Sixmilebridge and the Great War

By Ger Browne

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Page 26: Men from Sixmilebridge in WW2
The Streets, Houses and Cemeteries of Sixmilebridge
During the Great War

Lodge Road  Kilfinaghty Church  Church Street  Mount levers

Railway Station  Main Street

Kilfinaghty Public Library Sixmilebridge
Sixmilebridge’s Great Houses during WW1

**Castlecrine Sixmilebridge**
Home to the Fanning, Purefoy, **Butler**, Massy and **Graham** families. This delightful house was demolished in 1955. The Gate Lodge walls are standing. The original front gates are demolished, but the rear gates are standing. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 66.

**Miss Henrietta Butler**
**Castlecrine** attended a public meeting in Nov 1915, at the Courthouse to fundraise for Clare POW’s in Germany.

**Eddie Graham and Jack Graham** fought in WW1. They were from Castlecrine.

**Mount Ievers, Sixmilebridge**
Home to the **Ievers** and Morrow families. This house is still standing and inhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 196.

**Major Eyre Ievers:** Mount Ievers, Sixmilebridge. 5\(^{th}\) Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. During WW1 he was engaged in recruiting in the Limerick area. He died in Feb 1922 from pneumonia at his residence. He was aged 54 and married with four children.(Clare Champion 28\(^{th}\) Feb 1922)
Sixmilebridge (Ballysheen Cemetery)

Location: The ruins of an old Church and burial ground called Ballysheen Church stand in the townland of Sooreeny 2.1KM North West of Sixmilebridge.

Frederick W. Perry
son of Charles W. Perry
born 13 Aug. 1879 at Fomerla
died 28 Nov. 1919 in London.

Frederick W. Perry: Formerla House (Castleview Cottage), Tulla. He is buried in Ballysheen Cemetery, Sixmilebridge, grave no. 27. He was taken prisoner by the Turks and held in Bor Nigde until he was released. He had been with the British Army in India and was a professional soldier all of his life. He came home from the camps in very poor health, and shortly afterwards, died tragically in London, on the 28th Nov 1919.
The Complete List of those from Sixmilebridge in the Great War
The 12 who Died from SMB and are named on the WW1 Memorial in Ennis

Arthur Edward Baxter: Born in Sixmilebridge lived in Sydney Australia, killed in action 12th Nov 1916 age 23, Australian Imperial Force 20th Bn. 4371 (2nd Aus Div), G/M in France. (TB) MA
He was a Labourer aged 22 when he enlisted in Nov 1915 in Sydney into the 20th Bn. 4371. His mother was Margaret Baxter Scotland. He was KIA 12/11/1916 ‘In the Fula’. (UNSW) ’ On 5 September, I Anzac was withdrawn from the Somme and sent to Ypres for rest. The 2nd Australian Division anticipated spending winter quarters in Flanders but was recalled to the Somme for the final stages of the British offensive. This time they joined the British Fourth Army, holding a sector south of Pozières near the village of Flers. The battlefield had been reduced to a slough of mud but the 2nd Division was required to mount a number of attacks, with the 7th Brigade attacking the German series of trenches called “The Maze” on 5 November. While part of the German trenches were captured and held, the exhausted soldiers were ejected from their gains a few days later.’

Private John Peter Breen: Main Street Sixmilebridge. Aged 21 when he enlisted in 1915.
Army Service Corps 150 636. His parents were John P and Abina Breen. He was a motor driver, and survived the War. (British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com) He died from TB on the 21st April 1921.

| 1921 | John Breen | Male | Bachelor 21 | Gy Soldier | Pulmonary | Anna Breen | Sister of deceased
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SIXMILEBRIDGE
DROICHEAD ABHANN Ó GCEARNAIGH
BAXTER Arthur E.
COLEMAN Michael
COLLINS Thomas
CUSACK James
LYNCH James
McMAHON Agnes
McMAHON Michael
MORGAN Martin
MORONEY James
MULLINS Michael
MYLNE Edward G.
O’FLYNN Michael J.

The flag of the UK is shown to the left of the text.
**Gunner Michael Burke:** Sixmilebridge Co Clare. He was a labourer aged 28 when he enlisted in 1916 in the Royal Regiment for Artillery 124281. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**Private Michael Coleman:** Born and lived in Sixmilebridge, died of wounds 1st August 1916 age 23, in the Loos Sector. Connaught Rangers 6th Bn 5818, 47th Brigade 16th Div. G/M in France. The 16th Division raided German trenches all through May, June and July 1916.

‘Intelligence has been received by his relatives in Sixmilebridge that Private Michael Coleman, Connaught Rangers (Maxim One Section), has died of wounds received in action during the recent British advance in France. The deceased was most popular in his native district and the news of his death has caused much regret. He was the first of a number of Sixmilebridge volunteers to fall in the fighting.’ Limerick Leader August 1916. Son of John and Elizabeth Coleman, Mill Street Sixmilebridge. (TB)

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

‘The 1st Battalion remained at Suez all January (1916), various detachments and drafts having joined; the strength on the 31st was 18 officers, 193 other ranks. Marseilles was reached ..on the 22nd March...The Battalion relieved the Iniskillings in the line in front of Auchonvillers, facing Beaumont Hammel, on April 13th. This was the first experience the Battalion had of the trenches of France.’(TB)

**Private 1st Class John Considine:** Born about 1893 in Co Clare. He was aged 23 and living in New York City, when he enlisted on the 30th Nov 1916 into the 5 Co CAC Fort Monroe VA, and then to Hq Det 52 Artillery 153082. He served overseas from Aug 1917 to Jan 1919. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919)

Private John Considine: His mother was Mrs Ellen Considine, Lodge Road, Sixmilebridge (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910 – 1939)

**James Cusack:** Sixmilebridge. Died 18th July 1916 age 39 in the Battle of Delville Wood, South African Infantry 1st Regiment 1125, (9th Division) G/M in Thiepval, France. Son of James and Catherine Cusack, Old Mill Road, Sixmilebridge. (TB)
The Battle of Delville Wood was an operation to secure the British right flank, while the centre advanced to capture the higher lying areas of High Wood and Pozières. After the Battle of Albert the offensive had evolved to the capture of fortified villages, woods, and other terrain that offered observation for artillery fire, jumping-off points for more attacks, and other tactical advantages. The mutually costly fighting at Delville Wood eventually secured the British right flank and marked the Western Front début of the South African 1st Infantry Brigade (incorporating a Southern Rhodesian contingent), which held the wood from 15–20 July. When relieved the brigade had lost 2,536 men, similar to the casualties of many brigades on 1 July.

Patrick Dempsey: Sixmilebridge. 7th Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Aug 1917 (in Salonica ?). (SR) (On the 3rd November 1916 the 6th RMF absorbed the 7th Bn RMF) The only P Dempsey in the RMF.

Gunner James Frost: Born in Sixmilebridge. Lived in Clarecastle. He was a Labourer aged 34 when he enlisted in Jan 1915 into the Cork Royal Garrison Artillery 3678. He was posted to the Anti-Aircraft Depot in 1916, and served in France in 1917. He was discharged in March 1919. He married Catherine Donnelly, and they had 4 children, John, Patrick, Robert and Mary. (British Army WW1 Service Records fold3.com)

Matthew Frost: Born 13th July 1894 in Sixmilebridge. Royal Navy K42361 from April 1917 – March 1919. The first and last ship he served on was the Vivid II. (UK Royal Navy Registers of Seamans Services 1853-1928)

Eddie Graham: Castlecrine Sixmilebridge.

‘He was sent by his father Colonel Graham to Queensland, Australia to gain colonial experience at the age of 17. He also worked for a squatter on the Darling Downs. He left there after 12 months & worked on a boat bringing Kanakas (South Pacific Islanders) down to cut sugar cane in Queensland. After this Eddie moved to South Africa where he joined the Natal Mounted Police. When the Boer War started he joined Thorneycrofts Mounted Infantry (the tenth regiment raised in the colony.) Eddie met his wife - originally Beatrice Walton of Halifax - in South Africa shortly before the start of the Boer War, they had seven children two of whom died young. They lived in Canada for a time. Keighley, the fourth child was born in Winnipeg. Eddie also fought in the 1914-18 war. Eddie & his family started farming at Shifnall in Shropshire in 1919, his wife died in 1927, Eddie died in 1956.’ The Butler-Grahams of Castle Crine by Ian Crawshaw (Clare Library)
Captain Jack Graham: Castlecrine Sixmilebridge. ‘He became a Captain in the Royal Navy. A photograph of himself sent to Henny has “From Jack & Florrie. Dec. 1914” written on the back.’ The Butler-Grahams of Castle Crine by Ian Crawshaw (Clare Library)

Gladys Madeline Guerin: Born in Sixmilebridge 23 Sept 1896. Served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during WWI.

Gunner James Hehir (alias James Foley): Sixmilebridge. He was a Clerk aged 22 when he enlisted in 1895 into the Royal Artillery 10094. He served in Malta from 1895 to 1904, and in India from 1908 to 1916. He then served in Britain. He was discharged in Aug 1917. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Major Eyre Ievers: Mount Ievers, Sixmilebridge. 5th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. During WW1 he was engaged in recruiting in the Limerick area. He died in Feb 1922 from pneumonia at his residence. He was aged 54 and married with four children.(Clare Champion 28th Feb 1922)

Captain F Jackson: Former District Inspector with the RIC in Sixmilebridge. (CJ)

Private Denis Vincent Keane: Sixmilebridge. He was aged 21 when he enlisted in Jan 1916. South Irish Horse 1937 (& Royal Dublin Fusiliers 26047). His parents were Morris and Catherine Keane. He was discharged in late 1916. (British Army WW1 Service Records @ ancestry.com)


Michael King: Sixmilebridge. Australian Imperial Force. MA He was a motor driver in NSW aged 35 when he enlisted in Oct 1915 into the 10th Reinf 20th Bn. (UNSW)
James Lynch: Born in and lived in Sixmilebridge, killed in action 7th June 1917 age 22, during The Battle of Messines (Jun 7, 1917 – Jun 14, 1917) 7th / 8th Royal Irish Fusiliers 43181, 49th Brigade in 16th (Irish) Division, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Peter and Ellen Lynch, Feenagh, Sixmilebridge. (TB) He enlisted in 1916. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

The Battle of Messines (Jun 7, 1917 – Jun 14, 1917) was an offensive conducted by the British Second Army, under the command of General Sir Herbert Plumer, on the Western Front near the village of Messines in West Flanders, Belgium. Zero Day was fixed for 7 June, with zero hour at 3:10 a.m. The 16th (Irish) Division attacked between Maedelstede Farm and the Vierstraat–Wytshaete road. The mines at Maedelstede and the two at Petit Bois devastated the defence; the mines at Petit Bois on the left were about 12 seconds late and knocked over some of the advancing British infantry.

Agnes McMahon: Born in Sixmilebridge, died 27th Oct 1918 age 22, Queen Mary’s Auxiliary Army Corps, G/M in St Lawrence’s Cemetery Limerick. Daughter of Mrs Mary McMahon, Limerick. (TB) ‘Agnes would have seen her brothers heading off to war and on seeing the posters calling women too Agnes packed up her bags and headed to the Officer’s Cadet School in Kildare. She served with Queen Mary’s Army Auxiliary Corps under the service number 18691. She was ranked as a volunteer when she died, aged 22, on the 27 October 1918 at 14 Ellen Street Limerick. She was buried in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery on the 29th October 1918.’ (Sharon Slater in People & Genealogy)

Michael McMahon: Born in Sixmilebridge, lived in Clarecastle, died of wounds 20th Aug 1917 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 40124, 29th Div, G/M in Belgium. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of Pat and Kate McMahon, and husband of Mary (Taylor) McMahon (she remained a war widow for the rest of her life), Main Street, Clarecastle. (TB) ‘For his good work he was made a Battalion gunner and stayed at Headquarters during our last tour. During a bombardment he was struck by a shell, and although he received medical aid at once, he died within an hour, and was buried at Headquarters.’ D P Wagner 2nd Lt. (Sat Record Sept 1917)

Sapper Thomas McNamara: Sixmilebridge. Australian Imperial Force. He was a Miner aged 42 when he enlisted in 1917 in Sydney into the Tunnelling Company 8126. He was wounded in action in France in April 1918. His wife was Mrs Georgina McNamara Wollongong NSW. (UNSW)

Private William McNamara: Rosroe Sixmilebridge, Co Clare. He was a farmer aged 20 when he enlisted in 1900 with the South Irish Horse 409. He was discharged in April 1916. His father was John McNamara. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Martin Morgan: Born in Ennis lived in Sixmilebridge, killed in action 23rd Nov 1914, in the Defence of Festubert 23-24th November 1914, Connaught Rangers 1st Bn 5230, G/M in France. (TB)

On September 26, 1914 the 1st battalion of the Connaught Rangers arrived at the Port of Marseilles having left the port of Karachi on the Indian subcontinent a month before. In 1914 they took part in The First Battle of Messines in October 1914 and The Defence of Festubert 23-24th November 1914. This was an engagement early in the First World War when Indian and British battalions of the 7th (Meerut) Division, Indian Army defended the village of Festubert against a German attack from 23–24 November 1914. On 23rd November, the German Infantry Regiment 112 captured 800 yards (730 m) of trench east of Festubert in the Indian Corps area. The lost trench was recaptured but there were many casualties. It is notable for being one of the first actions in the war in which an attack was made against a prepared defensive position, thus foreshadowing the years of trench warfare which were to come. The British and Indian regiments that took part were awarded the battle honour Festubert 1914.

James Moroney: Born in Derrynaveigh Oatfield, Sixmilebridge, died 16th Aug 1918 in Egypt, Leinster Regiment 1st Bn 8220, 10th Div, G/M in Egypt. His brother was Michael and his sister was Margaret. (TB)

The 10th division moved to Egypt in September 1917 where it joined General Chetwode's XX Corps. The occupation of the Jordan Valley by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) began in February 1918 during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of World War I. Despite the difficult climate and the unhealthy environment of the Jordan Valley, General Edmund Allenby decided that, to ensure the strength of the EEF's front line it was necessary to extend the line which stretched from the Mediterranean, across the Judean Hills to the Dead Sea to protect his right flank. This line was held until September 1918. From May onwards an increasing numbers of soldiers were struck down by malaria. For the wounded and sick the trip to base hospital in Cairo 300 miles (480 km) away was a long and difficult one during which it was necessary for them to negotiate many stages.

Michael Mullins: Born and lived in Sixmilebridge, died 1st July 1918 age 27 in Egypt (possibly of illness). Royal Garrison Artillery 246th Siege Battery 159378, G/M in Kantara, Egypt. Son of Edmond and Margaret Mullins, Enagh, Belvoir, Sixmilebridge. (TB)

The Royal Garrison Artillery 246th Siege Battery landed in Mesopotamia on the 23rd May 1917. Siege Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. Like Gallipoli, conditions in Mesopotamia defy description.
Extremes of temperature (120 degrees F was common); arid desert and regular flooding; flies, mosquitoes and other vermin: all led to appalling levels of sickness and death through disease. Under these incredible conditions, units fell short of officers and men, and all too often the reinforcements were half-trained and ill-equipped. Medical arrangements were quite shocking, with wounded men spending up to two weeks on boats before reaching any kind of hospital. These factors, plus of course the unexpectedly determined Turkish resistance, contributed to high casualty rates. Kantara, Egypt, developed into a major base and hospital centre and the cemetery was begun in February 1916 for burials from the various hospitals, continuing in use until late 1920.

**William Murchie:** Born in Glasgow, killed in action 15th Sept 1914 age 25, in the First Battle of the Aisne (13 – 28 Sept 1914), Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) 1st Bn 984. His wife was Ellen Murchie from Sixmilebridge (TB) (PMcN) The 1st Battalion landed at Le Havre as part of the 1st Brigade in the 1st Division in August 1914 for service on the Western Front. It saw action in the First Battle of the Aisne (13 – 28 Sept 1914) was the Allied follow-up offensive against the right wing of the German First and Second Army as they retreated after the First Battle of the Marne earlier in September 1914.

**Edward Graham Mylne:** Sixmilebridge. Born in Bombay. Died of wounds 12th June 1915 age 32, Irish Guards 1st Bn, 2nd Div. G/M in France. He died of wounds received on May 13 in No. 11 Red Cross Hospital, Rouen. He was Mentioned in Despatches.Former District Inspector with the RIC in Sixmilebridge. (TB) He was the eldest son of the Right Rev. L. G. Mylne, Rector of Alvechurch, Worcestershire, formerly Bishop of Bombay, He ran for Oxford against Cambridge in the 100 Yards in 1905. In the same year he received an appointment in the Royal Irish Constabulary, in which he served with distinction, obtaining special good service pay and other honours. In May 1915, the 1st Irish Guards took part in the Battle of Festubert, though did not see much action. The Battle of Festubert was the continuation of the Battle of Aubers Ridge (9 May) and part of the larger French Second Battle of Artois. The British lost 16,648 casualties from 15/16–25 May. The 2nd Division lost 5,445 casualties.

**Jeffrey O’Connell:** Mount Ievers, Sixmilebridge. Enlisted in March 1915 when he was aged 40. Royal Garrison Artillery 6504. He married Nora Lynch in Aug 1904 and they had a son and daughter. He was discharged in June 1916. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

**Michael O’Connell:** Sixmilebridge, Canadian Infantry. (CI) Michael O’Connell: Born 6/9/1880 in Co Clare. He lived in Montreal. He was a Paver when he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force 919862 in 1916. His next of kin was his mother Catherine O’Connell. (Canada, Soldiers of the First World War 1914-1918. Ancestry.com)
Lt (Doctor) Michael Joseph O’Flynn: Born in Sixmilebridge Nov 1879, died of wounds 24th Sept 1918 near Peronne, after the Battle of Épehy. Royal Army Medical Corps, 1st Bn Northamptonshire Regiment, 1st Div. G/M in France. (TB) He died from wounds received while attending the wounded near Peronne. He married Florence Davey in 1910 in Glamorgan and they had four children Patrick (1910), Garrett (1913), Geoffrey (1917) and Margaret (1915). The Battle of Épehy was fought on 18 September 1918, involving the British Fourth Army (under the command of General Henry Rawlinson) against German outpost positions in front of the Hindenburg Line. Although Épehy was not a massive success, it signalled an unmistakable message that the Germans were weakening and it encouraged the Allies to take further action with haste.

Private Thomas Naughton O’Mara MID MSM: Sixmilebridge. He was a Teacher aged 22 when he enlisted in Nov 1898 into the Royal Engineers 2521. He served in St Helena and South Africa. During WW1 he served in France from the 12th Aug 1914 to the 11th Dec 1918 as a Clerk in the 3rd Echelon Headquarters. On the 31st Dec 1915 he featured in the Gazette when he was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry and distinguished conduct in the field. He was awarded the Medaille Militaire on the 24th Feb 1916. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in Aug 1917. He again featured in the Gazette on the 14th June 1918 when he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He was discharged in March 1920. His father was Daniel O’Mara.(British army WW1 Pension Recordsfold3.com)

Michael Quilligan: Sixmilebridge. He was a tinsmith aged 30 when he enlisted in Dec 1916. Cork Royal Garrison Artillery 7993. His father was John Quilligan. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Michael Reedy: Sixmilebridge. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4552. On the wounded list in Sept 1916. Shellshock.(CJ) The only other M Reedy was KIA [4552 was in 8 Bn. and later 1 Bn.] Eddie Lough (The RMF 8th Bn fought in the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy in September 1916 at the Somme)

William Reedy: Sixmilebridge. (PMcN)

Major GM Rodwell: Former RIC District Inspector in Sixmilebridge. (CJ)
Private Arthur Edward Baxter

**Arthur Edward Baxter:** Born in Sixmilebridge lived in Sydney Australia, killed in action 12th Nov 1916 age 23, Australian Infantry 20th Bn. 4371 (2nd Aus Div), G/M in France. (TB) MA He was a Labourer aged 22 when he enlisted in Nov 1915 in Sydney into the 20th Bn. 4371. His mother was Margaret Baxter Scotland. He was KIA 12/11/1916 ‘In the Fula’.

**Villers-Bretonneux Memorial**
Villers-Bretonneux
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

The 2nd Aus Div. fought in the Battle of Pozières Ridge, (23 July – 7 August). On 5 September, I Anzac was withdrawn from the Somme and sent to Ypres for rest. The 2nd Australian Division anticipated spending winter quarters in Flanders but was recalled to the Somme for the final stages of the British offensive.

This time they joined the British Fourth Army, holding a sector south of Pozières near the village of Flers. The battlefield had been reduced to a slough of mud but the 2nd Division was required to mount a number of attacks, with the 7th Brigade attacking the German series of trenches called "The Maze" on 5 November. While part of the German trenches were captured and held, the exhausted soldiers were ejected from their gains a few days later. Photos - Keir McNamara.
Private Michael Coleman

Michael Coleman: Born and lived in Sixmilebridge, died of wounds 1st August 1916 age 23, in the Loos Sector. Connaught Rangers 6th Bn 5818 (16th Div.), G/M in France. Son of John and Elizabeth Coleman, Mill Street Sixmilebridge. (TB) The 16th Division raided German trenches all through May, June and July 1916.

Bethune Town Cemetery
Bethune
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: V. G. 74.

For much of the First World War, Bethune was comparatively free from bombardment and remained an important railway and hospital centre, as well as a corps and divisional headquarters. The 33rd Casualty Clearing Station was in the town until December 1917. Bethune Town Cemetery contains 3,004 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

‘Intelligence has been received by his relatives in Sixmilebridge that Private Michael Coleman, Connaught Rangers (Maxim One Section), has died of wounds received in action during the recent British advance in France. The deceased was most popular in his native district and the news of his death has caused much regret. He was the first of a number of Sixmilebridge volunteers to fall in the fighting.’ Limerick Leader August 1916.
Private Thomas Collins

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

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

‘The 1st Battalion remained at Suez all January, various detachments and drafts having joined; the strength on the 31st was 18 officers, 193 other ranks. Marseilles was reached ..on the 22nd March...

The Battalion relieved the Iniskillings in the line in front of Auchonvillers, facing Beaumont Hammel on April 13th. This was the first experience the Battalion had of the trenches of France.’

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private James Cusack

James Cusack: Sixmilebridge. Died 18th July 1916 age 39 in the Battle of Delville Wood, South African Infantry 1st Regiment 1125, (9th Division) G/M in Thiepval, France. Son of James and Catherine Cusack, Old Mill Road, Sixmilebridge. (TB)

Thiepval Memorial.
Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France. Plot: Pier and Face 4 C.

Boer War Medal of Private Cusack.

The Battle of Delville Wood (14 July – 15 September 1916) was an operation to secure the British right flank, while the centre advanced to capture the higher lying areas of High Wood and Pozières. After the Battle of Albert the offensive had evolved to the capture of fortified villages, woods, and other terrain that offered observation for artillery fire, jumping-off points for more attacks, and other tactical advantages. The mutually costly fighting at Delville Wood eventually secured the British right flank and marked the Western Front début of the South African 1st Infantry Brigade (incorporating a Southern Rhodesian contingent), which held the wood from 15–20 July. When relieved the brigade had lost 2,536 men, similar to the casualties of many brigades on 1 July.

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 James Lynch

James Lynch: Born in and lived in Sixmilebridge. Killed in action 7th June 1917 age 22, during The Battle of Messines (Jun 7, 1917 – Jun 14, 1917) 7th/8th Royal Irish Fusiliers 43181, 49th Brigade in 16th (Irish) Division, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Peter and Ellen Lynch, Feenagh, Sixmilebridge. He enlisted in 1916. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Panel 42
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

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

The Battle of Messines (Jun 7, 1917 – Jun 14, 1917) was an offensive conducted by the British Second Army, under the command of General Sir Herbert Plumer, on the Western Front near the village of Messines in West Flanders, Belgium. Zero Day was fixed for 7 June, with zero hour at 3:10 a.m. The 16th (Irish) Division attacked between Maedelstede Farm and the Vierstraat–Wytschaete road. The mines at Maedelstede and the two at Petit Bois devastated the defence; the mines at Petit Bois on the left were about 12 seconds late and knocked over some of the advancing British infantry.

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

By 1917 the amount of men remaining available to serve was drastically reduced, and so women were recruited for service with the Army in a non-nursing capacity for the first time in British history. The regiment Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps was formed. On 31 March 1917 the first women in the WAAC were sent to the battlefields in France, just 14 cooks and waitresses. The WAAC later became the Queen Mary’s Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) when Queen Mary became its Patron.

Mary Agnes McMahon, known as Agnes, was born in 1896 and was the middle child of Michael and Mary McMahon’s five children. In 1911 Agnes was working in Cleeves Condensed Milk Factory, while her father and brothers were railway servants. The family moved around Limerick in 1901: they were living in Lady’s Lane, in 1911 in Lee’s Lane and by 1918 in 14 Prospect, Rosbrien.

Agnes would have seen her brothers heading off to war and on seeing the posters calling women too Agnes packed up her bags and headed to the Officer’s Cadet School in Kildare. She served with Queen Mary’s Army Auxiliary Corps under the service number 18691. She was ranked as a volunteer when she died, aged 22, on the 27 October 1918 at 14 Ellen Street Limerick. She was buried in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery on the 29th October 1918. (Sharon Slater in People & Genealogy)
Private Michael McMahon

Michael McMahon: Born in Sixmilebridge, lived in Clarecastle, died of wounds 20th Aug 1917 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 40124, G/M in Belgium. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers (7049). Son of Pat and Kate McMahon, and husband of Mary (Taylor) McMahon (she remained a war widow for the rest of her life), Main Street, Clarecastle. (TB)

The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Servicemen who died after 16th August 1917 are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Private Martin Morgan

**Martin Morgan**: Born in Ennis lived in Sixmilebridge, killed in action 23rd Nov 1914, in The Defence of Festubert 23-24th November, Connaught Rangers 1st Bn 5230, G/M in France. (TB)

Browns Road Military Cemetery Festubert
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: VIII. H. 14.

Brown's Road Cemetery now contains 1,071 burials and commemorations of the First World War.

On September 26, 1914 the 1st battalion of the Connaught Rangers arrived at the Port of Marseilles having left the port of Karachi on the Indian subcontinent a month before. In 1914 they took part in The First Battle of Messines in October 1914 and The Defence of Festubert 23-24th November 1914. This was an engagement early in the First World War when Indian and British battalions of the 7th (Meerut) Division, Indian Army defended the village of Festubert against a German attack.

On 23rd November, the German Infantry Regiment 112 captured 800 yards (730 m) of trench east of Festubert in the Indian Corps area. The lost trench was recaptured but there were many casualties. It is notable for being one of the first actions in the war in which an attack was made against a prepared defensive position, thus foreshadowing the years of trench warfare which were to come. The British and Indian regiments that took part were awarded the battle honour Festubert 1914.
Private James Moroney

**James Moroney**: Born in Derrynaveigh Oatfield, Sixmilebridge, died 16th Aug 1918 in Egypt, Leinster Regiment 1st Bn 8220, 10th Div, G/M in Egypt. His brother was Michael and his sister was Margaret. (TB) Alexandria was an important hospital centre during later operations in Egypt and Palestine and the port was much used by hospital ships and troop transports bringing reinforcements and carrying the sick and wounded out of the theatres of war. There are now 1,700 First World War burials in the cemetery.

**Alexandria (Hadra) War Cemetery**
Alexandria
Al Iskandariyah, Egypt
Plot: C. 88.

The 10th division moved to Egypt in September 1917 where it joined General Chetwode's XX Corps. The occupation of the Jordan Valley by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) began in February 1918 during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of World War I. Despite the difficult climate and the unhealthy environment of the Jordan Valley, General Edmund Allenby decided that, to ensure the strength of the EEF's front line it was necessary to extend the line which stretched from the Mediterranean, across the Judean Hills to the Dead Sea to protect his right flank. From May onwards an increasing numbers of soldiers were struck down by malaria. For the wounded and sick the trip to base hospital in Cairo 300 miles (480 km) away was a long and difficult one during which it was necessary for them to negotiate many stages.
**Gunner Michael Mullins**

**Michael Mullins**: Born and lived in Enagh, Sixmilebridge, died 1st July 1918 age 27 in Egypt (possibly of illness), Royal Garrison Artillery 246th Siege Battery 159378, G/M in Egypt. Son of Edmond and Margaret Mullins, Enagh, Belvoir, Sixmilebridge. (TB)

**Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, El-Qantarah el-Sharqiyya. Al Isma'iliyah. Egypt. Plot: C. 173.**

Kantara developed into a major base and hospital centre. The cemetery was begun in February 1916 for burials from the various hospitals, and now contains 1,562 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

**The Royal Garrison Artillery 246th Siege Battery** landed in Mesopotamia on the 23rd May 1917. Siege Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire.

Like Gallipoli, conditions in Mesopotamia defy description. Extremes of temperature (120 degrees F was common); arid desert and regular flooding; flies, mosquitoes and other vermin: all led to appalling levels of sickness and death through disease. Under these incredible conditions, units fell short of officers and men, and all too often the reinforcements were half-trained and ill-equipped. Medical arrangements were quite shocking, with wounded men spending up to two weeks on boats before reaching any kind of hospital. These factors, contributed to high casualty rates. Kantara, Egypt, developed into a major base and hospital centre and the cemetery was begun in February 1916 for burials from the various hospitals, continuing in use until late 1920.
Captain Edward Graham Mylne

Edward Graham Mylne: Born in Bombay. Died of wounds 12th June 1915 age 32, Irish Guards 1st Bn, 2nd Div. G/M in France. He died of wounds received on May 13 in No. 11 Red Cross Hospital, Rouen. He was Mentioned in Despatches. Former District Inspector with the RIC in Sixmilebridge. (TB)

He was the eldest son of the Right Rev. L. G. Mylne, Rector of Alvechurch, Worcestershire, formerly Bishop of Bombay. He ran for Oxford against Cambridge in the 100 Yards in 1905. In the same year he received an appointment in the Royal Irish Constabulary, in which he served with distinction, obtaining special good service pay and other honours.

In May 1915, the 1st Irish Guards took part in the Battle of Festubert, though did not see much action.

The Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915) was an attack by the British army in the Artois region of France on the western front during World War I. The 2nd Division lost 5,445 casualties.

Clare Journal July 1915

Acted as his servant at Sixmilebridge some years ago. The Head-Constable also stated that the deceased was a most efficient and popular officer and a very brave man. He has proved this by making the supreme sacrifice in laying down his life for the sake of his country. The sadness which the death of such a fine and steady man—in the very heyday of his youth—must cause to all who knew him, and above all, to his poor mother, will surely be tempered by the thought that he died as he had lived—doing his duty to that country, one of whose chief characteristics is that it will be some small consolation to the relations of the deceased to be thus assured that the memory of him is, and will remain green in the hearts of his friends in old Ireland.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Wilson Lynch, and seconded by Mr. Laffoy Steindorff:

The police constables of Sixmilebridge (Co. Clare) have learned with sincere regret of the death, from wounds received in action in Flanders, of Capt. E. G. Mylne, of the Irish Guards, who was for some time District-Inspector of RIC in this district, where he earned the good will and respect of all classes, and we hereby tender our sincere condolences to his relations.

The resolution was supported by Mr. P. Proctor, Mr. McIlroy, R.M. and Head-Const. M. Tohill, all of whom referred in very enthusiastic terms to the good qualities of the deceased.

In addition to Capt. Mylne, there are two others, formerly D.I.’s in Sixmilebridge District, now serving as the front, viz. — Major O. De M. Bodwill and Captain P. Jackson.
Lieutenant (Doctor) Michael Joseph O’Flynn

Lt (Doctor) Michael Joseph O’Flynn: Born in Sixmilebridge Nov 1879, died of wounds 24th Sept 1918 near Peronne, after the Battle of Épehy. Royal Army Medical Corps 1st Bn Northamptonshire Regiment, 1st Div. G/M in France. (TB) He died from wounds received while attending the wounded near Peronne. He married Florence Davey in 1910 in Glamorgan and they had four children Patrick (1910), Garrett (1913), Geoffrey (1917) and Margaret (1915).

Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension

There are now 878, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

The Battle of Épehy was fought on 18 September 1918, involving the British Fourth Army (under the command of General Henry Rawlinson) against German outpost positions in front of the Hindenburg Line.

Although Épehy was not a massive success, it signalled an unmistakable message that the Germans were weakening and it encouraged the Allies to take further action with haste.

Oct 1918 Sat Record
Staff Sergeant Frederick Perry

Frederick Perry: Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He was taken prisoner by the Turks and held in Bor Nigde until he was released. He had been with the British Army (Supply and Transport Corps) in India and was a professional soldier all of his life. He came home from the camps in very poor health (4 stone in weight) and shortly afterwards, died tragically in London, on the 28 Nov 1919. He is buried in Ballysheen, Sixmilebridge. He is the brother of Charles Joseph and Emily Perry. (Eric Shaw)

Location: The ruins of an old Church and burial ground called Ballysheen Church stand in the townland of Sooreeny 2.1KM North West of Sixmilebridge.

Frederick W. Perry
son of Charles W. Perry
born 13 Aug. 1879 at Fomerla
died 28 Nov. 1919 in London.

He shared the prison with other nationalities such as Indians, Russians, Romanians, British and French prisoners. He wrote a letter to his mother in Sept 1918. ‘My dearest mother, I hope you and all at home are quite well and enjoying life. I have not had a letter from you for over a month. I very often think of you all at home these days, as I have plenty of time for reflection and my mind takes me back to times when I was very small...I wish you all a very happy Xmas...Although I am miles away from the children, yet they are ever with me in my thoughts, and are as it were, a part of my life and soul...with love to all, keep smiling and write. Au revoir. Your affectionate son, Fred’. (Joe Power)

By the end of the war up to 70% of all POWs had died at the hands of the Turks, food and shelter provision being especially poor, although ironically (or understandably, perhaps) this was similar to the rank & file allotments given to Turkish troops.
Squadron Leader Norman Lancelot Ievers: Mount Ievers Sixmilebridge.

He was the third son of George and Ada Ievers. He was born at Patrickwell, Co. Limerick, on 16th March 1912 and educated at Aravon. In September 1926, he entered Campbell College, Belfast. His older brother Freddie died in a Japanese POW camp in 1943.

‘After a short posting to the Fleet Air Arm Flying School he was posted on 19th October 1940 (Battle of Britain 10 July – 31 October 1940) to the newly-formed 312 Squadron, composed of Czechoslovakian pilots with English commanders and operating Hurricanes from Speke. Their role was to intercept bombers attacking Liverpool. Although operational sorties were flown during his time with 312, no contact with the enemy was made…..Returning to Fighter Command, his next posting was to 257 Squadron at Coltishall on 28th July 1941. Their role was convoy protection over the North Sea. This posting was interrupted when he was offered command of a squadron in North Africa and he accepted, setting off on 3rd November. Travelling by Sunderland via Gibraltar, Malta and Cairo he arrived at the base of 80 Squadron on the 13th.

80 Squadron operated Hurricanes in the ground attack role and their job was to disrupt Rommel’s supply lines thus slowing his advance towards Cairo…. 80 Squadron moved forward as far as Tobruk in Libya before being withdrawn from service for re-equipment, Ievers, now a Squadron Leader, was sent to the Air Staff, Cairo on 23rd January 1942… Norman was kept in India for the remainder of his RAF service, serving on the staffs of 221, 222 and 224 Groups and on 20th August 1942 was appointed Acting Station Commander at RAF Kanchrapara. His final posting was to 320 MU at Karachi on 20th February 1943… He was released from the RAF in 1944 and returned to Ireland, eventually settling at Mount Ievers which he purchased from his cousin in 1945.’ (Battle of Britain website – Limerick Royal British Legion)

He is remembered on the Battle of Britain Monument on the Thames Embankment.
Sixmilebridge and WW2

Norman Ievers died on 21st November 1993, and is buried in Kilfinaghty Church of Ireland Church and Graveyard, Sixmilebridge.

Kilfinaghty Church of Ireland Church and Graveyard

Ievers Headstone, Sixmilebridge Graveyard. Inscription reads: In loving memory | of | Squadron Leader | Norman Lancelot Ievers | died 21 Nov 1993 | aged 81 years | R. I. P. | erected by his wife. Grave No 157A

Kilfinaghty Public Library, Church Street, Sixmilebridge, County Clare with surrounding Graveyard
Private James Maloney

Private James Maloney: Born in 1907. Son of James and Anne Maloney, of Sixmilebridge, Co Clare. 2nd Bn The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) 6285455. He died on the 17th June 1940, age 33. He is buried in the Escoublac-La-Baule War Cemetery, Loire-Atlantique, France 1. E. 37. He was one of a number of British servicemen whose bodies were washed ashore after the sinking of the troopship "Lancastria" in the Bay of Biscay on 17 June 1940. Aircraftman 1st Class, James Dominic Niall from Killaloe also died on the Lancastria.

The 2nd Battalion The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) was sent to France in 1940 with the 132nd Infantry Brigade attached to the 44th (Home Counties) Infantry Division to join the British Expeditionary Force and fought in the short but fierce Battle of Dunkirk, after which it was evacuated back to Britain.

RMS Lancastria was a British Cunard liner requisitioned by the UK Government during World War II. She was sunk off the French port of St. Nazaire on 17 June 1940 during Operation Ariel, the evacuation of British nationals and troops from France, two weeks after the Dunkirk evacuation. Having received an emergency order to evacuate British nationals and troops in excess of its capacity of 1,300 passengers, modern estimates range between 3,000 and 5,800 fatalities—the largest single-ship loss of life in British maritime history. The sinking of HMT Lancastria claimed more lives than the combined losses of the RMS Titanic (1,517 passengers and crew) and RMS Lusitania (1,198 passengers).

Escoublac-la-Baule Cemetery contains 325 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War.
The New Clare Great War Memorial