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 1st Bn, 185 in the 2nd Bn, 217 in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, and another 112 Battalion unknown. At least 184 Claremen died with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in WW1.

The 2nd Battalion landed in France on the 13th 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 2nd 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 1st 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 1st Battalion landed at Gallipoli, Turkey, on the 25th 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 1st 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 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

The 3rd, 4th and 5th were Reserve Battalions and not in combat. They did however provide soldiers for the combat Battalions. The 6th and 7th Battalions landed in Suvla Bay on the 7th August 1915, and later fought in Salonica and Palestine. The 8th and 9th 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 3rd to 9th 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 3rd to 9th RMF and the battles they fought in that include Suvla Bay, Struma, Jerusalem, Hulluch, Loos, Guillemont and Ginchy.
Claremen in The Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Battalion

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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 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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 WWI 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 (CI), The Saturday Record (SR), The Clare Champion, The Clare People, The Clare Museum, The Clare Library Local Studies Centre, Dolores Murrihy, 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.
Timeline for the 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers

**August 1914:** at Aldershot. Part of 1st (Guards) Brigade in 1st Division.

**14 August 1914:** landed at Le Havre.

**14 September 1914:** after suffering heavy casualties at Etreux, left Division and became Army Troops.

**9 November 1914:** transferred to 3rd Brigade in 1st Division.

**30 May 1916:** absorbed troops from disbanded 9th Bn.

**3 February 1918:** transferred to 48th Brigade in 16th (Irish) Division.

**13-14 April 1918:** absorbed the 19th Entrenching Battalion.

**19 April 1918:** reduced to cadre, surplus troops going to 1st Bn.

**31 May 1918:** cadre transferred to 94th Brigade in 31st Division.

**6 June 1918:** rebuilt by receiving troops from disbanded 6th Bn. Ten days later left Division and moved to Lines of Communication.

**15 July 1918:** transferred to 150th Brigade in 50th (Northumbrian) Division

**12 June 1922:** The Royal Munster Fusiliers were disbanded.
Where Claremen fought with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF.
Where Claremen fought with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF.

France - Etreux : Aug 23\textsuperscript{rd} – Sept 5\textsuperscript{th} 1914
Flanders: Zillebeke - The 1\textsuperscript{st} Battle of Ypres 19 Oct – 22 Nov 1914
France: Givenchy / Festurbet 18\textsuperscript{th} – 22\textsuperscript{nd} Dec 1914
France: La Basse Canal Jan – May 1915
France: Battles of Aubers Ridge/ Rue Du Bois 9\textsuperscript{th} May 1915
France: La Basse Canal May – September 1915
France: The Battles of Loos 25\textsuperscript{th} Sept 1915
France: Jan - to June - Lieven 1916
France: The Somme - High Wood 24\textsuperscript{th} August 1916
France: The Somme Martinpuich – Flers Sept 17\textsuperscript{th} – 22\textsuperscript{nd} 1916
France: The Somme- Morval Sept 25\textsuperscript{th} – 28\textsuperscript{th} 1916
France: The Somme April 1917
Flanders: Nieuport July 1917
Flanders: Passchendaele Nov 10\textsuperscript{th} 1917
France: The Somme - German Offensive Epehy – Hamel March 21\textsuperscript{st} – 28\textsuperscript{th} 1918
France: The Last Advance - Le Catelet 4\textsuperscript{th} October 1918
France: The Last Advance - October and November 1918
August 23rd 1914

‘The first major battle fought by the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the Western Front took place at Mons on 23 August 1914. In the wake of the Battle of Mons, the British Forces, along with their French allies, began retreating south west toward Paris. The men of the 2nd Munsters had remained in reserve at Mons and had not been involved in any fighting by the time they halted about four miles north of Étreux on the evening of 26 August. Along with the two cavalry units of the 15th Hussars and a section of the Royal Field Artillery, the Munsters were tasked with acting as a rearguard for III Corps of the BEF as it continued to retreat south toward the village of Guise.’

August 27th 1914

A Historic Action: The weather was warm and sultry as the men of the rearguard rose at dawn on the 27th and prepared to meet a possible German attack. Several early assaults by small by small groups of German troops were repulsed by well-aimed rifle and machine-gun fire, but by midday German infantry were attacking in strength and the Munsters were forced to retreat to village of Fesmy-le-Sart. Fesmy was the scene of heavy fighting throughout the afternoon as German units charged at the British lines and were repeatedly beaten back.

By 5 p.m., the battalion was in danger of being overrun and began to retire south toward Étreux in order to rejoin the main force of British troops which had been retreating for most of the day. Yet as they approached Étreux, the Munsters discovered that much of the town had already been occupied by German troops who now began to lay down heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. Cut off from its own army and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, the rearguard now began to suffer serious casualties as it tried to fight its way through the German lines. British troops charged again and again at the houses in the northern outskirts of the village, which were full of German soldiers, but were beaten back by intense enemy fire. By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces. Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered. By the time they laid down their arms, the Munsters had been fighting for over 12 hours against a German force that outnumbered them by about six to one.

August 28th 1914

On the day after the battle many of the dead Irishmen were buried in the same apple orchard in which they had fired their last shots. Over 600 British soldiers were killed during the rearguard action at Étreux, but by engaging so many German troops for so long the Munsters had allowed III Corps of the BEF to continue its retreat with only minor losses. ‘(History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)
France - Etreux: Aug 23rd – Sept 5th 1914

The Orchard

The Last Stand

B Company 2nd RMF

D Company 2nd RMF

C Company 2nd RMF

A Company 2nd RMF

Scale 2000

110000 Yards & 1 Mile

Reference:
- Companies (as lettered) of RMF at 11:00 a.m.
- German positions at 7 a.m.
- Munsters' Last stand
John Cunneen: Newmarket on Fergus, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 age 26 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Johanna, Latoon Newmarket on Fergus. (TB) Private Cuneen’s brother Thomas also served during the First World War and survived. Clare Museum.

James Hanrahan: Ennis, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 age 48 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of James and Mary Hanrahan and husband of Mary Cullinan Hanrahan. (TB)

John O’Connor: Ennistimon,(Liscannon) killed in action 27th Aug 1914 age 29 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Lance Corporal Christopher Spillane: Ennis, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)
James Williams: Ennis, killed in action 27th August 1914 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Patrick Flaherty: Ennis, died of wounds 30th Sept 1914 (possibly from Etreux), 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. (TB)

Private Edward Toomey/Twomey: Kilkee. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. He wrote a letter to the Clare Champion on Aug 14th 1914 headed ‘We stood our ground to the last’ (at Etreux). Joe Power.

Private John Daly: Stewart St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. POW for four years. KM Private John Daly: Kilrush. He was a Labourer aged 19 when he enlisted in 1903 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers 7414. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914 and repatriated in Nov 1918. His parents were Oliver and Bridget, his sister Julia and his brother Stephen Daly and they lived in Grace St Kilrush. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

According to Peadar McNamara 50 Claremen were taken as POW’s after Etreux.
P Collins: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Private Patrick Collins: Kilnaboy. He was a Shoemaker aged 20 when he enlisted in 1895 into the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5024. His mother was Mary Collins. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914. He was discharged in Dec 1918. His mother was Mary Collins Church Street Corofin. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) Patrick Collins: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5024. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) & Oct 1917 (SR). He had previously served in South Africa. (British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Private John Daly: Stewart St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. POW for four years. KM 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 John Danaher: Alley Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. He was a POW for four years. KM Private John Danaher: Alley Lane Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. Invalided with a pension. KM

Matt Dynan: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Private Matthew Dynan: Newtown Killaloe. He was a Servant aged 20 when he enlisted in 1903 into the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 7456. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914 and repatriated in Dec 1918. His father was Martin Dynan, his brothers John, Peter, James and sisters Ellen and Kate. He was discharged in March 1920. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Private Matthew Gorman: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. A POW in Germany. KM Matthew (O’) Gorman: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9982. POW in Nov 1917. (SR)

Private Martin Hayes: Parteen. He was a Labourer aged 18 when enlisted in 1908 into the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6151. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914 and repatriated in Dec 1918. He had previously served in South Africa. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

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)
Private John Hogan: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Wounded and captured at Mons. Three and a half years as a POW. KM Private John Hogan: Kilrush. He was a Labourer aged 26 when he enlisted in 1902 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers 7167. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914 and repatriated in Aug 1916 to Switzerland, and returned to England in June 1918. He was wounded in the thigh in Etreux. He was discharged in July 1918 for medical reasons.(British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Private Martin Kelly: Miltown Malbay Co Clare, lived in Ball Alley Lane Kilkee. He was a labourer aged 20 when he enlisted in 1904 with the Royal Munster Fusiliers 7632 2nd Bn. He served in Gibraltar and India before joining the BEF in Aug 1914. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914. He was discharged in 1920. He married Mary McNamara in Oct 1912 and they had 1 daughter and 1 son. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) Martin Kelly: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) In Aug 1916 sent a letter home (CJ)

Private James Kidney: Ennis, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn., was visited by the King and Queen while convalescing in London in 1914.(CJ) Among those who fell, there are also tales of miraculous survival. Pte J. Kidney was injured at Mons when, carrying despatches by bicycle, he was shot through the wrist and fell into a quarry. He was visited by the King and Queen in hospital, where he suffered an attack of cholera, seemed to have passed away and was sewn up in a blanket, only for doctors to notice signs of life at the last minute.’ (Limerick Leader) Private James Kidney: Mill Street Ennis. He was a Cycle Mechanic. He was aged 24 when he enlisted in 1915. Royal Tank Corps 308725. He survived the War.(WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

William Malone: Canal Bank Killaloe. He was a fisherman aged 18 when he enlisted in 1913 into the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 7288. He was taken prisoner at Etreux on the 27/8/1914, and was repatriated in Dec 1918. He had previously served in India. His mother was Susan and brothers John and Joseph.(British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Edward Maloney: Newmarket on Fergus. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. One of 5 brothers who served. They were all sons of Margaret Moloney. Four and probably five were in the army pre war. Three returning from India at its outbreak and two serving with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in France. Ed was captured probably at Etreux. All appear to have survived the war. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton) Edward Maloney: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9698. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ) and Nov 1917.

W McCowan: 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9979. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Private W McGowan: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured in August 1914 and was a POW for the duration of the war.KM
Private John Mc Sparrin: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. Four years in captivity. KM Died in 1929 from bronchitis and physical debility that was brought on by four years in a prisoner of war camp. (DMC)

Private Michael Moroney: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. POW 1914 (CJ) Dec 1915 (CJ) and Oct 1917.


Private John Stafford: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. POW for three and a half years. He received a pension. KM

Patrick Ensko: Lifford Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ) He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1903 in Ennis into the 5th Bn R.M.F (and later in the 2nd RMF). He became a POW in 27/8/1914. He was repatriated from Germany on the 29/12/1918. He had also served on the North West Frontier in India. His parents were Richard and Norah Ensko, and brothers Richard and Michael. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914–1920 ancestry.com)

Clare prisoners of war in a camp in Germany, May 1916. Sent by Cpl T Kelly to Miss Scanlan, Main Street, Clarecastle. (Brian Honan)
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF next saw action near Zillebeke, Belgium on 12 November and helped to defend against the last great German effort in the First Battle of Ypres. From 15 November as snows began they drove off further attacks, trench warfare now becoming dominant.

‘In the latter part of October (1914) the Battalion divided into three or four detachments, moved up with the British Army to the Ypres sector, and in the bitter and prolonged fighting of that period were put into the line in any sector which threatened to break or had already broken. Time after time a party of the Munsters restored the situation, recaptured the lost trenches, or delivered the counter stroke, thereby performing work as valuable as it was unselfish.’ (The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Munsters in France HS Jervis)

\textbf{James Lenane:} Lisdoonvarna, died of wounds 2\textsuperscript{nd} Nov 1914, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

‘At 6.30 (12\textsuperscript{th} Nov 1914) in the morning the bombardment was resumed with redoubled vigour...It lasted two hours, and then a heavy attack followed; but the Munsters held on gamely, and threw back the enemy each time he renewed the attempt.’ (The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Munsters in France HS Jervis)

\textbf{Cornelius O’Donoghue:} Clarecastle, Killed in action in the woods near Klein Zillebeke in Ypres 12\textsuperscript{th} Nov 1914 age 32, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Mrs Catherine Murphy. (TB)

In early December 1914 the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF aided in the evacuation of the Ypres Benedictine Convent, whose occupants subsequently established Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Ireland.
Yet Moltke’s successor, Field Marshal Eric von Falkenhayn, regarded Gheluvelt as a setback, not a defeat. Intent upon capturing Ypres before the full onset of winter, he launched one last attack on 11 November.

On this occasion the Germans threw twelve divisions against the salient. Moreover, the most intense artillery bombardment yet seen in the war preceded the great attack. Although this barrage was largely ineffective, it clearly inspired the imperious Prussian Guards, who, massing at their jump-off points, indulged in rousing renditions of the ‘Watch on the Rhine’ and other battle anthems.

Masked by heavy rain, smoke and fog, the Germans began their advance at 09.00hrs. Initially the poor visibility enabled them to close upon their objectives without heavy losses. When they eventually emerged from the mist, however, the dense ranks of grenadiers again lost heavily to waiting British infantry. Indeed, over the course of the morning, expert musketry and relentless machine-gun fire effectively destroyed the flower of the German Army. Several Irish battalions participated in the slaughter.

To the left of Herenthage Chateau, meanwhile, elements of 4/Prussian Division locked horns with 2/Royal Munster Fusiliers, which had been resurrected with reservists from the regimental depot in Tralee.

Operating in groups of two or three, and aware that there was no support to the rear, these hitherto unrated troops likewise fought with abandon—as the regimental history put it, ‘they gritted their teeth and prepared to “die hard”’.

For their part, the Prussians lived up to their reputation. Scourged by air-bursting shrapnel and repeatedly broken by rifle fire, they doggedly persisted, reforming time and again and coming on, as one witness put it, ‘in a sort of dazed way, as if they were drugged’. Such reckless courage was to no avail.

By 09.45hrs the Munsters had blunted the attack on their front, winning a famous victory afterward retold by Cork children, who sang of how:

‘The Kaiser Bill tried very hard
When he lined our front with the Prussian Guard
But the brave Old Munsters still fought hard
And held them back at Ypres’.
Dec 21\textsuperscript{st} /22\textsuperscript{nd} 1914 ‘Slowly but surely the advance continued... Suddenly a shot rang out, followed by another and then an inferno seemed to be let loose... The Munsters were 500 yards in advance of the troops on either flank!... Officers and men were falling everywhere; in ten minutes 11 officers and over 200 men were hit...... Slowly, reluctantly and methodically, at about 4am on the 23\textsuperscript{rd}, the shattered remnants of the four companies filed back to their starting point, unconquered and unconquerable.’ (The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Patrick Edwards: Ennistymon, killed in Action 21\textsuperscript{st} Dec 1914 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Thomas Griffin: O’Brien’s Bridge, killed in Action 21\textsuperscript{st} Dec 1914 age 20 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Ellen Griffin. (TB) Brother of Michael.

Patrick Hartigan: Parteen, killed in Action 21\textsuperscript{st} Dec 1914 age 33 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Hartigan. (TB)

Private Michael McCarthy: Grace Street Kilrush, killed in Action 21\textsuperscript{st} Dec 1914 age 25 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, G/M in France. Son of John and Bridget McCarthy, Grace St, Kilrush. (TB) KM

Thomas Sullivan: Kilrush, killed in Action 21\textsuperscript{st} Dec 1914 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

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

A Test of Endurance

Three officers of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, in a machine gun post at Festubert, 1915.
France: La Basse Canal Jan – May 1915

‘During the second half of January (1915) the 2nd Munsters were continually engaged repelling German attacks which culminated in the Kaiser’s birthday attack of January 25th. Fighting of the bitterest description developed, and the line held by the division (just north of La Basse Canal) was broken at many points. But there was one battalion in the front line which lost not a yard of trench, and that was the Munsters... Later in the day the enemy was thrown out of the trenches he had occupied with heavy loss in killed and prisoners.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Thomas Howard: Miltown Malbay, died of wounds 4th Feb 1915 at Bologne, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Patrick Griffin: Kilkee, died of wounds 27th March 1915 age 26, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Kate Griffin ‘who was deaf and dumb’ 45 O’Connell St Kilkee. His mother received a letter from the Rev Father Gleeson, Chaplain, giving a detailed account of the occurrence, from which it would appear ‘Griffin was with a digging party in the trenches when he received his death wound, and as the bleeding could not be stopped, the poor fellow only lived for two hours, but died a splendid death.’ (TB)

Colour-Sgt Major John Browne DCM: The Turnpike Ennis, Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Prisoner of War in Limburg March 1915. (CJ) CSM John Browne: Ennis. He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1897 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. He was awarded the DCM on the 30th January 1920.
France: Battles of Aubers Ridge/ Rue Du Bois 9\textsuperscript{th} May 1915

The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9\textsuperscript{th} 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France.

In front of each company was a green flag with the Irish harp and the word Munster embroidered on it. Sgt-Major J.T.Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark roadside, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men (8 were taken prisoner). That evening those who survived (3 officers and 200 men) returned to the same place for prayer.

19 Claremen were killed during the Battle or died shortly after from wounds.

9\textsuperscript{th} May 1915: ‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action. It was an unsuccessful day for the British forces overall, casualties exceeding 11,000, the devastating losses exposing the British forces weakness in artillery. Morale was subsequently at a low ebb.’
Private Michael Breen: Knock, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 30 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Bridget Breen Lower Burrane Knock. (TB)

James Buckley: Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Son of John and Annie Buckley Dunlickey Road Kilkee.

L/Sgt John Cunningham: Turnpike Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 25 in Rue du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of John and Margaret Cunningham, Turnpike. (TB) Brother of William Cunningham. (Clare Library)

John Hanrahan: Barefield, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Corporal John Honan: Grace Street Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France.Son of Michael and Honor Honan, Russells Lane Kilrush. (TB)

Corporal Michael Kinsley: Carrigaholt (Fothera), killed in action 9th May 1915 age 23, in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) (KCT)Son of Mary and Patrick Kinsley, Cross.


Lance Corporal John McCarthy: Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

John McGrath: Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Private John McGrath: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in action in Gallipoli. KM
Private Charles McMahon: Malt House Lane Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)KM

Patrick McMahon: Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Francis Noonan: Killaloe, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 20 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Francis and Mary Noonan, No 6 Cottage Newtown Killaloe. (TB)

Martin O’Brien: Kilkee, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 18 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary O’Brien, Ball Alley, Kilkee. (TB)

A/Sergeant Thomas O’Loughlin: Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 29 in the Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. His brother Martin also belonged to the same company. Son of Martin and Katie O’Loughlin. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead N-W) A former GAA player with the St Joseph’s football team. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton)

Corporal James Reynolds: Corovorrin Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 23 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (5514), G/M in France. He was the son of James and Margaret Reynolds. (TB) He was a brother of Stephen. (Eric Shaw)

(Geoffry) Goff Taylor: Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Private Geoffry Taylor: Moore Street Kilrush. RMF. Killed in Action in France. KM

Cornelius Costello: Kilkee, died of wounds 13th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois of wounds, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

John Cullinan: Ennis, died of wounds 18th May 1915 age 35 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. He died of wounds. He was the son of Patrick and Annie Cullinan. (TB)
Corporal Michael Butler DCM: Cloughleigh Ennis, died in April 1917. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (14th Jan 1916) for helping a comrade under heavy shell, maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (CJ) ‘He travelled close on 300 yards of ground...and he succeeded in getting his comrade to safety (from in front of an enemy trench), but badly wounded. He did all he could to assist his comrade, for 3 hours while under terrible artillery fire. When dusk came on he brought his friend to the trenches, but unfortunately the wounded man died, and Sergeant Butler gained the DCM for that heroic deed’. (Clare Champion April 2016) He was recommended for the Victoria Cross. (PMcN)

John O’Sullivan: Church Hill Ennistymon, died of wounds 3rd June 1915, age 23 of wounds (Possibly from Rue Du Bois), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in England. (TB) Son of Stephen and Margaret O’Sullivan Church Hill, Ennistymon. (Guss O’Halloran)


POW’s

Private Flynn: Butter Market Ennis. He was a POW in Limburg in May 1915. Probably Patrick Flynn 2nd RMF 8231. He was mentioned in a letter from Drummer Hynes to Mr P E Kennealy UDC in May 1915 CJ(TB) Private P Flynn 8231 along with Corporal W H Flynn were the only 2 Flynn’s that were on the RMF POW list.

Drummer John Hynes; Ennis Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. 9392. POW in Germany in May 1915. (CJ)

Corporal Kelly: Upper Turnpike Ennis. POW in May 1915 in Limburg. (CJ) RMF 2nd Bn.

Private Thomas Timmins: Brewery Lane, Ennis. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 10120. POW in Germany May 1915. (CJ) Dec 1915 (CJ)

Corporal Kelly: Upper Turnpike Ennis. 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in May 1915 in Limburg. (CJ)
France: La Basse Canal May – September 1915

‘The Battalion remained defending the same sector as previously. It knew the line ten miles to the north and south of the La Basse Canal like a book, and this same area was the scene of the new fight. By the end of May (1915) the Battalion bombers under 2nd Lieutenant J O’Brien (Clare Abbey House Clarecastle?), were distinguishing themselves by daring raids.....

The bombing raids of the Battalion drew congratulations from the Divisional commander. The trench work, however, was not carried off without loss, the week ending July 19th (1915) for instance, cost the Munsters 43 in killed and wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Private John Mahony: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush, died 16th July 1915 of wounds. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Mahoney Crofton Street.(TB

Thomas Cunneen. Newmarket on Fergus. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. Brother of John Cunneen. He survived the War, although shrapnel in his brain caused him severe problems in later years. Disabled before Aug 1915 according to an article in the Clare Champion 21st Aug 1915 on the Soldiers & Sailors Families Association.

Mission in France July 1915 Fr Gleeson
France: The Battles of Loos 25th Sept 1915

‘Although the Battalion had not been allotted a place among the assaulting troops at the Battle of Loos on September 25th 1915, their self-sacrifice in coming to the rescue of a neighbouring brigade in grave difficulties reduced their effectiveness in numbers to less than 350.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

The 2nd RMF at Loos Sept 1915

Sept 25th 1915 ‘The Munsters advanced in alternative waves over the open, and leaped over the British front line trench, loudly cheered by its inmates, on across No Man’s Land, losing heavily at every minute. They passed the Lone Tree and came up to the German wire, only to discover that the artillery bombardment had completely failed to cut it. Man after man was killed and lay against the obstacle... The first effort, costly and ineffective as it appeared at the time, was in reality a brilliant success. Green’s force, bombing down from the north, found the enemy’s attention diverted, and when the Munsters advanced again to the attack, the enemy gave under the strain and surrendered.’ The Battalion lost ‘8 officers and 210 other ranks killed and wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Michael Breen: Burton Street, Kilrush, killed in action 25th Sept 1915 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn., G/M in Loos France. Son of John and Margaret Breen. (TB)

John Tuttle: Ennis, killed in action 25th Sept 1915 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Loos France. Son of Edmund and Bridget Hehir Tuttle, Lysaght’s Lane. (TB)

Michael Griffin: O Brien’s Bridge, died of wounds 6th Oct 1915 age 30, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Ellen Griffin. (TB) Brother of Thomas.

Lance Corporal Michael McMahon: Kilrush, died of wounds 10th Oct 1915 age 23, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Margaret McMahon Burton Street. (TB) Private Michael McMahon: Malt House Lane Kilrush. KIA in France. KM

In November 1915 the Battalion was so depleted it became a Pioneer Battalion. ‘Though not occupying front-line trenches, the Munsters worked incessantly through the bitter winter, making and remaking trenches under intermittent shell and rifle fire.’
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Patrick Burke: Lifford Ennis. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Limburg in Dec 1915. (CJ) In July 1916 he and another 30 prisoners were taken to Manheim, where they were examined by German and Swiss doctors. Eventually, Pte Burke was sent to Switzerland, where he was again examined by doctors. After about a week he was informed that he was to be sent home to Ireland. Before that he was sent to recuperate at a place called Chateau D’Oey near Bern. He left Switzerland on 11th Sept and reached London on the 15th September and arrived back in Ennis on the 18th Sept 1916. The newspaper reported that he was in poor health. (Joe Power)

Daniel Considine: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers (6113 & 6412). POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) and Oct 1917 (SR)

James Considine: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 8328. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ)


P Cullinane: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ)

Private Thomas Cushen: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9940. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ)

Private Thomas Costelloe: Clare. 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ) [Another Costelloe, with an “e” at the end, RMF 5968. 2 Bn. Listed as a POW at Gissen. Joseph Manning in same group of POWS and listed as 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

John Hanley: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 8743. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ)

Lance Corporal Andrew Hegarty: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9773. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ)

Martin Kenny: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 10112. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ) [Award rolls show him in 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough
More 2nd RMF POW’s from Clare - Dec 1915

Gunner Joe Manning: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Garrison Field Artillery. He was a POW in Germany for four years. KM. He wrote a letter to Mr Thomas Ryan, a member of the Kilrush Urban Council in Aug 1918, from Germany, where he was a POW. (Joe Power) Joseph Manning: 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9978. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ). Eddie Lough

Lance Corporal John McCarthy: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6596. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ)

Patrick Mc Sparrow: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6872. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Etreux?

Joseph O’Brien: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 8483 (and Royal Corps of Signals). POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) On the 27/2/39 he lived at 3 Burrows Avenue, Richmond, Yorkshire.

Daniel O’Connor: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 7374. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ)

Private John O’Shaughnessy: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1027. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Only one J O'Shaughnessy in the RMF. [1027 doesn't come up as a number for any O'Shaughnessy. RMF 6063 was in the 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

Lance Corporal John F Ryan: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6905. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ)

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

Sergeant John Scanlan: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6653. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ)

November 1915

There followed three months of bitter winter in appalling trench conditions, spades, shovels and picks more in use than weapons. New young recruits began arriving, but in the relative inactivity, sixty five men were hit by harassing random fire. Forty went down with frostbite and trench fever in the Arctic weather.
2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, killed in action 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. (for Loos ?) Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.

‘From February (1916) the trench warfare recommenced, taking the heavy monthly toll of brave men’s lives, each of the five succeeding months taking an average of 50 killed and wounded alone, to say nothing of those incapacitated by trench fever and other disease.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis) In May 1916 the 2RMF received many of the personnel from the disbanded 9RMF, bringing it up to strength for the summer campaign.

The first noteworthy operation was the Lieven raid on 25 June into which much preparation had been put, a VC. being awarded to Lieutenant Arthur Batten-Pool, though losses were heavy with 5 officers and 60 other ranks (2 and 12 respectively killed).

John Joseph Flanagan: Ennistymon, killed in action 8th March 1916 age 37, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5663, G/M in France. (TB) Son of John and Catherine Flanagan. (Guss O’Halloran)

Lance Corporal William Burke: Ennis, killed in action 27th April 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Thomas Joseph Ryan: Newmarket on Fergus, killed in action 19th May 1916 age 17. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Ryan. (TB) His death occurred on a quiet part of the line and he may have been randomly killed during the day-to-day exchanges which characterised trench warfare.

Private Patrick Connole: 6 Victoria Terrace Church Hill Ennistymon, Co Clare. He was a Labourer aged 33 when he enlisted in 1911 in the Royal Munster Fusiliers 5th Bn 5676. He had previously served with the RGA for 12 years up to 1910. He served with the BEF in 1915 -16 (2nd RMF ) and in Salonika 1917 -18 (Royal Irish Fusiliers). He received a gunshot wound to the forearm in June 1916. He was discharged in April 1919. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) Private P Connole: Ennistymon. Wounded June 1916. (CJ) Patrick Connole: Ennistymon, survived the War, Royal Artillery. Brother of John. NCS. Wounded July 1916. (CJ)

J Minehan: Corofin. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 2/4087. Wounded June 1916. (CJ) [RMF 2/4087 indicates 2 Bn. and confirmed in other doc. As 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough
Corporal Stephen Moloney: Clarecastle. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. He survived the War and came to live in one of those Soldier’s houses in Killoo, Clarecastle. He died there in 1981 aged 85. (Eric Shaw) Stephen Molony: Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded July 1916. Shellshock. (CJ) Only 1 Stephen Moloney in RMF. [Looks like a 5 prefix which should indicate joining 5 Bn. at Limerick, other documents show him in 8 Bn. and later 2 Bn.] Wounded at Loos 10th June 1916. Wounded at the Somme 20th Jan 1917. (See Cert below)

‘I got these from Stephen Moloney’s grandson in Boston today. Stephen came to live in one of those Soldier’s houses in Killoo, Clarecastle. He died here in 1981 aged 85 and I remember him well. The grandson has the certificate sealed with the medals in a frame and was not willing to undo it to read his details from the rims of the medals. We know from the cert that he served as corporal with the RMF but not his actual service number’. Eric Shaw
France: The Somme - High Wood 24th August 1916

The battalion was transferred with its Division down to the Somme in July for the opening of the Battle of the Somme, entering the lines on 14 July capturing its objectives two days later, and repulsing the German counterattack on 18 July, in all with an officer and 26 men killed, 127 wounded and 50 gassed. They were in reserve until 20 August, when they entered the lines again for steady fighting but ran into heavy off-target and ineffective British bombardment, killing 4 officers and 29 other ranks.

John Cosgrove: Born and lived in Trough (Truagh?), Castlebank, Co Clare, killed in action 17th August 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9681 (1st Div), G/M in France. (TB)

‘On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the 2nd Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench (High Wood) still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack.’ (Pat McNamara Parteen)

Private Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clarecastle (Clare Abbey), killed in action Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776 (1st Div). G/M in Thiepval France. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey. (TB)

2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, killed in action 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.

Patrick Moloney: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 24th August 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4921 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

William Considine: Clare. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9363. A POW who sent a letter home in Aug 1916. (CJ) and Oct & Nov 1917. (SR)
Patrick Droney: Born in Ballymagh (Balliny North Fanore) Co Clare, enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 22nd Sept 1916 at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6831 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme)

Private Thomas Cusack: Born (1878) and lived in Kilrush, died of wounds 24th Oct 1916 age 38 at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6173 (1st Div). G/M in France in Feuquieres-en-Vimeau Communal Cemetery. He died of wounds (Possibly from the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Son of Tom and Mary Cusack, Glynn Street Kilrush (previously in Ballally Lane). Husband of Anne Cusack, Pound Street. (TB) He is commemorated on the back of a headstone grave no. 31 in Old Shanakyle Cemetery (East Section) in Kilrush.

Private Simon Shannon: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM Wounded Sept 1916. (CI) Only one Simon Shannon in the RMF [Simon’s number shown in one award roll is 5/6211, indicating enlistment in 5 Bn. Limerick the rest of his RMF service was in 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

A small bombing raid by “A” Company was carried out from the left salient on September 24th, but this was not successful, and the bombers withdrew to their trench with some loss.’ The following day the Battalion was given a months rest. (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Michael O’Connor: Born in Doolin lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 24th Sept 1916 age 30 at the Somme, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6377 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Husband of Ellen O’Connor, Church Hill, Ennistymon. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran) ‘Mike’ O’Connor: Ennistymon. NCS

Thomas Glynn: Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, died of wounds 26th Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9511 (1st Div), G/M in France. Son of James and Bridget Glynn, Ballyvaughan. (TB)

Private Thomas O’Shea: Bogberry, Ennistymon. 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 6458. Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) Born in 1882. He served in three campaigns, The Boer War, East Indies and WW1. He received a shrapnel wound and a gun shot wound to the hand and leg and was discharged due to injuries in March 1917. (Guss O’Halloran)

Private Ernest Crimmins: Ennis. 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 4548. Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) [8 Bn. and later 2 Bn. in award rolls. Wound may not have been serious enough to warrant discharge, therefore no SWB] Eddie Lough

P Mc Mahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Germany in Sept 1916. (CJ) Patrick McMahon 8143 was a POW on the RMF POW list. [This man was in the 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough


Private John McMahon: The Glen Kilrush. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. Discharged with a pension. KM Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) [Nearest fit is the only John McMahon RMF 7829 who was discharged with a Silver War Badge he was a regular soldier, enlisting in 1904, discharged 24-3-1919] Eddie Lough He was also a POW.
France: The Somme November – December 1916

After a month’s break in October, the 2RMF returned to the Somme for maintenance duties, then into front-line trenches full of mud from November onwards, with steady frostbite and raids continuing to the end of December. Throughout the Somme campaign the 2RMF retained its local and Irish character.

‘ About November 20th the Battalion took up a position in the front line between Eaucourt L’Abbaye and Flers...In December (1916) a raid on a portion of the enemy’s lines named the Maze was ordered....the patrol (2 officers and 12 men) went out and found the enemy not unnaturally had evacuated the trench (due to an artillery barrage). They returned and reported the matter...and were told to go out again and see if the German’s had returned...to what was certain death or capture...’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Edward Shannon: Born in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) lived in Kilkee, killed in action 20th Dec 1916 age 25 on the Somme, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5/6720 (1st Div), G/M in France. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Edward and Mary Shannon, No 8 O’Connell St Kilkee. (TB)

Tom Bentley MM: Cratloe. Joined the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1913, and served with the 2nd RMF 5871 in France. ‘A first class soldier who for reasons of his own refused promotion.’ He was awarded the Military Medal in May 1918. (29/8/ 1918 in RMF Book). After the war he joined an organisation that was having a difference of opinion with the British Government. Later he became an Officer in the Free State Army. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton)(RMF Book Capt McCance)

He was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in Dec 1916 (1/1/1917 RMF Book). With the demand for medals generated by the First World War, the MSM was, from 1916, also awarded for acts of gallantry or meritorious conduct when not in the face of the enemy. He also became 16/ DRO (Director of Recruiting and Organisation for the 16th Div?) in May 1918 when he was awarded the Military Medal. (2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
France: The Somme April 1917

The 2nd RMF were in the front trenches again in February at Barleux when a thaw turned everything into a sea of mud. In March the first major event was the German withdrawal from the old Somme battlefield to their new Hindenburg Line. The battalion followed across the Somme, but was held up removing mines and booby-traps and repairing communications into May.

‘After the German withdrawal on March 17th (1917) to the Siegfried Line…..the Battalion was the first unit to cross the Somme and was employed on draining and improving the communications destroyed by the retiring enemy. This was not done without loss from the numerous “booby traps” left behind.’ (2nd Munsters in France H S Jervis)

Sergeant Thomas Howley DCM: Twoclay, Co Clare, died of wounds 19th April 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (formerly with the Royal Irish Regiment), G/M in Germany. (TB) He was awarded the DCM 1st Jan 1917 with the 8th Bn RMF.

John McMahon: Kilrush, died at home 2nd June 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Kilrush Church of Ireland Churchyard. Service Number 6718. Son of Michael McMahon Grace Street. (TB)

Flanders: Nieuport July 1917

The 2nd RMF then moved to Nieuport Flanders for an intended amphibious landing with an impressive 43 officers and 1,070 men which was aborted by a surprise German attack on 10th July. They went through severe shelling and gas. The division was moved to Dunkirk for another attempt near Zeebrugge to link with a land offensive through Passchendaele, also cancelled when not gaining enough footing.

‘The Germans had projected a raid on a large scale on the British trenches near Nieuport, and as a feint on the 10th (July 1917) concentrated a violent bombardment on the Munsters’ camp…Scarceley a hut in the camp escaped damage…Four officers were wounded, seven rank and file were killed, and thirty–seven wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Private John Madigan: Vandeleur Street Kilrush, killed in action 10th July 1917 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Michael and Nora Madigan Kiltrellig, Kilbaha.

J Brosnan: Lissycasey. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Sept 1917. (SR) [Only Brosnan on Silver War Badge wounded list is a Daniel 436 shown as 2 Bn. in award rolls]Eddie Lough
By 6 November 1917 the 2RMF arrived at Irish Farm in the Ypres salient. The ground was a quagmire full of water-logged shell-holes after four months of battle. It was to be the last British effort of the Passchendaele campaign. Weighed down with equipment they waded waist deep through mud and water.

On the 10th November 1917 the Battalion joined in the battle raging round the Paschendaele Ridge. 'The barrage opened at 5.55 a.m., and zero hour was at 6 o’clock.... By 6.45 a.m. the whole of the objectives allotted to the Battalion were in our hands, and all ranks were in high fettle...the impatient Commanders ...decided to exploit their success and continue the advance. The order was received with a cheer. The main ridge, which overlooked the whole battle field was only 800 yards away, and the advance continued...

About 7.30 a.m. the advance came to a standstill.. At 7.50 a.m. the enemy was observed preparing a counter-attack... On came the enemy, their attack being carried out by an entirely fresh unit just arrived smart and clean on the battlefield, the celebrated “Cockchafer”...

Captain Batten-Pooll, V.C., at Void Farm was again attacked at 8.30 a.m. This time the enemy attacked from front and rear, and after a desperate struggle, in which Captain Delmege was badly wounded ..the post was overwhelmed by sheer force of numbers... Casualties by this time were enormous.. News of the enemy’s success trickled back to Battalion Headquarters and a counter-attack was immediately organized by the few men left available...

30 men attacked Tournant Farm about 9.30 a.m...after a sharp struggle the enemy gave up the task.... and the position was consolidated. The roll-call showed that of the 20 officers and 630 enlisted men who marched into action but 7 officers and 240 men remained.... The attack was well conceived and brilliantly carried out with an elan which carried all before it. Had the arrangements for subsequent action , liason, and co-operation been of equal excellence, the whole operation would have been a complete instead of a partial success.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Passchendaele: Nov 10th 1917

**George Friel:** Lahinch, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

**John McInerney:** Killaloe, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 age 21 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie McInerney John Street, Killaloe. (TB) ‘He was born 23 Oct 1897. The family spent many years in London where at least some of the children were born. John enrolled in Killaloe Boy’s school in October 1904 and left in June 1908. His father, a water bailiff died sometime before 1911. John enlisted at Killaloe in 1914.’ (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)

**Private Patrick McNamara:** Corofin, killed in action Nov 10th 1917 age 21 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Nora McNamara Back Street Corofin. (TB)

**2nd Lt Daniel Joseph O’Brien:** Clare Abbey House Clarecastle, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 age 33 in Passchendaele (During an attack on Tournant Farm), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB) He was a member of Clare County Council (two other Councillor’s also enlisted: Mr John Joe Connolly and Mr P.E. Kenneally) and a leader of the Clarecastle National Volunteers. He was accidentally wounded in training in Oct 1915. (CJ) Son of Mrs Margaret O’Brien. (SR) ‘He was killed in action fighting at the head of his men about 7am on 10th November. He was seen to have conducted himself with the greatest gallantry throughout the action, and when he was killed he was in our furthest objective. He was shot dead and suffered no pain.’ Lt Col H R A Ireland Regimental Officer. (Joe Power)

**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 Tournant 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)

**Private Patrick Garry:** Lahinch. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On wounded list in Dec 1917. (SR) Only one P Garry in the RMF. [This man is listed as 2/5939 on his Silver War Badge record, so 2 Bn. In other rolls he is listed as 1Bn. and then to 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough
Patrick Meehan: Originally Old Mill Street and later the Old Military Barracks Ennis. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 5715 (and later in the 2nd RMF). Wounded July 1916 in Loos(CJ), Oct 1916 (CJ) and on wounded list in Jan 1918. (SR) [8 Bn. confirmed in Award rolls] Eddie Lough. He was a Labourer aged 19 when he enlisted in Aug 1915 into the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 5715 and later the 2nd RMF in Feb 1917. He was captured in Nov 1917 (Passchendaele) and released in Dec 1918, and discharged in 1919. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Corporal Patrick St John: Miltown Malbay. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Dec 1917. (SR) The only P St John in RMF 6651. [In 2 Bn. discharged to Special Reserves 4-9-1919] Eddie Lough

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

Corporal Jeremiah Lyons: Ennis. He was a labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in Sept 1901 in the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers 6870 (and later in 1915 with the 3rd Bn. and into the 2nd Bn in April 1917). He was a POW in Limburg in Nov 1917, and repatriated in Dec 1918. He married Anne Hickey in Oct 1907 and they had 2 sons.(British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

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

Hamel

28th March

Epehy

21st March

Le Catelet 4th Oct

France: The Somme-German Offensive March 1918

The German Offensive March 1918 at the Somme

The Bridge

Hamel 28th March
France: The Somme – German Offensive March 21st – 28th 1918

‘Early in March (1918) the much-talked-of German offensive which was to end the war loomed…. On March 21st the long-expected attack began…(at Epehy). The bombardment started at 4.30 a.m…. Heavy attacks by infantry and low-flying aeroplanes against the front continued… Desperate fighting continued all the morning… By noon the Battalion was isolated.. The Munsters alone held on doggedly….6.30 pm.. Suddenly some German infantry appeared close by, advancing from the rear…. The enemy was closing in upon them from all sides…

The G.O.C. Brigade, Brigadier-General Ramsay, repeatedly congratulated the Battalion on the stand it was making during the day.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Patrick Hourigan: Corofin, killed in action 21st March 1918, at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial France. (TB)

Thomas Markham: Meelick, killed in action 21st March 1918 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial in France. Son of Michael and Catherine Markham. (TB)

Joseph Copley: Kilrush, killed in action 22nd March 1918 age 19, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial France. Son of William and Mary Copley Chapel St, Kilrush. (TB) Private Joseph Copely: Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Missing in action. KM
The Somme: German Offensive March 21st – 28th 1918

Michael McInerney: Meelick, died of wounds 22nd March 1918 age 22, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial France. Son of Timothy and Annie McInerney of Derramore, Meelick. Brother of Patrick who died in 1916. (TB)

James Russell: Ennis, killed in action 22nd March 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial, France. (TB)

About 2am on the 22nd March orders came that all Irish troops were to withdraw....The trench strength of 629 had been reduced in twenty-four hours to 290, but the Battalion had the satisfaction of knowing that the enemy’s repeated and unsuccessful attacks had cost him very dear, and that the Munsters had saved the situation...and had been able to withdraw undefeated against the greatest attack in the Great War...27th March... after 6 days consecutive fighting, the Battalion was finally surrounded and cut off....at 8pm the withdrawal commenced...The night was clear....the bridge was found to be held by the enemy...Everyone rushed forward shouting, firing, cursing... the enemy was smashed or swept aside... The casualties during the march were 5 officers and 100 other ranks....The splendid remnant of the Battalion reached Hamel at 4am (on the 28th March)’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis) By the 30th March they lost 36 officers and 796 other ranks.
France: May 1918

The battalion began reconstruction on 7 June 1918 when most of the 6RMF who had returned from Palestine were transferred to the 2RMF. The battalion made its last transfer to the 150th Brigade of the 50th Division at Arras for the beginning of the Hundred Days Offensive and were largely made up of other men back from Salonika and Palestine, most hardened by malaria and more resistant to the now apparent deadly influenza epidemic.

Tom Bentley MM: Cratloe. Joined the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1913, and served with the 2nd RMF 5871 in France. ‘A first class soldier who for reasons of his own refused promotion.’ He was awarded the Military Medal in May 1918. (29/8/ 1918 in RMF Book). After the war he joined an organisation that was having a difference of opinion with the British Government. Later he became an Officer in the Free State Army. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton) (RMF Book Capt McCance)

More 2nd RMF POW’s from Clare – June 1918

Private Martin Casey 5970: Ennis. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers A POW in June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record)

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

Private Patrick Donnelly: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 6785. A POW in June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record) [Found in 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

Thomas Moore: Killaloe. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6001. A POW in June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record) [Confirmed as 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

James (Charles) Morgan: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in June 1918 (SR) A brother of Michael (RFA) and Ralph Morgan (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. And later 1 Bn. Charles was in 2 Bn. And later in 7 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
The battalion was finally transported on 1 October to Épehy, scene of its March experiences where it was again ordered into the lines on 4 October, to capture **Le Catelet**.

‘At 2 a.m. on the 4th (October 1918) the Battalion received orders to attack **Le Catelet and take La Pannerie South**, a small village....The enemy was in force... and in a strong position....At 5 a.m. the Battalion went forwards... and immediately became involved in street fighting, and suffered heavy casualties from machine gun nests concealed in the village....

In spite of lack of co-operation on both flanks and rear, the Munsters had taken and proceeded to hold **La Pannerie South**.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Thomas Killeen: Doonbeg, killed in action 4th Oct 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)(KCT)

Peter Russell: Kilkee, killed in action 4th Oct 1918 age 31, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Annie Russell Dunlickey Road Kilkee. (TB)

Sergeant J Clancy DCM: Kilkishen. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5931. ‘During operations near Le Catelet on 4th October, 1918, he showed great gallantry and contempt for danger when his company was being much harassed by machine gun fire from a distance of about 400 yards. Entirely on his own initiative, and in company with only one man, he rushed forward under cover of a smoke bomb and charged the machine gun, killing the whole of the team and capturing the gun, which he brought back to his company. Later in the day he was slightly wounded.’ London Gazette 2nd Dec 1919. He was awarded the DCM on the 12th March 1919.

Largely gaining their objective, they had to retire encountering heavy counterattacks and failures elsewhere on the line, losing many 6RMF pre-war veterans who had survived Gallipoli. The 50th Division’s advance was resumed on 10 October, and the battalion was reduced to 13 officers and 411 men by 16th October.
France: The Last Advance - October and November 1918

The Battle of Épehy began on 18 October to drive the Germans behind the river, the Munsters going in next day in fog surprising the Germans, taking many prisoner as well the objectives. The Munsters overran their objectives and were caught in another Division's barrage, losses again were heavy.

They were then withdrawn and reorganised for what to be their final operation of the war, successfully taking a large area around Haute Noyelles on 4 November, the number of prisoners taken indicative of the low state of German morale. After a counter-bombardment on 7 November the battalion was withdrawn for the remaining days up until the Armistice.

**Haute Noyelles**

'The share of the battalion in the campaign on the Western Front is in many respects unique. Landing with the British Expeditionary Force, it was never out of earshot of the front line during the fifty-one months the war lasted. Thirteen times in the campaign it went into battle up to strength, or nearly so; ten times it came out of action with less than 6 officers and 300 men all ranks. On five occasions it was surrounded by the enemy and cut off from all support; on four of these it cut its way through hand joined up again; on the fifth it engaged an entire Army Corps of the enemy for over twelve hours. On seven different occasions it captured the objectives of adjacent units, as well as its own.' Col Jervis
Other Claremen who fought with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF

**Sergeant H Blair (Clair ? 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF):** Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers (6373). His death was reported in a Clare paper on the 24\textsuperscript{th} January 1917. (Kilrush County Clare: Notes from c 1760 to 1960 by Senan Scanlan. Clare Library) No Blair in RMF [M J Clair MC has an address in Cork attached note from 1921, could be originally from Clare, landing date suggests 2 Bn. recheck found him promoted 2/Lt. 8-12-1917 and in 2 Bn., 6 Bn. and back to 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Private Patrick Butler:** Ennis. Aged 38 when he enlisted in 1914. The Royal Kent Fusiliers 1502. He was previously with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. (British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com) [Date suggests 2 Bn. and further search shows 2 Bn. a regular soldier was discharged 26-3-1916 on termination of engagement] Eddie Lough

**Private M Cushion:** The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM No Cushion in RMF on MRI Cards. [? A Thomas Cushen RMF 9940 was in the 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Private James Custy:** Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM Only one James Custy in the RMF 6018. [Found in 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Private Martin Daly:** Stewart Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM Only 1 Martin Daly in the RMF 3921. [Found 6 Bn. and later 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Private John Frawley:** Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for one year in France. He received a pension. KM Only one J Frawley in the RMF. [The Medal Role Index Card shows that he was mentioned in despatches, there are other medal cards and rolls and a Silver War Badge record. He was a regular soldier, joined 1911, was in India 1914 and France 6-4-15 with the 2 Bn. RMF. He was later transferred to the Royal Defence Corps 87353. He is named as James] Eddie Lough

**Private Patrick Frawley:** Moore Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. Invalided. KM Only 2 Patrick Frawley’s in the RMF. One died. [Patrick Frawley 6337 was with the 2 Bn. RMF discharged no longer fit for war duties. He enlisted in the RGA Cork on the 21-8-1916, and was discharged after a month.] Eddie Lough

**Private Patrick Hogan:** Russell Lane Kilrush, Co Clare. He was a butcher aged 19 when he enlisted in 1902 in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers 6992. He served from 1914 – 1919 and was discharged in March 1919. He married Bridget Danaher in July 1913 and they had a daughter Elizabeth. He died on the 1\textsuperscript{st} Oct 1943. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Other Claremen who fought with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF

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

**Private Stephen Honan**: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM. Only one S Honan in RMF [10204 was in 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

**Private Michael Keane**: Kilrush. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served three years in France. KM. Private Michael Keane: born 1891, a baker at Glynn's Mill. 9 Burton Street Kilrush. In 1917 he was sentenced to continuous action at the front for 6 months for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He had opted to be courtmartialed at the Front by Captain RG Keane 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn RMF from Tulla. He survived the War. One of a family of 13 which included his brother John who died in at Ginchy in 1916. (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)

**Pat Keane**: The Glen Kilrush. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers. Seriously wounded in France. KM. Wounded in May 1918. (SR) Private Patrick Keane: 9 The Glen, Kilrush. One of a family of 8 (5 enlisted) which included Michael killed in action at Gallipoli in 1915, and Thomas who was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1917 he was sentenced 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 RG Kane 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn RMF from Tulla. His death sentence was commuted to continuous front line service in view of the large number of his family serving. He was placed in a fox hole between the lines until killed in action. He waited in this solitary post for several days until one night he detected an Officer who was on reconnaissance trapped and wounded in the enemy barbed wire. He crawled under fire, released the Officer and dragged him back to the safety of his lines. For this Keane was reprieved and survived the war.

**Private Patrick Killeen**: Newmarket on Fergus. 3\textsuperscript{rd} Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 3/10258. He was later assigned to the Machine Gun Corps. During WWI, he recuperated from wounds at Glamis Castle, the family home of the late Queen Mother (Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, as she then was). JPC. Clare Library Forum. [Number prefix 3 shows first enlisted in 3 Bn. On discharge from MGC he is noted as being previously in 2 Bn. RMF] Eddie Lough

**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] Eddie Lough
Private Patrick Mahony: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in France. KM [2 Patricks and 2 Patrick Josephs and 2 O’Mahonys in RMF. Both Patricks happen to be in 2 Bn. and nearest fit is 6807, who has an SWB record] Eddie Lough

Private Patrick Maloney: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in Action in France. KM Only 1 Patrick Maloney in the RMF 6000. [Date suggests 2 Bn. can’t find anything else re KIA] Eddie Lough

Michael McCormack: Knockane Ennis. Aged 21 when he enlisted in 1916. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 2248. His father was Thomas McCormack. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Edward ‘Eddie’ McDonagh: Ennistymon. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. Enlisted in Ennis on 4/8/1900 age 20. He served in India, the Boer War and in the British Expeditionary Force in WW1. He died in Sept 1950 aged 70. NCS (Guss O’Halloran)

Private John Joseph McMahon: Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers (6472). He won the 1914-1915 Star. He survived the war. (Eric Shaw) 2nd Bn RMF.

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

Garry Moloney: Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn ? . Brother of Peter. Cloughleigh. He survived the war and returned to live in Ennis. Son of John and Alice Moloney. (PMcN)

Matthew Moloney: Newmarket on Fergus. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. One of 5 brothers who served. They were all sons of Margaret Moloney. Four and probably five were in the army pre-war. Three returning from India at its outbreak and two serving with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in France. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton)

Peter Moloney: Cloughleigh Ennis, died 12th March 1916 age 21 in Ypres, Machine Gun Corps (Formerly with the RMF 2nd Bn), G/M in France. (TB) Brother of Garry. Son of John and Alice Moloney.
## Other Claremen who fought with the 2nd RMF

- **Private Martin Moore**: The Glen Kilrush. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5872. Served in France. Invalided with a pension. KM Only 1 Martin Moore in the RMF. [Note on this card o/c 2 Bn. confirmed in other docs. as in 2 Bn. and later 6 Bn.] Eddie Lough

- **Ralph Morgan**: Ennis. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6120 [And later 1 Bn.] A brother of Michael and James Morgan.

- **'Mickey' Murrihy**: Ennistymon. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 6159, Brother of Tom and Martin. NCS (Guss O’Halloran)


- **Private Michael O’Brien**: Doonbeg Co Clare. He was a farm labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in March 1913 with the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 10022. He was discharged in June 1914. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

- **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]

- **P O Donnell**: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Sept 1917. (SR) [3 found 2 were in 8 Bn. and RMF 7514 date suggests 2 Bn. he was discharged 15-3-1918 had an SWB record, so possibly best fit?]

- **Private Thomas O Donnell**: The Glen Kilrush. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5045. Served in France. Wounded in action. He received a pension. KM [Only one Private Thomas O’Donnell in RMF] [Listed as in 2 Bn.] 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
Other Claremen who fought with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF

**Martin O’Loughlin:** Miltown Malbay. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. He played for the famous ‘St Josephs’ football team. His brother Thomas (also 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn) died in 1915. *(CJ)* **Martin O’Loughlin:** Ennistymon. Royal Munster Fusiliers. (Clare Library) Only 1 Martin O’Loughlin in the RMF.[ RMF 6260 was in 2 Bn.]Eddie Lough

**Simon O’Loughlin (Flaherty):** Ennistymon. NCS. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers and the Royal Air Force. (5140 & 239416) (Clare Library) Only 1 Simon O’Loughlin in the RMF [This man was in 2 Bn. And later in 1 Bn.]Eddie Lough

**Sergeant George Perry:** Tulla. Died of wounds 19\textsuperscript{th} Aug 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 6\textsuperscript{th} Bn, G/M in Greece. He served in the Boer War and was awarded the Queen’s South Africa Medal with four clasps. (Eric Shaw) He embarked with 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers for France on 13\textsuperscript{th} August 1914 where he saw action on the Western Front. He subsequently transferred to the 6\textsuperscript{th} Battalion and was engaged in the Gallipoli Campaign.

**Private Patrick Ryan:** Lived in Tuamgraney. Born in St Mary’s Limerick. He was a labourer aged 31 when he enlisted in Sept 1919 with the Royal Army Medical Corps 7252495. He had previously served with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF BEF (1915), 6\textsuperscript{th} MEF (1915-1918) Royal Munster Fusiliers 5006 during the war. He was discharged in March 1920. His mother was Mary Ryan. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) [Looking at file, Patrick joined the 5 Militia Bn. at Limerick and attended annual training with that unit. Mobilized at beginning of WW1, posted 2 Bn. 3-1-1915, to 6 Bn. 3-11-1916, back to 2 Bn. 6-6-1918]Eddie Lough

**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] Eddie Lough

**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.]Eddie Lough

**Sergeant John Joseph Slattery:** Corofin, Enlisted in 1914 or 1915 and was discharged in 1922. At some time he was in D company, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Batallion, Royal Munster Fusiliers. I believe he was a sergeant. His serial number was 10717. I believe that he was posted to Khartoum, Kantara, Gebeit, Cairo, Egypt and Alexandria. When he was alive he mentioned having his birthday while in action in the Battle of the Somme. He ultimately emigrated to Australia and died in Sydney in 1986. *Information supplied by his son, Rick Slattery, 15th March 2005.*
Private John Conroy: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He served three years in France. KM Private John Conroy: Kilrush. He was a labourer aged 44 when he enlisted in Sept 1914 into the 5th RMF 129654 (travelled to France with the 2nd RMF as a Corporal in 1914) back to the 5th RMF and later into the Labour Corps. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

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]

Lance Corporal Patrick Carney: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded June 1916 (Loos). (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

Sergeant John Crowe: 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. (CJ) [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]

"The Kaiser knows the Munsters, by the Shamrock on their caps, And the famous Bengal Tiger, ever ready for a scrap, And all his big battalions, Prussian Guards and grenadiers, Fear to face the flashing bayonets of the Munster Fusiliers."

The 2nd Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers in Aldershot in 1914. Photograph: Imperial War.
Awards Won by Claremen in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF

\textbf{Tom Bentley MM:} Cratloe. Joined the 5\textsuperscript{th} Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1913, and served with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} RMF 5871 in France. ‘A first class soldier who for reasons of his own refused promotion.’ He was awarded the \textbf{Military Medal} in May 1918. (29/8/1918 in RMF Book). After the war he joined an organisation that was having a difference of opinion with the British Government. Later he became an Officer in the Free State Army. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton)(RMF Book Capt McCance)

He was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in Dec 1916 (1/1/1917 RMF Book). With the demand for medals generated by the First World War, the MSM was, from 1916, also awarded for acts of gallantry or meritorious conduct when not in the face of the enemy. He also became 16/ DRO (Director of Recruiting and Organisation for the 16\textsuperscript{th} Div?) in May 1918 when he was awarded the Military Medal. (2\textsuperscript{nd} Munsters in France H S Jervis)

\textbf{Colour-Sgt Major John Browne DCM:} The Turnpike Ennis, Clare. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. Prisoner of War in Limburg March 1915. (CJ)\textbf{See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 28.} \textbf{CSM John Browne:} Ennis. He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1897 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. \textbf{Sergeant Major John Browne:} A POW who was supported by the the Co Clare POW Aid Fund Committee. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. He was a POW in Nov 1917. (SR)

\textbf{Corporal Michael Butler DCM:} Cloughleigh Ennis, died in April 1917. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} 8121. \textbf{He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal} (14/1/1916) for helping a comrade under heavy shell, maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (CJ) ‘He travelled close on 300 yards of ground...and he succeeded in getting his comrade to safety (in front of an enemy trench), but badly wounded. He did all he could to assist his comrade, for 3 hours while under terrible artillery fire. When dusk came on he brought his friend to the trenches, but unfortunately the wounded man died, and Sergeant Butler gained the DCM for that heroic deed’. (Clare Champion April 2016) He was recommended for the Victoria Cross. (PMcN)(RMF Book Capt McCance)

\textbf{Sergeant J Clancy DCM:} Kilkishen. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers 5931. ‘During operations near Le Catelat on 4\textsuperscript{th} October, 1918, he showed great gallantry and contempt for danger when his company was being much harassed by machine gun fire from a distance of about 400 yards. Entirely on his own initiative, and in company with only one man, he rushed forward under cover of a smoke bomb and charged the machine gun, killing the whole of the team and capturing the gun, which he brought back to his company. Later in the day he was slightly wounded.’ London Gazette 2\textsuperscript{nd} Dec 1919. Awarded the DCM 12/3/1919 (RMF Book Capt McCance).
Private John Frawley: Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for one year in France. He received a pension. KM Only one J Frawley in the RMF. [The Medal Role Index Card shows that he was mentioned in despatches, there are other medal cards and rolls and a Silver War Badge record. He was a regular soldier, joined 1911, was in India 1914 and France 6-4-15 with the 2 Bn. RMF. He was later transferred to the Royal Defence Corps 87353 He is named as James] Eddie Lough

2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, killed in action 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. (for Loos ?) Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.
**Private Michael Breen**

**Michael Breen:** Born (1888) and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 25^th^ Sept 1915 age 27 in the Battle of Loos, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2^nd^ Bn. 4155, G/M in Loos France. Son of John and Margaret Breen, Burton Street. *(TB)* (He died the same day in the same place and the same Regiment as John Tuttle)

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**Loos Memorial. Loos-en-Gohelle**
**Departement du Pas-de-Calais**
**Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: Panel 127.**

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated.

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**Sept 25^th^ 1915** ‘The Munsters advanced in alternative waves over the open, and leaped over the British front line trench, loudly cheered by its inmates, on across No Man’s Land, losing heavily at every minute. They passed the Lone Tree and came up to the German wire, only to discover that the artillery bombardment had completely failed to cut it.

Man after man was killed and lay against the obstacle... The first effort, costly and ineffective as it appeared at the time, was in reality a brilliant success.

Green’s force, bombing down from the north, found the enemy’s attention diverted, and when the Munsters advanced again to the attack, the enemy gave under the strain and surrendered. The Battalion lost 8 officers and 210 other ranks killed and wounded.’ *(The 2^nd^ Munsters in France HS Jervis)*
Private Michael M Breen

**Michael Breen**: Born in Kilrush, lived in Knock, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 30 at Rue Du Bois, in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6217, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Bridget Breen, Lower Burrane, Knock.

"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915" by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France.

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action (19 from Clare died). It was an unsuccessful day for the British forces overall, casualties exceeding 11,000, the devastating losses exposing the British forces weakness in artillery. Morale was subsequently at a low ebb.’
Colour-Sgt Major John Browne DCM: The Turnpike Ennis, Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd. Prisoner of War in Limburg March 1915. (CJ) CSM John Browne: Ennis. He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1897 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. Sergeant Major John Browne: A POW who was supported by the the Co Clare POW Aid Fund Committee. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. He was a POW in Nov 1917. (SR) He was awarded the DCM on the 30th January 1920.

Captured Munsters Call For Clothing.

Sir,—On behalf of the N.C.O.'s and men of the R.M.F., who are prisoners of war here with me, I take the liberty of asking your assistance in obtaining some comforts for the men. It is five months ago since we were taken prisoners, and since then what warm shirts and socks the men had are worn out. The shirts have been replaced by the German authorities, but, of course, we cannot expect anything better than cotton ones. Socks are not issued, and out of the 400 odd I have here only about 40 of them have socks. The men have to work all day, and at present the weather is very cold, and the men feel it terribly. It would be a great blessing to get here, as we are in a good barracks and all right, except the underclothing. All the men are in the best of health and spirits. — J. Browne, C.S.M., 2nd R.M. Fusiliers.

A Clare Appeal.

Mrs Maunsell, The Island, Clare Castle, and Mrs McElroy, The Barracks, Clare Castle, appeal for comforts such as flannel shirts, woollen underclothing, or flannelette garments, socks, etc. or money to purchase materials for making garments, for our prisoners of war in Germany of the Munster Fusiliers; also for those shortly to be sent to the front where this regiment has been earning undying fame.

Clare Journal March 1915
Clare prisoners of war in a camp in Germany, May 1916. Sent by Cpl T Kelly to Miss Scanlan, Main Street, Clarecastle. (Brian Honan)
Private James J Buckley

James Buckley: Born in Kilrush lived in Kilkee, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5613, G/M in France. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. (TB) Son of John and Annie Buckley, Dunlickey Road, Kilkee.

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters.’

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
Patrick Burke: Lifford Ennis. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Limburg in Dec 1915. (CJ) In July 1916 he and another 30 prisoners were taken to Manheim, where they were examined by German and Swiss doctors. Eventually, Pte Burke was sent to Switzerland, where he was again examined by doctors. After about a week he was informed that he was to be sent home to Ireland. Before that he was sent to recuperate at a place called Chateau D’Oey near Bern. He left Switzerland on 11th Sept and reached London on the 15th September and arrived back in Ennis on the 18th Sept 1916. The newspaper reported that he was in poor health. (Joe Power)
Lance Corporal William Burke

**William Burke:** Born in Limerick lived in Ennis, killed in action 27th April 1916 in Loos. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 10206, G/M in France. Husband of Louisa Burke (nee Tierney) Nenagh. (TB)

**Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery - French Extension**

Bully-les-Mines

Departement du Pas-de-Calais

Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Plot: A. 82.

‘From February (1916) the trench warfare recommenced, taking the heavy monthly toll of brave men’s lives, each of the five succeeding months taking an average of 50 killed and wounded alone, to say nothing of those incapacitated by trench fever and other disease.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Bully-Grenay is the name of the railway station (on the main Hazebrouck-Arras line) serving this village and Grenay, but the double name was generally applied to the village and the communal cemetery of Bully by the troops. The FRENCH EXTENSION was made by French troops on the west side of the communal cemetery, and Commonwealth forces, who took their place in this part of the line in June 1915, buried in it until June 1916. The French extension contains 91 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.
Sergeant Michael Butler DCM: Cloughleigh, Ennis, he died in April 1917. Killed in action. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for helping a comrade under heavy shell and maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (CJ) He was recommended for the Victoria Cross. (PMcN) He received a Civic reception in the Town Hall Ennis in April 1916. He is not listed in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Clare Champion April 1916

Honouring an Ennis Hero.

Sergeant Butler, D.C.M.
WELcomed HOME

A public meeting was held, at the Town Hall, Ennis, on Monday, for the purpose of making a subscription to enable a subscription to enable Sergeant M. Butler's brave act of the 29th May last, for which he has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Clare Journal April 1917

Death of Ennis Hero.

News has been received from the War Office by his mother, that Sergeant Michael Butler, D.C.M., Ennis, has been killed in action. It will be remembered that the Sergeant for distinguished conduct in the field, was granted last summer the D.C.M., and promoted to be Sergeant, and on his first visit to Ennis after, steps were taken for a public presentation to mark his townsmen's appreciation of his gallant action.

Clare Journal Feb 1916

"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915" by Fortunino Matania.

HONOUR FOR ENNIS SOLDIER.

TO THE EDITOR.

Ennis, Co. Clare,
18th Feb., 1916.

Dear Sir,—I would like to draw the attention of your readers to the honour which has been recently won by a gallant young Ennis soldier, Sergeant Michael Butler, of the 2nd Munster Fusiliers. A short time ago I had a letter from him, in which he stated—

"I am very proud to let you know that I have been mentioned in despatches, and have won the D. C. M. The King has been graciously pleased to grant it to me. I believe that I am the first Ennis man to win it in this campaign, and I may say that I risked my life for it. I went under heavy shell, and maxim, and rifle fire to help a wounded comrade."

This occurred on the 9th of May last year at the memorable assault on Rue du Bois, when Col. Rickard lost his life, and there were 379 casualties among the Munsters. One of the "boys" from the trenches tells me that Butler has performed several other deeds of conspicuous gallantry since, but that owing to the fierce hand to hand fighting and the heavy mortality of officers there was no opportunity of making a distinction in a regiment where brave deeds are of almost hourly occurrence. Quite recently he distinguished himself by bridging in a wounded
Private Joseph Copley

Joseph Copley: Lived in Kilrush, died 22nd March 1918 age 19, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 18207, G/M in France. Son of William and Mary Copley, Chapel St, Kilrush. (TB)

Pozieres Memorial. Pozieres
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: Panel 78 and 79.
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. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties.

‘About 2. am on the 22nd March orders came that all Irish troops were to withdraw....The trench strength of 629 had been reduced in twenty-four hours to 290, but the 2nd Battalion had the satisfaction of knowing that the enemy’s repeated and unsuccessful attacks had cost him very dear, and that the Munsters had saved the situation...and had been able to withdraw undefeated against the greatest attack in the Great War.’
Private John Cosgrove

**John Cosgrove:** Born and lived in Trough (Truagh?), Castlebank, Co Clare, killed in action 17th August 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9681, (1st Div). G/M in France. (TB)

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**Albert Communal Cemetery Extension**
**Albert Departement de la Somme Picardie, France**
**Plot: I. M. 12.**

The Extension was used by fighting units and Field Ambulances from August 1915 to November 1916, and more particularly in and after September 1916. There are now 862 First World War and 25 Second World War casualties commemorated in this site.

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‘The 2nd Battalion was transferred with its Division down to the Somme in July for the opening of the Battle of the Somme, entering the lines on 14 July capturing its objectives two days later, and repulsing the German counterattack on 18 July, in all with an officer and 26 men killed, 127 wounded and 50 gassed. They were in reserve until 20 August, when they entered the lines again for steady fighting but ran into heavy off-target and ineffective British bombardment, killing 4 officers and 29 other ranks.’
**Private Cornelius Costello**

**Cornelius Costello:** Born and lived in Kilkee, died of wounds 13th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6016, G/M in France. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. (TB)

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"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915" by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters.

By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.”
Private John Cullinan

**John Cullinan:** Born and lived in Ennis, died of wounds 18th May 1915 age 35 at Rue Du Bois, in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 2/6476, G/M in France. He was the son of Patrick and Annie Cullinan.

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

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolutiliion to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost 19 officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.

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Wimereux Communal Cemetery
Wimereux
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: I. H. 6A.

May 1915 Clare Champion
Private John Cunneen

John Cunneen: Born and lived in Newmarket on Fergus, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 age 26 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 7614, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Johanna Cunneen, Latoon, Newmarket on Fergus. (TB)

John Cunneen Exhibits: Letter from the Records Office, box for British War and Victory Medals, box for 1914 star, registered envelope, 1914 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Memorial Plaque, letter from King George V.

Private John Cunneen was a pre-war soldier in the 2nd battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, mobilised at the very start of the First World War in August 1914. His battalion was part of the 1st Division of the British Expeditionary Force that had left for France on 13th August and arrived in the Etreux area on 16th. On 21st August, Cunneen was involved in a march to the Belgian border and a double march of over 40 miles in hot weather on 22nd, the day the British and German Armies first engaged. A full scale German attack that would be known as the Battle of Mons began on the 23rd August causing the British to go in to full retreat over the next three days. Although the battalion had a few minor encounters with the enemy on 24th and 26th August, they remained in reserve.

All that changed on 27th August however, when Cunneen’s battalion was ordered to engage in a rearguard action, only to retreat if ordered or forced to do so, to allow the main body of the British force to escape encirclement. Surrounded on three sides, the 2nd battalion survived repeated German attacks and conducted an organised retreat through the villages of Fesmy and Oisy where they crossed a canal to make a last stand at an orchard on the main road near the village of Etreux. No order to retreat had come (the messenger had been killed en route), and soon the battalion was completely surrounded having successfully held off nine German battalions. At 9.15pm, with ammunition almost exhausted, many seriously wounded and the position hopeless, the remaining four officers and 240 men surrendered. Out numbered 6 to 1, they had held up the German Army for 14 hours. Some stragglers that had become separated from this group managed to make their way back to their own lines.

At some point during the fierce fighting that day Private John Cunneen was killed in action, either at Etreux or earlier in the retreat to the village. On the 28th August the enemy, impressed by the valour shown by the Royal Munster Fusiliers, allowed the survivor’s to bury him and c.100 of his comrades in the orchard very close to the scene of the last stand. Two large graves were dug, one for the officers and the other for the rank and file. Several of the wounded that died in subsequent days were also buried there. Clare Museum
Lance Sergeant John J Cunningham

John Cunningham: Born and lived in the Turnpike Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 25 at Rue du Bois, in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5509, G/M in France. Son of John and Margaret Cunningham, Turnpike. (TB) Brother of William Cunningham who died in Oct 1918. (Clare Library)

Le Touret Memorial Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915" by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolutiion to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France.

"The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment's highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action."
Private Thomas Cusack

Thomas Cusack: Born (1878) and lived in Kilrush, died 24\textsuperscript{th} Oct 1916 age 38 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn 6173. G/M in France in Feuquieres-en-Vimeu Communal Cemetery which contains one Commonwealth burial of the First World War and three from the Second World War. He died of wounds. Son of Tom and Mary Cusack, Glynn Street Kilrush (previously in Ballally Lane). Husband of Anne Cusack, Pound Street. (TB) He is commemorated on the back of a headstone grave no. 31 in Old Shanakyle Cemetery (East Section) in Kilrush.

Feuquieres-en-Vimeu Communal Cemetery
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

Cusack Pound Street
Thomas Cusack R.M. Fus killed at war 24 Dec 1916.

‘I am gone from your grave but my thoughts are still there.
My prayers will not cease until we meet in the Kingdom of Peace and when others forget I still remember thee.’

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Frégicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme.

The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.
Private Patrick Droney

Patrick Droney: Born in Ballymagh (Balliny North Fanore) Co Clare, enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 22nd Sept 1916 on the Somme in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept at the Somme. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6831 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB)

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September 1916) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Frégicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme.

‘The Battalion was marched back to the front again on the 17th (September 1916)… between Martinpuich and Flers… The trench was full of German dead, the result of an unsuccessful effort at recapture the day before… the enemy attacked… but the Munsters’ bombers could not be beaten, and they gradually drove the enemy back.. the following days were spent strengthening the line.’

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 Patrick Edwards

Patrick Edwards: Born and lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 21st Dec 1914 in Festubert, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5752, G/M in France. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial Richebourg-l’Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-CalaisNord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

Givenchy / Festubert 18th – 22nd Dec 1914

21st Dec 1914: ‘Slowly but surely the advance continued... Suddenly a shot rang out, followed by another and then an inferno seemed to be let loose... The 2nd Munsters were 500 yards in advance of the troops on either flank!... Officers and men were falling everywhere; in ten minutes 11 officers and over 200 men were hit..... Slowly, reluctantly and methodically, at about 4am on the 23rd, the shattered remnants of the four companies filed back to their starting point, unconquered and unconquerable.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war.
Private Patrick Ensko

Private Patrick Ensko: Lifford Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ) He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1903 in Ennis into the 5th Bn R.M.F (and later in the 2nd RMF). He became a POW in 27/8/1914. He was repatriated from Germany on the 29/12/1918. He had also served on the North West Frontier in India. His parents were Richard and Norah Ensko, and brothers Richard and Michael. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
**Private Patrick Flaherty**

**Patrick Flaherty**: Born and lived in Ennis, died 30th Sept 1914, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9772, G/M in France. Died of wounds. He died of wounds (possibly from Étreux). (TB)

**Saint Souplet British Cemetery**

*Saint-Souplet*

*Département du Nord*

*Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: I. H. 27.*

After the Armistice, British graves were brought in from other burial grounds and from the battlefields. There are now nearly 750, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

‘By 5 p.m., the battalion was in danger of being overrun and began to retire south toward Étreux in order to rejoin the main force of British troops which had been retreating for most of the day. Yet as they approached Étreux, the Munsters discovered that much of the town had already been occupied by German troops who now began to lay down heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. Cut off from its own army and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, the rearguard now began to suffer serious casualties as it tried to fight its way through the German lines. British troops charged again and again at the houses in the northern outskirts of the village, which were full of German soldiers, but were beaten back by intense enemy fire. By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces. Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered. By the time they laid down their arms, the Munsters had been fighting for over 12 hours against a German force that outnumbered them by about six to one.’
Private John Joseph Flanagan

John Joseph Flanagan: Born and lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 8th March 1916 age 37 at Loos, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5663, G/M in France. Son of John and Catherine Flanagan. (TB)

Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: I. D. A.

This Cemetery now contains 1,379 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. During the greater part of the war it was a front-line cemetery used by fighting units and field ambulances.

‘From February (Loos 1916) the trench warfare recommenced, taking the heavy monthly toll of brave men’s lives, each of the five succeeding months taking an average of 50 killed and wounded alone, to say nothing of those incapacitated by trench fever and other disease.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Private George Friel

George Friel: Born in Liscannor, lived in Lahinch, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6331, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

On the 10th November 1917 the Battalion joined in the battle raging round the Paschendaele Ridge. ‘The barrage opened at 5.55 a.m., and zero hour was at 6 o’clock…. By 6.45 a.m. the whole of the objectives allotted to the Battalion were in our hands, and all ranks were in high fettle…the impatient Commanders …decided to exploit their success and continue the advance. The order was received with a cheer. The main ridge, which overlooked the whole battle field was only 800 yards away, and the advance continued… About 7.30 a.m. the advance came to a standstill. On came the enemy, their attack being carried out by an entirely fresh unit just arrived smart and clean on the battlefield, the celebrated “Cockchafers”… 30 men attacked Tournant Farm about 9.30 a.m…after a sharp struggle the enemy gave up the task…. The roll-call showed that of the 20 officers and 630 enlisted men who marched into action but 7 officers and 240 men remained….’

Poelcapelle British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other cemeteries in the area and from the battlefields.

The great majority of the graves date from the last five months of 1917, and in particular October. There are now 7,478 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the Cemetery.
The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them.

At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
Private Thomas Gleeson

Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clarecastle (Clare Abbey), killed in action Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776. G/M in Thiepval France. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey (TB)

The 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers went into the front line, a quarter of a mile north of Bazentin le Petit, where it found itself in a sector which had been the scene of bitter fighting and was badly exposed to enemy fire.

On 24th August, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)
Private Thomas Glynn

**Thomas Glynn:** Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, died of wounds 26th Sept 1916 age 30 at the Somme in The Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9511, G/M in France. Son of James and Bridget Glynn, Ballyvaughan. (TB)

**Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz**
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

There are now 1,572 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

‘The Battalion was marched back to the front again on the 17th (September 1916)... between Martinpuich and Flers... The trench was full of German dead, the result of an unsuccessful effort at recapture the day before... the enemy attacked... but the Munsters’ bombers could not be beaten, and they gradually drove the enemy back... the following days were spent strengthening the line.’
Private Martin Gorman

**Martin Gorman:** Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 4\(^{th}\) Oct 1918 age 24 at La Pannerie South, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\(^{nd}\) Bn 3621, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Ellen Gorman of Pound Street Kilrush.

![Image of cemetery]

**Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery**
Templeux-le-Guerard
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France  Plot: I. J. 6.

There are now over 750 World War I casualties commemorated in this site.

‘At 2 a.m. on the 4\(^{th}\) (October 1918) the 2\(^{nd}\) Battalion received orders to attack **Le Catelet and take La Pannerie South**, a small village....The enemy was in force... and in a strong position....At 5 a.m. the Battalion went forwards... and immediately became involved in street fighting, and suffered heavy casualties from machine gun nests concealed in the village....

In spite of lack of co-operation on both flanks and rear, the Munsters had taken and proceeded to hold La Pannerie South.’
Private Michael Griffin

Michael Griffin: Born and lived in O’Brien’s Bridge, died of wounds 6th Oct 1915 age 30, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5890, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Ellen Griffin. (TB) Brother of Thomas Griffin who died in Dec 1914 (also RMF 2nd BN).

The Loos offensive began on 25 September 1915. At first in reserve they then had to hold the line with over 200 casualties, leaving the Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn with around 350 all ranks, reduced to 250 by the time the battle died down on 13 October 1915.

Sept 25th 1915: ‘The Munsters advanced in alternative waves over the open, and leaped over the British front line trench, loudly cheered by its inmates, on across No Man’s Land, losing heavily at every minute. They passed the Lone Tree and came up to the German wire, only to discover that the artillery bombardment had completely failed to cut it. Man after man was killed and lay against the obstacle... The first effort, costly and ineffective as it appeared at the time, was in reality a brilliant success. Green’s force, bombing down from the north, found the enemy’s attention diverted, and when the Munsters advanced again to the attack, the enemy gave under the strain and surrendered.’ The Battalion lost ‘8 officers and 210 other ranks killed and wounded.’
Private Patrick Griffin

Patrick Griffin: Born and lived in Kilkee, died of wounds 27\textsuperscript{th} March 1915 age 26 near Festurbet, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn 4946, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Kate Griffin ‘who was deaf and dumb’, 45 O’Connell St Kilkee. (TB) ‘Griffin was with a digging party in the trenches when he received his death wound, and as the bleeding could not be stopped, the poor fellow only lived for two hours, but died a splendid death.’

Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery Souchez
Département du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: XXVII. A. 8.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

April 1915 Clare Journal
Private Thomas T Griffin

**Thomas Griffin:** Born and lived in O’Brien’s Bridge, killed in action 21st Dec 1914 age 20 at **Festubet**, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5298, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Ellen Griffin. *(TB)* Brother of Michael Griffin who died in Oct 1915 (also RMF 2nd Bn.).

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`Le Touret Memorial Richebourg-l’Avoue Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Panel 43 and 44.`

*Almost all of the 13,400 men* commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war.

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In early **December 1914** the **Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn.** aided in the evacuation of the Ypres Benedictine Convent, whose occupants subsequently established Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Ireland. The battalion was then moved south to the Festubert sector in France, and after a 36-hour march were ordered on **22 December** to fill a gap by taking two lines of trenches.

**Festubet Dec 21st /22nd 1914:** ‘Slowly but surely the advance continued… Suddenly a shot rang out, followed by another and then an inferno seemed to be let loose… The Munsters were 500 yards in advance of the troops on either flank!… Officers and men were falling everywhere; in ten minutes **11 officers and over 200 men were hit**….. Slowly, reluctantly and methodically, at about 4am on the **23rd**, the shattered remnants of the four companies filed back to their starting point, unconquered and unconquerable.’ *(The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)*
Private James Hanrahan

James Hanrahan: Born, lived and enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 age 48 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 6392, G/M in France. Son of James and Mary Hanrahan and husband of Mary Cullinan Hanrahan. (TB)


After the armistice, the orchard in which the casualties had been buried was purchased by the family of Lt Frederick Styles, an officer of the Munsters who had been killed during the rearguard action. The family erected the large Celtic Cross in the centre of the cemetery which lists the First World War battle honours of the Munsters, as well as a stone memorial bench and plaque. 99 WW1 Burials.

27th Aug 1914: ‘By 5 p.m., the battalion was in danger of being overrun and began to retire south toward Étreux in order to rejoin the main force of British troops which had been retreating for most of the day. Yet as they approached Étreux, the Munsters discovered that much of the town had already been occupied by German troops who now began to lay down heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. Cut off from its own army and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, the rearguard now began to suffer serious casualties as it tried to fight its way through the German lines. British troops charged again and again at the houses in the northern outskirts of the village, which were full of German soldiers, but were beaten back by intense enemy fire. By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces.

Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered. By the time they laid down their arms, the Munsters had been fighting for over 12 hours against a German force that outnumbered them by about six to one.’
Private John Hanrahan

John Hanrahan: Born and lived in Barefield, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 6417, G/M in France. (TB)

Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery Souchez Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: XXVII. E. 16.

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue de Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. It was commissioned by Jessie-Louise Rickard in memory of her husband Colonel Victor Rickard, who is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day.

Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark roadside, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’.

Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.

“The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters.

By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment's highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.”
Private Patrick P Hartigan

Patrick Hartigan: Lived in Parteen, born in Limerick, killed in action 21st Dec 1914 age 33 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 4922, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Hartigan. (TB) He died on the same day, in the same Regiment and the same Battalion as Thomas Griffin.

Le Touret Memorial  Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Panel 43 & 44.

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war.

In early December 1914 the Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn aided in the evacuation of the Ypres Benedictine Convent, whose occupants subsequently established Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Ireland. The battalion was then moved south to the Festubert sector in France, and after a 36-hour march were ordered on 22 December to fill a gap by taking two lines of trenches. There were 200 casualties in the first 10 minutes of heavy fire.

Dec 21st/22nd 1914 ‘Slowly but surely the advance continued… Suddenly a shot rang out, followed by another and then an inferno seemed to be let loose… The Munsters were 500 yards in advance of the troops on either flank!… Officers and men were falling everywhere; in ten minutes 11 officers and over 200 men were hit….. Slowly, reluctantly and methodically, at about 4am on the 23rd, the shattered remnants of the four companies filed back to their starting point, unconquered and unconquerable.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
**Corporal John Honan**

**John Honan**: Born lived and enlisted in Kilrush, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 4319, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Honor Honan, Russells Lane, Kilrush. *(TB)*

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**Le Touret Memorial**

Richebourg-l’Avoue

Departement du Pas-de-Calais

Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

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“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T.Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them.’

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
Private Patrick Hourigan

Patrick Hourigan: Born and lived in Corofin, enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 21st March 1918 in Epehy, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 6871, G/M in France. (TB) He is listed on the Pozieres Memorial.

Pozieres Memorial. Pozieres
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Panel 78 and 79.
The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918.

‘Early in March (1918) the much-talked-of German offensive which was to end the war loomed.... On March 21st the long-expected attack began...(at Epehy). The bombardment started at 4.30 a.m... Heavy attacks by infantry and low-flying aeroplanes against the front continued... Desperate fighting continued all the morning... By noon the Battalion was isolated.. The Munsters alone held on doggedly....6.30 pm... Suddenly some German infantry appeared close by, advancing from the rear.... The enemy was closing in upon them from all sides’

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.
Sergeant Thomas Howard

Thomas Howard: Born and lived in Miltown Malbay, died of wounds 4th Feb 1915 at Bologne, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4437, G/M in France. (TB)

DEATH OF A Miltown, MALBAY MAN FROM WOUNDS.

The sad intelligence has reached the young widow and her two children of the death of Sergeant Thomas Howard from wounds received in action in the trenches on 4th Feb. The deceased was Sergeant in the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers.

The following correspondence nurse speaks well of this young soldier.

At last Mass on Sunday, the very Rev Canon Hannon, P.P., in asking the prayers of the people for the repose of his soul, said he had known this young man for close on three years, living as he was opposite the Chapel gate, and during that time he had never heard his voice on the streets, or at home. He prayed that God would have mercy on him.

His captain writes

Madam,—It is my painful duty to inform you that a report this day has been received from the War Office, notifying the death of No. 4437, Sergeant Thomas Howard, of the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers, which occurred at Bologne on the 4th Feb., 1915, and I am to express to you my sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was from wounds received in action. Any application you may wish to make regarding the late soldier’s effects should be addressed to the Secretary, War Office, Whitehall.

14th General Hospital,
Bologne Base,
British Imperial Forces.

Feb 1915 Clare Journal

‘During the second half of January (1915) the 2nd Munsters were continually engaged repelling German attacks which culminated in the Kaiser’s birthday attack of January 25th. Fighting of the bitterest description developed, and the line held by the division (just north of La Basse Canal) was broken at many points. But there was one battalion in the front line which lost not a yard of trench, and that was the Munsters… Later in the day the enemy was thrown out of the trenches he had occupied with heavy loss in killed and prisoners.’

G/M Reference: I.C. 27A.
Cemetery: Wimereux Communal Cemetery,
Pas-De-Calaïs, France. It contains 2,847, Commonwealth burials of WW1.
Sergeant Thomas Howley DCM: Born in Twoclay, Co Clare, enlisted in Cashel Co Tipperary, died of wounds 19th April 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Germany. (TB) He was buried in Niederzwehren Cemetery, which was begun by the Germans in 1915 for the burial of prisoners of war who died at the local camp.


During the war almost 3,000 Allied soldiers and civilians, including French, Russian and Commonwealth, were buried there. After the war another 1500 were added from 190 burial grounds in Baden, Bavaria, Hanover, Hesse and Saxony.


‘After the German withdrawal on March 17th (1917) to the Siegfried Line.....the 2nd Battalion was the first unit to cross the Somme and was employed on draining and improving the communications destroyed by the retiring enemy. This was not done without loss from the numerous “booby traps” left behind.’ (2nd Munsters in France H S Jervis) Thomas Howley may have been wounded and captured at this time.
Drummer John Hynes; Ennis Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. 9392. POW in Germany in May 1915. (CJ)
Private Michael Keane

Michael Keane: Kilrush, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, KM Private Michael Keane: Burton Street Kilrush. He was sentenced to continuous action at the front for 6 months for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He opted to be courtmartialled at the Front by Captain RG Keane (from Tulla). He survived the War. Brother of John who died in 1916.

Patrick Keane: The Glen, Kilrush. One of the most amazing Clare stories of the war. He was sentenced to remain in a fox hole in no man’s land, until he was killed, after giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He opted to be courtmartialled at the Front by Captain RG Keane (from Tulla).

However his sentence was suspended after he rescued an officer in no man’s land and he survived the War. Brother of Michael who died in 1915. He is buried in the Old Shanakyle, grave no. 456, West Section.

Pat Keane: 2nd RMF

9 The Glen, Kilrush. One of a family of 8 (5 enlisted) which included Michael killed in action at Gallipoli in 1915, and Thomas who was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

He was sentenced to continuous action at the front for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He was placed in a fox hole between the lines until killed in action.

He waited in this solitary post for several days until one night he detected an Officer who was on reconnaissance, trapped and wounded in the enemy barbed wire. He crawled under fire, released the Officer and dragged him back to the safety of his lines. For this Keane was reprieved and survived the war.
Private Patrick Keane continued
Corporal Thomas Kelly: Clarecastle. 2nd RMF. He was taken prisoner in Etreux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany. POW Dec 1915 (CJ)

A postcard sent by prisoner of war, Cpl T Kelly, Royal Munster Fusiliers, to Miss Maunsell, Island Magrath, Clare Castle. The card was sent from a camp in Holland. It is dated 22 May 1918. (Brian Honan)

A postcard sent by prisoner of war, Cpl T Kelly, Royal Munster Fusiliers, to Miss R Scanlan, Main Street Clarecastle, dated 15th June 1916.

Clare prisoners of war in a camp in Germany, May 1916. Sent by Cpl T Kelly to Miss Scanlan, Main Street, Clarecastle. (Brian Honan)
Private James Kidney

James. Kidney: Private. Ennis. 2nd RMF 6509, was visited by the King and Queen while convalescing in London in 1914. (Survived) (CJ) ‘Among those who fell, there are also tales of miraculous survival. Pte J. Kidney was injured at Mons when, carrying despatches by bicycle, he was shot through the wrist and fell into a quarry. He was visited by the king and queen in hospital, where he suffered an attack of cholera, seemed to have passed away and was sewn up in a blanket, only for doctors to notice signs of life at the last minute.’ (Limerick Leader) Private James Kidney: Mill Street Ennis. He was a Cycle Mechanic aged 24 when he enlisted in 1915. Royal Tank Corps 308725. He survived the War. (WW1 British Army Service Records at ancestry.com)
Patrick Killeen: Newmarket on Fergus. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was later assigned to the Machine Gun Corps. During WWI, he recuperated from wounds at Glamis Castle, the family home of the late Queen Mother (Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, as she then was). JPC. Clare Library Forum 2010.

‘During WWI, a number of Irish servicemen recuperated from their wounds at Glamis Castle, the family home of the late Queen Mother (Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, as she then was). Elizabeth’s father, Claude Bowes-Lyon (the Earl of Strathmore) and her mother, Nina (Lady Strathmore) had five sons and one other daughter, Rose. When World War I broke out, Strathmore offered the Castle to the Government as a convalescent hospital and had it fitted out to accommodate 16 officers. Rose, a trained nurse, took care of the men. Elizabeth and David, their brother, used to help out in the wards by running errands for the soldiers, writing letters and making sure they had enough tobacco. Elizabeth also kept them entertained by playing cards and billiards with them or singing songs and generally kept their spirits up.

My great-grandfather, Patrick Killeen, was there for a while recovering from his wounds. He was from Newmarket-on-Fergus and enlisted in the Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was later assigned to the Machine Gun Corps. The attached group photo showing Nina, Rose, Elizabeth and Patrick (back row, seventh from the left) with the other soldiers who recovered at Glamis.’ JPC. Clare Library Forum 2010
**Private Thomas Killeen**

**Thomas Killeen:** Born in Doonbeg lived in Mallow, killed in action 4\(^{th}\) Oct 1918 at Le Catelet, age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\(^{nd}\) Bn. 7443, G/M in France. (TB) (KCT) He is also remembered on the WW1 Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

The Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\(^{nd}\) Bn. was transported on 1 October 1918 to Épehy, where it was again ordered into the lines on 4 October, to capture Le Catelet. Largely gaining their objective, they had to retire encountering heavy counterattacks and failures elsewhere on the line.

‘At 2 a.m. on the 4\(^{th}\) (October 1918) the Battalion received orders to attack Le Catelet and take La Pannerie South, a small village….The enemy was in force... and in a strong position....At 5 a.m. the Battalion went forwards... and immediately became involved in street fighting, and suffered heavy casualties from machine gun nests concealed in the village.... In spite of lack of co-operation on both flanks and rear, the Munsters had taken and proceeded to hold La Pannerie South.’

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery
Templeux-le-Guerard
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: I. H. 41.
Corporal Michael Kinsley

Michael Kinsley: Born in Fothera Co Clare, lived in Cross, Carrigaholt, died 9th May 1915 age 23, in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. 5572, G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of Mary and Patrick Kinsley, Cross. He is also remembered on the WW1 Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l’Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. “On a lonely dark roadside, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them.

At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.
Private Michael M Lahiffe

Michael Lahiffe: Born in Carrowdotia South, Killimer, lived at Islandavanna, Tiermaclane, Ennis. Killed in action 9th May 1915 age 30 in Rue Du Bois at the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5530, G/M on the Le Touret Memorial in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Lahiffe. (TB) Brother of James and Patrick.

Le Touret Memorial Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
Second Lieutenent Gerald Lefroy

2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, killed in action 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 1st Div, G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916 (possibly for the Battle of Loos Sept 1915). Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.

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

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.

On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the RMF 2nd Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack.

In Loving Memory Of Gerald Lefroy 2nd Lieut and Assistant Adjutant 2nd Batt Royal Munster Fusiliers Eldest Son of James and Margaret Lefroy Grandson of H M Lefroy Fern Hollow Killaloe Killed in Action at High Wood on the Somme-France 25th August 1916 Aged 20 Thy will be done

On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the RMF 2nd Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack.
Private James Lenane

James Lenane: Born and lived in Lisdoonvarna, died of wounds 2nd Nov 1914 (During the First Battle of Ypres), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5271, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

The town of Poperinge (now Poperinge) was of great importance during the First World War because, although occasionally bombed or bombarded at long range, it was the nearest place to Ypres (now Ieper) which was both considerable in size and reasonably safe. It was at first a centre for casualty clearing stations, but by 1916 it became necessary to move these units further back.

The Old Military Cemetery was made in the course of the First Battle of Ypres and contains 450 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.

First Battle of Ypres: ‘In the latter part of October (1914) the 2nd Battalion divided into three or four detachments, moved up with the British Army to the Ypres sector, and in the bitter and prolonged fighting of that period were put into the line in any sector which threatened to break or had already broken. Time after time a party of the Munsters restored the situation, recaptured the lost trenches, or delivered the counter stroke, thereby performing work as valuable as it was unselfish.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
John Madigan: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 10th July 1917 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd Bn 4596, G/M in Belgium. He is also remembered on the WW1 Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Michael and Nora Madigan, Kiltrellig, Kilbaha. (TB)

Coxyde Military Cemetery
Koksijde
Arrondissement Veurne
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

This cemetery was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line. The cemetery now contains 1,507 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The WW1 Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

In May 1917 the 2nd RMF moved to near Nieuwpoort in Flanders for an intended amphibious landing with an impressive 43 officers and 1,070 men, which was aborted by a surprise German attack on 10th July. They went through severe shelling and gas.

‘The Germans had projected a raid on a large scale on the British trenches near Nieuport, and as a feint on the 10th (July 1917) concentrated a violent bombardment on the Munsters’ camp... Scarceley a hut in the camp escaped damage...Four officers were wounded, seven rank and file were killed, and thirty –seven wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Private John Mahoney/Mahony

John Mahoney/Mahony: Born and lived in Kilrush, died of wounds 16th July 1915 at La Basse Canal, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5334, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Mahoney, Crofton Street Kilrush. (TB)

Bethune Town Cemetery
Bethune
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: IV. D. 12.

Aug 1916 Clare Journal

‘The Battalion remained defending the same sector as previously. It knew the line ten miles to the north and south of the La Basse Canal like a book, and this same area was the scene of the new fight. By the end of May (1915) the Battalion bombers under 2nd Lieutenant J O’Brien (Clare Abbey House Clarecastle?), were distinguishing themselves by daring raids….. The bombing raids of the Battalion drew congratulations from the Divisional commander. The trench work, however, was not carried off without loss, the week ending July 19th (1915) for instance, cost the Munsters 43 in killed and wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Private Joe Manning

Gunner Joe Manning: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Garrison Field Artillery. He was a POW in Germany for four years. KM. He wrote a letter to Mr Thomas Ryan, a member of the Kilrush Urban Council in Aug 1918, from Germany, where he was a POW. (Joe Power) Joseph Manning: 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 9978. A POW in Dec 1915 (CJ). Eddie Lough
Thomas Markham: Born and lived in Meelick, killed in action 21st March 1918 age 25 during the German Offensive, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 7020, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial in France. Son of Michael and Catherine Markham. (TB)

‘Early in March (1918) the much-talked-of German offensive which was to end the war loomed…. On March 21st the long-expected attack began…(at Epehy). The bombardment started at 4.30 a.m… Heavy attacks by infantry and low-flying aeroplanes against the front continued… Desperate fighting continued all the morning… By noon the Battalion was isolated… The Munsters alone held on doggedly….6.30 pm… Suddenly some German infantry appeared close by, advancing from the rear…. The enemy was closing in upon them from all sides… The G.O.C. Brigade, Brigadier-General Ramsay, repeatedly congratulated the Battalion on the stand it was making during the day.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

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 of the United Kingdom who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918.
Lance Corporal John McCarthy

**John McCarthy:** Born and lived in Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 at Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6596, G/M in France. (TB)

“*The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915*” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them.

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
Private Michael McCarthy

Michael McCarthy: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 21st Dec 1914 age 25 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5360, G/M in France. Son of John and Bridget McCarthy, Grace St, Kilrush. (TB)

Panel 43 and 44  Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-L’Avoue
Department du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

‘Slowly but surely the advance continued... Suddenly a shot rang out, followed by another and then an inferno seemed to be let loose... The Munsters were 500 yards in advance of the troops on either flank!... Officers and men were falling everywhere; in ten minutes 11 officers and over 200 men were hit.....

Slowly, reluctantly and methodically, at about 4am on the 23rd, the shattered remnants of the four companies filed back to their starting point, unconquered and unconquerable.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Private John McGrath

John McGrath: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5788, G/M in France. (TB)

Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery
Souchez
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: XXIX. B. 24.

“"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915" by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. It was commissioned by Jessie-Louise Rickard in memory of her husband Colonel Victor Rickard, who is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T.Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
Private John McInerney

**John McInerney:** Born and lived in Killaloe, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 age 21 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5899, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie McInerney, John Street, Killaloe. *(TB)* ‘He was born 23 Oct 1897. The family spent many years in London where at least some of the children were born. John enrolled in Killaloe Boy’s School in October 1904 and left in June 1908. John enlisted at Killaloe in 1914.’ *(The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)*

Panel 143 to 144

Tyne Cot Memorial
Zonnebeke
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

On the 10th November 1917 the 2nd Battalion joined in the battle raging round the Passchendaele Ridge. ‘The barrage opened at 5.55 a.m., and zero hour was at 6 o’clock.... By 6.45 a.m. the whole of the objectives allotted to the Battalion were in our hands, and all ranks were in high fettle...the impatient Commanders...decided to exploit their success and continue the advance. The order was received with a cheer. The main ridge, which overlooked the whole battle field was only 800 yards away, and the advance continued... About 7.30 a.m. the advance came to a standstill... At 7.50 a.m. the enemy was observed preparing a counter-attack... On came the enemy, their attack being carried out by an entirely fresh unit just arrived smart and clean on the battlefield, the celebrated “Cockchafers”... The roll-call showed that of the 20 officers and 630 enlisted men who marched into action but 7 officers and 240 men remained...’
Private Michael McInerney

Michael McInerney: Born and lived in Meelick Co Clare, died of wounds 22\textsuperscript{nd} March 1918 age 22 in the German Offensive, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn 6456, G/M in Pozieres France. Son of Timothy and Annie McInerney of Derramore, Meelick. Brother of Patrick below who was killed in April 1916. (TB)

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

Early in March (1918) the much-talked-of German offensive which was to end the war loomed.... On March 21\textsuperscript{st} the long-expected attack began...(at Epehy). The bombardment started at 4.30 a.m.... Heavy attacks by infantry and low-flying aeroplanes against the front continued... Desperate fighting continued all the morning... By noon the Battalion was isolated.. The Munsters alone held on doggedly....6.30 pm.. Suddenly some German infantry appeared close by, advancing from the rear.... The enemy was closing in upon them from all sides...’ (The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Munsters in France HS Jervis)

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
Private Charles McMahon

Charles McMahon: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5879, G/M in France. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial Richebourg-l’Avoue Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 43 and 44.

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. It was commissioned by Jessie-Louise Rickard in memory of her husband Colonel Victor Rickard, who is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the 2nd Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
**Private John McMahon**

**John McMahon:** Born and lived in Kilrush, died 2\textsuperscript{nd} June 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn 6718, G/M in KILRUSH CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCHYARD. He is also commemorated on the Grangegorman Memorial in Dublin. Son of Michael McMahon, Grace Street Kilrush. (TB)

Buried in the Kilrush Church of Ireland Churchyard, Grave No. 453, in the South West Corner of the Cemetery.

Grangegorman Memorial
Cabra
County Dublin, Ireland
Plot: Cenotaph, Panel 8. [Screen Wall]

‘After the German withdrawal on March 17\textsuperscript{th} (1917) to the Siegfried Line.....the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Battalion was the first unit to cross the Somme and was employed on draining and improving the communications destroyed by the retiring enemy. This was not done without loss from the numerous “booby traps” left behind.’ (2\textsuperscript{nd} Munsters in France H S Jervis)
Lance Corporal Michael McMahon

Michael McMahon: Born and lived in Kilrush, died of wounds 10th Oct 1915 age 23 (After the Battle of Loos), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6004, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Margaret McMahon, Burton Street. (TB)

Chocques Military Cemetery
Chocques
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I. G. 23.

Chocques was occupied by Commonwealth forces from the late autumn of 1914 to the end of the war. The village was at one time the headquarters of I Corps and from January 1915 to April 1918, No.1 Casualty Clearing Station was posted there. Most of the burials from this period are of casualties who died at the clearing station from wounds received at the Bethune front. Chocques Military Cemetery now contains 1,801 Commonwealth burials of the First World War,

Loos Sept 25th 1915 ‘The 2nd Munsters advanced in alternative waves over the open, and leaped over the British front line trench, loudly cheered by its inmates, on across No Man’s Land, losing heavily at every minute. They passed the Lone Tree and came up to the German wire, only to discover that the artillery bombardment had completely failed to cut it. Man after man was killed and lay against the obstacle... The first effort, costly and ineffective as it appeared at the time, was in reality a brilliant success. Green’s force, bombing down from the north, found the enemy’s attention diverted, and when the Munsters advanced again to the attack, the enemy gave under the strain and surrendered.’ The Battalion lost ‘ 8 officers and 210 other ranks killed and wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Patrick McMahon: Born and lived in Ennis, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6323. Killed in action. G/M in France. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l’Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

May 1915 Clare Champion

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
P McMahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. POW in Germany in Sept 1916. (CJ) Patrick McMahon 8143 was a POW on the RMF POW list. [THIS MAN WAS IN THE 2 Bn.] Eddie Lough

The Royal Munster Fusiliers
Prisoners of War Fund.

"MUNSTER" FLAG DAY.

It has been arranged that a Flag Day in aid of the above Fund will be held throughout Munster, on Monday, Oct. 2. (In places where Monday is not a convenient day some other day should be fixed)

All the money collected will be devoted to the parcels of food, etc., for the N.C.O.'s and men of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, who have been prisoners of war for two years. Since October 1914, the Royal Munster Fusiliers Prisoners of War Fund has been sending these parcels, which cost approximately £170 per week. The need, therefore, for a large fund for this purpose is very urgent. A special flag is being designed for the day. The assistance which will be required includes organisers for each town or village; sellers; people to ask hotels, shops, banks, etc., to allow sellers to enter their premises on that day; to ask schools and clubs to take collecting boxes; cake competitions, concerts, etc.

All communications, requests for flags and boxes, donations and offers of help should be sent as soon as possible to Mrs Cower, Organising Hon Secretary, The Royal Munster Fusiliers Prisoners of War Fund, Castle Ma glywn, Buncath S.O., Penn.

Clare Casualties.

The following casualties are reported today—Wm. Reidy, Sixmilebridge, Conn. Rangers. Prisoner of War in Germany, P. McMahon, Ennis, R.M.F.

KILLED.

Gr. W. Clahane, Kildysart, R.G.A.

Clare Journal Sept 1916
Private Patrick McNamara

Patrick McNamara: Born and lived in Corofin, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 age 21 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6872, G/M in Belgium. Son of Nora McNamara, Back Street Corofin.(TB)

Panel 143 to 144 Tyne Cot Memorial
Zonnebeke
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

LANCE SERJEANT
DONOGHUE D.
Pegg A.A.
CORPORAL
Bourke P.
HELLWIG H.E.
HIGGINS E.

On the 10th November 1917 the 2nd Battalion joined in the battle raging round the Paschendaele Ridge. ‘The barrage opened at 5.55 a.m., and zero hour was at 6 o’clock…. By 6.45 a.m. the whole of the objectives allotted to the Battalion were in our hands, and all ranks were in high fettle...the impatient Commanders ...decided to exploit their success and continue the advance. The order was received with a cheer. The main ridge, which overlooked the whole battle field was only 800 yards away, and the advance continued...About 7.30 a.m. the advance came to a standstill.. At 7.50 a.m. the enemy was observed preparing a counter-attack... On came the enemy, their attack being carried out by an entirely fresh unit just arrived smart and clean on the battlefield, the celebrated “Cockchafers”...

The roll-call showed that of the 20 officers and 630 enlisted men who marched into action but 7 officers and 240 men remained....’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

The Third Battle of Ypres (July-Nov. 1918) was an offensive mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.
Private Patrick Moloney

Patrick Moloney: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 24th August 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4921, (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

August 1916: The 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers went into the front line, a quarter of a mile north of Bazentin le Petit, where it found itself in a sector which had been the scene of bitter fighting and was badly exposed to enemy fire.

On 24th August, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)
Private Peter Moloney

Peter Moloney: Lived in Cloughleigh Ennis, killed in action 12th March 1916 age 21 in Loos, Machine Gun Corps 3rd Company 19414, 1st Div, (Formerly with the 2nd RMF), G/M in Grenay (which is very close to Loos) in France. (TB) Brother of Garry who served and survived the war. Son of John and Alice Moloney Cloughleigh.

Maroc British Cemetery
Grenay
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I. D. 1.

The 1st Division stayed in the Loos sector until early 1916, launching a diversionary attack on the Double Crassier on 30th June.

The cemetery was begun by French troops in August 1915, but it was first used as a Commonwealth cemetery in January 1916. During the greater part of the war it was a front-line cemetery used by fighting units and field ambulances, and protected from German observation by a slight rise in the ground. Maroc British Cemetery now contains 1,379 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.
Corporal Stephen Moloney: Clarecastle. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. He survived the War and came to live in one of those Soldier’s houses in Killoo, Clarecastle. He died there in 1981 aged 85. (Eric Shaw)

Stephen Moloney: Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded July 1916. Shellshock. (CJ) Only 1 Stephen Moloney in RMF. [Looks like a 5 prefix which should indicate joining 5 Bn. at Limerick, other documents show him in 8 Bn. and later 2 Bn.] Wounded at Loos 10th June 1916. Wounded at the Somme 20th Jan 1917. (See Cert below)

‘I got these from Stephen Moloney’s grandson in Boston today. Stephen came to live in one of those Soldier’s houses in Killoo, Clarecastle. He died here in 1981 aged 85 and I remember him well. The grandson has the certificate sealed with the medals in a frame and was not willing to undo it to read his details from the rims of the medals. We know from the cert that he served as corporal with the RMF but not his actual service number’. Eric Shaw
Private Francis Noonan

Francis Noonan: Born and lived in Killaloe, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 20 at Rue Du Bois, in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5900, G/M in France. Son of Francis and Mary Noonan, No 6 Cottage Newtown, Killaloe. (TB)

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a section of the front line that stretched from Estaires in the north, to Grenay in the south. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war including Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915).

“’The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
Inspired by the example of Willie Redmond MP, he joined in 1917 as a private in the Royal Irish Regiment, from which he later exchanged for the Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was commissioned as an officer early in the year.

‘He was killed in action fighting at the head of his men about 7am on 10th November. He was seen to have conducted himself with the greatest gallantry throughout the action, and when he was killed he was in our furthest objective. He was shot dead and suffered no pain.’ Lt Col H R A Ireland Regimental Officer.

(Joe Power)
Private Martin O’Brien

Martin O’Brien: Kilkee, died May 1915 age 18 in Rue Du Bois, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary O’Brien, Ball Alley, Kilkee. Killed in action. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner Cuinchy
Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

A little west of the crossroads known to the army as ‘Windy Corner’ was a house used as a battalion headquarters and dressing station. The cemetery grew up beside this house. After the Armistice it was increased when more than 2,700 graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields – including Aubers Ridge.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day.
Private John O’Connor

John O’Connor: Born in Liscannor lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 age 29 in Étreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6137, G/M in France. (TB)

The Cemetery at Étreux was created in the aftermath of a fierce rearguard action fought by a detachment of the British Expeditionary Force during the retreat from Mons in August 1914.

3 companies of the 2nd Battalion of The Munsters halted the advance of the German Army for fourteen hours in the area of Oisny & Étreux during the retreat from Mons, thus enabling the rest of the British Army to withdraw to a safe distance of twelve miles.

‘By 5 p.m., the battalion was in danger of being overrun and began to retire south toward Étreux in order to rejoin the main force of British troops which had been retreating for most of the day. Yet as they approached Étreux, the Munsters discovered that much of the town had already been occupied by German troops who now began to lay down heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. Cut off from its own army and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, the rearguard now began to suffer serious casualties as it tried to fight its way through the German lines. British troops charged again and again at the houses in the northern outskirts of the village, which were full of German soldiers, but were beaten back by intense enemy fire.

By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces.

Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered.’
Private Michael O’Connor


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

A small bombing raid by “A” Company was carried out from the left salient on September 24th, but this was not successful, and the bombers withdrew to their trench with some loss.’ The following day the Battalion was given a months rest. (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

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 Cornelius O'Donoghue

Cornelius O'Donoghue: Clarecastle, (Kilkisheen). Killed in action in the woods near Klein Zillebeke in Ypres 12th Nov 1914 age 32, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Mrs Catherine Murphy. (TB) ‘At 6.30 (12th Nov 1914) in the morning the bombardment was resumed with redoubled vigour...It lasted two hours, and then a heavy attack followed; but the Munsters held on gamely, and threw back the enemy each time he renewed the attempt.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge.

They 2nd RMF saw action near Zillebeke, Belgium on 12 November and helped to defend against the last great German effort in the First Battle of Ypres. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence.

The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Private Martin O’Loghlen: Turnpike Ennis. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ)

Picked Up On Battlefield.

COMRADE’S LETTER TO ENNIS SOLDIER.

Mr John O’Loghlen, The Turnpike, has shown us a letter picked up on a late battlefield ‘somewhere in France,’ which was addressed to his son, Martin, Private in the Munsters, now wounded in the War Hospital at Bucklyrie, Scotland. The letter was forwarded to Ennis.

The writer, evidently a comrade of Martin’s, says... “I was delighted to hear you were progressing favourably. Regarding the wound, it is better to have sound limbs than be a cripple for life, but in your case, what you have undergone in this earthly hell for the past two years, is enough to make one wish for wounds to enable one to get out of it. Reading the papers, one sees how Englishmen are placing obstacles so as to avoid fighting for one’s country. They sting and sling insults at Irishmen without knowing our ideas. As you know, we who are fighting are as loyal as any subjects of the Empire. Well, I will leave it rest at that. All I have to say is that the original number who came out with the Bn. has dwindled down to 10 men, and as regards the company you know, all are changed. A chap who went to hospital five weeks back came on to us again, and he only knew six of the company, so you’ll see what has happened. The Sergeant Major has got his commission. Humphries, Boland, Coughlan, George, Cooper, McCarthy, Ruffinatti, Considine, Rahilly, Bennett, Callaghan, Heaphy, Hawley, two Lynches, Stack, and Mr Wetherall, were wounded, besides a number of fresh men who arrived, so you would hardly recognise any of the boys now. I’ll always think of the way you stuck your work in France, and trust you will enjoy yourself when you are convalescent. I hope your hand will be as right as ever. I am thinking of what time I’ll be able to settle down to home life again. I think my soldiering career will be all wars—this is my fourth, the Soudan, S. Africa, North West Frontier and here. I have done my bit. I feel for all the boys—I knew for the past year, who had received the reward of a grave in the fields of Belgium, Flanders, Picardy, and Champagne, especially as I reckon there is not a braver soldier than the Munster man—Cork, Kerry, Clare, and Limerick may well be proud of their sons. I feel it the more as we have very few Munster men here at present. Our numbers are very small, but let them know that we of the Southern Province are willing to uphold our name once more, as our forefathers did when fighting for France on almost identical battlefields... Let me know if you hit across any of the old boys, tell them we are the few who are left, and to remember the deeds of Xpres, Rue de Bois, etc.”

Clare Journal Oct 1916
Acting Sergeant Thomas O’Loughlin

Thomas O’Loughlin, Born and lived in Miltown Malbay, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 29 in the Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5816, G/M in France. His brother Martin also belonged to the same company. Son of Martin and Katie O’Loughlin, Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay. (TB)

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war including Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915).

“"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. At dawn the next morning (Sunday), in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l’Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.
**Private John O'Sullivan**

**John O'Sullivan**: Born and lived in Ennistymon, died of wounds 3rd June 1915 age 23 (Possibly from Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5795, G/M in England. Son of Stephen and Margaret O'Sullivan Church Hill, Ennistymon. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

**Fort Pitt Military Cemetery. Rochester Medway Unitary Authority. Kent, England**  
**Plot: 1320.**

During both wars there were naval and military establishments in the neighbourhood of Rochester, and some fishing and shipping at the port. Fort Pitt Military Cemetery contains a plot of 265 First World War graves.

9th May 1915: ‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively.

It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
Private T Reidy

Private T Reidy: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Machine Gunner. No. 5869. This article was published in May 1916, a year after Rue du Bois. Richebourg is very close to Rue du Bois.

Letter from the Front.

The Famous Munsters

No. 5869, PRIVATE T. REIDY,
Machine Gunner,
2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers,
1st Division, 3rd Brigade,
British Expeditionary Force, France.

From an Ennis man who was in the famous charge with the 2nd Munsters. Describing the heroism of the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, at the battle of Richebourg, on the 1st May last, a private of the Munsters writes—“When we were ordered out for the attack, the regiment got going in artillery formation, and went forward beautifully, laughing at all shells and ‘Jack Johnsons’. The air was fairly humming with all kinds of bullets and shells; men were dropping freely, but the battalion did not care—they went on to get in, and they done so. The Germans have splendid shots, and they got in the most awkward places. We were shooting them down from all sides of us. Great credit should be given to our officers, especially our (Lieutenant Price,) who was first on the Germans’ parapets: also Private O’Brien, who raised the Green Flag in front of the bug, and dashed through a fire swept plain with a couple of sections to take the second line of German trenches; it was the most glorious charge I ever witnessed. When the flag was raised the regiment went for the Germans, and taught them a lesson which they won’t forget for a long time.”

Clare Champion May 1916
Corporal James Reynolds

Cpl. James Reynolds: Born and lived in Corovorrin Ennis, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 23 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (5514), G/M in France. He was the son of James and Margaret Reynolds Corovorrin Ennis. (TB) He was the brother of Stephen Reynolds who survived the war.

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a section of the front line that stretched from Estaires in the north, to Grenay in the south. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war including Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915).

"The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915" by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
Private James Russell

James Russell: Born in Ennis, died 22nd March 1918 in Pozieres, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6938, G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB)

The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties


The British front was at its lengthiest when the German March "Spring Offensive" (Kaiserschlacht) opened with a devastating bombardment early on 21 March from 4.15am until noon after which a fierce attack by fresh troops was launched. The battalion suffered badly from the shelling but held the Germans up all night, before they broke through and overwhelmed the Munsters who dashed to retreat, some few making it to a high ridge trench, there driven out and retiring to Epehy by dark, fog having allowed the Germans to infiltrate easily. Next day the battalion was withdrawn to Tincourt where the depleted 16th (Irish) Division was concentrated, the 2RMF now numbering only 290 other ranks, from 629 the day before. On 22 March the battalion crossed back over the Somme at Péronne.
Private Peter Russell

Peter Russell: Born and lived in Kilkee, killed in action 4th Oct 1918 age 31, at Le Catelet. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5755, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Annie Russell, Dunlickey Road, Kilkee. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Le Catelet Churchyard.  Le Catelet
Departement de l’Aisne.  Picardie, France

Le Catelet Churchyard contains the graves of four soldiers from the UK, buried by the enemy in May 1916, and a special memorial to another buried here in October, 1918. (Peter Russell)

‘At 2 a.m. on the 4th (October 1918) the Battalion received orders to attack Le Catelet and take La Pannerie South, a small village....The enemy was in force... and in a strong position....At 5 a.m. the Battalion went forwards... and immediately became involved in street fighting, and suffered heavy casualties from machine gun nests concealed in the village.... In spite of lack of co-operation on both flanks and rear, the Munsters had taken and proceeded to hold La Pannerie South.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

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

**Thomas Joseph Ryan:** Born and lived in Newmarket-on-Fergus, killed in action 19th May 1916 age 17, at Loos. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6543, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Ryan Newmarket-on-Fergus. (TB)

**Thomas Joseph Ryan:** British War Medal, British Victory Medal, box for same and original ribbons, Identity disc, Memorial plaque. His death occurred on a quiet part of the line and he may have been randomly killed during the day-to-day exchanges which characterised trench warfare. He was the cousin of Private John Cunneen, also of 2nd battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, who had been killed at Etreux on 27th August, 1914. (Clare Museum)

**Maroc British Cemetery. Grenay Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: I. E. 2.**

The cemetery was begun by French troops in August 1915, but it was first used as a Commonwealth cemetery in January 1916. During the greater part of the war it was a front-line cemetery used by fighting units and field ambulances, and protected from German observation by a slight rise in the ground. **Maroc British Cemetery** now contains 1,379 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.

‘From February (1916) the trench warfare recommenced, taking the heavy monthly toll of brave men’s lives, each of the five succeeding months taking an average of 50 killed and wounded alone, to say nothing of those incapacitated by trench fever and other disease.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Edward Shannon: Born in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) lived in Kilkee, killed in action 20th Dec 1916 age 25 at the Somme, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5/6720, (1st Div). G/M in France. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Edward and Mary Shannon, No 8 O’Connell St Kilkee. (TB)

After a month’s break in October 1916, the 2RMF returned to the Somme for maintenance duties, then into front-line trenches full of mud from 27 November onwards, with steady frostbite and raids continuing to the end of December.

‘About November 20th the Battalion took up a position in the front line between Eaucourt L’Abbaye and Flers...In December (1916) a raid on a portion of the enemy’s lines named the Maze was ordered...the patrol (2 officers and 12 men) went out and found the enemy not unnaturally had evacuated the trench (due to an artillery barrage). They returned and reported the matter...and were told to go out again and see if the German’s had returned...to what was certain death or capture...’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
**Lance Corporal Christopher Spillane**

**Christopher Spillane**: Born in Athlone lived in Ennis, killed in action 27th Aug 1914 at Étreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9892, G/M in France. (TB)

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The British Cemetery at Étreux was created in the aftermath of a fierce rearguard action fought by a detachment of the British Expeditionary Force during the retreat from Mons in August 1914. Many of the British soldiers killed at Étreux belonged to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, a regular regiment that recruited in Ireland’s southern province. After the armistice, the orchard in which the casualties had been buried was purchased by the family of Lieutenant Frederick Styles, an officer of the Munsters who had been killed during the rearguard action. The family erected the large Celtic Cross in the centre of the cemetery which lists the First World War battle honours of the Munsters, as well as a stone memorial bench and plaque. The cemetery contains 99 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

3 companies of the 2nd. Battalion of The Munsters halted the advance of the German Army for fourteen hours in the area of Oisny & Étreux during the retreat from Mons, thus enabling the rest of the British Army to withdraw to a safe distance of twelve miles.
Private John Stafford

Private John Stafford: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. Captured at Mons. POW for three and a half years. He received a pension. KM Etreux Aug 27th 1914: ‘By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces. Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered. By the time they laid down their arms, the Munsters had been fighting for over 12 hours against a German force that outnumbered them by about six to one.’

Clare Journal March 1915
Private Thomas Sullivan

Thomas Sullivan: Kilrush, killed in action 21st Dec 1914 at Festurbet, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5842, G/M in France. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l’Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.

Dec 21st/22nd 1914: ‘Slowly but surely the advance continued... Suddenly a shot rang out, followed by another and then an inferno seemed to be let loose... The Munsters were 500 yards in advance of the troops on either flank!... Officers and men were falling everywhere; in ten minutes 11 officers and over 200 men were hit..... Slowly, reluctantly and methodically, at about 4am on the 23rd, the shattered remnants of the four companies filed back to their starting point, unconquered and unconquerable.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war.

In early December 1914 the 2nd RMF aided in the evacuation of the Ypres Benedictine Convent, whose occupants subsequently established Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Ireland
Private (Geoffry) Goff Taylor

(Geoffry) Goff Taylor: Kilrush, killed in action 9th May 1915 at Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial. Richebourg-l’Avoue. Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.
Panel 43 and 44.

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T.Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them.

‘The British bombardment began at 5 a.m., the Munsters then pressing forward with extraordinary bravery, German fire sweeping No-Mans-Land, some Munsters audaciously charging ahead through the German lines, briefly waving a green flag on its breastwork, then moving beyond until cut off by the British artillery bombardment that followed, which killed many sheltering in shell craters. By 11 a.m. the 2RMF was withdrawn with only 3 officers and 200 men remaining, having lost 19 and 370 respectively. It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
Private John Tuttle

John Tuttle: Born and lived in Ennis, died 25th Sept 1915 age 21 at the Battle of Loos, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5868, G/M in Loos France. Killed in action. Son of Edmund and Bridget Hehir Tuttle, Lysaght’s Lane Ennis. He had also fought in the Battles of La-Basee and Ypres. (TB)

Loos Memorial
Loos-en-Gohelle
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 127.

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated.


‘The Munsters advanced in alternative waves over the open, and leaped over the British front line trench, loudly cheered by its inmates, on across No Man’s Land, losing heavily at every minute. They passed the Lone Tree and came up to the German wire, only to discover that the artillery bombardment had completely failed to cut it. Man after man was killed and lay against the obstacle... The first effort, costly and ineffective as it appeared at the time, was in reality a brilliant success. Green’s force, bombing down from the north, found the enemy’s attention diverted, and when the Munsters advanced again to the attack, the enemy gave under the strain and surrendered.’

The Battalion lost ‘ 8 officers and 210 other ranks killed and wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
Private Edward Toomey/Twomey: Kilkee. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers. He wrote a letter to the Clare Champion on Aug 14th 1914 headed 'We stood our ground to the last' (at Etreux). Joe Power.

28 Sept 1914 CJ
Private James Williams

James Williams: Born and lived in Ennis, killed in action 27th August 1914 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5898, G/M in France. (TB)

Etreux British Cemetery, Etreux
Departement de l’Aisne
The Cemetery at Étreux was created in the aftermath of a fierce rearguard action fought by a detachment of the British Expeditionary Force during the retreat from Mons in August 1914.

3 companies of the 2nd. Battalion of The Munsters halted the advance of the German Army for fourteen hours in the area of Oisny & Etreux during the retreat from Mons, thus enabling the rest of the British Army to withdraw to a safe distance of twelve miles.

‘By 5 p.m., the battalion was in danger of being overrun and began to retire south toward Étreux in order to rejoin the main force of British troops which had been retreating for most of the day. Yet as they approached Étreux, the Munsters discovered that much of the town had already been occupied by German troops who now began to lay down heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. Cut off from its own army and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, the rearguard now began to suffer serious casualties as it tried to fight its way through the German lines. British troops charged again and again at the houses in the northern outskirts of the village, which were full of German soldiers, but were beaten back by intense enemy fire.

By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces.

Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered.’
The Royal Munster Fusiliers

Prisoners of War Fund.

"MUNSTER" FLAG DAY.

It has been arranged that a Flag Day in aid of the above Fund will be held throughout Munster on Monday, Oct. 2. (In places where Monday is not a convenient day some other day should be fixed)

All the money collected will be devoted to the parcels of food, etc., for the N.C.O.'s and men of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, who have been prisoners of war for two years. Since October 1914, the Royal Munster Fusiliers Prisoners of War Fund has been sending those parcels, which cost approximately 20s per week. The need, therefore, for a large fund for this purpose is very urgent. A special flag is being designed for the day. The assistance which will be required includes organisers for each town or village; sellers; people to ask hotels, shops, banks, etc., to allow sellers to enter their premises on that day; to ask schools and clubs to take collecting boxes; cake competitions, concerts, etc.

All communications, requests for flags and boxes, donations and offers of help should be sent as soon as possible to Mrs Gower, Hon. Secretary, The Royal Munster Fusiliers Prisoners of War Fund, Castle Malgyn, Buncath R. S. O., Ennis.

Clare Casualties.

The following casualties are reported today—Wm. Reidy, Sismilebridge, Conn. Rangers. Prisoner of War in Germany, P. McMahon, Ennis, R.M.P.

KILLED.

Gr. W. Clahane, Kildysart, R.G.A.

Sat Record Aug 1917

GRAND BALL

AT

THOMOND HOUSE,

LISDOONVARNA,

ON

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 1917.

TICKETS ... 10s. EACH.

To be held at Thomond House only.

PROCEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO MUNSTER FUSILIERS FUND.

Clare Journal

Sept 1916

Clare Journal Oct 1916

The RMF POW Fund
2nd RMF Disbandment

2nd Battalion RMF: Last reassembled in December 1918 before demobilisation the 2RMF numbered 25 officers and 581 other ranks. After demobilisation by February 1919, the last cadre of 14 officers and 54 other ranks left France in June 1919 and was reabsorbed into the reformed battalion on the Isle of Wight numbering 900, of these a high 500 with war service. The 2RMF served in Egypt from November 1919 to May 1922 returning for demobilisation and disbandment in July 1922. Their last commander wrote "Its losses amounted to 179 officers and 4,088 rank and file killed, wounded or missing. There were twenty-eight changes in the battalion's command during the war. The battalion retained its essentially Irish character to the end of the war, and was first to last composed of voluntarily enlisted soldiers. During the war 346 officers and over 8,000 other ranks passed through its ranks".

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.”`
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

Where Claremen died with the 2nd RMF

France - Etreux: Sept 1914 (6 Claremen Died)

Flanders: Zillebeke - The 1st Battle of Ypres Oct – Nov 1914 (2 Claremen Died)

France: Givenchy / Festurbet Dec 1914 (5 Claremen Died)

France: La Basse Canal Jan – May 1915 (2 Claremen Died)

France: Battle of Aubers Ridge / Rue Du Bois May 1915 (19 Claremen Died)

France: La Basse Canal May – September 1915 (1 Clareman Died)

France: Loos Sept 1915 to June 1916 (7 Claremen Died)

France: The Somme - August 1916 to April 1917 (11 Claremen Died)

Flanders: Nieuport July 1917 to Passchendaele Nov 1917 (5 Claremen Died)

France: The Somme - German Offensive March 1918 (5 Claremen Died)

France: The Last Advance - October and November 1918 (3 Claremen Died)
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

**Michael Breen**: Burton Street, Kilrush, died 25th Sept 1915 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn., G/M in Loos France. Son of John and Margaret Breen. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E)

**Private Michael Breen**: Knock, died 9th May 1915 age 30 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Bridget Breen Lower Burrane Knock. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E)

**James Buckley**: Kilrush, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Son of John and Annie Buckley Dunlickey Road Kilkee. (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E)

**Lance Corporal William Burke**: Ennis, died 27th April 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

**Corporal Michael Butler DCM**: Cloughleigh Ennis, died in April 1917. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 8121. **He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal** (14/1/1916) for helping a comrade under heavy shell, maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (CJ) ‘He travelled close on 300 yards of ground…and he succeeded in getting his comrade to safety (in front of an enemy trench), but badly wounded. He did all he could to assist his comrade, for 3 hours while under terrible artillery fire. When dusk came on he brought his friend to the trenches, but unfortunately the wounded man died, and Sergeant Butler gained the DCM for that heroic deed’. (Clare Champion April 2016) He was recommended for the **Victoria Cross**. (PMcN) (RMF Book Capt McCance)

**Joseph Copely**: Kilrush, died 22nd March 1918 age 19, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of William and Mary Copley Chapel St Kilrush. (TB) **Private Joseph Copely**: Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Missing in action. KM

**John Cosgrove**: Born and lived in Trough (Truagh?), Castlebank, Co Clare, died 17th August 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9681 (1st Div), G/M in France. **Killed in Action at the Somme.** (TB)

**Cornelius Costello**: Kilkee, died 13th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

**John Cullinan:** Ennis, died 18th May 1915 age 35 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. He died of wounds. He was the son of Patrick and Annie Cullinan. (TB)

**John Cunneen:** Newmarket on Fergus, died 27th Aug 1914 age 26 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Johanna, Latoon Newmarket on Fergus. (TB) Private Cunneen’s brother Thomas also served during the First World War and survived. Both men had at least one brother in the IRA. According to family tradition, following an IRA ambush outside Dromoland Castle, Black and Tans surrounded the family home at Latoon (a short distance away), with the intention of burning it in retribution. When an officer became aware that a family member had given his life in the First World War, he took his men away assuming that it was not a Republican house. In the years following his death, his family never talked about Private Cunneen, his medals were hidden away, and the reasons for his joining the Royal Munster Fusilier’s was never discussed and are now forgotten. He was a cousin of Private Thomas Ryan also of Newmarket-on-Fergus who was killed in action on the Western Front in 1916. Clare Museum.

**L /Sgt John Cunningham:** Turnpike Ennis, died 9th May 1915 age 25 in Rue du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of John and Margaret Cunningham, Turnpike. (TB) Brother of William Cunningham. (Clare Library)

**Private Thomas Cusack:** Born (1878) and lived in Kilrush, died 24th Oct 1916 age 38 at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6173 (1st Div). G/M in France in Feuquieres-en-Vimeau Communal Cemetery. He died of wounds (Possibly from the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Son of Tom and Mary Cusack, Glynn Street Kilrush (previously in Ballally Lane). Husband of Anne Cusack, Pound Street. (TB) He is commemorated on the back of a headstone grave no. 31 in Old Shanakyle Cemetery (East Section) in Kilrush.

**Patrick Droney:** Born in Ballymagh (Balliny North Fanore) Co Clare, enlisted in Ennis, died 22nd Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6831 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme)

**Patrick Edwards:** Ennistymon, died 21st Dec 1914, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

**Patrick Flaherty:** Ennis, died 30th Sept 1914, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. Died of wounds. (TB)

**John Joseph Flanagan:** Ennistymon, died 8th March 1916 age 37, 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 5663, G/M in France. (TB) Son of John and Catherine Flanagan. (Guss O’Halloran)
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

George Friel: Lahinch, died 10th Nov 1917 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

Private Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clarecastle (Clare Abbey), died Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776 (1st Div). G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey. (TB) On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)

Thomas Glynn: Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, died 26th Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9511 (1st Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Son of James and Bridget Glynn, Ballyvaughan. (TB)


Michael Griffin: O Brien’s Bridge, died 6th Oct 1915 age 30, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Ellen Griffin. (TB) Brother of Thomas.

Patrick Griffin: Kilkee, died 27th March 1915 age 26, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Son of Mrs Kate Griffin ‘who was deaf and dumb’ 45 O’Connell St Kilkee.

Thomas Griffin: O’Brien’s Bridge, died 21st Dec 1914 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Ellen Griffin. (TB) Brother of Michael.

James Hanrahan: Ennis, died 27th Aug 1914 age 48 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of James and Mary Hanrahan and husband of Mary Cullinan Hanrahan. (TB)
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

John Hanrahan: Barefield, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Patrick Hartigan: Parteen, died 21st Dec 1914 age 33 in Festubert, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Hartigan. (TB)

Corporal John Honan: Grace Street Kilrush, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Honor Honan, Russells Lane Kilrush. (TB)

Patrick Hourigan: Corofin, died 21st March 1918 in Pozieres, at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Thomas Howard: Miltown Malbay, died 4th Feb 1915 at Bologne, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Sgt Thomas Howley DCM: Twoclay, Co Clare, died 19th April 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Germany. (TB) He was awarded the DCM.

Thomas Killeen: Doonbeg, died 4th Oct 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) (KCT)

Corporal Michael Kinsley: Carrigaholt (Fothera), died 9th May 1915 age 23, in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) (KCT) Son of Mary and Patrick Kinsley, Cross.


2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, died 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

James Lenane: Lisdoonvarna, died 2nd Nov 1914, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB)

Private John Madigan: Vandeleur Street Kilrush, died 10th July 1917 age 24, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Michael and Nora Madigan Kiltrellig, Kilbaha. (TB) KM

Private John Mahony/Mahoney: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush, died 16th July 1915, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Mahoney Crofton Street. (TB)

Thomas Markham: Meelick, died 21st March 1918 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial in France. Son of Michael and Catherine Markham. (TB)

Thomas Markham: Meelick, died 21st March 1918 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M on the Pozieres Memorial in France. Son of Michael and Catherine Markham. (TB)

Lance Corporal John McCarthy: Ennis, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Private Michael McCarthy: Grace Street Kilrush, died 21st Dec 1914 age 25, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of John and Bridget McCarthy, Grace St. (TB) KM

John McGrath: Kilrush, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Private John McGrath: Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in action in Gallipoli. KM

John McInerney: Killaloe, died 10th Nov 1917 age 21 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie McInerney John Street, Killaloe. (TB) ‘He was born 23 Oct 1897. The family spent many years in London where at least some of the children were born. John enrolled in Killaloe Boy’s school in October 1904 and left in June 1908. His father, a water bailiff died sometime before 1911. John enlisted at Killaloe in 1914.’ (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RMF

**Michael McInerney:** Meelick, died 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 age 22 in Pozieres, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in France. Son of Timothy and Annie McInerney of Derramore, Meelick. Brother of Patrick who died in 1916. (TB)

**Private Charles McMahon:** Malt House Lane Kilrush, died 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in France. (TB) KM

**John McMahon:** Kilrush, died 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in Kilrush Church of Ireland Churchyard. Service Number 6718, 2nd Bn., RMF. Son of Michael McMahon Grace Street. (TB) (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)

**Lance Corporal Michael McMahon:** Kilrush, died 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915 age 23, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Margaret McMahon Burton Street. (TB) Private Michael McMahon: Malt House Lane Kilrush. KIA in France. KM

**Patrick McMahon:** Ennis, died 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

**Patrick McNamara:** Corofin, died Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1917 age 21 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Nora McNamara Back Street Corofin. (TB)

**Patrick Moloney:** Born and lived in Kilrush, died 24<sup>th</sup> August 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 4921 (1<sup>st</sup> Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) On 24<sup>th</sup> August 1916, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)

**Francis Noonan:** Killaloe, died 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915 age 20 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, G/M in France. Son of Francis and Mary Noonan, No 6 Cottage Newtown Killaloe. (TB)
The 68 Claremen who Died in the 2nd RMF

2nd Lt Daniel Joseph O’Brien: Clare Abbey House Clarecastle, died 10th Nov 1917 age 33 in Passchendaele (During an attack on Tounont Farm), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB) He was a member of Clare County Council (two other Councillor’s also enlisted: Mr John Joe Connolly and Mr P.E. Kenneally) and a leader of the Clarecastle National Volunteers. He was accidentally wounded in training in Oct 1915. (CJ) Son of Mrs Margaret O’Brien. (SR)

Martin O’Brien: Kilkee, died 9th May 1915 age 18 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary O’Brien, Ball Alley, Kilkee. (TB)

John O’Connor: Ennistymon, (Liscannor) died 27th Aug 1914 age 29 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)


Cornelius O’Donoghue: Clarecastle, (Kilkisheen) died 12th Nov 1914 age 32, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Mrs Catherine Murphy. (TB)

A/Sergeant Thomas O’Loughlin: Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay, died 9th May 1915 age 29 in the Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. His brother Martin also belonged to the same company. Son of Martin and Katie O’Loughlin. (TB) A former GAA player with the St Joseph’s football team. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton)

John O’Sullivan: Church Hill Ennistymon, died 3rd June 1915 age 23 of wounds (Possibly from Rue Du Bois), Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in England. (TB) Son of Stephen and Margaret O’Sullivan Church Hill, Ennistymon. (Guss O’Halloran)

Corporal James Reynolds: Corovorrin Ennis, died 9th May 1915 age 23 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (5514), G/M in France. He was the son of James and Margaret Reynolds. (TB) He was a brother of Stephen. (Eric Shaw)
James Russell: Ennis, died 22nd March 1918 in Pozieres, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Peter Russell: Kilkee, died 4th Oct 1918 age 31, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Martin and Annie Russell Dunlickey Road Kilkee. (TB)

Thomas Joseph Ryan: Newmarket on Fergus, died 19th May 1916 age 17, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Ryan. (TB) His death occurred on a quiet part of the line and he may have been randomly killed during the day-to-day exchanges which characterised trench warfare.

Edward Shannon: Born in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) lived in Kilkee, died 20th Dec 1916 age 25 on the Somme, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5/6720 (1st Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Edward and Mary Shannon, No 8 O’Connell St Kilkee. (TB)

Lance Corporal Christopher Spillane: Ennis, died 27th Aug 1914 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

Thomas Sullivan: Kilrush, died 21st Dec 1914, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)

(Geoffry) Goff Taylor: Kilrush, died 9th May 1915 in Rue Du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB) Private Geoffry Taylor: Moore Street Kilrush. RMF. Killed in Action in France. KM

John Tuttle: Ennis, died 25th Sept 1915 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Loos France. Son of Edmund and Bridget Hehir Tuttle, Lysaght’s Lane. (TB)

James Williams: Ennis, died 27th August 1914 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (TB)
**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.

- **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]

- **Private Patrick Blunney**: Burton Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded. KM No Blunney in RMF. [There was a Patrick Joseph Blunney TS 7145 in the Royal Navy Reserve. D.O.B 12 March 1899 from Kilrush ref. National Archives]

- **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. KM 9 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.]
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]


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]
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers
Battalion Unknown

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 McNamarasetc, 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]
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael McNamara</strong>: Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW added to the list in Aug 1918. (SR) 9 Michael McNamara’s in the RMF</td>
<td>Too many McNamaras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S McNamara</strong>: Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ)</td>
<td>Found a Stephen McNamara RMF 5508 but no clue as to Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private John Moloney</strong>: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. KM 9 John Moloney’s in the RMF</td>
<td>Won’t even try!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Moloney</strong>: 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)</td>
<td>His father Martin died in Jan 1917. See above. (see Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private Thomas Moloney</strong>: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Discharged unfit. KM</td>
<td>Didn’t find a Thomas discharged unfit from RMF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P Moore</strong>: Kildysart. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Dec 1917. (SR) 5 P Moore’s in the RMF</td>
<td>Not enough to narrow down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private Joseph Murphy</strong>: Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF (PMcN) 7 Joseph Murphy’s in the RMF</td>
<td>Too Many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private Patrick Nash</strong>: The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. KM</td>
<td>No Patrick Nash in the RMF. [Nothing found for RMF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private Simon Nevills</strong>: Grace Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France for two years. Invalided with a pension. KM Simon Neville ???</td>
<td>Discharged due to “sickness” 3-7-1917, no clue as to Bn.]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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]


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 fathers 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 5th?) 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.

**Carrigaholt:** Thomas Browne, Michael Burke, J Fitzpatrick, Thomas Gleeson, John Pal Horan, M Kinnane, James McMahon, John Joseph McMahon, Thomas McMahon, S Moloney, 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.


**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.
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.

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

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

**Whitegate:** William McNamara/MacNamara.

‘The share of the battalion in the campaign on the Western Front is in many respects unique. Landing with the British Expeditionary Force, it was never out of earshot of the front line during the fifty-one months the war lasted.

Thirteen times in the campaign it went into battle up to strength, or nearly so; ten times it came out of action with less than 6 officers and 300 men all ranks. On five occasions it was surrounded by the enemy and cut off from all support; on four of these it cut its way throughhand joined up again; on the fifth it engaged an entire Army Corps of the enemy for over twelve hours. On seven different occasions it captured the objectives of adjacent units, as well as its own.’ Col Jervis
"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.
ROLL OF HONOUR

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE 2ND BATTALION
ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS
MADE THE "GREAT SACRIFICE" IN FRANCE IN
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

73 OFFICERS
5 WARRANT OFFICERS
59 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
776 FUSILIERS

ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE THEATRES OF OPERATIONS IN
WHICH THE REGIMENT Fought DURING THE GREAT WAR
1914-1918

1ST BATTALION
SAULPUCHE LANDING FROM S.S. RIVER CLEVE
APRIL 21ST TO EVACUATION JANUARY 1915
FRANCE MARCH 16TH TO ARMISTICE NOVEMBER 1918

2ND BATTALION
FRANCE FROM MONS AUGUST 1914 TO FOREST
OF MONTREUIL AND ARMISTICE NOVEMBER 1918
SAULPUCHE SUNDAY AUGUST 1915 TO SEPTEMBER 1915

6TH BATTALION
SALONICA SERBIA STRUMI VALLEY AND
DISTRICT OCTOBER 1915 TO AUGUST 1917

7TH BATTALION
PALESTINE SEPTEMBER 1917 TO MAY 1918
FRANCE JUNE 1918

8TH BATTALION
FRANCE DECEMBER 1915 TO DECEMBER 1917

9TH BATTALION
FRANCE DECEMBER 1915 TO MAY 1918

Etreux