The Great War Memorial in Ennis

The new Clare Great War Memorial in Ennis, with the names of nearly 700 Clare men and women who died in WW1. It is hoped to add to this soon, and include the Clare war dead from WW2.

Four men from Labasheeda who died in WW1, feature on the Great War Memorial in Ennis. They were:

Edward and John Lucitt and Michael O’Neill and Thomas O’Shea.
The Men from Labasheeda who fought in the Great War.

**Bombardier Frank Buffham:** Labasheeda. He was a Shoemaker aged 18 when he enlisted in Oct 1908 into the Royal Garrison Artillery 29868. He served in Gibraltar from 1909 to 1914, and with the Med Expeditionary Force from July 1915 to May 1916. He was discharged in Jan 1917 due to a gun shot wound (Jan 1916) that led to his right leg being amputated below the knee. His mother was Annie Buffham Burton St Kilrush, and his brother George in the Royal Navy. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

**Private Sinon Edward Callanan:** Born in Labasheeda Co Clare on the 26th Nov 1896. He was aged 21 and living in New Jersey when he enlisted on the 4th Sept 1918 into Co E Engineer Training Regiment, Camp Humphreys VA 2611970. He did not serve overseas and was discharged in Jan 1919. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919)

**Captain Tom Corry DCM MID:** Labasheeda, 1st Bn Irish Guards 2384. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in June 1915, for ‘gallantry and courage under fire’. (Clare Champion)’His Majesty, the King, inspected the 3rd Battalion Irish Guards at Warley, on St Patrick’s Day. The principal event of the programme was the decoration of four of the 1st Battalion with the Distinguished Conduct Medal, amongst them being Drill Sergeant T.Corry, of Labasheeda, Co Clare. He was given the D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry. He frequently performed acts which required the greatest courage under fire. He has been twice mentioned in Sir French’s despatches for gallantry. He was wounded in the left hand at Loos, after 13 months in the firing line. His Majesty pinned on the medal on his breast, and with a hearty shake hands, congratulated him on his gallantry.’(The Clare Champion Times Past 100 Years March 1916)Celebrated in poetry ‘Labasheeda Hero’ and ‘Shall the Germans encamp by the Fergus’.


For conspicuous gallantry and resource throughout the whole campaign. He has frequently performed acts requiring the greatest courage under heavy fire, and has shown a splendid example of zeal and devotion to duty.
The Men from Labasheeda who fought in the Great War.

**Michael Furey:** Born in Labasheeda 1877. He was a Groom aged 18 when he enlisted in Jan 1895 into the 13th Hussars 3502., and later the 5th RMF. He fought at Ladysmith in the Boer War 1901. He was married to Barbara Ellen Minima and they had 5 children. They lived in South Shields, England. He later joined the Royal Tank Corps 309019 in Jan 1916, attached to HQ 35th Division. (Sharon Carberry/British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920)

**Edward Lucitt:** Born in Labasheeda lived in Tralee, died of wounds 14th Sept 1914 age 30, Irish Guards 1st Bn 2225, 4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Div, G/M in France. (TB) Brother of John also Irish Guards 1st Bn (died Nov 1914) and Joseph (Born in Tralee died April 1918). Son of E and Margaret Lucitt, No 3 Bridge St, Tralee. He died of wounds in the Battle of Aisnethat raged from 12-15 Sept 1914. The battle was an Anglo-French counter-offensive following the Battle of the Marne. (Clare People Sept 2015)

The First Battle of the Aisne (French: 1re Bataille de l'Aisne) was the Allied follow-up offensive against the right wing of the German First Army (led by Alexander von Kluck) and the Second Army (led by Karl von Bülow) as they retreated after the First Battle of the Marne earlier in September 1914. The Advance to the Aisne (6 Sept – 1 October) consisted of the Battle of the Marne (7–10 September) and the Battle of the Aisne (12–15 September).

**John Lucitt:** Born in Labasheeda lived in Tralee, killed in action 6th Nov 1914, in the battle of Nonne Bosschen (1st to 11th Nov 1914), Irish Guards 1st Bn 3947, 4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Div, G/M on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres Belgium. (TB) Brother of Edward and Joseph who also died in the war. Son of Edmond and Margaret Falvey Lucitt of 3 Bridge Street, Tralee. (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)

The First Battle of Ypres, began on 19 October 1914. The battle caused major casualties among the old Regular Army. The 1st Irish Guards Battalion was involved in fighting for the duration of 'First Ypres', taking part in the major actions, at Langemarck, Gheluvelt and Nonne Bosschen. In the Battle of Nonne Bosschen (1st to 11th Nov 1914), Foch planned an offensive towards Messines and Langemarck for 6 November to expand the salient around Ypres but was forestalled by German attacks on the flanks from 5–9 November.
**The Men from Labasheeda who fought in the Great War.**

**Joseph Lucitt:** Tralee. Died 14th April 1918. He is buried in the family grave at Ratass Cemetery, Tralee. Brother of Edward and John who also died.

**Trooper William Joseph McMahon:** Labasheeda. Australian Army. MA (AI) He was a Labourer aged 29 when he enlisted in 1914 in Holsworthy NSW into the 2nd Reinf 7th Light Horse Regiment. His brother Francis lived in Wellington NSW. He served in the Middle east. (UNSW)

**Michael O'Neill:** Born in Kilkerrin, Labasheeda, killed in action 6th Nov 1914 age 26 in the First Battle of Ypres (19 Oct – 22 Nov 1914), Irish Guards 1st Bn 2960, 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 2nd Division. G/M in Belgium(Menin Gate). Son of John and Mary O'Neill, Kilkerrin. (TB)

‘On 29 October six Bavarian divisions, scrutinised by the Kaiser himself, launched an all-out attack on the hamlet of Gheluvelt. Suitably inspired, the Bavarians almost punched a hole through the British lines. In fact, only the determined leadership of an Irishman, Brigadier Charles FitzClarence (VC), prevented collapse and rout. From Bishopscourt, Co. Kildare, FitzClarence commanded the élite Guards Brigade...Marshalling a scratch force, FitzClarence routed the 16th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment (the unit of an obscure private named Adolf Hitler) at Château Gheluvelt, in the process sealing the potentially fatal breach in the British lines...For their part, the Irish Guards held trenches east of Zillebeke Wood against sup-erior forces. Driven back to the tree line by heavy shelling and machine-gun fire, ‘the Micks’ readied themselves for a last stand. As explained by the regimental historian, Rudyard Kipling, at this point ‘the officers, every cook, orderly and man who could stand, took rifle and fought’. Reduced to tatters, the Guards held out, but at a terrible cost. By the end of the action, total casualties—including 88 men killed in a single trench completely blown in by shellfire—surpassed 600 men.’ History Ireland Issue 4

**Gunner Thomas O'Shea:** Lived in Labasheeda, died 3rd Jan 1919, Royal Garrison Artillery 283002, G/M in Labasheeda (Killofin) Cemetery. (TB) Husband of Ellen O'Shea, Kilrush. **Gunner Thomas O’Shea:** Labasheeda. He was a Labourer aged 33 when he enlisted in 1917. Cork Royal Garrison Artillery GS5032 He died from influenza at his home in Labasheeda on 31st Jan 1919. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com) The Cork RGA were based in Queenstown (Cobh) and Berehaven. In the UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, the date of his death is 31/1/1919, and his Service Number is 282002.
Private Edward (Edmond) Lucitt

Edward Lucitt: Born in Labasheeda lived in Tralee. Died of wounds 14th Sept 1914 age 30, Irish Guards 1st Bn 2225, 4th (Guards) Brigade 2nd Div, G/M in France. (TB) Brother of John also Irish Guards 1st Bn (died Nov 1914) and Joseph (Born in Tralee died April 1918). Son of E and Margaret Lucitt, No 3 Bridge St, Tralee. He died of wounds in the Battle of Aisne that raged from 12-15 Sept 1914. The battle was an Anglo-French counter-offensive following the Battle of the Marne. (Clare People Sept 2015)

Guards Grave,
Villers Cotterets Forest
Villers-Cotterets
Departement de l'Aisne
Picardie, France
Plot: III. 1.

The Forêt de Retz was the scene of a rearguard action (after the Allied defeat at Battle of Mons on August 23 1914), fought by the 4th (Guards) Brigade on 1 September 1914. In the aftermath of the fighting, many of the dead Guardsmen were buried by the people of Villers-Cotterêts.

The cemetery was formed by the Irish Guards when the British forces regained this territory two months later and contains 98 Commonwealth burials of the First World War,

The First Battle of the Aisne (French: 1re Bataille de l'Aisne) was the Allied follow-up offensive against the right wing of the German First Army (led by Alexander von Kluck) and the Second Army (led by Karl von Bülow) as they retreated after the First Battle of the Marne earlier in September 1914. The Advance to the Aisne (6 Sept – 1 October) consisted of the Battle of the Marne (7–10 September) and the Battle of the Aisne (12–15 September).

The family grave at Ratass Cemetery, Tralee lists three sons of Edmond and Margaret Falvey

Lucitt Edmond (not Edward) 14 Sept 1914 age 30
John 6 Nov 1914
Joseph 14 Apr 1918-he is buried there.
-all three were casualties of the Great War.
Private Edward (Edmond) Lucitt continued

His grave is separate from the other soldiers and officers, and has a green area in front of it! (Keir McNamara)

Photos – Keir McNamara
Lance Corporal John Lucitt

John Lucitt: Born in Labasheeda lived in Tralee. **Killed in action 6th Nov 1914**, Irish Guards 1st Bn 3947, 4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Div, in the Battle of Nonne Bosschen (1st to 11th Nov 1914), G/M on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres Belgium. (TB) Brother of Edward and Joseph who also died in the war. Son of Edmond and Margaret Falvey Lucitt of 3 Bridge Street, Tralee.

Panel 11. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

The First Battle of Ypres, began on 19 October 1914. The battle caused major casualties among the old Regular Army. The 1st Irish Guards Battalion was involved in fighting for the duration of 'First Ypres', taking part in the major actions, at Langemarck, Gheluvelt and Nonne Bosschen. In the Battle of Nonne Bosschen (1st to 11th Nov 1914), Foch planned an offensive towards Messines and Langemarck for 6 November to expand the salient around Ypres but was forestalled by German attacks on the flanks from 5–9 November.

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Panel 11. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper). Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.

First Battle of Ypres (19 Oct – 22 Nov 1914): ‘On 29 October 1914 six Bavarian divisions, scrutinised by the Kaiser himself, launched an all-out attack on the hamlet of Gheluvelt. Suitably inspired, the Bavarians almost punched a hole through the British lines.

In fact, only the determined leadership of an Irishman, Brigadier Charles FitzClarence (VC), prevented collapse and rout. From Bishopscourt, Co. Kildare, FitzClarence commanded the élite Guards Brigade...Marshalling a scratch force, FitzClarence routed the 16th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment (the unit of an obscure private named Adolf Hitler) at Château Gheluvelt, in the process sealing the potentially fatal breach in the British lines...

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Gunner Thomas O’Shea

T O’Shea: Lived in Labasheeda, died 3rd Jan 1919, Royal Garrison Artillery 283002, G/M in Labasheeda (Killofin) Cemetery. Husband of Ellen O’Shea Kilrush. (TB) Gunner Thomas O’Shea: Labasheeda. He was aged 33 when he enlisted in 1917. Cork RGA GS5032. He died from influenza at his home in Labasheeda in Jan 1919. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com) In the UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, the date of his death is 31/1/1919, and his Service Number is 282002.

Killofin Cemetery, Labasheeda. Grave no. 140, near the West boundary.

Location: To Killofin Cemetery, take the R 473 from Ennis to Labasheeda. At the end of the village take a right turn up the hill.

The cemetery is on the left side of the road and is signposted. This cemetery is situated on the ruins of a 12th Century Church.

The Cork Royal Garrison Artillery were based in Queenstown (Cobh) and Berehaven.
Location: To Killofin Cemetery, take the R473 from Ennis to Labasheeda. At the end of the village take a right turn up the hill. The cemetery is on the left side of the road and is signposted. This cemetery is situated on the ruins of a 12th Century Church. It has many flat headstones and vaults, and is still active. There are excellent views over the Shannon Estuary.


Capt Tom Corry: Labasheeda, Irish Guards. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1915. He died in Feb 1960, and is buried with his parents in Labasheeda. Grave no. 115.

Erected By
Lieutenant T. Corry
Irish Guards

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER Bridget
WHO DIED 18th May 1908
AND OF HIS FATHER John
WHO DIED 25th DEC 1911

Their Son Capt. Thomas Corry
Died Feb 1960
Major Tom Corry 3rd from right.
A Gallant Clareman

His legion of friends in the Banner County and his fellow-countrymen in America will be proud to learn that Company Sergeant Major Tom Corry (Irish Guards), Labasheeda, has been mentioned in Sir John French’s despatches, and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery in the field. This is not, however, his first distinction, as he was similarly circumstance some months ago, a unique record for a young man, which is clearly only the pre-runner of something more glorious to follow. That blood of his brave forefathers, which has immortalised and revered Irishmen’s valour throughout the globe, flows freely in his veins.

The herionism of Irish regiments has been one of the most stirring features of the great war and Tom Corry must have risked almost certain death in the firing line to win his great renown and to worthy uphold the unparalleled bravery of Irishmen. Not a few Claremen have nobly distinguished themselves also. This Distinguished Conduct Medal comes next to the Victoria Cross, and a full account of his gallantry is to be officially chronicled in the “London Gazette.” He has been in the war arena since the commencement, fighting for liberty against the hellish Huns, and has emerged from many terrible engagements, uninjured, but glorious. He is a constant correspondent, and his brilliant episodes about the merciless battlefield are always highly entertaining. A splendid type of Irishman and Catholic, highly intelligent, chivalrous to the utmost, but with most gentle and unassuming, is it no wonder that Providence has been so kind to him? A glorious military career looms just ahead of him. Now that a rearguard movement of the Germans is apparently inevitable, it is earnestly hoped (when the Kaiser’s dream is forever sealed) he may soon appear crowned with fresh war laurels, in that little village by the Shannon where a hero’s welcome awaits him.

Brothers die

MANY families have been affected by War, but now for the first time a family has been hit on the double after the death of a second son and brother on the western front.

Labasheeda born John Lucitt was killed in the Battle of Ypres, less than two months after his brother died of wounds he received in the Battle of Ypres. John Lucitt was 22-years of age, while his brother Edward was 30.

Both were born in Labasheeda where their father Edmond Snr, a Kerryman, was based in the local Royal Irish Constabulary station. Both brothers joined the First Battalion of the Irish Guards, Edward enlisting in Cork and John in Tralee where both men lived in recent years.
Gunner James Crowley: He was born in 1915 in Labasheeda. 4th Field Regt., Royal Artillery (4th Indian Infantry Division) 856406. He died on the 11th April 1941 (after the Battle of Keren) age 26. He was the son of James and Bridget Crowley, of Labasheeda, Co. Clare. He was buried in Keren War Cemetery, Keren, Anseba, Eritrea.

‘The Battle of Keren (or Cheren) was fought as part of the East African Campaign, from 5 February to 1 April 1941 between a mixed Italian army of regular and colonial troops and the attacking British and Free French forces. The town of Keren, in the colony of Italian Eritrea, was of strategic importance to both the Italian and the British forces in 1941. The road and railway through Keren were the main routes to Asmara (the colonial capital) and the Red Sea port of Massawa, both of which surrendered to the British after the battle. In 1993, Raugh wrote that 3,000 Italian troops were killed and that British casualties were 536 men killed and 3,229 wounded as did Dear and Foot in 2005.’ (wikipedia)
Lance Corporal Denis Joseph Foran: Born in 1919. Son of Denis and Margaret Foran, of Labasheeda, Co. Clare. 1st Bn., Irish Guards 2718838. Mentioned in Despatches. He died on the 4th Feb 1944 aged 25, and is buried in the Anzio War Cemetery, Anzio, Città Metropolitana di Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italy.

The Battle of Anzio took place from January 22, 1944 (beginning with the Allied amphibious landing known as Operation Shingle) to June 5, 1944 (ending with the capture of Rome). The operation was opposed by German forces in the area of Anzio and Nettuno. The operation had the intention to outflank German forces at the Winter Line and enable an attack on Rome.

By early February 1944, German forces in Fourteenth Army numbered some 100,000 troops. Allied forces by this time totalled 76,400. After making exploratory probes on the Campoleone salient on the afternoon of February 3 the German forces launched a full counterattack at 23:00 in order to reduce the salient and "iron out" the front line. Some hours after the attack started the coherence of the front line had been completely shattered, and the fighting for the salient had given way to small unit actions, swaying back and forth through the gullies. In the morning of February 4 the situation was becoming more serious, with the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards (of 24th Guards Brigade), only having one cohesive rifle company left and on the opposite side of the salient.