept 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st 1490, G/M in France. (TB) Arthur Flynn: Killaloe. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1493. A POW in June 1918 (SR) He lived with his mother Ellen in Main Street Killaloe. (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)

John Costello: Kilkee, killed in action 30th Sept 1918 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street Kilkee. (TB) He was also named in the list of badly wounded in the Clare Journal in June 1916. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street, Kilkee.

Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO: Glendree Tulla, died of wounds 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) (and Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) and was Mentioned in Despatches(5/11/15). (TB)

Michael Ward: Mountshannon, died of wounds 3rd Oct 1918 age 23, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of John and Caroline M Ward Drewsboro, Scariff. (TB)

John Fogarty: Quin, died of wounds (possibly from Graincourt) at home on the 27th Dec 1918 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Crusheen. Son of Thomas Fogarty, Corbally, Quin. (TB) J Fogarty: Quin. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Sept 1917. (SR)

France: The Advance to Victory - Cambrai Oct 8th to 9th 1918

The battalion supported the final attack of 8 October on Cambrai, which was found to be evacuated the following day. The Germans were in disorganised retreat. The 57th Division was then sent North to Armentières, the battalion entering the line on 17 October, with no resistance. The following day Lille was captured. The battalion provided a guard of honour for the French President’s visit to Lille on 21 October. The 1RMF was billeted in Lille until the Armistice of 11 November 1918.

William Bentley: Brick Hill, Cratloe, died 22nd Nov 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Margaret Bentley Cratloe. (TB) William Bentley was killed 11 days after the Armistice. When clearing out a battlefield, he saw a concertina on the ground and lifted it. It was booby-trapped and he was killed by the explosion. (Padraig Og O’Ruairc)
### Other Claremen in the 1st RMF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Patrick Breene</td>
<td>The Glen Kilrush. Aged 37 when he enlisted in 1898. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 6146. He was discharged in 1914. He fought in the Boer War 1901-1902. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) Patrick Breene: Kilrush, Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF. KM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Con Coughlan</td>
<td>Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He served in France. KM. [Cornelius Coughlan 5756 was listed as 1 Bn. Another Cornelius Coughlan RMF 4313 was IN 8 Bn. and later 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant John Crowe</td>
<td>Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for three years in France. KM Sgt G Crowe: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in March 1917. (CI) [found a Sgt. John Crowe RMF 7995, no Medal Card found but SWB record shows him joining in 1908, discharged due to wounds received 1919. 1 or 2 Bn. 20 year man]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Thomas Donoghue</td>
<td>Burton Street Kilrush, died 11th Feb 1920 age 24, 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Kilrush. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E) The WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls 1914-1920 ancestry.com, show he was in the 9th Bn and later the 1st RMF Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Michael Dooley</td>
<td>Scariff. He was a labourer aged 30 when he enlisted in December 1916 in the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers 7103 (and later the 1st RMF in July 1917). He was previously in the Royal Garrison Artillery. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Pat Downes</td>
<td>Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in Gallipoli. Invalided with a pension. KM Only 1 Patrick Downes in the RMF 6166. [Transferred from 1Bn. RMF to the Royal Irish Fusiliers] Eddie Lough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Frank</td>
<td>Burton Street. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. Invalided with a pension. KM [??there is a Frank Burton RMF 8544 discharged, date suggests 1 Bn. to the Balkans] Eddie Lough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Stephen Flynn</td>
<td>Ennis. He was a labourer aged 24 when he enlisted in 1905 in the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 8087. He was discharged for medical reasons in Sept 1914. His wife was Jane Flynn. He died in St Josephs Hospital on the 12/8/1961. His address then was Considine's Terrace. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Private Thomas Hannon: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM Wounded in Aug 1916. (CJ) 2 Thomas Hannons in RMF [4421 Hannon was a deserter, 5743 Hannon started in 2 Bn. and later 1 Bn. can't be certain it’s your man]

Private Patrick Hogan: Burton Street Kilrush, Co Clare. He was a butcher aged 19 when he enlisted in 1902 in the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 6992 (and then the 2nd and 3rd Bn RMF). He served from 1914 – 1919 and was discharged in March 1919. He was wounded at La Basse (bullet wound to the shoulder 2nd RMF) on the 21st Dec 1914. He married Bridget Danaher in July 1913 and they had a daughter Elizabeth. He died aged 60 on the 1st Oct 1943. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

John Pal Horan: Clarecastle. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers (4647). He took part in many engagements with the Germans, had numerous narrow escapes in the trenches and came through without any wounds. He won the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He ended the war on the ground staff of the Royal Flying Corps. He was then 44 years old. (Eric Shaw)

John Horan: Clarecastle. He was a labourer aged 38 when he enlisted in 1915 into the Labour Corps 368069 (and later with the Royal Munster Fusiliers). He was married to Ellen Horan and they had three children Michael, Margaret and Helen. (British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920)

Private Thomas Kelleher: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM Only 1 Thomas Kelleher in RMF. [First in 9 Bn. then 8 Bn. and lastly 1 Bn] Eddie Lough

Private Martin Madigan: Malt House Lane Kilrush. 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France for three years where he was wounded. KM Only 1 Martin Madigan in the RMF. [This man in 9 Bn. and later 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough On the 30th May 1916 the 9th Battalion was broken up with 6 Officers, 283 other ranks going to the 1st RMF.

Private Michael Madigan: Malt House Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed In Action in France. KM Only 1 Michael Madigan in the RMF [In 1 Bn. 7995 and later to 2 Bn. 35240]

Private James McCormack MM: Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. Awarded the Military Medal for bravery. KM [Nearest found was a Sgt David McCormack RMF 8961 1 Bn. a MM recipient 3/6/16] Eddie Lough

Private Michael McGrath: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in India and France. He was wounded. KM The only other Michael McGrath in the RMF died. [4393 Michael
Other Claremen in the 1st RMF

McGrath RMF was in the 8 Bn. and later 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough. On November 23rd 1916 the 8th Battalion amalgamated with the 1st Bn RMF.

Private Michael McInerney: The Glen, Kilrush, Co Clare. He was aged 20 when he enlisted in January 1915 with the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers 6362. He later joined the 1st RMF in May 1915 and back to the 5th RMF in 1917. He was discharged in 1920. His mother was Mary McInerney. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Private Martin Meaney: Chapel Street Kilrush. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. Invalided with a pension. KM Only 1 Martin Meaney in RMF. [In 1 Bn. and transfer later to 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

Thomas Moloney: Newmarket on Fergus. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. One of 5 brothers who served.

James (Charles) Morgan: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in June 1918 (SR) A brother of Michael (RFA) and Ralph Morgan (2nd RMF). (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record) [James 6649 was in 1 Bn. And later 2 Bn. Ralph was in 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

Austin O’Connor Jnr: Deerpark Ennistymon. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 5739. NCS (Guss O’Halloran) Austin O’Connor (Jnr): Deerpark Ennistymon. ‘Labourer. Age 30.Served in WW1 (Gassed and Wounded).’(Colonial Office London and Peter Beirne) [Was in 8 Bn. then 1 Bn. and later 2 Bn. can’t have been too badly gassed or wounded as he served until 31-3-1920 and went to reserves] Eddie Lough

Tom O’ Dwyer: Lived in Drumbiggle in Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was a carpenter. He lived on a British Army pension and died in his eighties. Brian O’Dalaigh. [This man is possibly Thomas Dwyer RMF 4836 in 1 Bn. And later 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

John Quinlan: Moyarta, Carrigaholt. Joseph’s older brother. He was an Army Reservist Private in the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1911. He’s buried in Moyarta. (Paddy Waldron)

Private Michael Russell 1894 -1962: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France, Egypt and India. KM He lived on Shellshock Road Kilrush after the war. [9788 was in 1 Bn. And later 2 Bn. This man was a regular soldier enlisting on 9-3-1912 and SWB discharged due to wounds 9-8-1917]
**Other Claremen in the 1\textsuperscript{st} RMF**

**Sergeant Patrick Ryan:** Born in Tipperary, lived in Gornakilla Lane, Market Street Ennis. He was a Farm Labourer aged 19 when he enlisted in 1907 into the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF 8609. He was posted to the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Bn RMF in Oct 1916 and to the 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn RMF in Jan 1917. POW in Dec 1915 (CJ) and June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record)

**Private John Shannon:** Ennis Co Clare. He was a labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1909 in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Royal Munster Fusiliers 9140. He served in the East Indies and developed a lung infection in Rangoon. He was discharged in May 1915. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**Private Michael Shannon:** Stewart Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded and gassed in France. Invalided. KM The only Michael Shannon in the RMF [5736 was in 2 Bn. then 6 Bn. and finally 1 Bn. He was a regular soldier enlisting on 19-10-1911, discharged on 28-11-1918]

**Private Joe Shea:** Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded and gassed in France. KM Only one Joseph Shea in the RMF. [This man was first in 2 Bn. and then in 1 Bn.]

**W Sheedy:** Newmarket on Fergus. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Jan 1918. (SR) The only W Sheedy in the RMF [Was in 1 Bn. and then 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Sergeant Thomas Sheehan:** Church Street Ennis. He was a tailor aged 18 when he enlisted in 1900 into the 1\textsuperscript{st} Royal Munster Fusiliers 6557 (and later in the Army service Corps). He had previously served in South Africa and the East Indies.(British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**Private Geo Stafford:** Alley Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM On the wounded list in Dec 1917. (SR) The only George Stafford in the RMF. [In 1 Bn. and later 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**John Stapleton:** Kilkee. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) and Oct 1916 (CJ) The only J Stapleton in the RMF. [This man was in the 8 Bn. and later 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Private Joseph Sullivan:** Killaloe. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9801. A POW in June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record) [In 1 Bn. and then 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough
Awards Won by Claremen with the 1st RMF

Michael ‘Micko’ Canny MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the French Medal Militaire for saving British and French officers under heavy gunfire in Sept 1917 in Passchendaele. (CJ) Private Michael Canny: 1st RMF 5414. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 29/9/1917. (RMF Book Capt McCance)

Private Thomas Devers: Burton St Kilrush. One of 5 brothers who served. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn (16th Div). KM. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) He received a parchment certificate from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. (Probably at the Battle of Ginchy, 9 September). His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. (CJ) T Devers: Kilrush. Leinster Regiment. Wounded in July 1916. (CJ) (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)

Pte John Dewar: Scariff. Trench Mortar Battery, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 4850. He was awarded a Parchment Certificate by Major-General Hickie for his gallant conduct and devotion to duty on June 7th & 8th 1917 (The Battle of Messines 7-14th June 1917) and his name was entered in the record of the Irish Division. (SR)

Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO: Glendree Tulla, died 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) (and Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) and was Mentioned in Despatches (5/11/15). Son of Judge R R Kane and Eleanor Coffey, Dublin and Glendree Co Clare. ‘Entered army 1908. Joined 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1908 at Rawalapindi, and served in India and Burma (where his sister also lived) until 1914. Present at the Gallipoli landings until 13 July 1915. Wounded in action 4 May 1915... Recreations, hunting, polo, big and small game hunting.’ From Who Was Who 1916-1930. In 1917 he had sentenced a Private Keane, from Kilrush (no relation), to continuous action at the front for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He opted to be courtmartialed at the Front by Captain Kane. However his sentence was suspended after he rescued an officer in no man’s land and he survived the War. (TB)
Awards Won by Claremen with the 1st RMF

**Private John Keane MM:** Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 age 20 (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. **He won the Military Medal.** (21st Oct 1916) ‘The death is announced of a brave Kilrush soldier, Private J Keane, of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action. He received the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street.’ Clare Journal 1917. (TB) Brother of Michael. KM

**Sergeant Thomas Keane DSM:** The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, Gallipoli, one of 5 Keane brothers from The Glen Kilrush (inc Michael and Pat). He received a pension. KM Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) **He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.** (C E Glynn) (The DSM was an award for bravery whilst on active service at sea and was for other ranks’ Royal Navy personnel, members of the other Services and other Commonwealth countries who held rank up to and including Chief Petty Officer.) There are two Private T Keanes 1st RMF (8830 & 9308) in the RMF Book who were awarded Military Medals.

**Peter Loftus DCM:** Ennistymon, died of wounds 19th May 1915 age 19 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9483, G/M in Alexandria, Egypt. **He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal 3/7/1915.** (TB) ‘On the 26th April 1915 at Sedd-EL-Bahr (V Beach Gallipoli), for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ Son of W. and Annie Loftus. **He was also Mentioned in Despatches.** (Guss O’Halloran) ‘On 26th April 1915, at Sedi-el-Bahr, for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under very heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ London Gazette 3rd July 1915.

**Private James McCormack MM:** Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. **Awarded the Military Medal for bravery.** KM [Nearest found was a Sgt David McCormack RMF 8961 1 Bn. a MM recipient 3/6/16] Eddie Lough

**Stephen McKnight:** Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 22nd March 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 3622 in Pozieres, G/M in France. (TB) **He won the Military Medal 17/9/1917 (and 2 Parchment Certificates) in Passchendaele.** Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street, Kilrush. Brother of James McKnight who fought with the US Army in WW1. (Morgan Roughan) (RMF Book Capt McCance)
Awards Won by Claremen with the 1st RMF

**Lance Corporal T McMahon**: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers (1st Bn 16th Div). Wounded in Sept 1916 at Ginchy (at the Somme) where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the Military Service Medal and a Parchment Certificate ‘For courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy.’ (CJ) In Oct 1916 he was also awarded The Russian Cross of St George Second Class. This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ)

**Thomas Muldoon MM**: Born in India, lived in Feakle, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7857 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal (23rd Aug 1916) The MM is not mentioned with his name at Thiepval. (TB) Wounded in July 1916. Son of Thomas Muldoon. (CJ) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

**Corporal Patrick O'Loughlin MM**: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. (g/3885). He was awarded the Military Medal 13/3/1918. (Clare Library) (RMF Book Capt McCance)

**Sergeant John Joseph O'Shea DCM**: Miltown Malbay. 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9487. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (25/8/1917 RMF Book) age 24 in March 1917 ‘For gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty’. His brother Pat was killed in Ypres. (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 126. Sergeant J O'Shea: Flag Road, Miltown Malbay. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wrote a letter from the front in the Clare Journal Sept 1915. (CJ) ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in bombing and capturing an enemy post. He set a fine example of courage and coolness combined with sound judgement, and later he pushed forward and obtained valuable information enabling a trench to be captured and further facilitating the success of the advance.’ London Gazette 25th Aug 1917.

**Private John Quinn MM**: Lahinch, died of wounds 23rd Feb 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5897, G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal 10/4/1918. (TB) (RMF Book Capt McCance)

**Private Stephen Scully MM**: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 5540. He was awarded the Military Medal (24/1/1919) for gallantry and fearless conduct. On the 28th Aug 1918 ‘as a stretcher bearer he rendered most valuable assistance to the wounded of his own Battalion. He worked fearlessly and untiringly from 2pm on the 28th to 6am on the 29th and cleared a whole area of wounded… On Sept 2nd he displayed the same gallantry in an intense barrage, bandaging the wounded and carried them to an Aid Post’. (SR). (RMF Book Capt McCance)
Private William Bentley

William Bentley: Lived in Cratloe, died 22nd Nov 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 8521, G/M in France. Son of Margaret Bentley, Brick Hill, Cratloe. (TB) He was killed 11 days after the Armistice. When clearing out a battlefield, he saw a concertina on the ground and lifted it. It was booby-trapped and he was killed by the explosion. (Padraig O’Ruairc)

Lille Southern Cemetery. Lille
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I. B. 7.

Southern Cemetery was used after the Armistice by the 39th Stationary Hospital and the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station. There are now over 600, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

The 1st battalion RMF supported the final attack of 8 October on Cambrai, which was found to be evacuated the following day. The Germans were in disorganised retreat. The 57th Division was then sent north to Armentières, the battalion entering the line on 17 October, with no resistance. The following day Lille was captured. The battalion provided a guard of honour for the French President’s visit to Lille on 21 October. The 1RMF was billeted in Lille until the Armistice of 11 November 1918. It was demobilised in December 1918.
Private James Brennan

James Brennan: Born in Bunratty lived in Limerick, killed in action 27th July 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 4352, G/M in France. (TB)

Philosophe British Cemetery. Mazingarbe
Deartement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: I. J. 25.

The 1st RMF remained in the area of the Loos salient in July and August 1916 with some intermittent casualties.

‘An enemy mine was exploded opposite the front line trench, about 3.30pm on the 27th July, and they at once attempted to rush the crater. ...Corporal Stewart and Private Donoghue... immediately attacked the advancing enemy with bombs and drove them back. The sap was badly damaged and the occupants much shaken and covered with showers of earth.’

The cemetery was started in August 1915. In 1916 it was taken over by the 16th (Irish) Division, who held the Loos Salient at the time, and many of their dead were brought back to the cemetery from the front line. There are now 1,996 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.
Private Joseph Brennan

Joseph Brennan: Born in 1872 in Kilrush, killed in action 21st August 1915 on Scimitar Hill Suvla Bay in Gallipoli age 44, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 6228, G/M on the Helles Memorial Turkey. He is also commemorated on a headstone in Old Shanakyle Cemetery, Kilrush. Husband of Bridget Brennan Grace Street, Kilrush. (TB)

Helles Memorial.
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey

The memorial bears more than 21,000 names of those who died there and have no known grave.

‘The Turkish retaliation set alight to the scrub...the advance having to be carried out through the smoke and fire.... The Battalion, in the air as regards its right flank, was caught by a frontal and enfilading fire. Very heavy casualties were suffered in consequence, and the attack failed.....Under cover of darkness the Battalion was withdrawn....killed, other ranks 13.’ 21st Aug 1915

Joseph Brennan joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers at the start of WW1, and died at Gallipoli on 21st August 1915. The CWGC website records his age as 44, but this may not be correct. In the 1901 census, Joseph Brennan stated he was aged 27, a Mill Labourer, living at Crofton Street, Kilrush, with his wife Bridget, aged 27, and their two children Mary aged 3 and Bridget aged 2.

In loving memory of
Joseph Brennan
Died in action Dardanelles aged 44 yrs.
His wife Bridget Brennan died 20 Dec 1946 aged 76 yrs.
William Brennan died 14 July 1914
John Francis Honan died 1934 aged 2½ yrs.
Bridget Hayes (nee Brennan) died 15 Jan 1986 aged 86 years
Corporal Michael Burke

**Michael Burke:** Born in Ennis lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 12th Jan 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 8202 (16th Div), G/M in Belgium. (TB) (Also wounded in Sept 1916 at the Somme. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. fought at Ginchy.) (CJ)

The cemetery was begun by the 3rd Rifle Brigade and the 8th Buffs in July 1916 and it was used by fighting units and field ambulances until October 1917.

There are now 296 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

**Messines Sector January 1917:** ‘In January, February and March, 1917, the 1st Battalion spent most of its time, when in the trenches, in the Spanbrock section in turn with the 7th Leinsters.’ Up to the middle of March rotating routine trench duties continued with light casualties (2 officers and 20 men killed).
Private Michael Burley

Michael Burley: Born and lived in Ennis, died 24th May 1915 age 22 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 9536, G/M in Turkey. Killed in action. Son of Peter and Mary Burley, Cornmarket St, Ennis. He died on his first day on the battlefields. (TB)

Helles Memorial. Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

June 1915 Clare Journal

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Private Michael ‘Micko’ Canny MM

Michael ‘Micko’ Canny MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. According to the Sat Record he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (Military Medal in RMF Book) and the French Medal Militaire for saving British and French officers under heavy gunfire in Sept 1917 (in Passchendaele). (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 147. Private Michael Canny: 1st RMF 5414. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 29/9/1917. From the 4th to the 18th August the Battalion had the task and drudgery of holding the line under heavy bombardments, lying in shell holes full of water..with no overhead protection, with everything soaked, and sore feet, whilst the continuous bombardment banished all chances of sleep… On October 17th the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Royal Irish Regiment.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)
Private Patrick Carpenter

**Patrick Carpenter**: Born in Ennis, lived in the Clare Road Cottages Ennis. Killed in action in the attack at Sedd-el-Bahr, 26th April 1915 in Gallipoli. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 8015, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

**Redoubt Cemetery, Helles Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey**
Plot: Special Memorial A.114.

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The attack at Sedd-el-Bahr: ‘By 12.30am on the 26th April all the troops from the River Clyde had been got ashore and nearly all the wounded had been got back to the vessel... At daybreak they forced their way into the courtyard of the Fort; by 8am the Fort was occupied, and the advance through the village of Sedd-el-Bahr commenced...In spite of a stubborn opposition and heavy losses the troops on the right pushed forward...to the attack of Hill 141...

The summit was gained before 2pm, and the enemy driven from the old Fort... By 5pm the Battalion was in outpost position half a mile in advance of the old Fort....During the night the Turks attacked in force two or three times, but were driven off......’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)
**Private Stephen Cleary**

**Stephen Cleary**: Born in Ennis, lived in Limerick, killed in action 2nd Sept 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 4599, G/M in France. (TB)

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**Dominion Cemetery**  
Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt  
Departement du Pas-de-Calais  
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.  
Plot: I. E. 23.

There are now over 200, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

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‘**September 2nd** was the date for the main attack (on the Drocourt–Queant Line south of the river Scarpe)...the 1st Battalion advanced again to a system of trenches west of Hendecourt...at 5am...The advance was very successful and the Battalion fought their way with bayonet and bomb down the whole line of the German position and thus cleared the front.... By 8.40 consolidation had been commenced... 5 officers were killed and about 300 men mostly wounded.’
Private John Clohessy

**John Clohessy:** Born and lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 21st August 1915 in the attack on Scimitar Hill Gallipoli, age 28, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 3856. G/M in Helles Memorial Turkey. Son of Mrs Anne Foran of Deerpark. (Guss O’Halloran)(TB)

The landing at Suvla Bay took place on the night of 6 August 1915 against light opposition. The Ottomans were able to occupy the Anafarta Hills, preventing the British from penetrating inland, which reduced the Suvla front to static trench warfare. The Suvla landing was reinforced by the arrival of the 10th (Irish) Division on 7 August. The final British attempt to resuscitate the offensive came on 21 August with attacks at Scimitar Hill and Hill 60. Control of the hills would have united the Anzac and Suvla fronts but both attacks failed.

‘The Turkish retaliation set alight to the scrub...the advance having to be carried out through the smoke and fire.... The Battalion, in the air as regards its right flank, was caught by a frontal and enfilading fire. Very heavy casualties were suffered in consequence, and the attack failed.....Under cover of darkness the Battalion was withdrawn....killed, other ranks, 13.’

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Lieutenant James Richard Colfer

**Lieutenant James Richard Colfer:** Born in New Ross Co Wexford, worked in the Munster & Leinster Bank in Ennis. Killed in action 26th Feb 1917 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 9th Bn (then the 8th and later the 1st Bn RMF), G/M in France. (TB)

Wimereux Communal Cemetery Wimereux Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: III. F. 1.

Wimereux was the headquarters of the Queen Mary’s Army Auxiliary Corps during the First World War and in 1919 it became the General Headquarters of the British Army.

Wimereux Communal Cemetery contains 2,847, Commonwealth burials of the First World War, two of them unidentified. Buried among them is Lt.-Col. John McCrae, author of the poem "In Flanders Fields."

‘Dear Mr Colfer. I have learned with the greatest possible regret the death of your dear son in action. I knew him well, and stood side by side with him in the trenches in France for nine months in the Loos and Hulloch sectors and at the Somme in September 1916, and a more gallant fellow I never met. We of the old 9th Munsters shall sorely miss his genial presence. His bravery at the taking of Guillemont and Ginchy will never be forgotten by his comrades.’

Written by Major L Roche 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers.

March 1917 Clare Journal
Drummer Edmond Colgan

Edmond Colgan: Born in Tralee lived in Ennis, died of wounds 30\textsuperscript{th} June 1915 at Krithia in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 8414, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs M E Colgan Clonroad Cottage, Ennis. (TB)

Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery
Gallipoli. Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Special Memorial B. 12

2,226 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate many casualties known or believed to be buried among them, including Edmond Colgan.

‘On June 28\textsuperscript{th} the 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion left the Eske lines for Bruce’s Ravine at 9.45am, and assembled for the attack. The 87\textsuperscript{th} Brigade captured the first three lines of trenches, and at 11.30am the Battalion and the rest of the 86\textsuperscript{th} Brigade .....captured a further two lines of trenches—a total advance of 1000 yards.....two further lines of enemy trenches ...were gained. The casualties for the 28\textsuperscript{th} and 29\textsuperscript{th} were 20 killed, wounded 8 officers and 112 other ranks.’ He was wounded during the battle of Gulley Ravine. (Photo of the grave from Joe Lacy & The Clare Herald)
Private Thomas Collins

Thomas Collins: Born in Sixmilebridge lived in Parteen, died 31st March 1916 (possibly from illness after his return from Egypt), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5673, G/M in France. (TB)

‘The 1st Battalion remained at Suez all January, various detachments and drafts having joined; the strength on the 31st was 18 officers, 193 other ranks. Marseilles was reached on the 22nd March...The Battalion relieved the Iniskillings in the line in front of Auchonvillers, facing Beaumont Hannel on April 13th. This was the first experience the Battalion had of the trenches of France.’

Grave No 1  Maison-Roland Churchyard
In the north west corner
Maison-Roland. Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France  No. of Identified WW1 Casualties: 4
Corporal John Costello

**John Costello**: Born and lived in Kilkee, killed in action near Graincourt 30\(^{th}\) Sept 1918 age 24. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\(^{st}\) Bn 5565, G/M in France. He was named in the list of badly wounded in the Clare Journal in June 1916. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street, Kilkee. *(TB)*

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**Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery.**

Haucourt
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Panel 10.

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**The Vis-en-Artois Memorial**: This Memorial bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from 8 August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave.

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**The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.**

‘On the 30\(^{th}\) September the 1\(^{st}\) Battalion crossed the Canal-de-l’Escaut…but was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire…. At noon …it moved forward and took up a line of posts in Provile. The strength of the Battalion had been reduced to about 10 officers and 150 other ranks….’
Private John Coughlan/Coghlan

John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, Killed in action in Ginchy 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of the Somme. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis. (TB)(CJ)


On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’.

DELVILLE WOOD CEMETERY was made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from a few small cemeteries and isolated sites, and from the battlefields. Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916. There are now 5,523 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery.

Private John Coughlan was selected as a representative of a WW1 Clare soldier on the RTE Nationwide My Adopted Soldier series (Nov 2015), where teenagers from the 32 Counties researched the history of a soldier from their County, and then visited the grave/memorial on the Somme.

Nathan Peer from Clare researched Private John Coughlan : ‘John enlisted in Ennis. He was a private in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers. His Service number was 6359. He fought in Gallipoli before being transferred to the western front in France. This is where he met his demise. He died on the 9th of September 1916 in Ginchy, France. He was 26 years of age and earned three medals; British war medal, a victory medal and a 1915 star. This tells us he joined the war after August 1914, otherwise he would be entitled to a 1914 star. His memorial reference is I.G.2. He is buried in Delville Cemetery, Longueval, France.’ Nathan gave an excellent tribute to Private Coughlan at the graveside, in what was an excellent programme. It is hoped that school children from Clare, will at last be brought to the cemeteries and memorials in Flanders and the Somme, where their fellow countymen are buried and remembered. For most of the fallen it will be the first visit they have ever had, from a fellow County person in nearly 100 years.
Lawrence Curtin: Born in Kilbaher, Carrigaholt, lived in Kilrush, died of wounds 12\textsuperscript{th} May 1915 age 17 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 9787, G/M in Egypt. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Mrs Mary Curtin, Grace St, Kilrush. (TB)

Alexandria (Chatby) Military Cemetery
Alexandria
Al Iskandariyah, Egypt. Plot: H. 84.

Krithia Gallipoli: ‘The 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion moved up to the front line again on May 4\textsuperscript{th}... At 4.30pm on the 7\textsuperscript{th} May the Battalion was ordered to advance as far as possible beyond the Worcesters and then entrench; seven men were killed and Lt. Waldegrave severely wounded, as well as forty other ranks... During the night sufficient cover was made for protection against the hail of machine-gun fire, which swept over the troops all the next day...on the 9\textsuperscript{th}...

the Battalion was moved back to Gully Beach...’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.
Private Thomas Davis

Thomas Davis: Turnpike, Ennis, executed in Gallipoli 2nd July 1915 age 21 for allegedly deserting his post, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st 1/9804, G/M in Turkey. (TB) He was married with one son.

He was the son of a shoemaker from Kerry, who had moved to Ennis and resided in a one room cottage along with a wife and six children in the Turnpike area. Poverty was their lot and Tommy Davis enlisted along with his brother Francis. After surviving the first landing at Gallipoli, in which there were huge casualties, Private Davis was accused of being absent from his sentry post on 20 June 1915. Despite the fact that he, like many others, was suffering from dysentry, he was found guilty of ‘deserting his post’ and shot at dawn 5am on 2 July at Gully Beach on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He was posthumously pardoned in 2009. (Joe Power) He had survived the terror and carnage of the River Clyde landing and subsequent horrors, only to die before a firing squad composed of his peers.

Helles Memorial
Gallipoli
Canakkale,
Turkey
On the
Addenda Panel.

‘ On 2 July Pte. T.Davis of the 1RMF was executed, having been found guilty of ‘quitting his post’ while on duty without the orders of a superior officer on 20 June. As one of a number of men on guard duty at Battalion H.Q., his task had been to patrol the perimeter as a ‘flying sentry’ for a two hour patrol starting at 1am. A sergeant discovered him missing an hour and a half later and reported him to the guard room. Pte. Davis turned up three hours later and was charged. ’

In the book by Myles Dungan ‘They Shall Grow Not Old’ he states that Thomas Davis had also been court martialed the previous month for a separate incident, where a trench had been overrun at night and the soldiers baynotted while they slept by the Turks.
Private Thomas Devers

Thomas Devers: Burton St, Kilrush one of 5 brothers that served, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. KM. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) He received a a parchment certificate from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. (CJ) (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)

The Battle of Ginchy

On 9 September, the 48th Brigade( The 16th Irish Division), consisting of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers succeeded in taking another heavily fortified German position at Ginchy which is about 1 km from Guillemont. This was the only success of the British attack on that day which cost 4,330 casualties, including 50% of the officers. Among those killed was the Irish Nationalist MP Tom Kettle, MP, who went into battle leading a company of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
Pte John Dewar: Scariff. Trench Mortar Battery, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 4850. He was awarded a Parchment Certificate by Major-General Hickie for his gallant conduct and devotion to duty on June 7th & 8th 1917 (The Battle of Messines 7-14th June 1917) and his name was entered in the record of the Irish Division. (SR)
Private Thomas Dwyer

Private Thomas Dwyer: Kilrush, Co. Clare. 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 4836. Dwyer was born in Kilrush and was a pre war regular serving with the 1st Bn on the North West Frontier in 1908. He also served during the first world war and was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory medal. He landed with the 1st Munsters on V Beach from the River Clyde at Gallipoli on 25th April, 2015. He was awarded the Long Service & Conduct Medal in 1916.(Eric Shaw & Eamonn Dillon)
Private Martin Earls/Earles

Martin Earls/Earles: Born and lived in Kilfarboy, Miltown Malbay, **killed in action 25th April 1915** at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 3332, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Bridget Earls. (TB)

V Beach Cemetery. Gallipoli. Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Special Memorial A. 51.

The cemetery was used during April and May 1915. There are now 696 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

When the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion landed at V Beach on **April 25th 1915**, they were close to full strength, numbering **26 officers and 900 other ranks**. When roll call was taken on May 11th 1915, only **7 officers and 372 men had survived** the V Beach landing and subsequent fighting.

‘At 1am on **April 25th** the River Clyde (with 2,100 men on board) left her moorings and slowly moved to her objective… When the gangways were ready…the men instantly responded, and dashed for the shore under a tornado of shot and shell…very few of the men got ashore, those who did took cover behind a bank about eight feet high that ran along the beach ten yards from the water’s edge. In front of this bank was a line of barbed wire entanglements about 25 yards distant. The cross fire was so heavy…that any man who left the cover of the bank for an instant was killed…’ The ‘History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922’ by Captain S. McCance
Private John Ensko

**John Ensko:** Born lived and enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 21st Aug 1915 at the attack on Scimitar Hill in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6437, G/M in Helles Memorial, Turkey. Killed on the same day, and the same Battalion as Private John Fitzpatrick. He was previously a POW in Limburg. (TB)

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**The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion in Gallipoli:** A month’s rest was promised on 15 July, but by 22 July they were back in action, their strength around 500 of whom only 3 officers and 314 men remained from those who first landed on 25 April.

The climax came with the Suvla attack on 21 August in the Battle of Scimitar Hill, the last great battle of the campaign, the Turks inflicting severe casualties, the scrub bushes then catching fire killing many wounded and others taking cover. The unsuccessful attack cost the Munsters 79 men and three officers that day alone.

‘The Turkish retaliation set alight to the scrub... the advance having to be carried out through the smoke and fire.... The Battalion, in the air as regards its right flank, was caught by a frontal and enfilading fire (from the flank). Very heavy casualties were suffered in consequence, and the attack failed.....Under cover of darkness the Battalion was withdrawn...killed, other ranks, 13.’

The ‘History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922’ by Captain S. McCance

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Helles Memorial. Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: No Known Grave; names is
listed on Panel 185 to 190

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The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion in Gallipoli.
Daniel Falvey: Born in Limerick, lived in Ennis, died of wounds 10th Aug 1917 age 25 at Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7977, G/M in France. Son of Daniel and Ann Falvey Inchbeg, Ennis. (TB)

Saint Sever Cemetery Extension
Rouen
Departement de la Seine-Maritime
Haute-Normandie, France
Plot: P. II. E. 1B.

‘On July 16th the 1st Battalion moved via Broxelle to St Omer, entraining there on the 23rd for the Ypres Sector to take its part in the Third Battle of Ypres, for possession of the Passchendaele Ridge. The Battalion relieved the 7th Leinsters on August 4th on the Ypres-Roulers railway and was heavily shelled. Casualties: wounded 23 as well as 52 to hospital from trench fever, swollen feet etc. On the next day (August 5th) 84 other ranks went to hospital. On the 6th August ...the Battalion proceeded to Brandhoek. Casualties: 6 killed; wounded 20; to hospital 20 other ranks.’

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. The Cemetery Extension contains 8346 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.
**Private John Fitzpatrick**

**John Fitzpatrick:** Born in Ennistymon, killed in action 21st Aug 1915 age 21 at the attack on Scimitar Hill in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6162, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Son of John Fitzpatrick of 5 New Road Ennistymon. Brother of Eileen O’Brien of New Road. (Guss O’Halloran)

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**Helles Memorial Gallipoli**

Canakkale, Turkey

Plot: No Known Grave; names is listed on Panel 185 to 190

The Helles Memorial commemorates more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

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**The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion in Gallipoli:**

The climax came with the Suvla attack on 21 August in the Battle of Scimitar Hill, the last great battle of the campaign, the Turks inflicting severe casualties, the scrub bushes then catching fire killing many wounded and others taking cover. The unsuccessful attack cost the Munsters 79 men and three officers that day alone.

‘The Turkish retaliation set alight to the scrub... the advance having to be carried out through the smoke and fire.... The 1st Battalion, in the air as regards its right flank, was caught by a frontal and enfilading fire (from the flank). Very heavy casualties were suffered in consequence, and the attack failed.... Under cover of darkness the Battalion was withdrawn.... killed other ranks, 13.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

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68
Private Arthur Flynn

Arthur Flynn: Born in Adare Co Limerick, lived in Killaloe, died 27th Sept 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 1490, G/M in France. (TB) A POW in June 1918 (SR) He lived with his mother Ellen on Main Street Killaloe. (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)

On the 2nd September 1918 the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion was relieved and received replacements and was trained in preparation for the assault on the Cambrai to St. Quentin line. With a 3,000 yard advance on 27 September Graincourt was captured. The Germans counter-attacked recapturing many positions. The battalion remained under shellfire even behind the lines and was reduced to 7 officers and 261 men by 3 October.

‘On September 27th 1918 the Battalion moved to the assembly trenches...At 7.30 am Lt Col R R G Kane DSO (Tulla), reconnoitred the way across the Canal-du-Nord and captured 1 officer and 21 men at Lock No 5. The Battalion afterwards crossed by this lock and moved towards Graincourt... the advance being about 3000 yards.. further advance was stopped in front of Cantaing...’

Le Quesnoy Communal Cemetery Extension
Le Quesnoy. Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.
Plot: I. D. 1.
There are now over 100, 1914-18 casualties commemorated in this site.
Private John Fogarty

John Fogarty: Quin, died of wounds (possibly from Graincourt) 27th Dec 1918 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st 5/6838 (6834 on grave), G/M in Crusheen. Son of Thomas Fogarty, Corbally, Quin.(TB) Also wounded in Sept 1917 (Passchendaele). (SR)

John’s first unit was the 8th. Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers, later transferring to the 1st. Bn.

John died of his wounds in the Military Hospital in East Dulwich, England. It’s likely that he was wounded in France during the final weeks of the war and evacuated back to England. (Eddie Lough)

Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Oct-Nov 1918:

On the 2nd September 1918 the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion was relieved and received replacements and was trained in preparation for the assault on the Cambrai to St. Quentin line. With a 3,000 yard advance on 27 September Graincourt was captured. The Germans counter-attacked recapturing many positions. The battalion remained under shellfire even behind the lines and was reduced to 7 officers and 261 men by 3 October.
Michael Foran: Born and lived in Kilkee, killed in action 27th Dec 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4663, G/M in Belgium. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.(TB) Next of kin Mrs Curtin, Pound St Kilkee.

1st Bn RMF: 'Christmas 1916 was spent in the trenches, but as the New Year arrived, an official report relates “as if by mutual consent both sides ceased fire a minute or two before the close of the old year. On the stroke of midnight the pipers tuned up and gave us The Old Year out and the New Year in, A Nation Once Again, God Save Ireland, and a few more songs of the old country, N.C.O.s and men joining lustily in the choruses.”

‘POND FARM’ was in the fields about 800 metres East of Packhorse Farm, and on the North-West side of Pond Farm is the Cemetery. The cemetery was begun by the 3rd Rifle Brigade and the 8th Buffs in July 1916 and it was used by fighting units and field ambulances until October 1917. There are now 296 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.
Private Patrick Frawley

Patrick Frawley, Born in Ennis, lived in the Turnpike, killed in action 25th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6334, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Brother of Peter who died in 1914. One of six brothers who served, two of whom were killed. Son of Michael and Bridget Frawley, the Turnpike.

Helles Memorial Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey on Panel 185 to 190

The Helles Memorial commemorates more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

On April 25, 1915, the SS River Clyde was beached for the landing at Cape Helles during the Battle of Gallipoli. The ship carried 2,000 soldiers mainly from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. However, the plan failed and the River Clyde, lying under the guns of the Turkish defenders, became a death trap.

‘At 1am on April 25th the River Clyde (with 2,100 men on board) left her moorings and slowly moved to her objective... When the gangways were ready...the men instantly responded, and dashed for the shore under a tornado of shot and shell...very few of the men got ashore, those who did took cover behind a bank about eight feet high that ran along the beach ten yards from the water’s edge. In front of this bank was a line of barbed wire entanglements about 25 yards distant.

The cross fire was so heavy...that any man who left the cover of the bank for an instant was killed...’
Defaming the Irish Soldier

A CHAPLAIN'S INDIGNANT PROTEST.

The following letter, addressed to Capt. Gwynne, M.P., appeared in the "Irish Times"—

London-Irish Regiment,
23rd September, 1918.

Dear Captain Gwynne—You ask me for my opinion regarding the moral risk to young Irishmen in Irish regiments at the war. Thousands of the men I ministered to in France were members of Sodalities and Confraternities in Cork, Limerick, Tralee, Ennis, and other towns in Munster. They lived good Christian lives and died happy deaths. Who shall dare to blacken the name of these brave men, who loved Ireland according to their lights, and risked their lives without risking their morals? This widespread calumny is, moreover, an insult to the hundreds of Irish Catholic Chaplains who constantly minister to their men the power that preserves them from moral contagion and corruption. If this charge against Irish troops were true, it would argue wholesale slackness and gross negligence on the part of the Irish Chaplains. The letter can be relied on to see that no vice-traps or poisons are laid to injure or kill the souls or morality of their flocks in France or elsewhere. Let no man defame the living Irish soldier, for he lives at least as purely and as healthily as the average Irish civilian; and let no man defame the dead Irish soldier, for he died as he had lived—in steadfast devotion to his religious principles; in unity and peace with God his Creator. May all Irishmen live and die as Christianly as the average Irish soldier. We are a Christian race, so let us not insult the dead by spreading calumnies about the living. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Does it aggravate the sin when the false witness is against the dead neighbour, or against one's own fellow-countrymen?

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS A. GLEESON, C.F.
Private (The Turk) Gormley: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. He sent a letter from the front to the Clare Journal in June 1915. (CJ) He was next to John Regan when he died.
John Griffin: Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, killed in action 25th April 1915, age 24 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9510, G/M in Helles Memorial Turkey. Son of John and Bridget Griffin Ballyvaughan. (TB)

Private John Griffin

Helles Memorial. Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial serves as a place of commemoration for more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died and have no known grave.

On April 25, 1915, the SS River Clyde was beached for the landing at Cape Helles during the Battle of Gallipoli. The ship carried 2,000 soldiers mainly from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. However, the plan failed and the River Clyde, lying under the guns of the Turkish defenders, became a death trap.

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Joseph Griffin: Born and lived in Miltown Malbay, killed in action 22\textsuperscript{nd} March 1918 age 35 at St Emilie, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 5798, G/M in France. Wounded at the front in May 1916 (The Somme). Son of Mrs Anne Griffin, Armagh, Miltown Malbay.  (TB)

The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties.

‘The Germans had 192 Divisions on the Western Front.....On the 21\textsuperscript{st} March at St Emilie.. at 5pm the enemy attacked in great force, but got no farther than the wire, on which he left many dead. Successive attacks in massed formation continued every half hour till 9pm, when the enemy fell back exhausted....On the 22\textsuperscript{nd} the enemy started a heavy bombardment at 5am....An hour later he attacked in great force, but beyond suffering very heavy losses made no progress..at 3pm it appeared the enemy was still making progress round the right flank, for orders were received.. that the whole line was to fall back to Tincourt.....’
John ‘Pal’ Horan

John ‘Pal’ Horan: Clarecastle. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers (4647). He won the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He survived the war. (Eric Shaw)

John ‘Pal’ Horan had joined the Clare Militia in 1894 for a soldiers pay of 9d a day, trained in Dover and Plymouth and served in the Coastal Defence Artillery at Queenstown in defence of Cork Harbour. He retired from the army as a reservist, but was called up in August 1914, at the start of the Great War. He was assigned to the 9th Battalion (and later the 1st) of the Munster Fusiliers and was sent to France in 1915 after some training in Buttevant County Cork. He took part in many engagements with the Germans, had numerous narrow escapes in the trenches and came through without any wounds. In 1917 he was transferred back to the Coastal Defence Artillery followed by the Labour Corps. He ended the war on the ground staff of the Royal Flying Corps. He was then 44 years old. (Joe Power)

These are the medals of John Pal Horan of the RMF 4647. Well, the top row is and the RMF cap badges as well as the Coronation medals of 1937 and 1952 at the bottom. The 5-star medal on the left is for John McMahon.

Curious cap badge for the KSLI (Kings Shropshire Light Infantry), I assume something that Pal picked up. The LDF medal bottom right is of 1941 won by his brother Michael. The picture is of Pal in his uniform. (Eric Shaw)
Private John Howard

John Howard: Born in Ennistymon, lived in Miltown Malbay, killed in action by shrapnel 19th Oct 1915 in Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Turkey. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

Azmak Cemetery, Suvla
Gallipoli, Canakkale, Turkey.
Plot: II.G.11.
There are now 1,074 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

Nov 1915 Clare Journal

For the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers there was little further action other than holding front lines from September through November 1915, when the weather worsened. Late in the month gales swept over the peninsula, hundreds were drowned in the flooded trenches or from exposure or frostbite, followed on 28 November by a blizzard. The battalion was evacuated as it arrived, on the River Clyde sailing 2 January 1916 for Alexandria.
Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO: Glendree Tulla, died 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) (and Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) the highest French Level of Gallantry award) and was Mentioned in Despatches (5/11/15).

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Romney Kane, D.S.O., was born in 1888 (11th October), the younger son of the late Judge Robert Romney Kane, of Glendree, Tulla, Co. Clare, and Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, and the grandson of the late Sir Robert Kane, F.R.S. He was educated at the Oratory School, passing thence into Sandhurst. He entered the Army in 1908, joining the 1st Battalion R. Munster Fusiliers in India.

The regiment was in Burma when war broke out, and came back in January, 1915. It was at once sent with the 29th Division to Gallipoli. There Lieut. Colonel Kane was liaison officer till he was badly wounded in July, 1915.

He was mentioned in despatches and received the D.S.O. Afterwards he served on the staff in France, and was made Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. In February of this year he went back to his battalion as lieutenant-colonel, and was with them till his death. His elder brother was killed in the Boer War. ET CIETERA Page 18, 12th October 1918.

In 1917 he had sentenced a Private Keane, from Kilrush, to continuous action at the front for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis.
Private John Keane: Born in Ballyvaughan, lived in Lisdoonvarna, died 27th Aug 1914 in India, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Yangon (Rangoon) Myanmar (Burma). The 1st Bn RMF were based in Rangoon (the Capital of Burma at the time) in August 1914. He died before they returned to Britain. (TB)
Private John Keane MM

John Keane MM: Born in Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 age 20 (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal 21/10/1916. (TB)

Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Plot: Pier and Face 16 C.

‘The death is announced of a brave Kilrush soldier, Private J Keane, of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action. He received the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street.’ Clare Journal 1917.

On the 5th September 1916 the 16th Irish Division was ordered south of the Somme battlefield, the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. entering the line facing the strategic town of Ginchy, having suffered 200 previous casualties by gas-shelling on the way. On the 9th September 1916 it took part in the ensuing attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops.

The loss of Ginchy deprived the Germans of observation posts, from which they could observe all of the battlefield and eliminated the salient at Delville Wood, which had been costly to defend.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.
Private Michael Keane

**Michael Keane**: Born in Kilrush, lived in the Glen, Kilrush, **killed in action 26th April 1915** in the attack on Sedd-el-Bahr Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. His four brothers also enlisted. Son of Patrick and Mary Keane, Glen Street, Kilrush. (TB)

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**Helles Memorial. Gallipoli**  
Canakkale, Turkey  
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial commemorates over 21,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Gallipoli and have no known grave.

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On April 25, 1915, the SS *River Clyde* was beached for the landing at Cape Helles during the Battle of Gallipoli. The ship carried 2,000 soldiers mainly from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. However, the plan failed and the *River Clyde*, lying under the guns of the Turkish defenders, became a death trap.

At daybreak next day just three companies of Munsters, two of Hampshires and one company Dubliners had made it to the shelter of some dunes. **On the 26th they took fort Sedd-el-Bahr overlooking the bay, charging and taking the village behind. Turkish counter-attacks were held off.**

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‘In reference to his Majesty’s congratulations to Mr Wm Slade, commercial porter at Reading, for having six sons in his Majesty’s Forces, we call attention to the fact that Mr Pat Keane, Kilrush, Co Clare, has five gallant sons in his Majesty’s Forces.’
Private Michael Kearney

**Michael Kearney:** Born in Ennis, killed in action 1\textsuperscript{st} May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 7500, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. Son of Mrs Ann Kearney Drumbiggle Road Ennis. (TB)

**Helles Memorial**
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac.

Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn: On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth Battle Memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters.
Private Thomas Kelly

**Thomas Kelly**: Born in Tulla, died 9th Sept 1916 on the **Somme**, 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9373, G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action (the same day, the same Regiment, the same Battalion as Private John Keane) (TB)

*Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Plot: Pier and Face 16 C.*

‘When the 1st Battalion left the trenches at zero for the attack on Ginchy (Sept 9th) only 8 officers and under 400 men remained out of the original strength who had marched into Bernafay Wood.... At zero time (4.45pm) it left the trenches in four waves...With the exception of 2nd Lt Baily all the company officers and the Second-in – Command were either killed or wounded within the first 50 yards.... CSM Harris wheeled the left of his company and charged, driving the enemy out... on continuing the advance, he found the enemy strongly entrenched, so dug in opposite them, and with the assistance of one machine gun, held his position until relieved... The Battalion marched back to Carnoy on the 10th. Strength after the attack, 5 officers, 305 other ranks.’

The loss of Ginchy deprived the Germans of observation posts, from which they could observe all of the battlefield and eliminated the salient at Delville Wood, which had been costly to defend.

**The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme**, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.
Private Michael Kildea

Michael Kildea: Born in Ennis, lived in Miltown Malbay, killed in action 19th Oct 1916 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4483, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie Kildea, Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay. (TB) ‘I go into battle, after saying a few prayers and a light heart.’ (After the Battle of Ginchy on the Somme, the RMF 1st Bn was moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium.)

La Laiterie Military Cemetery
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium
Plot: VII. C. 3.

The Roll of Honour.

ANOTHER YOUNG CLAREMAN
KILLED IN ACTION.

It is with feelings of deep regret his friends have heard of the death of Private Michael Kildea, killed in action in France. He was a son of Mrs Michael Doherty, Miltown Malbay, and a cousin to the local newspaper, Martin Whyte, of same place. Joining at the outbreak of hostilities, he spent most of his time in France. Splendid in physique, and handsome and manly in appearance, as a boy of 18 years of age, he carried an irreproachable character to the blood-stained fields of France. Since God bestowed upon him the use of reason, he was a good and faithful Catholic, always attentive and exacting in his religious duties, and now that he is gone, many friends are left to deplore his loss. In the course of a letter written to his cousin, Martin Whyte, he said: “I go into battle, after saying a few fervent prayers, with a light heart.”

Nov 1916 Clare Journal
Private John Leahy

John Leahy: Born in Ennis lived in Corrovorin Ennis, killed in action 1st May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli on the Helles Memorial, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7310, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs Hannah Leahy The Causeway (Francis St) Ennis. (TB) He died on the same day, the same Regiment, the same Battalion as Private Michael Kearney.

Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn: On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

‘On May 1st the Turks attacked in force about 10.30pm...A platoon of W Company which was in reserve...put up a great fight... The Turks charged time after time, but were beaten back each time wth the bayonet. At dawn the Battalion was reinforced by the 1st Essex, and a final charge forced the Turks to retire, leaving piles of dead in front of the trench... As the Battalion had no bombs of any sort, the men were at great disadvantage, but outfought the enemy when it came to close-quarter work.’

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth Battle Memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters.
Private Peter Loftus DCM

Peter Loftus: Born and lived in Ennistymon, died 19th May 1915 age 19 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9483, G/M in Alexandria, Egypt. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). Died of wounds in Gallipoli. Son of W. and Annie Loftus. (TB)

He was awarded the DCM. *On the 26th April 1915 at Sedd-EL-Bahr, for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.* London Gazette July 3rd 1915. He was also Mentioned in Despatches. (Guss O’Halloran)

Alexandria (Chatby) Military Cemetery
Alexandria
Al Iskandariyah, Egypt
Plot: H. 94.

On April 25, 1915, the SS River Clyde was beached for the landing at Cape Helles during the Battle of Gallipoli. The ship carried 2,000 soldiers mainly from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. However, the plan failed and the River Clyde, lying under the guns of the Turkish defenders, became a death trap.

At daybreak next day just three companies of Munsters, two of Hampshires and one company Dubliners had made it to the shelter of some dunes. On the 26th they took fort Sedd-el-Bahr overlooking the bay, charging and taking the village behind.

On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

Private Loftus died of wounds.
Private Michael Lynch

Michael Lynch: Born in Ballynote Kilrush, lived in Kilkee, killed in action 1st May 1915 in Galipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9548, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. (TB)

Helles Memorial
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.
The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac.

Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn: On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

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Private Patrick Lyons

Patrick Lyons: Born and lived in Newmarket on Fergus, killed in action 3rd May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 8505, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. (TB)

On the night of 1 May 1915 the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our (1st RMF) trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Private Michael Magee/McGee

Michael Magee/McGee: Born and lived in Scariff, killed in action 26th April 1915 age 36 at Sedd-el-Bahr in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9792, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. Son of Michael and Johanna McGee, St John’s Street, Killaloe. (TB)

Helles Memorial. Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial commemorates over 21,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Gallipoli and have no known grave.

On April 25, 1915, the SS River Clyde was beached for the landing at Cape Helles. At daybreak next day just three companies of Munsters, two of Hampshires and one company Dubliners had made it to the shelter of some dunes. On the 26th they took fort Sedd-el-Bahr overlooking the bay, charging and taking the village behind. Turkish counter-attacks were held off.

‘By 12.30am on the 26th all the troops from the River Clyde had been got ashore and nearly all the wounded had been got back to the vessel… At daybreak they forced their way into the courtyard of the Fort; by 8am the Fort was occupied, and the advance through the village of Sedd-el-Bahr commenced...’

When the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion landed at V Beach on April 25th 1915, they were close to full strength, numbering 26 officers and 900 other ranks. When roll call was taken on May 11th 1915, only 7 officers and 372 men had survived the V Beach landing and subsequent fighting.
Private Stephen McKnight MM

Stephen McKnight: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 22nd March 1918 at St Emilie, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 3622, G/M in Pozieres France. (TB) He won the Military Medal (and 2 Parchment Certificates) on the 17th Sept 1917. Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street, Kilrush. Brother of James McKnight who fought with the US Army in WW1. (Morgan Roughan)

Pozieres Memorial. Pozieres Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Panel 78 and 79.

Sat Record Sept 1917

Military Honours for Kilrush Man.

Private McKnight, Munster Fusiliers, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

‘The Germans had 192 Divisions on the Western Front.....On the 21st March at St Emilie... at 5pm the enemy attacked in great force, but got no farther than the wire, on which he left many dead. Successive attacks in massed formation continued every half hour till 9pm, when the enemy fell back exausted....On the 22nd the enemy started a heavy bombardment at 5am....An hour later he attacked in great force, but beyond suffering very heavy losses made no progress...at 3pm it appeared the enemy was still making progress round the right flank, for orders were received.. that the whole line was to fall back to Tincourt. ....The Battalion was now 7 officers, 450 other ranks, out of 24 officers, 950 other ranks on the morning of the 21st....’
Private John McMahon

John McMahon: 17 Clare Road, Ennis, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers (previously with the 2nd RMF). Wounded in July 1918. (SR) He was a porter with the Great Southern and Western Railway at Ennis.

A Wounded Soldier.

Pte. John McMahon, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, writing from the Mercy Hospital, Cork, says—I have read my name in the “Cork Examiner,” for being wounded and belonging to Clare Castle. This is not altogether right. I am wounded through the left arm, with a compound fracture of same, but I do not belong to Clare Castle, but to Ennis, being one of the Porter Staff of the G.S.W.R. at Ennis. I was called up on the 4th August, 1914 and went to the front with the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, from Aldershot. I am a son of Clare Road Cottages, Ennis. Please put me down for “Ennis” John McMahon, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers.

Sat Record July 1918
**Private Patrick McMahon**

**Patrick McMahon:** Lived in Ennis, killed in action 22nd March 1918 age 20 at St Emilie, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6714, 16th Irish Div, G/M in France. Son of James and Margaret McMahon Cahercon, Shanahea Ennis. (TB)

Sainte Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon
Villers-Faucon
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: I. A. 12.

Villers-Faucon was captured on 27 March 1917, lost on 22 March 1918, and retaken on 7 September 1918. On the site of this cemetery at the Armistice, there were three large graves of Commonwealth soldiers buried by the Germans, which now form part of Plot I.

A large proportion of these concentrated graves were those of soldiers of the 16th (Irish) Division who died in March 1918.

‘The Germans had 192 Divisions on the Western Front.....On the 21st March at St Emilie.. at 5pm the enemy attacked in great force, but got no farther than the wire, on which he left many dead. Successive attacks in massed formation continued every half hour till 9pm, when the enemy fell back exausted....On the 22nd the enemy started a heavy bombardment at 5am....An hour later he attacked in great force, but beyond suffering very heavy losses made no progress..at 3pm it appeared the enemy was still making progress round the right flank, for orders were received.. that the whole line was to fall back to Tincourt. ....

The Battalion was now 7 officers, 450 other ranks, out of 24 officers, 950 other ranks on the morning of the 21st ...’
Private Patrick McMahon


Helles Memorial Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

On the night of 1 May 1915 the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our (1st RMF) trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Private John McNamara

John McNamara: Born and lived in Ennis, died of wounds 1st May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 8720, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

On the night of 1 May 1915 the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our (1st RMF) trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.
Michael Meade: Born and lived Kilrush, killed in action 21st Aug 1915 age 35 in Suvla Bay Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5817, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Annie Kearen Meade, Tralee. They had four children. (TB) He had also served in South Africa and after that on the North West Frontier in India.

In March 1915 the 1st battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers sailed for Gallipoli via Malta, on April 25th 1915, they landed on V Beach from the River Clyde, it was here on this beach that many a Munster soldier lost his life, gunned down by a hail of rifle and machine gun fire from the Turkish defenders as they struggled ashore loaded down with equipment. Michael Meade survived this initial onslaught. Later as the battalion progressed inland, he led his men in the continued fight in gullies and on the steep slopes of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

During the Suvla Bay offensive of August 1915, CQMS Michael Meade was again in the thick of battle, the 1st battalion was gathered on the slopes of 'Chocolate Hill', in preparation for the attack on Scimitar Hill on August 21st. Fighting on that day was intense, made difficult by dense prickly scrub.

‘X’ and ‘Y’ Companies, who had gone into action approximately 180 strong, came back out numbering 23 and 18 respectively, 143 men were reported as missing, among them CQMS Michael Meade.

Michael Meade lies somewhere on the slopes of Gallipoli, but his name is not forgotten, for it is commemorated for posterity on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli. (Geraldine Quinn of London and John Meade of Cork.)

Helles Memorial. Gallipoli, Canakkale, Turkey.
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Private James Meaney

James Meaney: Born in Thurles lived in Kilkee, killed in action 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 1918 age 18 (During the German Offensive), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 6759, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Ellen Meaney, Ball Alley Lane, Kilkee. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Villers-Bretonneux became famous in 1918, when the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the village by their tanks and infantry on 23 April. On the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions recaptured the whole of the village. There are now 2,142 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

‘In the early morning of the 26\textsuperscript{th} March all the bridges over the Somme were blown up….The 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion then moved to Proyart…on the 28\textsuperscript{th} March…information was received that a counter attack would be made on the enemy…This attack failed…and at the 10am the force commenced to retire…The Majority of the Battalion succeeded in getting away, but all the wounded had to be left….the Battalion now numbering approximately 5 officers and 170 other ranks…On the 29\textsuperscript{th} March …Aubigny was reached at 6pm…for rest and refitting.’ Stragglers continued to arrive for the next few days.’
Private John Molony/Moloney

John Molony/Moloney: Born and lived in Kildysart, killed in action 21st March 1918 age 21, at St Emilie during the German Offensive, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6792, G/M in France. Son of Simon and Katie Molony, Derrylea, Kildysart. (TB)

Sainte Emilie Valley Cemetery,
Villers-Faucon
Villers-Faucon
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: IV. A. 5.

‘The Germans had 192 Divisions on the Western Front.....On the 21st March at St Emilie... at 5pm the enemy attacked in great force, but got no farther than the wire, on which he left many dead. Successive attacks in massed formation continued every half hour till 9pm, when the enemy fell back exausted....’

Villers-Faucon was captured on 27 March 1917, lost on 22 March 1918, and retaken on 7 September 1918. On the site of this cemetery at the Armistice, there were three large graves of Commonwealth soldiers buried by the Germans, which now form part of Plot I. A large proportion of these concentrated graves were those of soldiers of the 16th (Irish) Division who died in March 1918.
Private John Moloney

John Moloney: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 1st May 1915 age 33 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6346, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Johannah Moloney, Crofton Street, Kilrush. (TB)

Helles Memorial Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

On the night of 1 May 1915 the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our (1st RMF) trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

‘On May 1st the Turks attacked in force about 10.30pm....A platoon of W Company which was in reserve...put up a great fight... The Turks charged time after time, but were beaten back each time with the bayonet. At dawn the Battalion was reinforced by the 1st Essex, and a final charge forced the Turks to retire, leaving piles of dead in front of the trench... As the Battalion had no bombs of any sort, the men were at great disadvantage, but outfought the enemy when it came to close-quarter work.’
Private James Sonny Moroney (Joseph Kennedy)

James (Sonny) Moroney (Joseph Kennedy): Lived in Mill Street, Ennis, died 3rd Jan 1919. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 8084. Fifth son of Charles Moroney Mill St Ennis. (TB)

‘We see by our obituary columns today that Private James (Sonny) Moroney RMF, died as a victim of Hun brutality, at Rouen Hospital, France on Friday last. He was taken prisoner at the opening of the big German Push, on March 22 (1918), and was kept a prisoner in Germany until the armistice. He was released on Nov 29th (1918), but was so prostrated from bad treatment and starvation, that he had to be sent to a hospital at once in France, being unable to travel home, and never rallied. He had been badly wounded in August 1917, but recovered and rejoined his regiment.’ From the Sat Record Jan 1919.


During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. The Cemetery Extension contains 8346 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.
Sergeant Thomas Muldoon MM


‘The attack on Ginchy which had previously repelled the attacks of five divisions, was carried out by the 56th Division on the right and the 16th on the left - the 16th Division attack being carried out by the 47th Brigade on the right, and the 48th on the left... When the Battalion left the trenches at zero for the attack on Ginchy (Sept 9th) only 8 officers and under 400 men remained out of the original strength who had marched into Bernafay Wood..... CSM Harris wheeled the left of his company and charged, driving the enemy out... on continuing the advance, he found the enemy strongly entrenched, so dug in opposite them, and with the assistance of one machine gun, held his position until relieved... The Battalion marched back to Carnoy on the 10th. Strength after the attack, 5 officers, 305 other ranks.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.
Corporal M Murphy: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Wrote a letter from the front to the Clare Journal in Sept 1915 about the Gallipoli landing ('Ennis men who did their duty'). (CJ)

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**ENNIS MAN’S LETTER**

**From The Dardanelles.**

**ENNIS MEN WHO DID THEIR DUTY.**

An Appeal To “Slackers” At Home.

Corporal M. Murphy, of the 1st Munster Fusiliers, sends the following letter to a friend in Ennis, from a Malta Hospital. We are sure it will be read with interest:

My dear old chum,—I hope this scribble will find you, and father and mother, and all at home, in the best of health. As you will see by this address I am in hospital here. I contracted a disease in the trenches in the Dardanelles which went very near having me, but thank God, I am over the worst of it now, but it will take me a long time yet before I will be fit as there are not 12 oz. of flesh on my body, and I am still very weak. I am now allowed out of bed for two hours in the evening and am taken on the verandah on a deck chair by the nurses, where I can look down on the blue Mediterranean Sea. The nurses here are very nice. They are all ladies out from England who volunteered to nurse their soldiers, of whom they are very proud. We

continued below
Corporal M Murphy (continued)

landed in Gallipoli on the 26th April, on a Sunday morning, which I will never forget. It was terrible. The Munster and Dubliners were the first to land, and we were met by a terrible fire from the shore and the Fort called Sedd-el-Bahr. We lost heavily going ashore, and it was one man out of every ten who was lucky to get there without getting hit. It was a terrible sight to see your chums struggling in the water after being hit. I was one of the lucky ones to get ashore without getting a scratch, after getting a good wetsuit. I may say I was amongst the first twenty men to land on that uninviting shore. The Dublins were just as badly off as we were, but we stuck to that shore all day, and many an act of bravery was done by our men, which, if it was seen, would gain many a man the V.C. It was often given for less. There were several men saved from the sea badly wounded, who would never have got ashore. We stuck to that shore all day—only a handful of us—compared to the enemy. There was a terrible fire kept up from one gallant Navy. All that day we were under fire from machine and rifle and bomb. And all that night we held it against the Turks and Germans, who made several attempts to drive us into the sea. But they had to meet the Irishmen, the cream of the British Army, and they found out to their cost that we had "come to stay." Next morning when we saw our dead and wounded, it only made us all the more determined to avenge them, and when the order was given to fix bayonets and advance, it was done with a cheer. We advanced up on a village and fort, on the Turks, but they could not face our bayonets. So after we had several charges, but at a terrible loss, we took the village, and fort and trenches, and several prisoners. The Turks lost heavily that morning, but we had got a better footing. Still there were some snipers concealed in the village who were picking off our fellows. It was white surrounding one of the houses with six more

Clare Journal
Aug 1915
Private George O’Brien

George O’Brien: Born in Ennis lived in Limerick, died of wounds 25th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6642, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mr Martin O’Brien, The Upper Market Ennis. (TB) Also reported wounded in Nov 1914 in Lincoln Hospital.

Helles Memorial Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: No Known Grave; names is listed on Panel 185 to 190

The Helles Memorial commemorates more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

On April 25, 1915, the SS River Clyde was beached for the landing at Cape Helles during the Battle of Gallipoli. The ship carried 2,000 soldiers mainly from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. However, the plan failed and the River Clyde, lying under the guns of the Turkish defenders, became a death trap.

‘At 1am on April 25th the River Clyde (with 2,100 men on board) left her moorings and slowly moved to her objective... When the gangways were ready...the men instantly responded, and dashed for the shore under a tornado of shot and shell...very few of the men got ashore, those who did took cover behind a bank about eight feet high that ran along the beach ten yards from the water’s edge. In front of this bank was a line of barbed wire entanglements about 25 yards distant. The cross fire was so heavy...that any man who left the cover of the bank for an instant was killed...’
Private John O’Brien

John O’Brien: Born and lived in Doonbeg, died 15th June 1915 in Gallipoli, possibly of wounds after The Third Battle of Krithia (4th June 1915). Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9667, G/M in Turkey. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: XI. E. 16

TWELVE TREE COPSE CEMETERY was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites and small burial grounds on the battlefields of April-August and December 1915. The most significant of these burial grounds were Geoghegan’s Bluff Cemetery, which contained 925 graves associated with fighting at Gully Ravine in June-July 1915.

The Third Battle of Krithia (4th June 1915), fought on the Gallipoli peninsula during World War I, was the final in a series of Allied attacks against the Ottoman defences aimed at capturing the original objectives of 25 April 1915. The previous failures in the first and second battles resulted in a less ambitious plan being developed for the attack, but the outcome was another costly failure for the Allies. The allied aim was, as always to facilitate the capture of Alçı Tepe (Achi Baba) which commanded most of the peninsula.
Private Martin O’Brien

Martin O’Brien: Born in Limerick lived in Kildysart, killed in action 28th June 1915 in Krithia Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6002, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Helles Memorial
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

‘On June 28th the Battalion left the Eske lines for Bruce’s Ravine at 9.45am, and assembled for the attack. The 87th Brigade captured the first three lines of trenches, and at 11.30am the Battalion and the rest of the 86th Brigade ....captured a further two lines of trenches—a total advance of 1000 yards....two further lines of enemy trenches ...were gained. The casualties for the 28th and 29th were 20 killed; wounded 8 officers and 112 other ranks; missing 19 other ranks.’

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Sgt. William O’ Halloran: His family lived in the Turnpike Ennis. He was killed in action on the 4th Nov 1916. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4800. Brother of John Joseph O’Halloran, who survived the War. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and Ginchy. He died in an area south of Ypres, in the Messines Sector. (Eddie Lough) G/M in Belgium.

Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery
Heuvelland
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium
Plot: X. 38.

In April 1894 at the age of 13 he enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers as a drummer, and was discharged in Oct 1894. Reason given “Not Likely to become an efficient drummer”. He enlisted again with the RMF and served in India and in the Boer War. He married Rose Anne Lynch in 1905. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and Ginchy. He died in an area south of Ypres. (Eddie Lough)

There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery

Kemmel Chateau was north-east of Kemmel village and the cemetery was in December 1914. There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery
**Private Patrick O’Neill**

**Patrick O’Neill:** Lived in Feakle enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 9th Sept 1916, in the Battle of Ginchy, age 26. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5571, G/M in France. Son of William O’Neill Ballylongford, Co Kerry. (TB)

**A.26 Queant Communal Cemetery**  
**British Extension. Pas de Calais. France.**

Queant was close behind the Hindenburg Line, at the South end of a minor defence system known as the Drocourt-Queant Line. There are now nearly 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

**The Battle of Ginchy** took place on 9 September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, when the 16th Division (including the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn) captured the German-held village.

‘When the Battalion left the trenches at zero for the attack on Ginchy (Sept 9th) only 8 officers and under 400 men remained out of the original strength who had marched into Bernafay Wood…. At zero time (4.45pm) it left the trenches in four waves… all the company officers and the Second-in – Command were either killed or wounded within the first 50 yards… CSM Harris wheeled the left of his company and charged, driving the enemy out… on continuing the advance, he found the enemy strongly entrenched, so dug in opposite them, and with the assistance of one machine gun, held his position until relieved… The Battalion marched back to Carnoy on the 10th. Strength after the attack, 5 officers, 305 other ranks.’
Sergeant John Joseph O’Shea DCM: Miltown Malbay, 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9487. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (25/8/1917 RMF Book) age 24. ‘For gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty’. His brother Pat was killed in Ypres. (CJ) Sergeant J O’Shea: Flag Road, Miltown Malbay. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wrote a letter from the front in the Clare Journal Sept 1915. (CJ) ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in bombing and capturing an enemy post. He set a fine example of courage and coolness combined with sound judgement, and later he pushed forward and obtained valuable information enabling a trench to be captured and further facilitating the success of the advance.’ London Gazette 25th Aug 1917. Possibly at Wytschaete.

Clare Journal March 1917

Sept 1915
Private Alfred Quinlivan

**Alfred Quinlivan**: Born and lived in Ennis, killed in action 15th August 1917 age 33, at the Frezenberg Ridge near Passchendaele. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4549, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) France. Son of Mrs Mary Quinlivan Market Street, Ennis. (TB)

Panel 44
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium

‘The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11; on the 14th August wounded 13. During the operations of the Frezenberg Ridge on the 16th the Battalion... lost 1 killed; 15 wounded.’

In the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Private John Quinn MM

**John Quinn:** Lived in Lahinch, died of wounds 23rd Feb 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5897, G/M in France. He won the Military Medal 10/4/1918. *(TB)*

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Tincourt New British Cemetery  
Tincourt-Boucly  
Departement de la Somme  
Picardie, France  
Plot: IV. F. 17.

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The villages of Tincourt and Boucly were occupied by British troops in March 1917, during the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line. From the following May until March 1918, Tincourt became a centre for Casualty Clearing Stations. On the 23rd March 1918, the villages were evacuated and they were recovered, in a ruined condition, about the 6th September. There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

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‘On February 7th 1918 .... Lieut-Colonel R R G Kane DSO (from Tulla) assumed command...On February 18th .... ’Z’ Company left Tincourt in lorries for the front line. The raid took place at 4am on the 19th; an hour after the Company reported that they had captured five of the enemy, had killed a considerable number, and had only the following casualties: killed 1; wounded 17.’
Private John Regan

John Regan: Born in Kilrush lived in Ennis, killed in action 3rd May 1915 (2nd May in the newspapers) in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6353, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Helles Memorial  Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth Battle Memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles.

There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters.

‘On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn (May 2nd) the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days.’

Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn: On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.
Lance Corporal Thomas Russell


Panel 44
Ypres (Menin Gate)
Memorial Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

‘The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11; on the 14th August wounded 13. During the operations of the Frezenberg Ridge on the 16th the Battalion... lost 1 killed; 15 wounded.’

In the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Private John Patrick Ryan

John Patrick Ryan: Born in Lissycasey lived in Kildysart, died of wounds 1st July 1918 age 21, at Gommecourt Wood. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6840, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Ryan, Effeman, Kildysart. (TB)

Bagneux British Cemetery,
Gezaincourt
Gezaincourt
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

‘On May 5th 1918 ...the 1st Battalion took up their positions in front of Gommecourt Wood (a quiet sector during the summer). The ordinary trench routine was carried out all May, June and July 1918. Nothing out of the ordinary happened.’

The cemetery was begun in April 1918, after the close of the German offensive in Picardy. There are 1,374 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery.
Private Patrick (Paddy) Scanlan

Patrick (Paddy) Scanlan: Born in Kilrush 1879, lived in Limerick, died 20th Nov 1917 age 38, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6750, G/M in France. He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Cambrai.

Croisilles Railway Cemetery. Croisilles
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: I. C. 22.

The Railway Cemetery now contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The Battle of Cambrai.

‘At zero (6.20 am 20th Nov 1917) the barrage opened. At zero plus two minutes the front wave left the trenches.....

At 6.24 the first wave entered the German trench...The charge for the enemy’s trench was made so swiftly, and with such dash that no time was given to the enemy to man his parapet... At 7am consolidation commenced and continued all day....Casualties 13 killed; wounded 60; missing 5......The enemy counterattacked on November 30th...and we had to withdraw to Bourlon Wood and and give up about half the ground we had gained.... On December 2nd the Battalion was relieved...’
Stephen Scully MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and fearless conduct. On the 28th Aug 1918 ‘as a stretcher bearer he rendered most valuable assistance to the wounded of his own Battalion. He worked fearlessly and untiringly from 2pm on the 28th to 6am on the 29th and cleared a whole area of wounded... On Sept 2nd he displayed the same gallantry in an intense barrage, bandaging the wounded and carried them to an Aid Post’. (SR).
Paddy Sherlock: Bogberry, Ennistymon, (March 1896 - 20th Sept 1956) ‘Paddy Sherlock joined the British army in 1913, at the age of seventeen. A recruiting sergeant came to Ennistymon looking for volunteers. Paddy was of the age that must see the world, and anyway, he was generally unemployed, belonged to a large family and had no great commitments at home. He served in France first, and then his regiment was transferred to the Dardanelles and from there to Upper Silesia in Poland, in the Great war of 1914-1918. While at home in Ennistymon in 1916 he married Bridget Leary in Miltown Malbay church. The witness to the marriage was John Thynne (Died Dec 1918) and the bride’s sister Mary Anne Leary. When the Munster Fusiliers were disbanded in 1922 Paddy received a gratuity of £10 and seven shillings and six pence per week for the following two years. It is said he soon sold this pension for a small down payment.’ From: Ennistymon Parish Magazine 1989. (He landed at V Beach in Gallipoli aboard the River Clyde (Troop ship) as a member of the Munster Fusiliers.) 1st Bn RMF.

Bugler John Charles Slattery

John Charles Slattery: He was born in the Militia Barracks in Ennis in 1883. In 1898 he became a trained bugler in the 1st & 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers (6823 RMF). (Larry Brennan) (See Clare WW1 Individual Profiles) Served from 1897-1909 [Found a John Slattery RMF 5946 who was in the 8 Bn.]
**Lance Corporal Simon Smyth**

**Simon Smyth**: Born and lived in Lisgreen (Lisdeen, Kilkee) Co Clare, died of wounds 7th July 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9683, G/M in Turkey. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

‘the Battalion.. embarked at 4.30am on the 20th August (1915) in a trawler and transhipped into HMHT Osmanich and arrived at Suvla at 10.30. It moved to Chocolate Hill, arriving at midnight, preparatory to the attack on Scimitar Hill next day...there were some 20 casualties during the night. The advance of the the Battalion was rendered difficult owing to the dense prickly scrub....The Turkish retaliation set alight to the scrub...the advance having to be carried out through the smoke and fire....

The Battalion, in the air as regards its right flank, was caught by a frontal and enfilading fire. Very heavy casualties were suffered in consequence, and the attack failed.....Under cover of darkness the Battalion was withdrawn....killed, other ranks, 13; wounded, 149; missing, 143.’
Private John Stokes

**John Stokes**: Born in Gort lived in Ennis, killed in action 28th May 1915 in Krithia Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6009, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Helles Memorial
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The RMF 1st battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th May 1915 were down to 372 men.

On receiving new drafts on 29 May, the Munsters and Dubliners were separate units again, the Munsters by 4 June numbering 40 officers and 500 other ranks, though handicapped by the new recruits being much too young and inexperienced. Shelling absolutely demoralised them.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Private Michael Thynne

Michael Thynne: Church Hill Ennistymon, died of wounds on the 4th May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6934, G/M in Turkey. Brother of John (Dec 1918) and Patrick (May 1915) who both also died in the War. Son of John and Catherine Thynne, Church Hill, Ennistymon. (TB)

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The RMF 1st battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.
Private Patrick Tierney

Patrick Tierney: Ennis, died of wounds 6th July 1915 in Krithia Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) In June 1915 new drafts to the 1st RMF replenished officers to 23, other ranks to 588. They took part in the Divisions assault on 28 June securing five trench lines. This provoked a general attack by the Turkish side along the Cape Helles front on 5 July, the Turks losing heavily.

There are now 1,237 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the Lancashire Landing Cemetery

‘On June 28th the Battalion left the Eske lines for Bruce’s Ravine at 9.45am, and assembled for the attack. The 87th Brigade captured the first three lines of trenches, and at 11.30am the Battalion and the rest of the 86th Brigade ....captured a further two lines of trenches—a total advance of 1000 yards....two further lines of enemy trenches ...were gained. The casualties for the 28th and 29th were 20 killed; wounded 8 officers and 112 other ranks; missing 19 other ranks.’
John Walsh: Born and lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 7th June 1917 age 32, at Wytschaete. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 3683, G/M in Belgium. Son of Michael Walsh, Ballygastel, Lisdoonvarna. (TB)

Lance Corporal John Walsh

Wytschaete Military Cemetery
Heuvelland
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium. Plot: II. B. 1.

The Flanders offensive began at 3.10am on 7 June 1917 with the detonation of nineteen huge mines previously burrowed under the German lines. There followed the advance of the 16th Irish Division (incl 1st RMF) opposite the village of Wytschaete, to the right the 36th (Ulster) Division opposite the village of Messines, the largest ever concentration of Irish soldiers on a battlefield. Their advance has been reported by all who saw it as a sight never to be forgotten, a captured German officer stated that they moved as if on parade.

The 1RMF took all its objectives on schedule despite the loss of nearly all of its supporting tanks. The subsequent battle was a complete success militarily. Casualties were low in an action which was one of the most successful of the battalion's actions, resulting from thorough planning, training and good leadership.

There are now 1,002 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.
Private Robert Walsh


Brandhoek New Military Cemetery
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: VI. F. 1.

Brandhoek New Military Cemetery contains 530 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

‘The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11.’

In the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June 1917 to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather.

The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.
**Private Michael Ward**

**Michael Ward:** Born and lived in Mountshannon, died of wounds 3rd Oct 1918 age 23, near Graincourt France. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 1107, G/M in France. Son of John and Caroline M Ward, Drewsboro, Scariff. (TB)

**Mont Huon Military Cemetery. Le Treport**  
Departement de la Seine-Maritime  
Haute-Normandie, France  
Plot: VIII. G. 5B.

During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

**The 1st RMF** made a 3,000 yard advance on 27 September 1918 when Graincourt was captured.

The Germans counter-attacked recapturing many positions. The battalion remained under shellfire even behind the lines and was reduced to 7 officers and 261 men by 3 October 1918.

‘On the 30th September the Battalion crossed the Canal-de-L’Escaut...but was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire.... At noon ..it moved forward and took up a line of posts in Proville. The strength of the Battalion had been reduced to about 10 officers and 150 other ranks...’
The 1st Battalion RMF remained a predominantly Irish battalion to the end, composed of many Dublin Fusiliers from May 1918. During the war at least 43 officers and 869 other ranks died in action with the battalion. It was demobilised in December 1918 reducing it to 13 officers and 89 others. In May 1919 after returning to England it absorbed the 3rd RMF at Plymouth. It left for Silesia in September 1921, returning the following April to be disbanded in July 1922, ending a history going back 250 years.

Due to substantial defence cuts and the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 (predecessor of the Republic of Ireland), it was agreed that the six former Southern Ireland regiments would be disbanded, including the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

On 12 June, five regimental Colours were laid up in a ceremony at St George’s Hall, Windsor Castle in the presence of HM King George V. (The South Irish Horse had sent a Regimental engraving because the regiment chose to have its standard remain in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin). The six regiments were then all disbanded on 31 July 1922.
With the outbreak of the Irish Civil War conflict some thousands of their ex-servicemen and officers contributed to expanding the Free State government’s newly formed National Army.

In its ranks, Royal Munster Fusiliers ex-servicemen, veterans from World War I, served at the side of IRA ex-guerrillas who only a few months earlier had fought against the British Army in the Irish War of Independence – now joining together to take part in the Irish Civil War.

They brought considerable combat experience with them and by May 1923 comprised 50 per cent of its 53,000 soldiers and 20 per cent of its officers. The Irish National Army reached a strength of 60,000.

‘The words of his Majesty King George V, when taking into his custody the Colours on Disbandment (June 12th 1922), will be a consolation to all Fusiliers, past and present: “Your great deeds, extending in all over a period of two hundred and sixty years, are written too clearly in the history of the Empire for anything lightly to efface them. Meanwhile, be very sure that, with or without external monument, the fame of your great work can never die. I thank you for your good service to this Country, and the Empire, and with a full heart I bid you – Farewell.”

TO THE OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS.

It is with feelings of no ordinary sorrow that I address you for the last time; for I know that I am taking leave not merely of a fine regiment, but of great memories and great traditions which hitherto have been kept alive and embodied in you.

It is a hard fate that dissolves a corps which after seventy to eighty years of existence in independent companies became a regiment in 1756 and had for its first Colonel, Robert Clive. Under him you fought at the battle of Plassey; and not Clive only but Forde and Knox and Hector Munro and all the old heroes of India knew of what stuff you were made. Moreover, you have shown in three different centuries that time could not change you, whether in India or in Europe. Your great deeds, extending in all over a period of two hundred and sixty years, are written too clearly in the history of the Empire for anything lightly to efface them.

You have your Colours, your trophies and your household gods, which are dear to you as honour itself. You have thought fit to entrust your Colours to me for custody and I am very proud to take charge of them, to be preserved and held in reverence at Windsor Castle as a perpetual record of your noble exploits in the field.

Meanwhile, be very sure that, with or without external monument, the fame of your great work can never die.

I thank you for your good service to this Country and the Empire, and with a full heart I bid you—Farewell.

George R.I.

12th June, 1922.
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

Where Claremen died with the 1st RMF

Battles at Cape Helles and Suvla Bay in Gallipoli April – Dec 1915 (36 Claremen Died)

France: The Somme March – April 1916 (1 Clareman Died)

France: Loos - May to August 1916 (1 Clareman Died)

France: The Somme - Ginchy  September 1916 (6 Claremen Died)

Flanders: Messines Ridge (Wytschaete) - Passchendaele  October 1916 to Nov 1917 (9 Claremen Died)

France: Cambrai 20th Nov – 7th Dec 1917 (1 Clareman Died)

France: Tincourt Jan – Feb 1918 (1 Clareman Died)

France: The German Offensive March- July 1918 (6 Claremen Died)

France: The Advance to Victory – Hendecourt August to Nov 1918 (7 Claremen Died)

William Bentley: Brick Hill, Cratloe, died 22nd Nov 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Margaret Bentley Cratloe. (TB) William Bentley was killed 11 days after the Armistice. When clearing out a battlefield, he saw a concertina on the ground and lifted it. It was booby-trapped and he was killed by the explosion. (Padraig Og O’Ruairc)

James Brennan: Bunratty, died 27th July 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB) The 1st RMF remained in the area of the Loos salient in July and August 1916 with some intermittent casualties.

Joseph Brennan: Burton St Kilrush, died 21st August 1915 in Gallipoli age 44, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on the Helles Memorial Turkey. Husband of Bridget Brennan Grace Street Kilrush. (TB)

Michael Burke: Born in Ennis lived in Clarecastle, died 12th Jan 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, 8202 (16th Div), G/M in Belgium. Killed in action. (TB) (Also wounded in Sept 1916 at the Somme. Probably at Ginchy.) (CJ)
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

Michael Burley: Cornmarket St Ennis (Drumcliffe), died 24th May 1915 age 22 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Pte Burley: Ennis, RMF 1st, died April 1915 in the Dardanelles. (P McN) (TB)

Patrick Carpenter: Clare Road Cottages, Ennis, died 26th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

John Clohessy: Ennistymon, died 21st August 1915 in Gallipoli, age 28, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Helles Memorial, Turkey. Son of Mrs Anne Foran of Deerpark. (Guss O'Halloran)(TB)

Edmond Colgan: Ennis, died June 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs M E Colgan Clonroad Cottage Ennis. (TB) He died during the battle of Gulley Ravine. (Photo of the grave from Joe Lacy & The Clare Herald)

Thomas Collins: Sixmilebridge, Died 31st March 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

John Costello: Kilkee, 30th Sept 1918 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street Kilkee. (TB) Killed in action. He was also named in the list of badly wounded in the Clare Journal in June 1916. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Mrs B Costello Gratton Street, Kilkee.

John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359 (16th Div), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis. Killed in action in Ginchy. (TB)(CJ) On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’. He fought in Gallipoli before being transferred to the western front in France.

Lawrence Curtin: Kilbaher, Carrigaholt, died 12th May 1915 age 17 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Egypt. Son of Mrs Mary Curtin Grace St Kilrush. (TB) He died of wounds.
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

**Thomas Davis:** Turnpike Road, Ennis, executed in Gallipoli 2nd July 1915 age 21 for allegedly deserting his post, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) ‘On 2 July Pte. T. Davis of the 1RMF was executed, having been found guilty of ‘quitting his post’ while on duty without the orders of a superior officer on 20 June. As one of a number of men on guard duty at Battalion H.Q., his task had been to patrol the perimeter as a ‘flying sentry’ for a two hour patrol starting at 1am. A sergeant discovered him missing an hour and a half later and reported him to the guard room. Pte. Davis turned up three hours later and was charged.

At his trial on the 22nd he said he had needed to find a latrine but was disbelieved in the light of a bad previous military record which included a ten year suspended sentence to penal servitude. Five men of the 1RMF had previously had death sentences on a charge of ‘behaving in such a manner as to show cowardice before the enemy’ on 9 May, commuted in the light of the gallant performance of the rest of their Battalion….

‘The Battalion is in an awful state. It is about 450 short but full of soldiers with about 2 months service.’ .. The decision to carry through the execution on 2 July of Private T. Davis in contrast to previous sentences which had been commuted, may have been influenced by the unhappy state of the Battalion described by Nightingale.’ (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton)

**Martin Earls/Earles:** Kilfarboy, Miltown Malbay, died 25th April 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Bridget Earls. (TB)

**John Ensko:** Lifford, Ennis, died 21st Aug 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Helles Memorial, Turkey. (TB) Killed in action in Gallipoli.

**Daniel Falvey:** Ennis, died 10th Aug 1917 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Daniel and Ann Falvey Inchbeg Ennis. (TB) He died of wounds.

**John Fitzpatrick:** Ennistymon, died 21st Aug 1915 age 21 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Son of John Fitzpatrick of 5 New Road Ennistymon. Brother of Eileen O’Brien of New Road. (Guss O’Halloran)

**Arthur Flynn:** Killaloe, died 27th Sept 1918, 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. (TB) Arthur Flynn: Killaloe. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in June 1918 (SR) He lived with his mother Ellen in Main Street Killaloe. (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

John Fogarty: Quin, died of wounds at home on the 27th Dec 1918 age 25, 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Crusheen. Son of Thomas Fogarty, Corbally, Quin. (TB) J Fogarty: Quin. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Sept 1917. (SR)

Michael Foran: Kilkee, died 27th Dec 1916, 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Belgium. (TB) Next of kin Mrs Curtin Pound St Kilkee. Killed in action.

Patrick Frawley, Turnpike Ennis, died 25th April 1915 at Gallipoli, 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Brother of Peter who also died. Six brothers who served, two of whom were killed. Killed in action.

John Griffin: Ballyvaughan, died 25th April 1915 age 24 in Gallipoli, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Helles Memorial Turkey. Son of John and Bridget Griffin Ballyvaughan. (TB)

John Howard: Ennistymon, died 19th Oct 1915 (1916) on Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

Joseph Griffin: Miltown Malbay, died 22nd March 1918 age 35 in Pozieres, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Killed in action. J Griffin Miltown Malbay wounded at the front in May 1916. Son of Mrs Anne Griffin Armagh, Miltown Malbay. (CJ)

John Howard: Ennistymon, died 19th Oct 1915 (1916) on Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO: Glendree Tulla, died 1st Oct 1918 age 29. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on the 8/11/1915 (and a Bar to the DSO on the 1st Jan 1919), the Chevalier Legion of Honour and was Mentioned in Despatches. Son of Judge R R Kane and Eleanor Coffey, Dublin and Glendree Co Clare. ‘Entered army 1908. Joined 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1908 at Rawalapindi, and served in India and Burma (where his sister also lived) until 1914. Present at the Gallipoli landings until 13 July 1915. Wounded in action 4 May 1915... Recreations, hunting, polo, big and small game hunting.’ From Who Was Who 1916-1930.
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

John Keane: Ballyvaughan, died 27th Aug 1917 (1914) in India, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Burma. (TB)

Private John Keane MM: Burton St Kilrush, died 9th Sept 1916 age 20 (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal. ‘The death is announced of a brave Kilrush soldier, Private J Keane, of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action. He received the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street.’Clare Journal 1917. (TB) Brother of Michael. KM

Private Michael Keane: The Glen Kilrush, died 26th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. His four brothers also enlisted. Son of Patrick and Mary Keane. Brother of Pat and Thomas. ‘In reference to his Majesty’s congratulations to Mr Wm Slade, commercial porter at Reading, for having six sons in his Majesty’s Forces, we call attention to the fact that Mr Pat Keane, Kilrush, Co Clare, has five gallant sons in his Majesty’s Forces.’ Clare Journal Nov 1914. (TB) KM

Michael Kearney: Drumbiggle Road Ennis, died 1st May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. Son of Mrs Ann Kearney. (TB)

Private Patrick Kelly: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Killed In Action in Gallipoli. KM Could be Private Patrick Kelly 6302. Died June 25th 1915 age 22, Royal Munster Fusiliers. He is buried in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey. Plot: VII. A. 6. (findagrave website) (RMF Book Cat McCance)

Thomas Kelly: Clarecastle, (Tulla) died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9373 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB) Was taken prisoner in Etreux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany. POW Dec 1915 (CJ)

Michael Kildea: Miltown Malbay, died 19th Oct 1916 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie Kildea Ennistymon Road. (TB) Killed in Action. ‘I go into battle, after saying a few prayers and a light heart.’ (After the Battle of Ginchy on the Somme, the RMF 1st Bn was moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium.)
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

**John Leahy:** Corrovorin, Ennis, died 1st May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli on the Helles Memorial, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs Hannah Leahy. (TB)

**Peter Loftus DCM:** Ennistymon, died 19th May 1915 age 19 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Alexandria, Egypt. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. (TB) ‘On the 26th April 1915 at Sedd-EL-Bahr, for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ Son of W. and Annie Loftus. He was also Mentioned in Despatches. (Guss O’Halloran)

**Michael Lynch:** Ballynote, Kilrush, died 1st May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. (TB) Private Michael Lynch: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in Action in France. KM

**Patrick Lyons:** Newmarket on Fergus, died 3rd May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. (TB)

**Michael Magee/McGee:** Scariff, died 26th April 1915 age 36 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. Son of Michael and Johanna McGee, St John’s Street, Killaloe. (TB)

**Private Jack Maloney:** Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Killed In Action in Gallipoli. KM (no records available) Not in RMF Book.

**Michael Magee/McGee:** Born and lived in Scariff, died 26th April 1915 age 36 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9792, G/M on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. Killed in action in Gallipoli. Son of Michael and Johanna McGee, St John’s Street, Killaloe. (TB) Michael McGee: Killaloe, died April 1915. RMF 1st. Gallipoli. (PMcN)

The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

Private Stephen McKnight MM: Kilrush, died 22nd March 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn in Pozieres, G/M in France. (TB) KM He won the Military Medal (and 2 parchment Certificates KM) in Sept 1917. (SR) Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street. Brother of James. (Morgan Roughan)

Patrick McMahon: Ennis. Died 22nd March 1918 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of James and Margaret McMahon Cahercon, Shanavea. (TB)


John McNamara: Ennis died 1st May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)


James Meaney: Kilkee, died 2nd April 1918 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Ellen Meaney Ball Alley Lane, Kilkee.(TB)

John Molony/Moloney: Kildysart, died 21st March 1918 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Simon and Katie Molony, Derrylea, Kildysart. (TB)

John Moloney: Kilrush, died 1st May 1915 age 33 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Husband of Johannah Moloney, Crofton Street, Kilrush.(TB)
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

James (Sonny) Moroney 8084 (Joseph Kennedy): Mill Street, Ennis, died 3rd Jan 1919. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. Fifth son of Charles Moroney. James Kennedy 8084: Ennis. A POW in June 1918 (SR) ‘He was taken prisoner at the opening of the big German Push, on March 22 1918, and was kept a prisoner in Germany until the armistice. He was released on Nov 29th 1918, but was so prostrated from bad treatment and starvation, that he had to be sent to a hospital at once in France, being unable to travel home, and never rallied’. From the Sat Record Jan 1919. (TB) He had been badly wounded in August 1917, but recovered and rejoined his regiment.

George O’Brien: The Upper Market Ennis, died 25th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mr Martin O’Brien. TB Also reported wounded in Nov 1914 in Lincoln Hospital. Died of wounds.

John O’Brien: Doonbeg, died 15th June 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Martin O’Brien: Kildysart, died 28th June 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Sgt. William O’Halloran: His family lived in the Turnpike Ennis. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4800 (16th Div). He was killed 4th Nov. 1916. He was a sergeant in the Royal Munsters. Brother of John Joseph. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and at Ginchy at the Somme in Sept 1916. He died in an area south of Ypres. (Eddie Lough) G/M in Belgium.

Patrick O’Neill: Lived in Feakle enlisted in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916 age 26, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5571 (16th Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of William O’Neill Ballylongford, Co Kerry. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme)

Alfred Quinlivan: Market Street, Ennis, died 15th August 1917 age 33, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) France. Son of Mrs Mary Quinlivan. (TB)

John Quinn MM: Lahinch, died 23rd Feb 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal. (TB)
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF

**John Quinn:** Kilrush, died May 1915, Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF 1st. (PMcN) Private John Quinn: 1st RMF 1067. Died 29/6/16.(RMF Book Capt McCance)

**John Regan:** Kilrush, died 3rd May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 45. Private John Regan: Chapel Street Kilrush. RMF. Killed in landings at Gallipoli. KM

**Thomas Russell:** Kilmaley, killed in action 15th Aug 1917 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. Son of John and Catherine Russell, Culleen Kilmaley. (TB)

**John Patrick Ryan:** Kildysart (Born in Lissycasey), died 1st July 1918 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Ryan, Effeman Kildysart. (TB)

**Patrick Scanlan:** Kilrush, died 20th Nov 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead N-W)

**Lance Corporal Simon Smyth:** Lisgreen (Lisdeen, Kilkee ?) Co Clare, died Aug 1915 (July) in Gallipoli, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

**John Stokes:** Ennis, died 28th May 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

**Michael Thynne:** Church Hill Ennistymon, died 4th May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Brother of John and Patrick who both also died. Son of John and Catherine Thynne. (Guss O’Halloran) Died of Wounds.

**Patrick Tierney:** Ennis, died 6th July 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB) Died of wounds in Gallipoli.

**Lance Corporal John Walsh:** Ennistymon, died 7th June 1917 age 32, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB)
The 69 Claremen who Died in the 1st RMF


Michael Ward: Mountshannon, died 3rd Oct 1918 age 23, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. Son of John and Caroline M Ward Drewsboro, Scariff. (TB)

The 1st RMF Regiment raised 10 Battalions and was awarded 51 Battle Honours and 3 Victoria Crosses during the course of the war. The Regiment was engaged in battle 13 times at full strength and reduced to less than 6 officers and 300 men 10 of those times. 3,070 men of the Regiment died during the 1,566 days of action.

170 Claremen who fought with the Royal Munster Fusiliers lost their lives in WW1.
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

Private Walter Aldridge: Pound St /Hector Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He served in France. KM (No RMF records found) No Aldridge in RMF. Eddie Lough

Private Baker MM: Lisdoonvarna. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was awarded the Military Medal in May 1919 for bravery in the field. (SR) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 182. Not in RMF Book ! ![268 Pte. Baker P. Was gazetted May 16 1919 shown under RMF. However his Medal card shows him as Connaught Rangers with no mention of RMF] Eddie Lough


Private Martin Brennan: Burton St, Kilrush Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM No Martin Brennan in RMF. [No Record RMF but several of this name in other Fusilier Regs]

Private John Burke: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM9 John Burke’s in RMF. [Can’t tell which one]

Private Martin Burke: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM[3 in RMF can’t tell which]

Private Michael Butler: Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was two years in France when he was invalided and received a pension. KM. The other Michael Butler in the RMF died. [4009 in 8 Bn. KIA. 8121 Butler date shows 2 Bn.]

Private Martin Cahill: Moore Street Kilrush, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Invalided and died. KM No Martin Cahill in RMF. [A Martin Cahill, Moore St. Kilrush enlisted in the RGA 8013 in Cork on 25-4-1917 and was discharged 7-8-1917 unfit for war service, claimed to have 5 years in Clare Militia previously] Eddie Lough

Private Patrick Cahill: Moore Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM KM4 Patrick Cahill’s in the RMF.[can’t id the Kilrush one]
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

‘Modder’ Carthy: Ennistymon, Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF. NCS (No Carthy in RMF)

Private John Casey: Alley Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded twice in France. KM 9 John Casey’s in RMF [Two were discharged with SWB 7/1900 AND 5/6535 INDICATING THE 7TH and 5TH Bns, however in award rolls 1900 shown as 1Bn. and 6535 as 9 Bn. and later 1 Bn. not unusual for transfers between many Bns. ??]

Private Jack Clancy: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM [J Clancy 3 Bn. RMF 5931 but he is a Sgt, who won a DCM; James Clancy G/2200 RMF, but no info. on Bn. was discharged medically unfit 14-8-1918]

Sergeant T Cleary: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM [found nothing useful]


J Considine: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Dec 1917. (SR) [Several J Considines, not enough info.]

F Conway: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) [not found]

Private Martin Conway: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded. KM 2 Martin Conway’s in RMF [Conway 3711 was in 9 Bn. Conway 9782 date suggests 1 Bn., both discharged through sickness not wounds]
Private Michael Conway: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded and disabled. (He lost a hand) He received a pension. KM Only 1 Michael Conway in the RMF [This MC probably 6 Bn. but this man discharged to reserves, ? not if he lost a hand, his award roll entry shows 6 Bn. and later 2 Bn.]

Private John Cooney: Malt House Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded and gassed. He was invalided with a pension.KM 3 John Cooney’s in the RMF. [Two John Cooneys discharged to reserves, so probably not your one. The other John Cooney is 5919 and date suggests 2 Bn. however no SWB found for this man??]


Private John Costelloe: Grace Street Kilrush, Royal Munster Fusiliers. He served in France. KM. 3 John Costelloe’s in the RMF. [not enough info found to indicate which was the Kilrush man]

Private Michael Crowe; Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for three years in France.KM No Michael Crowe in the RMF. [Found nothing]

Private Sinon Culligan: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM Only 1 S Culligan in the RMF.

Lawrence Curtin: Kilbaher, Carrigaholt, died 12th May 1915 age 17 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Egypt. Son of Mrs Mary Curtin Grace St Kilrush. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E) Private Lee Curtin: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed In Action in France. KM  Died before Aug 1915 according to an article in the Clare Champion 21st Aug 1915 on the Soldiers & Sailors Families Association .[Lawrence RMF 9787 must be the soldier KinA, NOTED AS 1 Bn.]
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

**Private John Daly**: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM 9 John Daly’s in the RMF. [not enough info to tell which soldier]


**Private James Doyle**: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM 7 James Doyle in the RMF.

**P. Doyle**: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died before Aug 1915 according to an article in the Clare Champion 21st Aug 1915 on the Soldiers & Sailors Families Association. 12 Patrick Doyle’s in the RMF. Only 1 was killed. [This man 9398 was from Cork ref. soldiers who died, Rolls show KIA on 4-9-1916 can’t id any other Doyle]

**Peter Falvey**: Kilkee. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A farmers son. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton) The only Peter Falvey in the RMF. [Nothing more found re Bn.]

**Private John Faulkner**: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. KM [See J. Falkner or John Falkiner, same number 4515. To France 3-1-15 probably to 2nd Bn. Another John Falkner RMF 3991 WAS IN 8 Bn. Medals forfeited, deserted]

**Private Michael Faulkner**: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded twice in France. KM No Faulkner in the RMF. [Various spellings of this name, a Michael Faulkner 16792 was in Royal Irish Fusiliers??]

**Private Simon Frawley**: Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM No Simon Frawley in the RMF. [Can’t find]
E (Edward ??) Fitzgerald: Ruan. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Dec 1917. (SR) 5 Edward Fitzgeralds in the RMF. [a contact in Ruan remembers an Edward Fitzgerald living there, but no info to id which of the 5]

Private John Galvin: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France and died in England. KM No records available. 4 John Galvins in the RMF [not enough info found to state which Galvin]

Corporal James Gorman: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He served in France. He was captured and was a POW in Germany. KM Not on RMF POW list. 4 James Gorman’s in the RMF [no info. to point to any of the four]


Gerard Halloran: Ennistymon. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of Michael Halloran. 5 of his brothers and two brothers in law fought in WW1. No Gerard Halloran or O’Halloran in RMF


Michael Halloran Junior: Ennistymon. Enlisted into Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1911, but was discharged shortly after due to a back injury. Son of Michael Halloran. 5 of his brothers and two brothers in law fought in WW1.

Private Patrick Hannon: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM 2 Patrick Hannons in RMF [Nothing more found]
Private P Haugh: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Labour Battalion. KM Only a D Haugh in RMF. [no more to add]

J Hayes: Newmarket on Fergus. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Sept 1917. (SR) [Found 10 J. Hayes. Can’t find a record to fit]

Private Pat Hickey: Moore Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM 8 Pat Hickey’s in RMF. [??]

Corporal Pat Hogan: Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM 6 Pat Hogan’s in the RMF. [??]

Private P Keane: Grace Street Kilrush. RMF. Served four years in France. KM

Private S Keane: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM [not found]

Private John Kelleher: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM8 John Kelleher’s in the RMF. [??]

Sergeant Kelleher: Ennistymon. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. Suffered from shellshock (CJ) [the only Sgt. Kelleher RMF found was John Kelleher RMF Sgt. 6123, he was a regular soldier, enlisting in 5-8-1908, he was discharged due to “sickness”, which would fit “shellshock”. No medal card info. from SWB record]

Private Pat Kelly: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded and disabled in France. He received a pension. KM [Found 10 P. Kelly in RMF, 2 discharged with SWB records. No Bn. info with either. [found a Patrick Kelly in E. Lan. Reg 21129, joined 1902 discharged 20-11-15, home address Main St. Kilrush]

P Killon (should be P Dillon): Corofin. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed In Action. (PMcN) No MRI Card. [No RMF record found. 2 P Dillon died (1) R. Dub. Fus.1 Bn. 10010. (2) Kings Liverpool Reg. 12295]
Private Patrick Lahiffe: Islandavanna, Tiermaclane, Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Brother of Michael (2nd Bn) who died and James. Born in Killimer. (Eric Shaw) The only P Lahiffe is in the RFA. on MRI Cards. [Not found in RMF records]


Private Patrick Lynch: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM 10 Pat Lynches in the RMF. [??]

Private John Mack: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM No Macks below in RMF !!! on MRI Cards. [These Mack names could be McMahons or McNamaras etc, Too many needles in the haystack, need more info. to pin down]


Private Peter Mack: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM

Sinon Mack: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)

Private Jack Maloney: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in Action in Gallipoli. KM (no records available) Not in RMF Book. [Not found]


Private Martin McCarthy: Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed In Action in France. KM (no records available) No MRI Card [Not found---a Martin McCarthy of Royal Dub. Fus. 8475 died in hospital 5-12-1918]
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

Private Martin McCarthy: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM No MRI Card [No Martin found in RMF, lots of McCarthys, including a Michael]

Private Bernard McCloskey: Moore Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed In Action in France. KM [No records available] No MRI Card [Nearest fit found was a Thomas McCluskey RMF 7711 in 1 Bn. he was presumed dead on 21-8-1915]

Private James McCormack MM: Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. Awarded the Military Medal for bravery. KM [Nearest found was a Sgt David McCormack RMF 8961 1 Bn. a MM recipient 3/6/16] Eddie Lough

Private P McGravin (No McGravin’s or McGavin’s in the RMF): Kilkee, Royal Munster Fusiliers. (PMcN)[?? 3 possible names found in RMF 1) McGlynn.2)McGovern. 3) McGreen??]

Private Pat McInerney: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM 4 Patrick McInerney’s in the RMF. [2 of these were discharged due to sickness not wounds, can’t pick out this man from the 4 others]

Private James Mc Mahon: Drumbiggle, Ennis. Aged 45 when he enlisted in 1915. Royal Munster Fusiliers 6392 (and Royal Irish Rifles)[Regiment not legible]. He was married to Bridget Rockford on the 29 Sept 1889 and they had 3 children. He was a tailor, and he survived the War. (British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Sergeant John Joe McMahon: A village blacksmith in Clarecastle. He seems to have initially enlisted with the Munsters but transferred to the Royal Irish Regiment. He was 42 when he enlisted. He survived the war and lived on here until his death in 1960. I remember him as an old man with a flat cap. He served briefly with the Irish Army during the Emergency and got a medal from that. He got a Soldiers & Sailors house in Clarecastle. Eric Shaw [? The RMF. Found a John Joseph McMahon who was a Sgt. In the 6 Bn. Royal Irish Reg. and also served with the Royal Fusiliers and Lab. Corps. RIR 1735]

Private Martin McMahon: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM (C E Glynn) 6 M McMahon’s in the RMF.[ Too many to narrow down]
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

Michael McNamara: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW added to the list in Aug 1918. (SR) 9 Michael McNamara’s in the RMF [Too many McNamaras]

S McNamara: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) [Found a Stephen McNamara RMF 5508 but no clue as to Bn.]

Private John Moloney: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM 9 John Moloney’s in the RMF [Won’t even try!!!]

Michael Moloney: Quilty, died 27th April 1916 age 18, Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers, G/M in France. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of Martin and Bridget Moloney Quilty West. (TB) His father Martin died in Jan 1917. See above. (see Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)

Private Thomas Moloney: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Discharged unfit. KM [Didn’t find a Thomas discharged unfit from RMF]

P Moore: Kildysart. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Dec 1917. (SR) 5 P Moore’s in the RMF[ Not enough to narrow down]

Private Joseph Murphy: Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF (PMcN) 7 Joseph Murphy’s in the RMF. [Too Many]


Private Simon Nevills: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France for two years. Invalided with a pension. KM Simon Neville ??? [Discharged due to “sickness” 3-7-1917, no clue as to Bn.]

Private John O'Brien: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Shell shock and wounded in Gallipoli. He received a pension. KM (1st, 6th or 7th) (34 John O'Briens in RMF !!!)


Joseph O'Brien: Deerpark Ennistymon. Royal Munster Fusiliers 3680. NCS He enlisted in Jan 1915 and served 88 days. His wife was Mary and their son Thomas. No medals were awarded as he did not serve overseas. (Guss O'Halloran)


Private Martin O'Brien: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Attached to Labour Battalion. KM 7 Martin O'Brien's in the RMF. [RMF 103 and Labour Corps 119770 only fit, but no clue in docs as to Bn.]


Private Michael O'Brien: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Badly wounded. Served in Gallipoli and France. KM(1st, 6th or 7th) [6 Michaels found with SWB records can’t narrow down]

Pat O'Brien: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. KM [Too many in RMF]

Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

**W O’Brien**: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Aug 1916. (CJ) [Same story name too common in RMF]

**Patrick O’Connor**: Ennistymon, survived War? Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF. NCS [Too many of this name in RMF]

**Private Martin O Dea**: Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM No Martin O’Dea in the RMF. [Not found]

**Private Pat O Dea**: Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for four years in France. KM No Pat O’Dea in the RMF. [Not found]

**Private John O'Donnell**: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. KM 7 John O'Donnell’s in the RMF [Too many]

**Lance Corp J O’Gorman**: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Jan 1918. (SR) 5 J O’Gorman’s in the RMF. [can’t find any to fit a L/Cpl]

**John O’Loughlin**: Ennistymon. He was a Yardsman aged 48 when he enlisted in Sept 1914 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers. (c/1031). (Clare Library)

**P Quin**: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) No P Quin in the RMF. [3 Patrick Quinns found in RMF 1) G/790 served in the 1 Garrison Bn. 2) 6352 1 Bn. SWB discharged due to wounds 10-7-1919. 3) 10645 2 Bn. SWB discharged due to wounds 19-8-1919. No clue as to which one from Clare]

**Private Michael Shannon (Senior)**: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Invalided. KM [can’t find another Michael Shannon]

**M Shannon**: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Dec 1917. (SR) [as above]
Private Charles Simmon: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for three and a half years in France. KM No Simmon in the RMF. [can’t find]

Michael Skerritt: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers (RMF). Arrested for desertion in May 1915 but escaped from Ennis RIC Barracks by swimming through the town from the Club Bridge. He was arrested later at his father’s house who subsequently had a heart attack. (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 35. ‘In May (1915), three men who had deserted from the RMF upon hearing that they were due to leave for the front were arrested in Ennis. One named Skerritt subsequently managed to escape from custody by jumping into a river and again managed to evade his pursuers when later cornered in a nearby quarry.’ (The story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton) No MRI Card [can’t find]

Private James Sullivan: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded and invalided. Joined RMRI. KM Private Sullivan: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded at the front in May 1916. (CJ) 11 James Sullivan’s in the RMF. [Can’t pin down to Kilrush, 3 were discharged with SWB but that does not help]

Private John Sullivan: Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM [Too many John Sullivans in the RMF, can’t id your man]

Private Thomas Sullivan: Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. (Still alive in 1918) KM [Again too many same name in RMF]

Private P Thompson: Alley Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded by shrapnel. Invalided with a pension. KM [Can’t find any “P” several other Christian names for Thompsons in RMF??]

Private John Walsh: Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Home Service. KM (Poss 3, 4 or 5?) 15 John Walsh’s in the RMF [Won’t even try!]

M (Martin?) White: Ennistymon. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Oct 1916. (CJ) He had three brothers in the war. See William White below. His father was Michael White. (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 115. 6 M White’s in RMF [Too many]
Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers
and where they came from.

**Ardnacrusha:** Michael Purcell.

**Ballyvaughan:** Thomas Glynn, John Griffin, John Keane, Austin Francis Ryan.

**Barefield:** John Hanrahan.  **Bodyke:** Patrick Ryan

**Bunratty:** James Brennan.

**Carrigaholt:** Lawrence Curtin, Denis Ginnane, Michael Kinsley, John Sullivan.

**Clarecastle:** Thomas Browne, Michael Burke, J Fitzpatrick, Thomas Gleeson, John Pal Horan, M Kinnane, James McMahon, John Joseph McMahon, Thomas McMahon, S Molony, Cornelius O’Donoghue, James Ryan.

**Clonlara:** John Byrnes.

**Corofin:** Patrick Dillon, Patrick Hourigan, P Killon, Patrick McNamara, John Joseph Slattery, Sgt T Crowe, J Minehan, G Myles, D O’Halloran, Patrick Tierney.

**Cratloe:** William Bentley: Cratloe, died Nov 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France.

**Crusheen:** John Fogarty.

**Doolin:** John Woods, P Woods.

**Doonbeg:** Thomas Killeen, John O’Brien, Michael O’Brien.

**Dysart:** Charles Sexton.

Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers and where they came from.


**Feakle:** P Garvey, John Minogue, Thomas Muldoon, Patrick O’Neill.

**Kildysart:** P Moore, E Barry, William Francis Henn, John Molony/Moloney, Martin O’Brien, John Patrick Ryan.

**Kilfenora:** John Callaghan, M Davoren, P O’Callaghan.


**Kilaloe:** Joseph Sullivan, Peter O’Connell, Arthur Flynn, Gerald Lefroy, Joseph Malone, Michael McGee, Patrick McGee John McInerney, Patrick Joseph Murphy, Francis Noonan, John Sullivan.

**Killimer:** Michael Lahiffe.

**Kilmaley:** Thomas Russell.

**Kilmihil:** John Morris.

**Lahinch:** M Conway, P Garry, Patrick Kinnane, J O’Brien, Michael O’Donohue, John Quinn.

**Lisdoonvarna:** James Lenane, John Joseph Tierney.

**Lissycasey:** J Brosnan, Patrick Kelly, Patrick McCarthy.

**Meelick:** Thomas Markham, Michael McInerney.
Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers and where they came from.

Kilrush: Thirty-six soldiers with strong Kilrush connections died serving with the RMF and they reflect the general pattern of deaths in the regiment, with 1915 being the worst year. Most died serving with the 2nd RMF, with the 1st Battalion not far behind and France was where the vast majority died, although half of the deaths for 1915 occurred at Gallipoli or in Macedonia. The worst single day of fatalities was on 9 May, 1915, which saw six Kilrush men killed in action in France, which together with the Gallipoli landings, resulted in that month being the worst overall.

Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers and where they came from.


**Mountshannon**: Michael Ward.

**Moyasta**: John O’Dea.

**Mullagh**: James Costello.


**O Brien’s Bridge**: Michael Griffin, Thomas Griffin, Michael Maloney/Moloney.

**O’Callaghan’s Mills**: Michael Hallinan.

**Parteen**: Patrick Hartigan: Parteen, died Dec 1914 age 33 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France.

**Querrin**: Private John O’Shea.

**Scariff**: Pte John Dewar, J Dinan. Michael Magee/McGee.

**Quin**: J Fogarty.

**Ruan**: E Fitzgerald, Patrick Keane.

**Scariff**: Michael Dooley, John “Sacco” Downes, Audy Wiley.

**Sixmiletidge**: Thomas Collins, M Reidy.

**Tulla**: Robert Romney Godred Kane, Cornelius Kennedy.

**Whitegate**: William McNamara/MacNamara.

The 47th Brigade going back to a rest area after taking Guillemont in September 1916

Though you know not my name, remember me.
Though I may not have a special spot, remember me.
Though I was only here for a very short while, remember me.
Though I may not rest in this sacred place, remember me.
Though my soul was just passing by, remember me.
Remember me, remember us.
Pray for all.

Erected by The Graveyard Group
With kind permission of Clare Heritage, 2013
"In memory of those men of Munster who died fighting for freedom.

A tribute erected by the people of the province and Cork its capital city".

This beautiful and fitting memorial stands in the shadow of the rebuilt Cathedral in Ypres. It is not, strictly, a regimental memorial but this is as good a place as any to display it.