Corofin and the Great War

By Ger Browne

Page 2: The Great Houses and Cemeteries of Corofin during WW1

Page 6: The Complete List of those from Corofin in the Great War

Page 16: Individual Profiles - Men from Corofin in the Great War
Corofin’s Great Houses during WW1

Macon John Macnamara:
Baunkyle, Corofin, died March 1918 age 20 in Pozieres, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, G/M in France.
Son of Dr George and Frances Jane Macnamara, Baunkyle, Corofin.

Lieut-Colonel William James Macnamara: Lieutenant-Colonel John William Unthank Macnamara, M.A., M.D., late I.M.S., died on Saturday last in a private hospital in Dublin, in his seventy-ninth year. He was the son of Dr. Michael Macnamara, of Corofin, Co. Clare, and was educated at Queen’s College, Galway, and in Dublin. In 1891 he was given the rank of Major, and in 1899 was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel. He retired from the Service in 1908. — R.I.P. Obituary 9th Jan 1932. He was recalled to service during the Great War and was Assistant Director of Medical Services for Ireland from 1914-1922.

Caherblonick Cottage, Corofin

Major-General Sir Cyril Brudene Bingham White:
Caherblonick Cottage, Corofin. ‘The honours conferred by the King in connection with the Duke of York’s tour include a KCB for Major-General Sir Cyril Brudene Bingham White. He is the third son of the late John Warren White, Caherblonie, Clare. He was born on 23rd September, 1876. In 1905 he married Ethel, daughter of Walter Davison, Victoria, N.S. Wales. He served with distinction in the European war.’ Sat Record July 1927.
Corofin’s Great Houses during WW1

Clifden House Corofin
Home to the Columbine, Burton, Paterson, Studdert, Gray, Kane, Deaves and Robson families. Still standing and occupied. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 73.

Clifden House Corofin

Miss Burton: Clifden House Corofin organised Christmas treats for the children of sailors and soldiers in 1915. (Joe Power)

Cragmoher Corofin
Home to the Griffey, Hogan, Studdert and Douglas families. The house was tragically burnt down at the end of the twentieth century. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 90.

Cragmoher Corofin

Corofin’s Great Houses during WW1

Rockforest House, Corofin

Captain Bindon Blood: Rockforest House, Corofin, Co Clare, died Sept 1915 age 33, Royal Flying Corps. Mentioned in Despatches. G/M in England. (TB) He was born on 30th Dec 1881. He was the son of Bagot Blood and Florence Studdert and a brother of Charles Newman. He fought in the Boer War as a Captain with the 8th Cavalry, Indian Army.

Charles Newman Blood: Rockforest House, Corofin, Co Clare. Royal Field Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Flying Corps. Born on the 10th June 1887. He was the son of Bagot Blood and Florence Studdert and a brother of Bindon Blood. In Oct 1926 he married Nellie Flora Lang. He died on 10th Feb 1961 age 73. He was an engineer and lived at La Vallee Bray Co Wicklow.

Joe Minihan attended Rockwell College and was studying to be a Chemist when he joined up. John Minihan (his brother) was Vice-Commandant and Intelligence Officer (I.O.) of the 5th Battalion Clare Brigade, later Adjutant and I.O. of 3rd Battalion Mid-Clare Brigade and Special Intelligence Officer to the Brigade and GHQ. (Paul Minihan)

Lance Corporal Joseph Minihan: Corofin. Wounded in June 1916. (CJ-July 1916) Initially with the 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers (RMF 4510) then transferred to the 2nd RMF, with whom he was wounded in June 1916. ‘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, ...though losses were heavy with 5 officers and 60 other ranks - 2 and 12 respectively killed.’ (2nd RMF War Diary) He was then transferred to the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment (18038) with whom he was wounded in Sept 1916. (CJ-Oct 1916) The 2nd RIR fought in the Battle of Guillemont between the 3rd to 6th September 1916.
Corofin (St Catherine’s Church/ Clare Heritage Museum)

Location: In the centre of Corofin take the road signposted Gort. The Church and Cemetery are 500M on the left.

General Sir Bindon Blood G C B G C V O: Cranagher House, Spancel Hill. Born 1842. He had joined the Royal Engineers when aged 18 and served in the Zulu War, the Afghan War and in India. He was credited with shooting 57 tigers. In 1914 he was made Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Engineers, and worked to recruit soldiers for WW1. He died in 1940. His wife Charlotte died in 1948. They are both interred in Corofin Churchyard. The family vault is located on the right side when you enter the cemetery in the far right corner.
Private Michael Bane: Corofin. He was a Labourer aged 38 when he enlisted in Aug 1914 into the 6th Royal Munster Fusiliers 92 (and later with the Labour Corps). (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Richard Barrett: Former Constable in the RIC in Corofin. (CJ)

Captain Bindon Blood: He was born on 30th Dec 1881, lived in Rockforest House, Corofin, Co Clare. He died 29th Sept 1915 age 33, Royal Flying Corps. He was burnt to death. Mentioned in Despatches. G/M in England. He is also commemorated on a Memorial Plaque in St Columba’s Church in Ennis. He was the eldest son of Bagot Blood and Florence Studdert and a brother of Charles Newman. He also fought in the Boer War as a Captain with the 8th Cavalry, Indian Army. (Eric Shaw)’He was flying at Hounslow on Friday when his machine took fire, and though he was able to descend, his clothing had taken fire, and he had sustained shocking burns. He died on the following day…’ Clare Champion Oct 1915

Charles Newman Blood: Rockforest House, Corofin, Co Clare. Royal Field Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Flying Corps. Born on the 10th June 1887. He was the son of Bagot Blood and Florence Studdert and a brother of Bindon Blood. In Oct 1926 he married Nellie Flora Leng. He died on 10th Feb 1961 age 73. He was an engineer and lived at La Vallee Bray Co Wicklow. (Eric Shaw)

Matthew Clohessy: Corofin, killed in action 21st March 1918 on the Somme, Royal Irish Regiment, G/M in Pozieres France. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. (TB) March 1918 at St Quentin: The 16th Division held an exposed position from early 1918 at Ronsoy during the German Army’s Spring Offensive. At 4.40am on 21 Mar 1918 the Germans fired 1.16 million shells over a 80 km front in a 5 hour period Their shells were both explosive and gas. Further as dawn broke, a thick mist reduced visibility to 25 metres. At 9.35 am, 500,000 German soldiers advanced through the mist. There were heavy losses. The 16th Div was practically wiped out in the retreat which followed Operation Michael. The retreat lasted 8 days and nights, with stops to briefly hold defensive position.

2nd Lt John J Considine: Born 25th Oct 1895 in Corofin Co Clare. He was aged 22 and living in Yonkers New York, when he enlisted on the 13th June 1918 into Inf Repl Camp, Camp Lee, Va and later to Camp Upton NY with the 42nd Infantry. He did not serve overseas and was discharged in Aug 1919. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919) John J Considine: Corofin. 11th Infantry US Army. He was a brother of Stephen Considine. He had another brother who was an officer in the US Navy. (British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)
Sergeant Stephen Considine: Corofin. He was a Book Keeper aged 37 when he enlisted in Sept 1914 into the Royal Garrison Artillery 2672. He served with the BEF in France from Sept 1914 to Aug 1915. He was discharged for medical reasons in May 1916 and emigrated to Yonkers New York. He had also served in South Africa. He married Gertrude Prendergast in June 1900 and they had 2 daughters Noreen and Edna. His brother John J Considine was in the 11th Infantry US Army and another an officer in the US Navy. (British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Patrick Courtney: Born in Corofin, killed in action 12th April 1918 in The Battle of Estaires (9 – 11 April 1918, age 19. Irish Guards 2nd Bn 11902, 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 31st Division. G/M in Belgium. Son of Nicholas and Mary Courtney, Limerick. (TB)

The Battle of Estaires was one of the opening phases of The Battle of the Lys (7–29 April 1918) The objective was to capture Ypres, forcing the British forces back to the channel ports and out of the war. In planning, execution and effects, Georgette was similar to (Operation Michael, earlier in the Spring Offensive. ‘The morning of April 12th 1918. broke hot and sunny, under a sky full of observation-balloons that seemed to hover directly above them. These passed word to the German guns, and the bombardment of heavies and shrapnel began. About two-thirty the enemy attacked.... No. 2 Company of the Irish Guards had made a defensive flank in view of this danger, and as the enemy pressed past punished them with Lewis-gun fire...... By dusk it would have puzzled any one in it to say where our line stood; but, such as it was, it had to be contracted, for there were not men enough for the fronts. Of No. 2 Company not more than fifty were on their feet. No. 3 Company with No. 4 were still in support of the 4th Grenadiers somewhere in front of Ferme Gombert (which had been Battalion H.Q. till shelled out) and the Vieux-Berquin road; and No. 1 Company, besides doing its own fighting, had to be feeding the others.....There was a hope that the Fifth Division would that evening relieve the 2nd Irish Guards in the line, but the relief did not come...The 4th Guards Brigade stopped the German rush to the sea through a gap that other divisions had left; and in doing so lost two thirds at least of its effectives......Sir Douglas Haig, in his despatches, wrote: “The performance of all the troops engaged in the most gallant stand,” which was only an outlying detail of the Battle of the Lys, “and especially that of the 4th Guards Brigade on whose front of some 4000 yards the heaviest attacks fell, is worthy of the highest praise. No more brilliant exploit has taken place since the of the enemy's offensive.’ Rudyard Kipling

Michael Cox: Irish Guards. A former RIC Constable in Corofin. (CJ)

Sergeant T Crowe: Corofin. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) and Oct 1916(CJ) [Medal Role Index Card Date suggests the 8 Bn.] Eddie Lough(The RMF 8th Bn fought in the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy in September 1916 at the Somme)
Thomas Curtin: Corofin. Australian Infantry. (MA) (AI) He was a Labourer aged 27 when he enlisted in Nov 1915 in Warwick Queensland into the 41st Bn. 2977. His mother was Ellen Curtin Drimmevan Kilfenora. He was discharged in Dec 1916 as he was medically unfit. (UNSW)

Joseph Daly: Irish Guards. A former RIC Constable in Corofin. (CJ) Private Joseph Daly: RIC Barracks Maurices Mills. He was a Constable aged 38 when he enlisted in 1915 in the Irish Guards 10137. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Patrick Dillon: Born and lived in Corofin, killed in action 28th June 1916 age 22, in the Loos Sector. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th, G/M in Loos France. Son of Timothy and Bridget Callinan Dillon Kilnaboy. (TB)

‘Whilst in the line (June 1916) the Battalion was employed on clearing the trenches, reinforcing the parapets, strengthening shelters, wiring etc. The drummers of the Battalion sounded the “Last Post” at the memorial service for the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum held.. on June 13th 1916....... Casualties whilst in the Loos Sector, June 17th to July 3rd: Killed – 36; Wounded – 130.’ P Killon (should be P Dillon): Corofin. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed In Action.(PMcN)


Timothy Donovan: Irish Guards. A former RIC Constable in Corofin. (CJ)

Francis M Egan: Born in New York USA, lived in Marylebone London, killed in action 16th April 1918 age 19, London Regiment (City of London Rifles) 2nd/6th Bn 345071, G/M in France. Son of T M and Catherine Egan, Main Street , Corofin.(TB)

After being relieved from the line, the London Regiment (City of London Rifles) 2nd/6th Bn was sleeping in the open on the night of 16/17 April 1918 when it was subjected to gas shelling. A large number of casualties were caused by Mustard gas, most of them temporarily blinded, who had to be led away in single file to the dressing stations. The reduced battalion was not directly engaged when the reassembled 58th Division helped to beat off the next phase of the German Spring Offensive on 24–26 April.
‘My uncle, Francis M Egan of Corofin, was killed in action on 16/04/1918 and is commemorated on the memorial at Pozieres, France... his father emigrated to New York in the late 1800s, got married there to Catherine Rogers from Flagmount, and had four children there before returning home to Corofin around 1905 where they had two more children. He was born in New York about 1899 and was therefore a U.S. citizen. Nevertheless he returned with his parents and siblings and lived in Corofin for some years before going to London around 1916/17. He enlisted in the London Regiment.’ (Ciaran Egan)

**Sergeant William Feighery DCM MM:** Killeen Corofin, Co Clare. He was aged 20 when he enlisted in 1905 in the Irish Guards 2372. He served with the BEF from Nov 1913 – Jan 1919. He was awarded the Military Medal in Oct 1916, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal in Nov 1918 along with a £20 gratuity. He was discharged in Feb 1919. His parents were John and Mary Feighery. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

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**Captain Michael Fitzgerald MC:** Corofin. Royal Navy. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry with the 19th Bengal Lancers in 1916. (Joe Power)

**Jeremiah Hanrahan:** Irish Guards. A former RIC Constable in Corofin. (CJ)

**Capt P A Holmes:** Former District Inspector in the RIC in Corofin. Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ)

**Major Philip Holmes** was not born in Clare but he had a very strong Clare connection. He was born in Cork and was aged 39 in 1916. He served for 11 years in Corofin, County Clare as the District Inspector with the RIC. He was one of the 32 RIC District Inspectors who joined the British Forces during the First World War. He first joined the RIC in February, 1898, aged 21, and in November 1915 he joined the British army.
Whilst with the RIC as DI in County Clare, he was awarded five favourable mentions including one for "bravery" against a hostile crowd. He was twice commended for his work. He was involved in the action at Mount Street Bridge against the Irish Volunteer Forces led by Capt. Malone. (Eamonn Dillon)

28/01/1921: Divisional Commissioner Major Philip Armstrong Holmes died on Saturday 10am on the 28th of January 1921 in the Military Hospital Cork. A special train left Cork on Friday evening carrying two prominent surgeons to attend to Major Holmes but owing to the extensive nature of his wounds he died Saturday morning. He was being escorted by a sergeant and five constables when they were ambushed by the Newmarket battalion column and a number of East Kerry Volunteers at Tureengarriffe, on the Castleisland road two miles west of Ballydesmond. Son of the late County inspector George Holmes Dublin. Served as District Inspector in County Clare and later in Roscommon and Strabane (Straban) Northern Ireland. 1914 Commissioned into the R I Reg, served with the R I Fus and R I Rifles, twice wounded and twice gassed in France. Served with Army Intelligence Midland District Irish Command at the Curragh. Resumed police duties after the War, District Inspector Mountpottering district and later Assistant Commissioned of Police after the death of Mr Redmond who was killed in Dublin.(irishmedals.ie)

Patrick Hourigan: Corofin, killed in action 21st March 1918 in Epehy, at the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. (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….’

Michael Hurley: Born 20th Nov 1874 in Corroffin Killinaboy. Royal Navy 350294 from March 1907 – May 1919. The first ship he served on was the Victory I. The last ship he served on was the Victory. (UK Royal Navy Registers of Seamans Services 1853-1928)

John Joseph Keirse: Born 5th Sept 1887 in Corrofin Co Clare. Royal Navy M1427 from Nov 1909 – May 1920. The first ship he served on was the Vivid II. The last ship he served on was the Victory II. (UK Royal Navy Registers of Seamans Services 1853-1928)

Private Patrick Linnane: Craigmoher,Corofin.Aged 22 when he enlisted in 1916. Royal Irish Regiment 5590. His parents were Patrick and Mary Linnane. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)
Lt Maccon John Macnamara: Born 1897 in Baunkyle, Corofin, killed in action 26\textsuperscript{th} March 1918 age 20 in Operation Michael (21 March – 5 April 1918), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn, 16th (Irish) Division, G/M in France. Son of Dr George and Frances Jane Macnamara, Baunkyle, Corofin. Macnamara (TB)

On 21 March the Regiment was on the defensive during the Battle of St. Quentin when the Germans began an immense bombardment as part of their last-gasp major offensive known as Operation Michael (21 March – 5 April 1918) against British and Empire forces in the Picardy area.

The 1st and 2nd Dublins suffered heavily from the intense bombardment (which included poison gas) and when the Germans attacked shortly afterwards, the Germans broke through the shattered remnants. The Germans made significant gains but their offensive gradually lost momentum and the Germans were pushed back by April. The greatest losses were to 36th (Ulster) Division, with 7,310 casualties, the 16th (Irish) Division, with 7,149 casualties and 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division, 7,023 casualties. All three formations were destroyed and had to be taken out of the order of battle to be rebuilt.

Lieut-Colonel William James Macnamara: Lieutenant-Colonel John William Unthank Macnamara, M.A., M.D., late I.M.S., died on Saturday last in a private hospital in Dublin, in his seventy-ninth year. He was the son of Dr. Michael Macnamara, of Corofin, Co. Clare, and was educated at Queen's College, Galway, and in Dublin. In 1891 he was given the rank of Major, and in 1899 was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel. He retired from the Service in 1908.—R.I.P. Obituary 9\textsuperscript{th} Jan 1932. He was recalled to service during the Great War and was Assistant Director of Medical Services for Ireland from 1914-1922.

Private James Madden: Rath, Corofin. He was a Labourer aged 41 when he enlisted in Sept 1914 into the 5\textsuperscript{th} Connnaught Rangers 630. He had previously served with the 1\textsuperscript{st} Yorkshire Regiment for 10 years until he was discharged in Portsmouth in 1907. He was discharged again in Nov 1914. He married Bridget Flanagan in 1908 and they lived in Corofin. (British Army WW1 Service Records fold3.com)

Private George McMillin: Corofin. 8\textsuperscript{th} Royal Munster Fusiliers 4669. A POW in June 1918 (SR) (He was taken prisoner in early 1918. Sat Record) (The 8\textsuperscript{th} RMF landed in France on the 18\textsuperscript{th} Dec 1915) [Date has been a good indicator and I agree 8 Bn.] On November 23\textsuperscript{rd} 1916 the 8\textsuperscript{th} Battalion amalgamated with the 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn RMF.
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) 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”... 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)

Lance Corporal Joseph Minihan: Corofin. Wounded in June 1916. (CJ-July 1916) Initially with the 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers (RMF 4510) then transferred to the 2nd RMF, with whom he was wounded in June 1916. ‘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, ...though losses were heavy with 5 officers and 60 other ranks - 2 and 12 respectively killed.’ (2nd RMF War Diary) He was then transferred to the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment (18038) with whom he was wounded in Sept 1916. (CJ-Oct 1916) The 2nd RIR fought in the Battle of Guillemont between the 3rd to 6th September 1916.

Joe attended Rockwell College and was studying to be a Chemist when he joined up. John Minihan (his brother) was Vice-Commandant and Intelligence Officer (I.O.) of the 5th Battalion Clare Brigade, later Adjutant and I.O. of 3rd Battalion Mid-Clare Brigade and Special Intelligence Officer to the Brigade and GHQ. He was also a member of the Mid-Clare Brigade ASU. In the Civil War he was Divisional Quarter-master and Director of Special Services 1st Western Division (Anti-treaty) IRA and O/C North Clare ASU. (Paul Minihan)

Richard Mitchell: Born 19th Feb 1886 in Corofin Co Clare. Royal Navy 227465 from July 1903 – April 1919. The first ship he served on was the Northampton. The last ship he served on was the Liverpool. (UK Royal Navy Registers of Seamans Services 1853-1928)

Private Patrick Moroney: Corofin. Australian Imperial Force. (AI) He was a Labourer aged 31 when he enlisted in Oct 1914 in Liverpool NSW into the 18th Bn. 1055 (and later the 13th Bn.). He was wounded in May 1915, and Aug 1915 (gun shot wounds to the chest) in Gallipoli. He was discharged in Feb 1919. (UNSW)
George Myles: Corofin. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 8594. On the wounded list in May 1918. (SR) [This man was in 1 Bn. RMF in Balkans, Africa and Europe] Eddie Lough

Private Daniel O'Halloran: Corofin. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Oct 1916. (CJ) Only 1 D O'Halloran in RMF 5722. [Date in records suggest landing with 8 bn.] Eddie Lough. (The RMF 8th Bn fought in the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy in September 1916 at the Somme)

Robert O'Loughlin: Corofin. Australian Imperial Force. (AI) He was a Miner aged 39 when he enlisted in March 1915 in Liverpool NSW into the 25th Bn. 1050. His brother H O'Loughlin lived in Toowoomba Queensland. He had previously served with the Connaught Rangers (1896-1905). He was discharged in May 1916 due to varicose veins (Senile Debility). He had joined the MEF in Gallipoli in Sept 1915. (UNSW)

Private Michael Francis O'Sullivan: Corofin. He was aged 41 when he enlisted in 1918. Royal Army Medical Corps 128961. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Rifleman Albert Pearce: Adelphi, Corofin. He was aged 19 when he enlisted in 1916. Royal Irish Rifles 5589. He was gassed in Sept 1918. His father was Frederick Pearce. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Captain Dudley Eyre Persee: Born in Galway, died of wounds 1st Feb 1915 age 22, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 10th Brigade in 4th Division. G/M in Bailleul Communal Cemetery in France. He died in the No 2 Casualty Clearing Station at Bailleul. (TB) Son of Alfred Lovaine and Florence G Persee of Cragmoher, Corofin. Dudley Eyre Persee: Corofin, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. (PMcN)

‘He saw some Germans going into a wood some distance off and wanted to telephone to the General. There was no telephone in the trench, so he ran 80 yards across the open in a hail of bullets and telephoned from another trench. The General ordered the wood to be shelled at once and commended him for what he had done. He also found that the Germans were mining the trench, and started counter-mining, which stopped the enemy’s game, so he did all he could bravely, poor boy.’ (De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour)

Private Patrick Scales: Clifden, Corofin. He was aged 19 when he enlisted in 1916. Royal Irish Rifles 5591. His father was William Scales. He was discharged within 3 days. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)
**John Joseph Slattery:** Corofin, Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF 2nd Bn, Enlisted in 1914 or 1915 and was discharged in 1922.

At some time he was in D company, 2nd 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.*

**Driver John Taffe:** Corofin. He was a Groom aged 24 when he enlisted in Nov 1899 into the Royal Field Artillery 2177. He had previously served with the 5th Bn Royal Fusiliers. He served in South Africa from 1905 to 1908, and with the BEF from 1914 to Jan 1917. He was discharged in Feb 1917 as his period of engagement had terminated. His parents were Patrick and Mary Taffe. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

**Sergeant Patrick Tierney:** Corofin, Co Clare. He was a Clerk aged 18 when he enlisted in the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers 5717 in 1897. (and later with the 1st RMF in Aug 1915, the 6th RMF in Dec 1915 and the 3rd Bn RMF in July 1918). He was discharged in Oct 1919 for medical reasons. His mother was Mary Tierney. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) **Sergeant P Tierney:** Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in March 1917 (6th Bn RMF). (CJ)

**Private Patrick Tierney:** Corofin, Co Clare. He was aged 37 when he enlisted in 1919 with the Army Ordnance Corps 9991. He had previously served with the Royal Munster Fusiliers (1897-1918) and received gunshot wounds. He was discharged in Oct 1919 for medical reasons. His mother was Mary Tierney. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**Major-General Sir Cyril Brudene Bingham White KCB:** Queensland Australia. His father was John Warren White from Caherblonick Cottage, Corofin, who emigrated to Australia in 1850.

_The honours conferred by the King in connection with the Duke of York’s tour include a KCB for Major-General Sir Cyril Brudene Bingham White. He is the third son of the late John Warren White, Caherblonie, Clare. He was born on 23rd September, 1876. In 1905 he married Ethel, daughter of Walter Davison, Victoria, N.S. Wales. He served with distinction in the European war._ Sat Record July 1927.
Captain Bindon Blood

Captain Bindon Blood: He was born on 30th Dec 1881, lived in Rockforest House, Corofin, Co Clare. He died 29th Sept 1915 age 33, Royal Flying Corps. He was burnt to death. Mentioned in Despatches. G/M in England. He is also commemorated on a Memorial Plaque in St Columba’s Church in Ennis. He was the eldest son of Bagot Blood and Florence Studdert and a brother of Charles Newman. He also fought in the Boer War as a Captain with the 8th Cavalry, Indian Army. (Eric Shaw)

He had seen extensive service during the South African War and later at Burma. He went to Belgium with the 4th Hussars in August 1914. He joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1915.

IN MEMORY OF
CAPTAIN BINDON BLOOD
4TH QUEENS OWN HUSSARS AND ROYAL FLYING CORPS
WHO SERVED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR (1899-1902)
AND IN THE GREAT WAR (1914-1918)
AT MONS AND THE MARNE
AND DIED AT HOUNSWOLD ON SEPTEMBER 25TH 1915
AS A RESULT OF AN AEROPLANE ACCIDENT
AGED 33

Woking Crematorium.
Woking
Woking Borough
Surrey,
England

Tragic Death of Capt. Bindon Blood
AEROPLANE TAKES FIRE.

His many friends in Clare will learn with deep regret of the demise of Capt. Bindon Blood, which took place on Saturday, under very tragic and painful circumstances.

He was flying at Hounslow on Friday when his machine took fire, and though he was able to descend, his clothing had taken fire, and he had sustained shocking burns. He died on the following day, yet another Clare victim to this terrible war, though not in the firing line.

Captain Bindon Blood was a member of the well-known family, the Bloods, of Carragh, County Clare. He was eldest son of the late Mr. Bagot Blood, J.P., Rockforest and Templemaley, and was a cousin of General Sir Bindon Blood.

He was born in 1881, and joined the 4th Hussars in the South African War, first in the ranks of the South African Constabulary and then as officer in the East Yorkshire Regiment. Afterwards he was transferred to the Indian Army and then to the Essex Regiment. In 1910 he joined the 4th Hussars. He served with the regiment from the beginning of the present war, and was mentioned in despatches. Last February he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps, and had recently been gazetted “Flight Commander.”

Clare Champion Oct 1915
Matthew Clohessy: Born in Corofin, killed in action 21st March 1918 on the Somme, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 18013, G/M in Pozieres France. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. (TB) (He died on the same day, in the same place, in the same Regiment as Michael Shaughnessy)

Pozieres Memorial. Pozieres
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: Panel 30 and 31.

The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties

March 1918 at St Quentin: The 16th Division held an exposed position from early 1918 at Ronssoy during the German Army’s Spring Offensive. At 4.40am on 21 Mar 1918 the Germans fired 1.16 million shells over a 80 km front in a 5 hour period. Their shells were both explosive and gas. Further as dawn broke, a thick mist reduced visibility to 25 metres. At 9.35 am, 500,000 German soldiers advanced through the mist. There were heavy losses. The 16th Div was practically wiped out in the retreat which followed Operation Michael. The retreat lasted 8 days and nights, with stops to briefly hold defensive position.
Patrick Courtney: Born in Corofin, killed in action 12th April 1918 in The Battle of Estaires (9 – 11 April 1918), age 19. Irish Guards 2nd Bn 11902, 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 31st Division. G/M in Belgium. Son of Nicholas and Mary Courtney, Limerick. (TB)

Ploegsteert Memorial. Comines-Warneton
Arrondissement de Mouscron

The Memorial commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave.

The Battle of Estaires was one of the opening phases of The Battle of the Lys (7–29 April 1918) The morning of April 12th 1918. broke hot and sunny, under a sky full of observation-balloons that seemed to hover directly above them. These passed word to the German guns, and the bombardment of heavies and shrapnel began. About two-thirty the enemy attacked.... No. 2 Company of the Irish Guards had made a defensive flank in view of this danger, and as the enemy pressed past punished them with Lewis-gun fire...... By dusk it would have puzzled any one in it to say where our line stood; but, such as it was, it had to be contracted, for there were not men enough for the fronts. Of No. 2 Company not more than fifty were on their feet. No. 3 Company with No. 4 were still in support of the 4th Grenadiers somewhere in front of Ferme Gombert (which had been Battalion H.Q. till shelled out) and the Vieux-Berquin road; and No. 1 Company, besides doing its own fighting, had to be feeding the others.....There was a hope that the Fifth Division would that evening relieve the 2nd Irish Guards in the line, but the relief did not come...The 4th Guards Brigade stopped the German rush to the sea through a gap that other divisions had left ; and in doing so lost two thirds at least of its effectives.......Sir Douglas Haig, in his despatches, wrote: “The performance of all the troops engaged in the most gallant stand,” which was only an outlying detail of the Battle of the Lys, “and especially that of the 4th Guards Brigade on whose front of some 4000 yards the heaviest attacks fell, is worthy of the highest praise. No more brilliant exploit has taken place since the start of the enemy's offensive.’ Rudyard Kipling
Private Patrick Dillon

Patrick Dillon: Born and lived in Corofin, killed in action 28th June 1916 age 22, in the Loos Sector. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5762, G/M in Loos France. Son of Timothy and Bridget (Callinan) Dillon Kilnaboy.

Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, Loos-en-Gohelle
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: I. D. 14.

There are now 583 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war commemorated in this cemetery. It was used in 1916 very largely by the units of the 16th (Irish) Division.

‘Whilst in the line (June 1916) the 8th Battalion was employed on clearing the trenches, reinforcing the parapets, strengthening shelters, wiring etc. The drummers of the Battalion sounded the “Last Post” at the memorial service for the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum held.. on June 13th 1916...... Casualties whilst in the Loos Sector, June 17th to July 3rd: Killed – 36; Wounded – 130.’
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.
Lieutenant Colonel William James Macnamara: ‘Lieutenant-Colonel John William Unthank Macnamara, M.A., M.D., late I.M.S., died on Saturday last in a private hospital in Dublin, in his seventy-ninth year. He was the son of Dr. Michael Macnamara, of Corofin, Co. Clare, and was educated at Queen's College, Galway, and in Dublin. In 1891 he was given the rank of Major, and in 1899 was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel. He retired from the Service in 1908.’ — R.I.P. Obituary 9th Jan 1932. He was recalled to service during the Great War and was Assistant Director of Medical Services for Ireland from 1914-1922.

Here is the grave of Lieut-Colonel William James Macnamara M.D. (Corofin) in Glasnevin Cemetery Dublin. Served in the Army Medical Corps from 1880 and saw service in West Africa and South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. Appalled by the conditions he found in the concentration camps, in which thousands of Boer women and children died, he was instrumental in having them dismantled although it took two years to do so. He was recalled to service during the Great War and was Assistant Director of Medical Services for Ireland from 1914-1922. He signed the death certificate of Thomas McDonagh after his execution in Kilmainham Gaol in 1916 and had also signed a petition along with other medical staff asking to have the death sentences of Thomas McDonagh, Tom Clarke and James Connolly to be commuted on grounds of ill-health. (Irish Regiments Website)
Second Lieutenant Maccon John Macnamara

2nd Lt Maccon John Macnamara: Born 1897 in Baunkyle, Corofin. Killed in action 26th March 1918 age 20 in Operation Michael (21 March – 5 April 1918), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. Son of Dr George Uthank and Frances Jane Macnamara, Baunkyle, Corofin. (TB)

Panel 79 and 80
Pozieres Memorial
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

The Pozieres Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back. 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.

On 21 March the Regiment was on the defensive during the Battle of St. Quentin when the Germans began an immense bombardment as part of their last-gasp major offensive known as Operation Michael (21 March – 5 April 1918) against British and Empire forces in the Picardy area. The 1st and 2nd Dublins suffered heavily from the intense bombardment (which included poison gas) and when the Germans attacked shortly afterwards, the Germans broke through the shattered remnants. The Germans made significant gains but their offensive gradually lost momentum and the Germans were pushed back by April. The 16th (Irish) Division, with 7,149 casualties was destroyed and had to be taken out of the order of battle to be rebuilt.
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.

The MEMORIAL now bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.

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. Photos – Keir McNamara
Lance Corporal Joseph Minihan

Lance Corporal Joseph Minihan: Corofin. Wounded in June 1916. (CJ-July 1916) Initially with the 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers (RMF 4510) then transferred to the 2nd RMF, with whom he was wounded in June 1916. ‘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, ...though losses were heavy with 5 officers and 60 other ranks - 2 and 12 respectively killed.’ (2nd RMF War Diary) He was then transferred to the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment (18038) with whom he was wounded in Sept 1916. (CJ-Oct 1916) The 2nd RIR fought in the Battle of Guillemont between the 3rd to 6th September 1916. Joe attended Rockwell College and was studying to be a Chemist when he joined up.

The Clare People Dec 2014

John Minihan (his brother) was Vice-Commandant and Intelligence Officer (I.O.) of the 5th Battalion Clare Brigade, later Adjutant and I.O. of 3rd Battalion Mid-Clare Brigade and Special Intelligence Officer to the Brigade and GHQ. He was also a member of the Mid-Clare Brigade ASU. In the Civil War he was Divisional Quarter-master and Director of Special Services 1st Western Division (Anti-treaty) IRA and O/C North Clare ASU. (Paul Minihan)

The Minihan Family. The Minihan Family of Ballykinacorra South, Corofin. (L-R) Back row: Joe, James, Helen, Kathleen. Seated: Nora, John. James and Nora Minihan were butter merchants and publicans with a business premises beside Corofin West Clare Railway station, originally called Minihan’s and later Station Bar. John Minihan a member of the Irish Volunteers, was active in Clare during the War of Independence and the Civil War, and his sisters Kathleen and Helen were members of Cumann-na-mBan. His brother Joe served with the Royal Irish Regiment on the Western Front.
Captain Dudley Eyre Persse

Born in Galway, died of wounds 1st Feb 1915 age 22, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn, 10th Brigade in 4th Division. G/M in Bailleul Communal Cemetery in France. He died in the No 2 Casualty Clearing Station at Bailleul. Son of Alfred Lovaine and Florence G Persee of Cragmoher, Corofin.

Bailleul Communal Cemetery
Extension
Bailleul
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais,
France
Plot: F. 6.

‘He saw some Germans going into a wood some distance off and wanted to telephone to the General. There was no telephone in the trench, so he ran 80 yards across the open in a hail of bullets and telephoned from another trench. The General ordered the wood to be shelled at once and commended him for what he had done. He also found that the Germans were mining the trench, and started counter-mining, which stopped the enemy’s game, so he did all he could bravely, poor boy.’ De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour

Bailleul was occupied on 14 October 1914 and it became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.