Tulla and the Great War

By Ger Browne

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The Streets, Houses and Cemeteries of Tulla during the Great War

Main Street

The Cemetery
Tulla’s Great Houses during WW1

Affick House Tulla

Lt. Henry Spaight: Affick House, Tulla. Royal Army Medical Corps. Wrote a letter from the front in Dec 1914. (CJ)

Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla
Home to the Perry family. Castleview is a small, early nineteenth-century, two storey, three bay, gabled house, with a central fanlit front door facing south west towards Formerla Castle. It is still standing but uninhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 70.

Charles Joseph Perry: (1882-1955) Tulla. He served as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery – reg no. L31269. He was awarded 5 medals including a Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM and survived the War. (Eric Shaw)

Frederick Perry: Tulla, He was taken prisoner by the Turks and he 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 afterward died tragically in London. He is buried in Ballysheen, Sixmilebridge. (Eric Shaw)
**Kiltannon House, Tulla**

Home to the Molony, Engler and Talty families. The house is now ruined. The original gate piers and gate lodges are standing and inhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 164.

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**Bertram Weldon Molony: Kiltannon Tulla Co Clare, died Feb 1915 age 26, East Lancashire Regiment, G/M Belgium.** Bertram joined the army in 1911 and was made a Captain the year before his death. He came from the well know Molony family from Kiltannon, Tulla who had substantial lands in Tulla, Feakle and beyond.

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**New Grove House Tulla**

Home to the Macnamara, Browne, Brady and Brady-Browne families. The house is now demolished. The main entrance gateway and gates and original driveway are standing and used. The kitchen garden walls are standing. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 206.

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**Captain Thomas Henry Brady-Browne:** (1882-1937) Newgrove, Tulla. Royal Field Artillery. He fought in France throughout the war. He had previously been with the Clare Artillery and the Fifth Irish Lancers and saw service in the Boer War. He had retired in 1913 but enlisted again in 1914. (David Brady-Browne)

**Windham Alexander Brady-Browne:** (born 1887) Newgrove, Tulla. Trench Mortar Battalion, Canadian Army. He had previously been with the the Clare Artillery (like his brother above) until 1908. He went to Canada in 1911 and joined the Canadian Army in 1915. He was very badly wounded (gunshot and shrapnel) in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) in 1917, after which he was repatriated to the Canadian Orthpaedic Hospital in Derbyshire. His injuries were too severe for him to resume military service. (David Brady-Browne)
Tulla Cemetery

**Location:** To reach this cemetery, take a left turn off Main street in the town of Tulla, which is in eastern County Clare. The cemetery is situated on the hill overlooking the town, and it has an old and a new section, with a road separating them.

**Joseph Shank(s):** Ennis, died 8th May 1915, a driver in the Royal Horse Artillery. Killed in action. Buried in Belgium. Service Number 49252. He is remembered on the family gravestone in Tulla Cemetery.

**Their only son Joseph P S Shank**
Killed in action at the 2nd Battle of Ypres 8 May 1915 Aged 27 and interred in Jean Cemetery Flanders.

**James Halpin:** Born in Tulla (3/12/1891), died 24th Oct 1918 age 24, US Army, **326th, Infantry,** 82nd Division. He was wounded by a sniper in the Argonne Forest, dying of his wounds a few days later. His body was returned from France for burial to Tulla in 1922 at the height of the Irish Civil War. Son of John and Margaret Halpin, Affick, Tulla.
**Tulla Cemetery (Church of Ireland)**

**Eileen (Mary) Brady-Browne:** Born in 1893. She lived in Newgrove House, Tulla. She was a nurse during the War. She died on the 24th July 1917 from a kidney infection, and is buried in Tulla Church of Ireland Graveyard. (Eric Shaw) Her brothers Thomas Henry Brady-Browne and Windham Alexander Brady-Browne served in WW1 and survived the war.

**Thomas Henry Brady-Browne** was the first son of Thomas Brady-Browne (of Newgrove) and Emily Perry (Fomerla, Tulla). He was born at Newgrove in 1882. Thomas resigned his commission with the Royal Field Artillery in May 1913. Just over a year later however, he was back in uniform. Following the outbreak of hostilities with Germany, Thomas enlisted in the army as a temporary Captain, and served in France throughout the war, eventually resigning his commission in June 1919. Thomas died in April 1937 following a fall from his horse at the Clonmoney Point-to-Point races, and is buried in Tulla Church of Ireland Cemetery. His medals.
Thomas Bastable: Tulla. Born 22\textsuperscript{nd} May 1902. He was a Labourer aged 18, when he enlisted on the 17\textsuperscript{th} July 1920 into the RAF 341977. (British RAF Airmen’s Service Records 1912-1939 at findmypast)

Eileen (Mary) Brady-Browne: Newgrove, Tulla, 1893-1917. She died in 1917 from a kidney infection. (Eric Shaw) She was the brother of Henry and Windham Brady-Browne.

Captain Thomas Henry Brady-Browne: (1882-1937) Newgrove, Tulla. He was the first son of Thomas Brady-Browne (of Newgrove) and Emily Perry (Fomerla, Tulla). He was born at Newgrove in 1882. His early career began with the Clare Artillery, when he became a Second Lieutenant at the age of 18, and a Lieutenant in 1903. In 1902 he was transferred from the Clare Artillery to the Fifth Irish Lancers. Soon after he travelled to South Africa and saw service in the Boer War. Following his return, he rejoined the Clare Artillery and was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1904. During this time Thomas also served as High Sheriff for County Clare in 1907. On 20 November 1907 Thomas married Mabel Mayne at St John’s Church, Longford. The celebrant was the Venerable William Moore, Archdeacon of Ardagh.
Following the birth of two children, Thomas resigned his commission with the Royal Field Artillery in May 1913. Just over a year later however, he was back in uniform. Following the outbreak of hostilities with Germany, Thomas enlisted in the army as a temporary Captain, and served in France throughout the war, eventually resigning his commission in June 1919. Thomas died in April 1937 following a fall from his horse at the Clonmoney Point-to-Point races. (David Brady Browne)

Windham Alexander Brady-Browne: (born 1887) Newgrove, Tulla. He was born at Newgrove on 31 May 1887, the second son of Thomas Browne-Browne. Windham received secondary education at Galway Grammar School. He followed brother Thomas into the Clare Artillery, purchasing a commission as a Second Lieutenant on February 1905. Windham remained with the Clare Artillery through its incorporation as the Clare Royal 27th Garrison Artillery, and Special Reserve of Artillery, until resigning his Commission on 21 December 1908. In June 1911, he made his way to Canada where he made a living as a rancher. His younger brother, Alfred had already settled in Nanton, Alberta where he was involved in the lumber trade and ranching.

After the outbreak of the First World War, Windham volunteered for military service and was attested into the Canadian Army on 16 June 1915. His four years training with the Clare Artillery stood him in good stead, and he was assigned to the 20th training at Camp Sewell in Manitoba, Windham set sail for Britain on board the troopship Metagama. A further period of training in Britain followed, and Windham was finally stationed in Belgium in 1917 in preparation for the Canadian assault on the German positions in the notorious Third Battle of Ypres. Windham was part of the 20th Trench Mortar Battalion of the 1st northern flank of the assault on Passchendale ridge, and was badly wounded on 5th November by a gunshot wound to the chest and severe shrapnel wound to the left thigh, which incapacitated him. He was evacuated to a forward first-aid station of the Australian Field Ambulance, and from there to the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and then by Ambulance Train to 54th London Military Hospital at Boulogne. Finally he was repatriated to England and was transferred to the Canadian Special Orthopaedic Hospital at Buxton, Derbyshire.

Windham disappeared in Canada in 1926 and was never heard of again. (David Brady-Browne)

Patrick Conheady: Tulla. He emigrated to the US in 1914 and worked as a long-shoreman in the ports of New York. He was drafted into the 308 Infantry US Army 77th Div, in New York in Feb 1918. He was killed in action on Oct 5th 1918, in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26 – Nov 11 1918), and is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, in France. (Nicola Corless /Clare Champion Sept 4 2015) His sister Katie Walsh New York was his next of kin.

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive: the American Forces with the support of the French Fourth Army launches its largest operation (One million combatants) that led to the retreat of the German Army and their asking for an armistice ending American operations and the war. Casualties: 110,508. (10 Claremen died)

The Battle of Delville Wood (14 July – 15 Sep 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.

John Patrick Corbett: Born and lived in Tulla, killed in action 2nd Nov 1914 age 24, the Battle of Messines (12 Oct – 2 Nov 1914). 1st Bn East Lancashire Regiment, 11th Brigade of the 4th Division. G/M in Belgium. Son of James and Ellen Corbett Main Street Tulla. (TB) The Ypres Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The 1st Bn East Lancashire Regiment were in action at the Battle of Messines (12 Oct – 2 Nov 1914): By the morning of the 1 November, the Germans had secured the line and both Wytschaete and Messines, but the ridges to the west of the Wytschaete–Messines line were held by the French 32nd Division. The British were exhausted and most divisions had been reduced to a shadow. The Germans had also suffered high losses and needed to pause to reinforce their formations. The front fell quiet, action being limited to raids by both sides and heavy shelling of Ypres by German artillery. The Germans made their last effort against Ypres on 10 November.

Patrick Costello: Milltown Tulla. He was a general Labourer aged 30 when he enlisted into the RFA 9344. He had an younger brother called Matthew. He was discharged in Jan 1916 due to bad eyesight. (British army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Michael Cudmore: Tulla. Australian Infantry. He was a horse driver aged 41 when he enlisted in July 1917 in Rockhampton Queensland into the Depot Unit. He was discharged in Sept 1917. (UNSW)

Albert Dowling: Irish Guards. A former RIC Constable in Tulla. (CJ)
Gunner John Joseph Donoghue MM (alias John Foley): Tulla. He was a Labourer aged 23 when he enlisted in 1904 into the Royal Garrison Artillery 21931. He served in India from 1905-1912 and Sierra Leone. He was posted to the BEF in France from Sept 1914 to March 1916. He was awarded the Military Medal (London Gazette 2nd June 1916 and Supplement 3rd June 1916). He received shell wounds to the arm and right leg in France. His service finished in Nov 1916. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Michael Duffy: Born in Tulla, lived in Liverpool, died of wounds 16th July 1916 age 36 at the Somme in the Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 Sept. The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) 13th Bn 18898 (3rd Division), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Johanna Duffy, Rathclooney, Carrahan, Quin, and husband of Edith Duffy, Liverpool. He volunteered in September 1914. (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 Dwyer: Wilkishen, Clonlea (Tulla). Born in 1872. He was a Labourer aged 46, when he enlisted on the 15th Aug 1918 into the RAF 287016. (British RAF Airmen’s Service Records 1912-1939 at findmypast)

Patrick Fitzgerald: Born in Tulla, lived in Essex, killed in action 26th Aug 1917 (3rd Battle of Ypres/ Passchendaele July-Nov 1917), Worcestershire Regiment 1st/7th Bn 41313, 48th (South Midland) Division, G/M in Belgium. Son of Charles and Margaret Fitzgerald, Dromleigh. Husband of Gladys Fitzgerald. (TB)

3rd Battle of Ypres: The battle took place on the Western Front, from July to November 1917, for control of the ridges south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in West Flanders. Smaller British attacks from 19–27 August 1917 failed to hold captured ground.
**Trooper Patrick Foley:** Tulla. 5th Australian light Horse Regiment, Killed In Action in Gallipoli June 2nd 1915. (Keir McNamara) He was a labourer aged 25 when he enlisted in 1914 in Casino NSW into the C Squadron. His father was Patrick Foley, Glendree Feakle.

‘On the 2nd June 1915, Father Bergin conducted a funeral service for Patrick in Shrapnel Gulley, where he was buried in an unmarked grave. Shrapnel Gulley was a track leading up towards the Turkish lines from Anzac Cove. It was in the sight and range of Turkish snipers and to minimise the dangers high banks of sandbags were constructed to provide shelter from gunfire. But those involved in the funeral rites for Patrick might well have been undisturbed by Turkish fire if the comments of New Zealand born army chaplain, Sergeant William Cross, applied: “I never knew of a case where the Turk has acted unfairly. On the contrary I have seen something approaching a reverence for our divine service. In burying the dead, I have been frequently under fire, but I have noticed that while we were engaged in a funeral service the Turks refrained from shooting in that direction.’ Peter MacMahon

**Thomas Frazer:** Lived in Tulla, died of wounds from the Battle of Courtrai 15th Oct 1918, Royal Irish Regiment 7th Bn 10611 30th Div, G/M in Belgium. Husband of Mrs Kate Frazer Main St Tulla. (TB)

The 30th Division fought in the Battle of Courtrai in Flanders from 14-19 October 1918. The offensive began at 5:35 a.m. on 14th October, with an attack by the GAF (Groupe d’Armées des Flandres) from the Lys river at Comines northwards to Dixmude. The British creeping barrage advanced at a rate of 100 yards (91 m) per minute, much faster and much further than the practice in 1917, in expectation that there would be little resistance from German infantry. By the evening the British forces had reached high ground which dominated Werviq, Menin and Wevelghem in the south; further north the British captured Moorslede and closed up to Gulleghem and Steenbeek.

**John Glynn:** Born in Ballyorughia (Ballyoughtra Tulla?) Co Clare, killed in action Sept 13th 1916 age 32 on the Somme, Grenadier Guards 2nd Bn 14423 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB) (Just before the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

**Michael Halloran:** Born in Tulla, lived in Ennis, died 17th Aug 1917 in Mesopotamia, Connaught Rangers 1st Bn, G/M in Iraq. (TB)
Baghdad fell on March 11, 1917. The Turkish army fled north. Following the retreat of the Turkish army the Connaught Rangers were garrisoned in Feluja and Baghdad. Throughout early 1917 they and other regiments were used to subdue hostile native tribes in the region. Later in the campaign the Rangers manned the front line at Samara facing Turkish armies at Tekrit. The Mesopotamia campaign became increasing frustrating as the Turkish army was constantly retreating, receding like a mirage leaving another stretch of sand and dust to be garrisoned and more hostile Arab tribes to subdue. On April 2, 1918 the 1st battalion Connaught Rangers embarked at Nahr Umar and left Mesopotamia for Egypt having served 2 years and 3 months. During that time the battalion had **286 fatalities** about one third victim of disease and heat stroke. About 2,000 Connaught Rangers served in Mesopotamia.

**Sergeant James Halpin:** Born in Tulla (3/12/1891), died of wounds 24th Oct 1918 age 24, US Army, 326th, Infantry, 82nd Division. He was wounded by a sniper in the Argonne Forest, dying of his wounds a few days later during **The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26-Nov 11, 1918)**.

His body was returned from France for burial to Tulla in 1922 at the height of the Irish Civil War. He was once an official driver for William Taft, 27th President of the US, before he enlisted to serve and later died fighting with the US Army in World War One. Son of John and Margaret Halpin, Affick, Tulla.

**The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26-Nov 11, 1918):** the American Forces with the support of the French Fourth Army launches its largest operation (One million combatants) that led to the retreat of the German Army and their asking for an armistice ending American operations and the war. US **Casualties:** 110,508. (10 Claremen died)

**Private Joseph Halvey:** Tulla. He was a Labourer who stated his age was 19 when he enlisted in Jan 1916 into the 5th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 5/6806. He was discharged on the 31st March 1916 due to a ‘mistatement as to age on enlistment’. His real DOB was the 1st March 1900. His mother was Norah Hennessy Tulla. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

**D Hayes:** Tulla. Royal Irish Regiment. Wounded July 1916. (CJ)

**Private Thomas Hogan:** Born in Tulla Co Clair (Clare), lived in Brooklyn New York. He was aged 24 when he enlisted on the 20th Sept 1917 into Co F 306 Infantry (1909698) until Nov 1917, followed by the 328 Infantry until April 1918, then the 157 Dep Brig until May 1918 and finally in the 307 Engineers (82nd Div) until his discharge in July 1919. He served abroad from May 1918 to June 1919. (WW1 New York Army Cards fold3.com)
Dr Bernard Hynes: Tulla. Royal Army Medical Corps. His father James and sister Clare were both drowned following the sinking of the SS Leinster. (DMC)

James Hynes: Tulla, died Oct 1918 on the SS RMS Leinster, civilians. (TB) James Hynes was a Tailor, and had been born in Tulla, Co. Clare. He owned a tailoring business in Manchester, and was returning to Manchester following a holiday in Tulla. He emigrated to Boston in the 1880’s, where he married and had at least one Daughter, Ellen [subsequently Sr. Bruno], a nun in the Sisters of Charity which she joined in 1916. His son was Br Bernard Hynes. The R.M.S. Leinster was sunk by torpedoes in the Irish Sea, 16 miles east of Dublin, shortly before 10am on the morning of 10th October 1918, on its outbound journey of 100km [68 miles] from Kingstown [now Dun Laoghaire], Dublin, to Holyhead, Anglesey, North Wales.

‘James Hynes had 3 sons who were Doctors: Louis A., John A. (“Jack”) and Bernard Patrick. Bernard served in the RAMC in WW1 and he and Louis set-up a GP practice at 1 Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea in the 1920’s. Louis never married but Bernard had 3 sons who were also Doctors. Clare had two Sisters, Ellen (b. Boston MA) became Sr Bruno of The Sisters of Charity at St Vincent’s School Cork in 1916 and moved to their Cappagh school in 1936. Theresa never married and lived in Battersea with Bernard up to her death. James and his wife Mary Halloran emigrated to Boston Ma where Ellen was born but only stayed a few years and came back. Jack had no children and worked at St Michael’s Dún Laoghaire for most of his career. Their other brother Joseph (my grandfather Joe) avoided becoming a Doctor for some reason (as he was supposed to) and joined The Provincial Bank in Nenagh in 1910. He retired as Manager in Carrick-on-Suir in 1955.

My late father Dr Bernard (Bernie) P. Hynes BDS was his only child and based himself in Carrick-on-Suir all his life. He was Chairman of the S.E. Health Board at one time and President of the Golfing Union of Ireland in 2006 Joe once told me he survived The Spanish Flu at the end of WW1. I know from Red Cross Records he was involved in the Red Cross in Clonmel during WW1.

In 1982 I paid my first visit to Tulla where the first man I met, quoted Clare’s words from the night before they left Tulla, “I am packing my bags for the fishes”. He also recalled the women rushing out of the telegraph office “screaming their heads off and running in all directions” when the news of the sinking of the Leinster came in.’ Peter Power-Hynes

Clare Hynes: Tulla. Daughter of James above. Died Oct 1918 on the SS RMS Leinster, civilian. (TB) Clare Hynes was 13 years old, and she and her sister Teresa, aged 21, were living with their Aunt Mary Hynes, aged 50, who owned a Drapery business in Tulla. Clare and her sister had been born in England. She was travelling with her father to Manchester.
'Locals remember Claire saying ‘she was packing her bags for the fish’ when she learned that she was to accompany her father to Manchester. It was also recalled how the wailing sounded out from the women at the telegraph office as the news of the sinking came through.’ Her brother was Dr Bernard Hynes.(DMC)

Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO MID (The Admiral): Glendree Tulla, died of wounds 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) (and Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) and was Mentioned in Despatches (5/11/15). Son of Judge R R Kane and Eleanor Coffey, Dublin and Glendree Co Clare. ‘Entered army 1908. Joined 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1908 at Rawalpindi, and served in India and Burma (where his sister also lived) until 1914. Present at the Gallipoli landings until 13 July 1915. Wounded in action 4 May 1915...’ Recreations, hunting, polo, big and small game hunting.’ From Who Was Who 1916-1930. According to Hugh Weir in the ‘Houses of Clare’, Sir Robert Kane and his family did not live in Glandree (a townland near Feakle), but held a leasehold there. He lived in Dublin.

In 1917 he had sentenced a Private Keane, from Kilrush (no relation), to continuous action at the front for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He opted to be courtmartialled at the Front by Captain Kane. However his sentence was suspended after he rescued an officer in no man’s land and he survived the War.

‘On February 7th 1918 .... Lt Colonel R R G Kane DSO (from Tulla) assumed command (of the RMF 1st Bn leaving the 2nd Bn.) ... On September 27th the Battalion moved to the assembly trenches...At 7.30 am Lt Col R R G Kane DSO, reconnoitred the way across the Canal-du-Nord and captured 1 officer and 21 men at Lock No 5. The Battalion afterwards crossed by this lock and moved towards Graincourt... the advance being about 3000 yards... further advance was stopped in front of Cantaing... On the 30th September the Battalion crossed the Canal-de-L’Escaut...but was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire.... At noon ...it moved forward and took up a line of posts in Provile. The strength of the Battalion had been reduced to about 10 officers and 150 other ranks....At 1.30pm the Battalion suffered a great loss, for Lt Col R R G Kane DSO, who had for so long and so brilliantly led it, was mortally wounded in the head by machine-gun fire...The enemy delivered a strong counter-attack at 4pm...During the night the Battalion was relieved... From 1st-4th October the Battalion rested in Folie Wood...and was continually shelled.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)

‘Guy Nightingale wrote in April 1918 of his commanding Officer in the wake of the 5th Army’s retreat... ‘I wouldn’t stay with the 1st Battalion under Kane. The ‘Admiral’ is absolutely mad and not safe and let his Battalion down in a critical time, every time, as he gets absolutely unnerved and doesn’t know what he is doing.’ When Kane was killed leading his Battalion later in the year, Nightingale was more charitable. ‘I am awfully fed up about the Colonel, for all his faults, he was a fine soldier, always cheery and full of life.’ (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton)
Private Patrick Keating: Tulla, died of wounds 27th Sept 1917 age 32, in the Third Battle of Ypres (Polygon Wood), Australian Imperial Force 51st Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Patrick and Mary Keating, Ballyblood, Tulla. He died of gun shot wounds to the hip and shoulder. (TB) MA He was a Labourer aged 26 when he enlisted in 1916 in Rockhampton Queensland into the 17th Bn. 5413 (and later 51st Bn.). (UNSW)

The Battle of Polygon Wood took place during the second phase of the Third Battle of Ypres, and was fought near Ypres in Belgium 26 September – 3 October 1917, in the area from the Menin Road to Polygon Wood and thence north, to the area beyond St. Julien. During the night of 25–26 September the men of the assaulting battalions reached taped lines laid across the south–western third of the blasted tree stumps of Polygon Wood. At this point it was vital not to alert the watching Germans by unusual noise or the lighting of cigarettes which would bring down an enemy artillery barrage. At 5.50 am on 26 September the guns opened up in front of the Australian infantry who immediately moved forward behind its protecting wall of shells.

John Kenneally: Born in Tulla, died of wounds 26th Sept 1916 on the Somme, (Probably during the Battle of Morval, 25–28 September 1916) Irish Guards 1st Bn 9495 (Guards Div), G/M in France. (TB)

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15th – 22nd Sept) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Frégicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The 1st and 2nd Irish Guards had very heavy losses in this Battle.

Private Cornelius Kennedy: The Hill Tulla, Co Clare. He was a Labourer aged 19 when he enlisted in April 1915 with the 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4842. He was discharged in Feb 1916. His mother was Bridget Kennedy. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

James Killeen: Irish Guards. A former RIC Constable in Tulla. (CJ)

John Lee: Tulla. Australian Imperial Force. He was a Labourer aged 44 when he enlisted in Dec 1915 in Townsville Queensland into the No 4 Tunnelling Company 3410. He served in France. He was discharged in Aug 1917 due to Bronchitis and being overage. (UNSW)
Lance Corporal Martin Leyden/Lyden: Born in Killuran (Tulla) lived in O’Callaghan’s Mills, died in Queen Mary’s Hospital Lancashire 19th Dec 1916 age 42 (Probably from wounds in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 Sept at the Somme), Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 5054, 7th Div, G/M in England. (TB) L Corp Matt Leyden: Royal Irish Regiment. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Son of Denis and Bridget Leyden, Iragh, O’Callaghan’s Mills. He had also served in the North-West frontier of India in 1895.

The Battle of Guillemont (3-6 September 1916) was an attack on the village which was captured by the Fourth Army on the first day. Guillemont was on the right flank of the British sector, near the boundary with the French Sixth Army. German defences ringed the British salient at Delville Wood to the north and had observation over the French Sixth Army area to the south towards the Somme river. The German defence in the area was based on the second line and numerous fortified villages and farms north from Maurepas at Combles, Guillemont, Fallemont Farm, Delville Wood and High Wood, which were mutually supporting.

TS Mahony: Tulla, King’s Liverpool Regt. (PMcN)


Rev Michael McCormack: Tulla. Went to France with the US troops in Sept 1917. He had emigrated to the US in 1911 and was based in San Diego. (SR)

‘The Americans joined the conflict in April (1917) after the Senate voted by an overwhelming majority to declare war on Germany – six months later Tulla man, Fr Michael McCormack is one of of two Los Angeles-based priests who will be attached to the United States Army. The two priests are part of the city’s contribution to the quota of 150 Catholic clergymen who are to provided to the armed services. Rev McCormack is pastor of St Anthony’s Church on Grand Avenue and his application is believed to be the first from Southern California. 38 year old Fr McCormack studied for the priesthood in Mount Mellerary in Waterford, before going to Rome where he was ordained in 1904.

After spending six years in South Africa he went to the States in 1911, originally to Salt Lake City, while he also ministered in San Diego and Hollywood before moving to this current parish in Los Angeles.’ (The Clare People 19th Sept 1917)
Fr Michael McKenna MID: Tulla. Chaplain. Mentioned in Despatches. Served in France. He relinquished his commission in Dec 1917. In 1921, he and Fr Gaynor were arrested by the Black and Tans for having IRA sympathies. It was held locally that they owed their escape from ‘auxiliary laws’ to a Great War veteran who recognised Fr Gaynor from the trenches. Fr McKenna died in Feb 1960. (DMC)

‘Holy terror: Local curate Fr Patrick Gaynor wrote that another man was shot on that occasion while standing facing the soldiers with his hands in the air. Gaynor, a member of the supreme executive of Sinn Fein and fellow Mullagh curate Fr McKenna (a former army chaplain and commandant of the local battalion of volunteers) had their own troubles with the soldiers. In his memoirs, Gaynor recalls numerous raids on the curates’ house in Mullagh. During one raid a military officer threatened to break McKenna’s face while his fellow soldiers drank the priests’ whiskey. Both priests were subsequently arrested and jailed on trumped-up charges.

At their trial by Field General Courtmartial in May 1921, McKenna detailed a catalogue of petty tyrannies, including ‘frightful desecration of the tabernacle’ by the military in the local church. Fr Pat O’Reilly in Feakle was less fortunate. Having ministered to two constables who had been ambushed and shot dead, O’Reilly was sought out by Lieutenant Winkle. The Royal Artillery officer ‘finding O’Reilly truculent and in need of a lesson, laid him on a wall and had him beaten with an instructing handle’. Again, this incident has been mistakenly associated with the Black and Tans.’ (The Blackened Tans by Eoin Shanahan – irishconstabulary.com)

Private John Meehan: Tulla. He was a carpenter aged 35 when he enlisted in 1916. Royal Dublin Fusiliers 4th Bn 379607. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Private Patrick Meehan: Company K, 328th Infantry 1911035. His mother was Mrs Margaret Meehan, Garraragh, Tulla, Co Clare. (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910 – 1939)

Captain Bertram Weldon Molony: Born in 1888 in Kiltannon Tulla Co Clare, killed in action 28th Feb 1915 age 26, East Lancashire Regiment 1st Bn, 4th Division. G/M Belgium. (TB)

Bertram joined the army in 1911 and was made a Captain in Nov 1914. He came from the well know Molony family from Kiltannon, Tulla who had substantial lands in Tulla, Feakle and beyond. Son of Weldon Charles and Eleanor A Molony. Following service on the Aisne in September 1914, the 4th Division moved to Flanders in the sector on the French/Belgian border north-east of Armentières (very close to where Capt Molony is buried). Here it stayed until the Spring of 1915, some units of the division taking part in the Christmas Truce, when it moved up to the battlefield north-east of Ypres to fight at St Julian, and the Frezenberg Ridge during Second Ypres. This fighting all but wiped out the division, and many of those who had survived the battles of 1914 were killed or wounded here.
James Vincent Molony: Tulla. Australian Imperial Force (AI). He was a Book Keeper aged 34 when he enlisted in Nov 1914 in Blackboy Hill WA into the Depot Corp 350. He was wounded in France in Aug 1916 (gun shot wounds to the shoulder and head). He also suffered shell shock. He was discharged in July 1917.

Michael Monahan: Cappavilla (Tulla South) Co Clare. He was a labourer aged 30 when he enlisted in 1915 with the Irish Guards 10631. His mother was Mary Monahan. He was discharged in Feb 1916 due to epilepsy. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Gunner John Joseph O’Donoghue MM: Tulla. He was a Labourer aged 23 when he enlisted in 1904 into the RGA 21731. He served with the BEF in France. He was awarded the Military Medal in June 1916 (LG). He was discharged in Nov 1916. He had a GSW to his left leg. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Mr Michael V O’Halloran: Tulla. He was appointed County Controller for East Clare by the Dept of Recruiting in Ireland in 1916. Colonel Sir Charles Barrington D.L. was then responsible for the counties of Clare, Kerry and Limerick. (Clare Champion Jan 2016)

George Pepper: Born in Tulla, killed in action 16th May 1915, in The Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915). Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4364, 5th Brigade in the 2nd Division. G/M in France. (TB)

The Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915) was an attack by the British army in the Artois region of France. The bombardment failed to significantly damage the front line defences of the German 6th Army but the initial advance made some progress in good weather conditions. The attack was renewed on 16 May and by 19 May the 2nd Division and 7th Division had to be withdrawn due to heavy losses.

‘At 11:30pm on the night of the 15th May, the 2nd Battalion attacked to the right of the 2nd Worcestershire Regiment, supported by the 2nd Oxford & Bucks and the 9th Highland Light Infantry. “A” and “D” Companies attacked to the left and right, respectively, of a cinder track bordered by two deep ditches on either side. Both gained significant ground. “D” Company penetrated the 1st and 2nd Lines of the German trenches, but “A” Company were cut off after having taken the 1st Line Trench due to lack of support from the failed attack to their left flank and severe losses.
“B” Company, who were in support of “A” Company, also suffered grievous losses and were unable to provide the much needed assistance in order to ensure success. “D” Company would hold the Second German Line until the night of the 16th when they were ordered to retreat to the Reserve Breastworks. The following night they were relieved by the 1/1st Gurkhas. In total 252 Officers and Men of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers are recognised as having lost their lives on the 15th and 16th May 1915.’ The Iniskillings Museum.

Charles Joseph Perry DCM: (1882-1955) Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He served as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery – reg no. L31269. He was awarded 5 medals including a Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM and he survived the War. He died in England in 1955. (Eric Shaw) He is the brother of Frederick and Emily Perry.

Emily Rose Perry: Fomerla, Tulla, 1890-1979, was a nurse. She was in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), a voluntary unit that provided field nursing units. Emily Rose Perry married Dr George Sheehan, and is buried in Easker Cemetery, Lucan. She is the sister of Frederick and Charles Joseph Perry. (Eric Shaw)

Frederick Perry: Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He was taken prisoner by the Turks and he was 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 (4 stone in weight) and shortly afterwards, died tragically in London, on the 28 Nov 1919. He is buried in Ballysheen, Sixmilebridge. (Eric Shaw) He is the brother of Charles Joseph and Emily Perry.

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)

Sergeant George Perry: Born in Tulla lived in Ennis. Died of wounds 19th Aug 1915 received at Suvla Bay Gallipoli. Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th Bn 4308. G/M in Greece. He served in the Boer War and was awarded the Queen’s South Africa Medal with four clasps. (Eric Shaw)

He embarked with 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers for France on 13th August 1914 where he saw action on the Western Front. He subsequently transferred to the 6th Battalion and was engaged in the Gallipoli Campaign.
An attack along the crest of the Kiretch Tepe Sirt ridge was commenced on the 15th August 1915.... Little ground was gained in the first two hours.... After a rest they charged the Turkish position....driving the enemy before them....The Turkish counter attack at 10pm was beaten off... The troops were heavily bombed all the next day, and as advance was impossible they were compelled to lie where they were, with no means of replying, as the grenades used by the Turks were infinitely superior to the British ones....Darkness fell, and gradually the units withdrew to their original line... On the 20th August The Battalion marched to Lala Baba..where it bivouacked.ˈ 

**Martin Rochford:** Tulla. He was a Labourer aged 31 when he enlisted in 1911 into the 4th Manchester Regiment 1656. He had previously served with the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was discharged in July 1915 for medical reasons. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**Edward Roughan:** Born and lived in Tulla, killed in action 11th Oct 1916, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 10th Bn 26292 (63rd Royal Naval Division), G/M in France. (TB)

‘On 11th October they march out of billets to relieve the 4th Beds on the front at ”White City”. The White City is an area near Beaumont Hamel, including the Sunken Road and the Redan Crater.It is on the Auchonvillers (known to Tommy Atkins as”Ocean Villas”) to Beaumont Hamel road. Much work had been carried out here in constructing dugouts and tunnels by digging into the extensive chalk cliff of about forty feet in height. The whiteness of the excavated chalk and the extent of the accommodation gave rise to its name. Battalion HQ remained at the White City, the rest of the battalion took over new positions to the east of Beaumont Hamel.’ (War Diary Transcripts 10th RDF)

**Private Michael Ryan:** Born 18/9/1893 in Milltown, Tulla, Co Clare. He was a Bottler aged 19 when he enlisted in April 1913 into the 4th Kings Shropshire Light Infantry 1825. He was discharged in Dec 1914 due to becoming deaf. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com) **Michael Ryan:** Born in 1894 County Clare. Enlisted in the KGLS in Shrewsbury, Shropshire on the 22nd of April 1913. Clare Library.

**Lt Stephen Ryan:** Born in Tulla 18/7/1876. He was a labourer when he enlisted into the RAF 311476 in Oct 1918. He also served with the Royal Fusiliers. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com) **Stephen Ryan:** Tulla. Born on the 26th July 1876. He was aged 42 when he enlisted on the 28th Oct 1918 into the RAF 311476. (British RAF Airmen’s Service Records 1912-1939 at findmypast)
**Sergeant John Sheehan**: Tulla. He was a Van Driver aged 44 when he enlisted in Oct 1914 into the Royal Irish Regiment (with which he had previously served with), and later into the Royal Irish Rifles 29889G. He served throughout the War in the Egyptian EF. He was discharged in 1920. His father was John Sheehan Limerick. He died on the 20th Nov 1940 in the Belmount Road Institution Liverpool. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

**Lt. Henry Spaight**: Affick House, Tulla. Royal Army Medical Corps. Wrote a letter from the front in Dec 1914. (CJ)

**Private James Tubridy**: Cottage Road, Tulla. Aged 42 when he enlisted in 1917 into the Army Ordnance Corps 028738 in London. He married Mary Donnellan in April 1904 and they had 2 daughters and 3 sons. He was a shoemaker before and during the War. (British Army WW1 Service Records @ ancestry.com)

**Lt James Mathew White**: Lived in Tulla, died of pneumonia 16th March 1916 age 32, a vet in the Army Veterinary Corps, G/M in France. The third son of Thomas and Anne White, Tulla, Co Clare. (TB)

Lieutenant J.M. White, A.V.C., was the third son of Mrs. White, Tulla, Co. Clare, and nephew of James White, M.D., J.P., Kilkenny. He qualified at the Royal Veterinary College, Dublin, in 1910, and subsequently entered the service of the British South African Co., Rhodesia. On the outbreak of the war he returned at his own expense to join the colours. **He contracted pneumonia** while on active service in France and died on March 16th, 1916. Lieutenant White was a young man of splendid physique and a noted football and golf player. Date of Publication: Friday, June 9, 1916. Our Heroes website.

**Sup Sergeant Michael W White**: Battery E, 348th Field Artillery, 2272099. His mother was Mrs Annie White, Tulla Co Clare. He departed Brest France on the 30th March 1919. (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910 – 1939)
Eileen (Mary) Brady-Browne: Born in 1893. She lived in Newgrove House, Tulla. She was a nurse during the War. She died on the 24th July 1917 from a kidney infection, and is buried in Tulla Church of Ireland Graveyard. (Eric Shaw) Her brothers Thomas Henry Brady-Browne and Windham Alexander Brady-Browne served in WW1 and survived the war.

New Grove House Tulla: Home to the Macnamara, Browne, Brady and Brady-Browne families. The house is now demolished. The main entrance gateway and gates and original driveway are standing and used. The kitchen garden walls are standing.
Captain Thomas Henry Brady-Browne: (1882-1937) Newgrove, Tulla. He was the first son of Thomas Brady-Browne (of Newgrove) and Emily Perry (Fomerla, Tulla). He was born at Newgrove in 1882. His early career began with the Clare Artillery, when he became a Second Lieutenant at the age of 18, and a Lieutenant in 1903. In 1902 he was transferred from the Clare Artillery to the Fifth Irish Lancers. Soon after he travelled to South Africa and saw service in the Boer War. Following his return, he rejoined the Clare Artillery and was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1904. During this time Thomas also served as High Sheriff for County Clare in 1907. On 20 November 1907 Thomas married Mabel Mayne at St John’s Church, Longford. The celebrant was the Venerable William Moore, Archdeacon of Ardagh.

Following the birth of two children, Thomas resigned his commission with the Royal Field Artillery in May 1913. Just over a year later however, he was back in uniform. Following the outbreak of hostilities with Germany, Thomas enlisted in the army as a temporary Captain, and served in France throughout the war, eventually resigning his commission in June 1919. Thomas died in April 1937 following a fall from his horse at the Clonmoney Point-to-Point races. (David Brady Browne)
Private Patrick Conheady

Patrick Conheady: Tulla. He emigrated to the US in 1914 and worked as a long-shoreman in the ports of New York. He was drafted into the 308 Infantry 77th Division, US Army in New York in Feb 1918. He was killed in action on Oct 5th 1918 in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26 – Nov 11 1918). (Nicola Corless / Clare Champion Sept 4 2015) His sister Katie Walsh New York was his next of kin.

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial
Romagne-sous-Montfaucon
Departement de la Meuse.
Lorraine, France

On September 26, 1918 nine American divisions began the first assault along a twenty-four mile front from the Argonne Forest to the Meuse River—about 150 miles east of Paris. The intense fighting caused heavy losses on both sides, but American forces had penetrated the formidable defenses of the “Hindenburg Line” by October 11.

The U.S. First Army renewed its assault several times after much-needed pauses for rest, reorganization and replacement. Fresh divisions relieved those that had suffered the most grievous combat losses.

A final push began on November 1. German forces began withdrawing across the entire front. Recognizing that they could no longer prevent defeat, the Germans signed an Armistice effective at 11:00 a.m. on November 11.

**Knightsbridge Cemetery Mesnil-Martinsart**
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France. Plot: C. 23.

The cemetery was begun at the outset of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It was used by units fighting on that front until the German withdrawal in February 1917. Knightsbridge Cemetery contains 548 First World War burials.

**The Battle of Delville Wood** (14 July – 15 Sep 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.
**Sergeant John Patrick Corbett**

**John Patrick Corbett:** Born and lived in Tulla, killed in action 2nd Nov 1914 age 24, in the **Battle of Messines** (12 Oct – 2 Nov 1914). East Lancashire Regiment 1st Bn 9479, G/M in Belgium. Son of James and Ellen Corbett, Main St Tulla. *(TB)*

**Lancashire Cottage Cemetery. Comines-Warneton**

**Arrondissement de Mouscron. Hainaut, Belgium. Plot: I. A. 2.**

This Cemetery **was begun by the 1st East Lancashire (who have 84 graves in it)** and the 1st Hampshire in November 1914. The cemetery contains 256 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The 1st Bn East Lancashire Regiment were in action at the **Battle of Messines** (12 Oct – 2 Nov 1914): By the morning of the 1 November, the Germans had secured the line and both Wytschaete and Messines, but the ridges to the west of the Wytschaete–Messines line were held by the French 32nd Division. The British were exhausted and most divisions had been reduced to a shadow. The Germans had also suffered high losses and needed to pause to reinforce their formations. The front fell quiet, action being limited to raids by both sides and heavy shelling of Ypres by German artillery. The Germans made their last effort against Ypres on 10 November.
Private Michael Duffy

Michael Duffy: Born in Tulla, lived in Liverpool, died of wounds 16th July 1916 age 36 at the Somme in the Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 Sept 1916. The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) 13th Bn 18898 (3rd Div), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Johanna Duffy, Rathclooney, Carrahan, Quin, and husband of Edith Duffy, Liverpool. He volunteered in September 1914. (TB)

Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension. Corbie Departement de la Somme. Picardie, France

The majority of the graves in the extension are of officers and men who died of wounds in the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The communal cemetery contains 249 First World War burials, the extension 918.

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.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private Patrick Fitzgerald

Patrick Fitzgerald: Born in Tulla, lived in Essex, killed in action 26th Aug 1917 (3rd Battle of Ypres/ Passchendaele July-Nov 1917), Worcestershire Regiment 1st/7th Bn 41313, 48th (South Midland) Div, G/M in Belgium. Son of Charles and Margaret Fitzgerald, Dromleigh, Co Clare. Husband of Gladys Fitzgerald Essex. (TB)

3rd Battle of Ypres: The battle took place on the Western Front, from July to November 1917, for control of the ridges south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in West Flanders. Smaller British attacks from 19–27 August 1917 failed to hold captured ground.

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.
Patrick Foley: Tulla, 5th Australian light Horse Regiment, Killed in action in Gallipoli June 2nd 1915. (Keir McNamara) He was a labourer aged 25 when he enlisted in 1914 in Casino NSW into the C Squadron. His father was Patrick Foley, Glendree Feakle.

Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 4 of the Memorial.

Lone Pine was a strategically important plateau in the southern part of Anzac which was briefly in the hands of Australian forces following the landings on 25 April. It became a Turkish strong point from May to July, when it was known by them as 'Kanli Sirt' (Bloody Ridge). There are now 1,167 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

‘On 2nd June 1915, Patrick was killed in action in Anzac Cove. This was a beach one and half miles long, which served as the landing area for the Australian troops. It was out of sight of the enemy snipers’ bullets, but men were vulnerable to being struck by shrapnel from the relentless enemy shelling. He had barely experienced two weeks of active service.

On the same day, Father Bergin conducted a funeral service for Patrick in Shrapnel Gulley, where he was buried in an unmarked grave. Shrapnel Gulley was a track leading up towards the Turkish lines from Anzac Cove. It was in the sight and range of Turkish snipers and to minimise the dangers high banks of sandbags were constructed to provide shelter from gunfire. But those involved in the funeral rites for Patrick might well have been undisturbed by Turkish fire if the comments of New Zealand born army chaplain, Sergeant William Cross, applied: “I never knew of a case where the Turk has acted unfairly. On the contrary I have seen something approaching a reverence for our divine service. In burying the dead, I have been frequently under fire, but I have noticed that while we were engaged in a funeral service the Turks refrained from shooting in that direction.” Peter MacMahon
Private Thomas Frazer

Thomas Frazer: Lived in Tulla, died of wounds from the Battle of Courtrai Oct 15th 1918, Royal Irish Regiment 7th Bn 10611 30th Div, G/M in Belgium. Husband of Mrs Kate Frazer Main St, Tulla. (TB)

The 30th Division fought in the Battle of Courtrai in Flanders from 14-19 October 1918. The offensive began at 5:35 a.m. on 14th October, with an attack by the GAF (Groupe d’Armées des Flandres) from the Lys river at Comines northwards to Dixmude. The British creeping barrage advanced at a rate of 100 yards (91 m) per minute, much faster and much further than the practice in 1917, in expectation that there would be little resistance from German infantry. By the evening the British forces had reached high ground which dominated Werviq, Menin and Wevelghem in the south; further north the British captured Moorslede and closed up to Gulleghem and Steenbeek.
Private John Glynn

John Glynn: Born in Ballyorughia (Ballyoughtra Tulla?) Co Clare, killed in action Sept 13th 1916 age 32 on the Somme, Grenadier Guards 2nd Bn 14423 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB) (Just before the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie,
France. Pier and Face 8 D.

The Battle of the Somme: On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. Repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained.
Private Michael Halloran

Michael Halloran: Born in Tulla, lived in Ennis, died on 17th Aug 1917 in Mesopotamia, Connaught Rangers 1st Bn, 4/5938, G/M in Iraq. (TB)

Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery

The North Gate Cemetery was begun in April 1917 and has been greatly enlarged since the end of the First World War by graves brought in from other burial grounds in Baghdad and northern Iraq. At present, 4,160 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War are commemorated by name in the cemetery.

Connaught Rangers in Mesopotamia: Baghdad fell on March 11, 1917. The Turkish army fled north. Following the retreat of the Turkish army the Connaught Rangers were garrisoned in Feluja and Baghdad. Throughout early 1917 they and other regiments were used to subdue hostile native tribes in the region. Later in the campaign the Rangers manned the front line at Samara facing Turkish armies at Tekrit. The Mesopotamia campaign became increasingly frustrating as the Turkish army was constantly retreating, receding like a mirage leaving another stretch of sand and dust to be garrisoned and more hostile Arab tribes to subdue.

On April 2, 1918 the 1st battalion Connaught Rangers embarked at Nahr Umar and left Mesopotamia for Egypt having served 2 years and 3 months. During that time the battalion had 286 fatalities about one third victim of disease and heat stroke. About 2,000 Connaught Rangers served in Mesopotamia
Sergeant James Halpin

James Halpin: Born in Tulla (3/12/1891), died of wounds 4th Oct 1918 age 24, US Army, 326th, Infantry, 82nd Division. He was wounded by a sniper in the Argonne Forest, dying of his wounds a few days later (The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26-Nov 11, 1918). His body was returned from France for burial to Tulla in 1922 at the height of the Irish Civil War. He was once an official driver for William Taft, 27th President of the US, before he enlisted to serve and later died fighting with the US Army in World War One. Son of John and Margaret Halpin, Affick, Tulla.

James was the youngest of the family born in Derrynacleha. Pat (my grandfather) Bill (crusheen) and Tom (the pope) were his older brothers. He emigrated to the US in 1913. His older sister Margaret sponsored him over. On official documents he signed in 1916 and 1917 he is listed as a chauffeur to President William Howard Taft. How he got the job we don’t know. In 1917 he was drafted in to the US army. In May 1918 he shipped to France. He was killed in the Meuse Argonne offensive in the last days of the war. He died on Oct 24 1918 aged 24. In the twist to the story Tom (the pope) got James job as a chauffeur to W H Taft. He worked with him for 8 years. Tom obviously saved enough money to buy Kiltannon during that time. When Taft died in 1930 he left $750 in his will to Tom, quite a sum at that time. James is buried in Tulla graveyard, his remains were repatriated there after the War.

I gave gathered a fair amount of information on James but I still gave a lot of missing pieces. Taft had a lot of affection for James and was very upset that he died in the War.

Taft is the only President in US history to hold the office of President and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.’ (Sean Halpin)

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26-Nov 11, 1918): the American Forces with the support of the French Fourth Army launches its largest operation (One million combatants) that led to the retreat of the German Army and their asking for an armistice ending American operations and the war. US Casualties: 110,508. (10 Claremen died)
James and daughter Clare Hynes

James (dob 1853) and daughter Clare Hynes (dob 1893): Tulla, died 10th Oct 1918 on the SS RMS Leinster, civilians. (TB) Both bodies were lost at sea.

James Hynes was a Tailor, and had been born in Tulla, Co. Clare. He owned a tailoring business in Manchester, and was returning to Manchester following a holiday in Tulla. He emigrated to Boston in the 1880’s, where he married and had at least one Daughter, Ellen [subsequently Sr. Bruno], a nun in the Sisters of Charity which she joined in 1916.

Clare Hynes was 25 years old, and she and her sister Teresa, aged 21, were living with their Aunt Mary Hynes, aged 50, who owned a Drapery business in Tulla. Clare and her sister had been born in England. She was travelling with her father to Manchester.

James and Clare were civilian passengers on board R.M.S. Leinster which was sunk by torpedoes in the Irish Sea, 16 miles east of Dublin, shortly before 10am on the morning of 10th October 1918, on its outbound journey of 100km [68 miles] from Kingstown [now Dun Laoghaire], Dublin, to Holyhead, Anglesey, North Wales.

Dun Laoghaire, R.M.S. Leinster Memorial: The anchor of the Leinster was recovered and is now part of a Memorial in Dun Laoghaire to all those that died.

‘IN MEMORY OF THE 501 PASSENGERS, CREW AND POSTAL WORKERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF THE RMS LEINSTER ON 10 OCTOBER 1918.’
**Lieutenant Colonel Robert Romney Kane DSO**

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

Sunken Road Cemetery, Boisleux-St. Marc
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: III. E. 20.

Lieut.-Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane, D.S.O., Royal Munster Fusiliers, who has died of wounds in France, was born in 1888 (11th October), the younger son of the late Judge Robert Romney Kane, of Glandree, Tulla, Co. Clare, and Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, and the grandson of the late Sir Robert Kane, F.R.S.

He was educated at the Oratory School, passing thence into Sandhurst. He entered the Army in 1908, joining the 1st Battalion R. Munster Fusiliers in India.

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

Patrick Keating: Tulla, died of wounds 27th Sept 1917 age 32, in the Third Battle of Ypres (Polygon Wood), Australian Imperial Force 51st Bn, G/M in Belgium. Son of Patrick and Mary Keating, Ballyblood Tulla. He died of gun shot wounds to the hip and shoulder. (TB) MA He was a Labourer aged 26 when he enlisted in 1916 in Rockhampton Queensland into the 17th Bn. 5413 (and later 51st Bn.). (UNSW)

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Poperinge
Arrondissement Ieper West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.
The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 883 war graves of other nationalities, mostly French and German. It is the second largest Commonwealth cemetery in Belgium.

The Battle of Polygon Wood took place during the second phase of the Third Battle of Ypres, and was fought near Ypres in Belgium 26 September – 3 October 1917, in the area from the Menin Road to Polygon Wood and thence north, to the area beyond St. Julien. During the night of 25–26 September the men of the assaulting battalions reached taped lines laid across the south-western third of the blasted tree stumps of Polygon Wood. At this point it was vital not to alert the watching Germans by unusual noise or the lighting of cigarettes which would bring down an enemy artillery barrage.

At 5.50 am on 26 September the guns opened up in front of the Australian infantry who immediately moved forward behind its protecting wall of shells.
Private John Kenneally

John Kenneally: Born in Tulla, died of wounds 26th Sept 1916 on the Somme, (Probably after the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September 1916), Irish Guards 1st Bn 9495, G/M in France. (TB)

Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte Meaulte Departement de la Somme Picardie, France Plot: I. E. 12.

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

The 1st and 2nd Irish Guards had very heavy losses in this Battle.

Photos – Keir McNamara

In September 1916, the 34th and 2/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at this point, known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields.

Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 First World War burials.
Lance Corporal Martin Leyden/Lyden

**Martin Leyden/Lyden:** Born in Killuran (Tulla) lived in O’Callaghan’s Mills. Died in Queen Mary’s Hospital Lancashire 19th Dec 1916 age 42 (Probably from wounds in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 Sept at the Somme), Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 5054, 7th Div, G/M in England. (TB) L Corp **Matt Leyden:** Royal Irish Regiment. POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Son of Denis and Bridget Leyden, Iragh, O’Callaghan’s Mills. He had also served in the North-West frontier of India in 1895.

**The Battle of Guillemont** (3–6 September 1916) was an attack on the village which was captured by the Fourth Army on the first day. Guillemont was on the right flank of the British sector, near the boundary with the French Sixth Army. German defences ringed the British salient at Delville Wood to the north and had observation over the French Sixth Army area to the south towards the Somme river. The German defence in the area was based on the second line and numerous fortified villages and farms north from Maurepas at Combles, Guillemont, Falfemont Farm, Delville Wood and High Wood, which were mutually supporting.

The battle for Guillemont was considered by some observers to be the supreme effort of the German army during the battle. Numerous meetings were held by Joffre, Haig, Foch, Rawlinson and Fayolle to co-ordinate joint attacks by the four armies, all of which broke down. A pause in Anglo-French attacks at the end of August, coincided with the largest counter-attack by the German army in the Battle of the Somme.

During the First World War, the 2,000 bed Queen Mary’s Military Hospital was housed in the County Asylum at Whalley. The Military Cemetery associated with the hospital was handed over to the War Department in February 1916. The cemetery has a Cross of Sacrifice and there is also a memorial to all the servicemen, nearly 300 of them, who died in the Hospital.
Rev Michael McCormack

He had emigrated to the US in 1911 and was based in San Diego. (SR)
Captain Bertram Weldon Molony

Captain Bertram Weldon Molony: Born in 1888 in Kiltannon Tulla Co Clare, killed in action 28th Feb 1915 age 26, East Lancashire Regiment 1st Bn, G/M Belgium. Bertram joined the army in 1911 and was made a Captain in Nov 1914. He came from the well know Molony family from Kiltannon, Tulla who had substantial lands in Tulla, Feakle and beyond. Son of Weldon Charles and Eleanor A Molony.

Lancashire Cottage Cemetery
Comines-Warneton
Arrondissement de Mouscron

Following service on the Aisne in September 1914, the 4th Division moved to Flanders in the sector on the French/Belgian border north-east of Armentières (very close to where Capt Molony is buried). Here it stayed until the Spring of 1915, some units of the division taking part in the Christmas Truce, when it moved up to the battlefield north-east of Ypres to fight at St Julian, and the Frezenberg Ridge during Second Ypres. This fighting all but wiped out the division, and many of those who had survived the battles of 1914 were killed or wounded here.
Private George Pepper

George Pepper: Born in Tulla, killed in action 16th May 1915, in The Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915). Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4364, 5th Brigade in the 2nd Division. G/M in France. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial. Richebourg-l’Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 16 and 17. Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war including Festubert (15 – 25 May 1915).

The Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915) was an attack by the British army in the Artois region of France. The bombardment failed to significantly damage the front line defences of the German 6th Army but the initial advance made some progress in good weather conditions. The attack was renewed on 16 May and by 19 May the 2nd Division and 7th Division had to be withdrawn due to heavy losses.

‘At 11:30pm on the night of the 15th May, the 2nd Battalion attacked to the right of the 2nd Worcestershire Regiment, supported by the 2nd Oxford & Bucks and the 9th Highland Light Infantry. “A” and “D” Companies attacked to the left and right, respectively, of a cinder track bordered by two deep ditches on either side. Both gained significant ground. “D” Company penetrated the 1st and 2nd Lines of the German trenches, but “A” Company were cut off after having taken the 1st Line Trench due to lack of support from the failed attack to their left flank and severe losses. “B” Company, who were in support of “A” Company, also suffered grievous losses and were unable to provide the much needed assistance in order to ensure success. “D” Company would hold the Second German Line until the night of the 16th when they were ordered to retreat to the Reserve Breastworks. In total 252 Officers and Men of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers are recognised as having lost their lives on the 15th and 16th May 1915.’ The Iniskillings Museum.
Charles Joseph Perry DCM: (1882-1955) Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He served as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery – reg no. L31269. He was awarded 5 medals including a Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM and he survived the War. He died in England in 1955. (Eric Shaw) He is the brother of Frederick and Emily Perry.
Emily Rose Perry was a nurse. She was in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), a voluntary unit that provided field nursing units. Emily Rose Perry married Dr George Sheehan, and is buried in Easker Cemetery, Lucan. She is the sister of Frederick and Charles Joseph Perry. (Eric Shaw)
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.
George Perry: Born in Tulla lived in Ennis, died of wounds 19th Aug 1915 received at Suvla Bay Gallipoli. Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th Bn 4308. G/M in Greece. (TB) He served in the Boer War and was awarded the Queen’s South Africa Medal with four clasps. (Eric Shaw) He embarked with 2nd Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers for France on 13th August 1914 where he saw action on the Western Front. He subsequently transferred to the 6th Battalion and was engaged in the Gallipoli Campaign.

East Mudros Military Cemetery
Mudros. On the island of Limnos (Lemnos)
Regional unit of Lesbos

It contains 885 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

‘An attack along the crest of the Kiretch Tepe Sirt ridge was commenced on the 15th August 1915….. Little ground was gained in the first two hours…. After a rest they charged the Turkish position….driving the enemy before them….The Turkish counter attack at 10pm was beaten off… The troops were heavily bombed all the next day, and as advance was impossible they were compelled to lie where they were, with no means of replying, as the grenades used by the Turks were infinitely superior to the British ones….Darkness fell, and gradually the units withdrew to their original line… On the 20th August The 6th Battalion marched to Lala Baba…where it bivouacked..’
Private Edward Roughan

Edward Roughan: Born and lived in Tulla, killed in action 11th Oct 1916, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 10th Bn 26292 (63rd Royal Naval Division), G/M in France. (TB)

Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps
Colincamps Departement de la Somme Picardie, France Plot: II. R. 4. The cemetery now contains 1,293 WW1 Commonwealth burials.

‘On 11th October they march out of billets to relieve the 4th Beds on the front at “White City”. The White City is an area near Beaumont Hamel, including the Sunken Road and the Redan Crater.’ (War Diary Transcripts 10th RDF)

‘We also spoke of Edward Roughan, my granduncle….I remember an old family story that when he could not get a job as a teacher here in Tulla (he had completed his training in the Church of Ireland training college and was thus persona non grata) he emigrated and was conscripted in England.’ Michael Torpey

Photos – Keir McNamara
Bombardier Joseph Shank

Joseph Shank: Born in Ennis, killed in action 8th May 1915 age 27, in the Battle of Frezenburg (8-13th May 1915). Royal Field Artillery 62nd Battery 49252, 28th Division. G/M in Belgium. He is also remembered on a gravestone in Tulla Cemetery.

During the Battle of Frezenburg the Germans moved field artillery forward, placing three army corps opposite the 27th and 28th Divisions on the Frezenberg Ridge. The German attack began on 8 May with a bombardment of the 83rd Brigade in trenches on the forward slope of the ridge, but the first and second infantry assaults were repelled by the survivors. However, the third German assault of the morning pushed the defenders back.

New Irish Farm Cemetery Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: XXX. G. 5.

Tulla Cemetery

Their only son Joseph P S Shank
Killed in action at the 2nd Battle of Ypres
8 May 1915 Aged 27
and interred in Jean Cemetery Flanders.
Lt. Henry Spaight: Affick House, Tulla. Royal Army Medical Corps. He wrote a letter from the front in Dec 1914. (CJ)

I got to my A.S.C Headquarters the (CJ) asked me to see a woman in a hut at the back of their quarters; so when I had finished my sick parade I went and found a family of refugees—father, mother and five children, in a small untidy hut, really a tool house, belonging to a farm. I attended to her as well as I could, the same as for one at home. The whole thing touched me. One of the children, a dear little boy of six, reminded me so much of Patrick. I found out these people had to leave their farm because it came right between the German and the English lines and both sides shelled it, each thinking the others were there. They had to run suddenly in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes they had on them. I could understand from the description of the father the terror of it all, wakened in the night—very dark and stormy—the poor father and mother stumbling over hedges and ditches, through the rain and wind, and dragging the five frightened children along, not knowing where they were going. They arrived after wandering two days without food, at this hut, and the farmer allowed them to stay on condition, that the man did some work. The poor souls have no food regularly, and it has been only the goodness of our soldiers that has kept them alive. I found out the men billeted at the farm gave them so much of their rations every day. I wonder what any of our farmers at home would say to an expression like this? They can't appreciate the war in the least until they've seen all the deserted and ruined farms out there, with the owners, quite prosperous farmers, with neither home or food, and no prospect of returning to what they had, and rebuild their homes again!

The Germans are at it again today, and are peppering shells all round; the sound of these shells is a most distinctive one; you hear a 'plump,' not a bang, away in the distance, and then a strange, whistling, hissing sound coming nearer and nearer, then a pause, and immediately after a loud explosion.

Dec. 2—I look in at my refugee patients every day. I brought a sack of bread, meat and jam for them. Our Quarter Master, who is an awfully good chap, let me have it for them this morning. They were so grateful, and one of the children came out and tried to kiss my hand. It quite upset me to see the poor things, so I feel much better now that they have food for a day or two.

We saw a fine sight yesterday. About nine o'clock the Colonel had orders that all that could be spared were to parade at 10 o'clock and line the road; the rumour was that the King was coming, but no one knew for certain. However, we turned out with detachments from all the regiments fighting up here; we waited about two hours, and by that time we knew it must be the King who was coming, from the number of aeroplanes, English and French, hovering over our heads. About 3 o'clock a procession of cars came
Lieutenant James Mathew White

Lived in Tulla, died of pneumonia 16th March 1916 age 32, a vet in the Army Veterinary Corps, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Anne White, Tulla, Co Clare. 

Lieutenant J.M. White, A.V.C., was the third son of Mrs. White, Tulla, Co. Clare, and nephew of James White, M.D., J.P., Kilkenny.

He qualified at the Royal Veterinary College, Dublin, in 1910, and subsequently entered the service of the British South African Co., Rhodesia. On the outbreak of the war he returned at his own expense to join the colours. **He contracted pneumonia** while on active service in France and died on March 16th, 1916. Lieutenant White was a young man of splendid physique and a noted football and golf player. Date of Publication: Friday, June 9, 1916. [Our Heroes website](http://www.ourheroeswebsite.com/). 

32 West Side 
Henu Churchyard 
Henu 
Departement du Pas-de-Calais 
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
The Germans are coming to Tulla?

PLANS by the management of the Clare Lunatic Asylum to convert the old Tulla Workhouse into an Auxiliary Asylum that have been three years in the planning may have to be shelved because of the needs of the Great War.

The military authorities have intervened and identified the workhouse site and buildings for the purposes of aiding the war effort, with plans under consideration for the facility to be used as a military hospital or a prison for German POWs.

The Clare Journal is reporting that those behind the Auxiliary Asylum proposal “will be uneasy at the latest developments with regard to this building”, after confirmation that the secretary of Clare County Council, Fred Studdert has received a wire from the military authorities intimating that they “would require the building for their purposes”.

“It is believed that the building will be required as a military hospital, or as a place of detention for German prisoners of war. Another story is that it may be required as a training ground for troops,” the Journal adds.

In 1907, the overcrowded condition of the District Lunatic Asylum at Ennis led the Clare County Council to propose the amalgamation of the Tulla and Scariff unions, with the Tulla Union Workhouse then being converted into an auxiliary asylum.

The workhouse is located on a four-acre site a mile to the east of Tulla and was designed by the Poor Law Commissioners’ architect George Wilkinson to accommodate 500 inmates.

For the duration of the war those inmates could now be German.
Frederick and Edmund Brady Browne in WW2

Frederick A. Brady-Brady Browne: Son of Captain Thomas Brady-Browne (who served in France throughout WW1) and Mabel Mayne, of Newgrove, Tulla. He was born in Newgrove in 1921, and died at his home in Longford on 5 December 2010. He was buried in St. John’s Church, Longford. ‘Frederick Brady-Browne of Newgrove, Tulla, served in the RAF as a flight engineer, keeping Hurricane fighters flying in the Middle East and North African campaigns.’ His brother was Edmund Brady-Browne, and he was a cousin of Eric Shaw.

Edmund (Eddie) N Brady-Browne: Son of Captain Thomas Brady-Browne (who served in France throughout WW1) and Mabel Mayne, of Newgrove, Tulla. He was born in Newgrove in 1924, and died at his home in Wombourne, Wolverhampton, England on 29 Sept. 2016. He served in the RAF during WW2. His brother was Frederick Brady-Browne, and he was a cousin of Eric Shaw.

"And so, like tens of thousands of his compatriots, aged 18, Pop ventured north to Belfast to take the Queen’s shilling and join the fight against Hitler......He followed elder brother Fred into the RAF and, after training, spent his first year preparing the bombers for their nightly raids. But he was 19 and, like any 19 year old will tell you, invincible. The real adventure was in the air. So he volunteered for aircrew training; opting to be a gunner because he didn’t want to feel helpless when Gerry was bearing down in his Messerschmitt......

Given the dangers, today we might marvel that there was no shortage of aircrew volunteers and, as a Tail-End Charlie, Pop was sat in the seat with the lowest survival rate of all, with an average life expectancy of just four missions. Psychologically it is impossible for any of us to really understand what that feels like; to know that you would, on any given night, participate in an activity in which you had a 25% chance of not coming home. And in order to return, you might have to take the life of a young German boy who’s circumstances were no so different to your own......Pop knew that feeling, a point worth dwelling on for those of us who knew him only as an old man.
Though he couldn’t have known it at the time, Pop was fortunate that, flying on operations in 1944, the most dangerous times had passed. But he did know tragedy first hand. Crews trained in pairs and his sister crew were all killed in a low-flying accident - I only heard him talk of this once and when he did, he couldn’t help but become overwhelmed by emotion. These were young boys he knew like brothers. For the rest of his life thereafter he considered every day a blessing.

So mostly he talked of the camaraderie - his crew pooling their money to buy a little car to escape the monotony of the base during downtime; competing for the attention of the young WAAF’s in the Nissen Hut-cum-Dance Hall... “The extract above from his eulogy is just to give you an idea of Eddie. (Eric Shaw)

“On the occasion of his 90th Birthday, we took him to Lincolnshire for a taxi ride in one of the only still-operational Lancaster bombers; on a special day - serendipitously the exact 70th anniversary of his qualifying as aircrew - he joined a host of other bomber command veterans and was feted like a hero......Hero is of course a much too overused noun in modern parlance. But to me he is the only genuine, bone-fide hero I’ve ever known. And what made Pop a hero - and all of his comrades - was their very ordinariness. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, as they say - but never once did it cross his mind that he’d done anything special at all.

I’m going end on an anecdote from that day in Lincolnshire. After his safety briefing, the Squadron Leader in charge wanted to give him some advice on how to manoeuvre down into his old seat in the rear turret. But she couldn’t stop him before he had clambered up into the aircraft, slid down the cramped rear fuselage on his backside, feet first in the air - just like you’re meant to - and plopped down into place, turning around with thumbs up and a big grin......She looked at me and said “Crikey, he’s a bit spritely for a 90 year old!” Now, given he’d not done this for nigh-on 70 years I was equally amazed, particularly as I was to learn there’s a real knack to getting in, which he’d not forgotten...” (Eric Shaw)

Civilians Bridge & Mary Linnane: Sisters from Coopers Park (Tulla?) Co Clare. Both were killed on the night of the 10th January 1941, when one of the biggest air raids on Portsmouth brought devastation to the city. One of the buildings destroyed was the Bishop’s House attached to the Roman Catholic, St John’s Cathedral in Edinburgh Road. The bomb killed six of the residents sheltering in the cellar including two sisters Mary and Bridget Linnane. Bridget was aged 23 and Mary was 30.

10th January 1941 the “Night of Terror” : At around 7pm the German Luftwaffe attacked Portsmouth for the first time that night in a raid lasting two hours, only to return again a couple of hours later. Nearly 300 raiders dropped a total of 25,000 incendiaries and hundreds of high explosive bombs which damaged the city to an extent no one could have imagined. 170 people lost their lives.

‘It was early in the raid that the Bishop’s House was struck by three high explosive bombs, and the whole building collapsed in a heap of ruins. The inner wall of the cellar crumbled under the shock and terrific weight, and buried the occupants on that side. The three priests and six others were saved by girders which held on one side and kept the debris off them. The work of rescue went on for seven hours before eight persons were brought to safety. Ignoring all thought of personal danger, frantic efforts were made to reach the other six persons who were known to be buried beneath the wall which had fallen upon them, and it was not until three o’clock in the morning that hope at getting them out alive was abandoned. It was later found that the party of rescuers had been trampling over a delayed action bomb buried in the ruins. The six who were killed were Maud Bushell, Mary and Bridget Linnane, Kitty Tribbeck, Mary Wakeford and William Woodward. They were probably buried in the mass grave for civilians at Kingston Cemetery, but it seems likely that they were all amongst the "Unidentified" bodies listed on the original memorial stone.’ Tim Backhouse March 2014 (http://historyinportsmouth.co.uk/events/bishops-house-bomb.htm)

Kingston Cemetery – Portsmouth. The memorial commemorates those civilians who lost their lives in bombing raids during WW2.