**Pioneer Michael Nash**

Michael Nash: Lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 11th June 1916 age 63, Corps of Royal Engineers 12th Labour Battalion 163287, G/M in Dublin. **Died at home.** (TB) He died after 2 years in France.

The cemetery was opened in 1876 and was used for the burial of British service personnel and their near relatives. It contains war graves from both world wars.

There are 613 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 2 of which are unidentified in Grangegorman Military Cemetery.

During June 1915 both Royal Engineer and infantry labour battalions had been formed in England and sent overseas for work in army areas, mainly on road maintenance work. These units were formed from men of the navvy class and from men who were over military age or from men who, because of wounds, injury or illness, were no longer fit for front line combat service.
Private John Naughton

John Thomas Naughton: lived in Cross, died 22nd October 1918 age 30, 165th Infantry US Army (42nd Div). He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of John and Mary Naughton, Tullig, Cross. (KCT) He enlisted in New York. (September 26-November 11, 1918-The Meuse-Argonne Offensive.)

Within the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, which covers 130.5 acres, rest the largest number of our military dead in Europe, a total of 14,246. Most of those buried here lost their lives during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I, which was one of America’s most significant battles in terms of both men and equipment engaged, and in the number of dead and wounded. During this 47 day offensive, more than 1.2 million personnel were involved, and more than 26,000 men lost their lives.
**Private Thomas Naylon/Neylon**

**Thomas Naylon**: Born in Kilshanny lived in Brisbane Australia, killed in action 29th July 1916 at Pozieres age 42, during the Battle of Pozières Ridge (23 July – 7 Aug). Australian Infantry 25th Bn 192, (2nd Aus Div). G/M in France. Reported missing, later changed to killed in action. Son of Lawrence and Eliza Naylon. He emigrated to Australia when he was aged 17. (TB) He was a Driver aged 41 when he enlisted in 1915 in Brisbane into the 25th Bn. 7th Infantry. (UNSW)

**Villers-Bretonneux Memorial**

**Villers-Bretonneux**

**Departement de la Somme**

**Picardie, France** There are now 10,738 Australian servicemen commemorated by this memorial.

**The Battle of Pozières Ridge (23 July – 7 Aug)** began with the capture of the village by the 1st Australian Division (Australian Imperial Force) of the Reserve Army, the only British success in the Allied fiasco of 22/23 July, when a general attack combined with the French further south, degenerated into a series of separate attacks due to communication failures, supply failures and poor weather. German bombardments and counter-attacks began on 23 July and continued until 7 August. The fighting ended with the Reserve Army taking the plateau north and east of the village, overlooking the fortified village of Thiepval from the rear.
Private John Nelson


Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval.
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France. Pier and Face 5 A and 5 B.

The Memorial bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave.

The Battle of Albert (1–13 July 1916), comprised the first two weeks of Anglo-French offensive operations in the Battle of the Somme. The Allied preparatory artillery bombardment commenced on 24 June and the Anglo-French infantry attacked on 1 July, on the south bank from Foucaucourt to the Somme and from the Somme north to Gommecourt, 2 miles (3.2 km) beyond Serre. The French Sixth army and the right wing of the British Fourth Army inflicted a considerable defeat on the German 2nd Army but from the Albert-Bapaume road to Gommecourt the British attack was a disaster, where most of the c. 60,000 British casualties of the day were incurred. Against General Joffre's wishes, General Sir Douglas Haig abandoned the offensive north of the road, to reinforce the success in the south, where the Anglo-French forces pressed forward through several intermediate lines, until close to the German second position.
Lance Corporal Patrick Nevin

Patrick Nevin: Born and lived in Kilkee, killed in action 28th April 1916, age 24, in the Hulluch Sector, Royal Munster Fusiliers 9th Bn 5578, G/M in France. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Patrick and Margaret Nevin, 40 O’Connell St. Kilkee.

‘The Battalion disembarked at Havre on December 20th 1915, forming part of the 48th Brigade 16th Division. On the 26th March 1916 the Battalion proceeded to the Hulluch Sector and took over the left sub-sector. In April 1916 the Battalion took its turn in the trenches with the usual reliefs.’

Dud Corner Cemetery
Loos-en-Gohelle
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Kilkee Fatality at the Front.

Events at the front in France have been painfully brought home for the past few weeks to several families in Kilkee. Pte. P. Nevin, of the Munsters, was killed in the trenches. Sergeant P. Casey, of the same gallant corps, had both his legs blown off, and died at the base hospital at Boulogne last week, and two other young Kilkee men, also of the Munsters, Ptes. P. Russell and J. Costello, have been officially reported badly wounded.

June 1916
Private Michael Neylon

Michael Neylon: Born in Ennis, enlisted in Manchester, died of wounds 2nd Nov 1914, during the First Battle of Ypres (19 Oct – 22 Nov 1914). Royal Army Medical Corps 2nd Field Ambulance 3675, 1st Div, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Patrick and Anne Neylon, Skagh, Inagh. (TB) NCS

Panel 56
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),

The First Battle of Ypres (19 Oct – 22 Nov 1914) was part of the First Battle of Flanders, in which German, French and Belgian armies and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) fought from Arras in France to Nieuport on the Belgian coast, from 10 October to mid-November. The battles at Ypres began at the end of the Race to the Sea, reciprocal attempts by the German and Franco-British armies to advance past the northern flank of their opponents. North of Ypres, the fighting continued in the Battle of the Yser (16–31 October), fought between the German 4th Army and the Belgian army and French marines. In The Battle of Langemarck (21–24 Oct) Kortekeer Cabaret was recaptured by the 1st Division. On 31 October 1914, at the climax of the battle, the 1st Divisional headquarters at Hooge was hit by enemy shellfire.

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

Simon Neylon: Born in Ennistymon lived in Lahinch, died 22nd July 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 5th Bn 6832, G/M in Ennistymon Cemetery. He fell from a train travelling from Limerick to the Curragh. His parents sued the GSW Railway for £500. (TB)

‘After the train had passed Lisnagary station where it did not stop, Pte Neylon felt very sick and leaned out of the carriage window to prevent vomiting in the carriage. The door opened, and as Pte Neylon was falling out one of escort caught him but had to let go or they would have gone with him. He fell on the track and sustained injuries from which he later died.’ Clare Journal March 1917.
Corporal Patrick Joseph Niall

Patrick Joseph Niall: Born in Killaloe lived in Birkenhead, killed in action 21\textsuperscript{st} March 1918 age 29, during Operation Michael (21 March – 5 April 1918). King’s Own Unit (Royal Lancaster Regiment) 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 24635, G/M in France. Husband of Rosa Niall Birkenhead. (TB)

Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery
Arras
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: VII. B. 9.

The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Operation Michael was a major German military offensive that began the Spring Offensive on 21 March 1918. It was launched from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin, France. Its goal was to break through the Allied (Entente) lines and advance in a north-westerly direction to seize the Channel ports, which supplied the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and to drive the BEF into the sea.

When the German Offensive came in March 1918 the 4th Division was out on rest near Arras, and towards the end of the month was engaged in the fighting in defence of Arras.
Edwin Arthur Nightengale: Born in Plymouth lived in Ennis, killed in action 10th April 1918, in The Battle of Berukin, Palestine (9 – 11 April 1918). Hampshire Regiment 2nd/5th Bn 240214, 75th Division. G/M in Jerusalem. (TB) He is also commemorated on a Memorial in St Columba’s Church in Ennis.

Jerusalem Memorial. Israel. Panel 28

The MEMORIAL, commemorates 3,300 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War in operations in Egypt or Palestine and who have no known grave.

The Battle of Berukin (9 – 11 April 1918): ‘At 1100 the 1/5th Devons advanced from Deir Ghussan to attack Berukin (Palestine), they immediately came under very heavy shell fire which together with the nature of the country made progress very slow. At 1600 two companies assaulted the village with one company in support and the remaining company was placed on Hill in A.15.b. to give covering fire, In spite of very heavy machine gun fire the assault was successful and the village consolidated. The enemy kept up heavy machine gun fire on our line throughout the night and on the 232nd Infantry Brigade front their patrols were very active’ 75th Div War Diary.
Private John Michael Nolan

**John Michael Nolan**: He lived in Queensland Australia, where he was a plumber. He died 3rd June 1918 age 42, Australian Infantry 9th Bn 2194. G/M in France. He was wounded by gas and died the same day, during the German Spring Offensive 21st March – 18th July 1918. Son of John and Margaret Nolan, Knockerra, Killimer. In 1916 he received a shell wound to the head. (TB)

**Ebblinghem Military Cemetery**

*Ebblinghem. Departement du Nord*  
*Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France*  
*Plot: I. P. 19.*

The cemetery was begun by the 2nd and 15th Casualty Clearing Stations, which were located in Ebblinghem in April 1918 at the beginning of the German offensive. They used the cemetery until July. Further graves were added after the war from two nearby churchyards. Ebblinghem Military Cemetery contains 441 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Photos – Keir McNamara

**The German Spring Offensive**: This term relates to the three major German attacks on the Western Front in late March, April and May 1918, known collectively as the "Kaiserschlacht" (Kaiser's Battle) offensive. The final German advances were repulsed at the Marne in mid-June 1918, and the scene was set for the Allied counter-offensives of the summer.
Private Francis Noonan

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

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 43 and 44.
13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial.

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

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


Cambrin Churchyard Extension
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: E. 38.

Extension contains 1,211 Commonwealth burials of WW1.

Second Battle of Artois (3 May – 18 June 1915): The initial French attack broke through and captured Vimy Ridge but reserve units were not able to reinforce the troops on the ridge, before German counter-attacks forced them back about half-way to their jumping-off points. The British attack at Aubers Ridge was a costly failure and two German divisions in reserve were diverted south against the Tenth Army. The British offensive was suspended until 15 May, when the Battle of Festubert began and French attacks from 15 May – 15 June was concentrated on the flanks, to create jumping-off points for a second general offensive, which began on 16 June. The British attacks at Festubert forced the Germans back 3 kilometres (1.9 mi) and diverted reserves from the French but the French gained little more ground. On 18 June, the main offensive was stopped. There were 102,500 casualties. The 2nd division fought in the Battle of Festubert in May 1915 - a costly action in which they lost 5,445 casualties.

**Plot H Row 4 Grave 15**
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon
Departement de la Meuse
Lorraine, France

**Sergeant Cornelius J O’Brien. Company E, 2nd Engineers, 4th Div.**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Sergeant Cornelius J. O’Brien (ASN: 568759), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company E, 2d Engineers, 4th Division, A.E.F., near Ville-Savoye, France, 11 August 1918. While engaged on the construction of a bridge over the Valle River, Sergeant O’Brien voluntarily left shelter during intense fire and carried one of his wounded officers through a heavy machine-gun and artillery barrage to a dressing station.

**Action Date: 11-Aug-18.**

The **DSC** is second highest award for military valor in the U.S., behind only the Medal of Honor. The **Distinguished Service Cross** was established in 1918 to honor heroism of the highest degree that did not quite merit the Medal of Honor.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Lieutenant Daniel Joseph O’Brien

2\textsuperscript{nd} Lt Daniel Joseph O’Brien: Clare Abbey House Clarecastle, died 10\textsuperscript{th} Nov 1917 age 33 at Passchendaele, during the attack on Tournant Farm. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Belgium. He was a member of Clare County Council and a leader of the Clarecastle National Volunteers. He was accidentally wounded in training in Oct 1915. Son of Mrs Margaret O’Brien. (TB)

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

Inspired by the example of Willie Redmond MP, he joined in 1917 as a private in the Royal Irish Regiment, from which he later exchanged for the Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was commissioned as an officer early in the year.

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

Nov 1917 Sat Record

GALLANT CLARE OFFICER KILLED IN ACTION.

We deeply regret to hear that Mrs O’Brien, Clare Abbey, Clarecastle, has received intelligence of the death of her gallant son, Lt. Dan O’Brien, in action in Flanders, on Saturday. The sad news gave quite a shock to this district, where the young gentleman was widely known and highly popular. Early in the war he followed the example of Major Willie Redmond, of whom he was a devoted follower, and joined the colours as a private in the Royal Irish Regiment, from which he later exchanged to the Munsters. He received his commission early this year. He was well known in public life, having been for some years Chairman of the Ennis R.D.C., and a member of the Clare County Council; and he was a very useful member of the local magistracy. He was the nephew of the late Dr. Moran, G.O., in his time one of the crack pigeon-shoot of the United Kingdom, and of Mr. Joe Moran, Preumoesne, Ennis. There will be very general and sincere sympathy at his early death, among his many old friends throughout Clare.

Lt. Colonel H. R. A. Ireland, Royal Munsters, writes—‘Dear Mrs O’Brien—It is my most painful duty to inform you of the death of your son, Daniel O’Brien. He was killed in action fighting at the head of his men at about 7am on 10th November. He was seen to have conducted himself with the greatest gallantry throughout the action, and when he was killed he was in our furthest objective. He was shot dead and suffered no pain. The Regiment and myself deeply feel the loss of a brave officer.’

‘I enclose a slip showing the disposition which has been made of his personal effects. If I can be of any use to you in giving you any information, or in any other way, I ask you to be good enough to command me with deepest sympathy, etc.’

Lieut. Col. O’Callaghan, 2nd M. F., writes—‘My Dear Mrs O’Brien—It is my very painful duty to have to inform you that your son was killed in action on the 10th of this month. He died a very gallant death, leading his men and commanding them.

Nov 1917 Sat Record
Flight Lieutenant The Hon Desmond O’Brien

The Hon Desmond O’Brien: Born in Dromoland Castle, killed in action 16th Feb 1915 age 19. Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service, G/M in England. He is also remembered on a Memorial in Kilnasoolagh Church in Newmarket on Fergus.

Desmond was taking part on a air raid on the Belgium coast when he died. The role of honor from his school, Charterhouse reads "Flight Lieutenant. Born 14th May 1895, 6th son of Edward Donough O’Brien, 14th Baron Inchiquin, of Dromoland Castle and Lady Inchiquin. He was at Charterhouse [S] 1909 - 1911. In the Great War he joined the R.N.A.S. He was killed in action on 16th February 1915 in what a contemporary claims to have been the first air attack launched on German naval bases. At Charterhouse O’Brien is said by Robert Graves and others to have been an heroically disruptive influence, a kind of one-man Stalky & Co. On his eventual expulsion he was cheered down Charterhouse Hill on his way to the railway station." Keir McNamara
George O’Brien: Born in Ennis lived in Limerick, died of wounds 25th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6642, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mr Martin O’Brien, The Upper Market Ennis. (TB) Also reported wounded in Nov 1914 in Lincoln Hospital.

Private George O’Brien

Helles Memorial Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: No Known Grave; names is listed on Panel 185 to 190

The Helles Memorial commemorates more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

On April 25, 1915, the SS River Clyde was beached for the landing at Cape Helles during the Battle of Gallipoli. The ship carried 2,100 soldiers. However, the plan failed and the River Clyde, lying under the guns of the Turkish defenders, became a death trap.

‘At 1am on April 25th the River Clyde (with 2,100 men on board) left her moorings and slowly moved to her objective... When the gangways were ready... the men instantly responded, and dashed for the shore under a tornado of shot and shell... very few of the men got ashore, those who did took cover behind a bank about eight feet high that ran along the beach ten yards from the water’s edge. In front of this bank was a line of barbed wire entanglements about 25 yards distant. The cross fire was so heavy... that any man who left the cover of the bank for an instant was killed...’
Private John O’Brien

John O’Brien: Born and lived in Doonbeg, died 15th June 1915 in Gallipoli, possibly of wounds after The Third Battle of Krithia (4th June 1915). Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9667, G/M in Turkey. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: XI. E. 16

Twenty Tree Copse Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites and small burial grounds on the battlefields of April-August and December 1915.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

The Third Battle of Krithia (4th June 1915), fought on the Gallipoli peninsula during World War I, was the final in a series of Allied attacks against the Ottoman defences aimed at capturing the original objectives of 25 April 1915. The previous failures in the first and second battles resulted in a less ambitious plan being developed for the attack, but the outcome was another costly failure for the Allies. The allied aim was, as always, to facilitate the capture of Alçı Tepe (Achi Baba) which commanded most of the peninsula.
Private Martin O’Brien

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

He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

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

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

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

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

Martin O’Brien: Born in Limerick lived in Kildysart, killed in action 28th June 1915 in Krithia Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6002, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Helles Memorial
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

‘On June 28th the Battalion left the Eske lines for Bruce’s Ravine at 9.45am, and assembled for the attack. The 87th Brigade captured the first three lines of trenches, and at 11.30am the Battalion and the rest of the 86th Brigade ....captured a further two lines of trenches—a total advance of 1000 yards....two further lines of enemy trenches ...were gained. The casualties for the 28th and 29th were 20 killed; wounded 8 officers and 112 other ranks; missing 19 other ranks.’

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Michael O’Brien: Born and enlisted in Ennis, died 4th Sept 1914 age 35, Royal Garrison Artillery 3641, G/M in Drumcliffe Ennis. (TB) He died at home after wounds he received in the Battle of Mons. (Clare People Dec 2015)

Both sides had success at the Battle of Mons: the British had been outnumbered by about 3:1 but managed to withstand the German First Army for 48 hours, inflict more casualties on the Germans and then retire in good order. The BEF achieved its main strategic objective, which was to prevent the French Fifth Army from being outflanked. The battle was an important moral victory for the British; as their first battle on the continent since the Crimean War, it was a matter of great uncertainty as to how they would perform. In the event, the British soldiers came away from the battle with a clear sense that they had got the upper hand during the fighting at Mons.
Private Michael Joseph O'Brien

Michael Joseph O’Brien: Born in Kilkee (Caherfeenick) lived in Liverpool, died of wounds 18th July 1917, The King’s Unit (Liverpool Regiment) 1st/8th Bn, 307325, 165th Brigade, 55th (West Lancashire) Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Frank and Mary O’Brien, Rhode Island USA.

Lijssenhoek Military Cemetery
Poperinge. Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),

The 55th Division relieved the 29th Division in the Ypres salient in October 1916. It was destined to remain in this area for almost a year. The first section of line that was occupied by the Division was Wieltje to Railway Wood. The first half of 1917 was spent in the salient, which had a comparatively quiet time, if being surrounded by enemy on three sides and under constant artillery fire could be described as quiet.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.
Lance Sergeant Patrick O’Brien

Patrick O’Brien: Born in Killaloe lived in Chelsea, killed in action 21st March 1918, near Ronssoy, during the German Army’s Spring Offensive. Connaught Rangers 6thBn, 18132. 16th (Irish) Division. G/M in France. (TB) Formerly in the Royal Sussex Regiment. (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)

Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery
Templeux-le-Guerard
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: II. D. 5.

The 16th Division held an exposed position from early 1918 at Ronssoy where they suffered heavy losses during the German Army's Spring Offensive in March.

On 21 March 1918, the Connaught Rangers 6th (Service) Battalion was "practically annihilated". In one week the battalion lost "22 officers and 618 other ranks". As a result of these heavy losses, the survivors were transferred into the 2nd Battalion, the Leinster Regiment.

Patrick O’Brien was my grand uncle, the son of Thomas O’Brien and Catherine O’Brien (her maiden name also). He was baptised in Killaloe RC parish on the 14th February, 1872. He joined the army, apparently in Chelsea, and was in the Connaught Rangers at the time of his death near ‘Ronsoy’ (this might not be the correct spelling). (Margaret McBride)
Patrick J O’Brien: Poulcarron, Co Clare. Queens Westminster Rifles Officer Training Corps (56th Div). He was awarded the Silver War Badge for services rendered in the strenuous fighting at Leuze Wood in Sept 1916, where he suffered shell shock, in the Battle of Morval at the Somme. He had a brother in the Irish Guards 2nd Bn., who was also wounded at Leuze Wood, in the same battle. (CJ) He died on the 7th Oct 1917 and was buried in Carron. (SR)

Rifleman Patrick Joseph O’Brien:
Poulcarron Kilnaboy. He was an Accountant when he enlisted in the 16th London Regiment 5648 (RWR) in 1915. He fought with the British Expeditionary Force in France, and was discharged on the 17th March 1917 due to ‘general paralysis of the insane’. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

During the First World War, the senior OTCs became officer producing units, and some 30,000 officers passed through, but after the war they reverted to their basic military training role.

Leuze Wood occupied an important position as it provided protection to the approaches of Combles, Guillemont and Ginchy. The narrow north-eastern adjunct to the wood was known separately as Bouleaux Wood. Not as badly damaged as Delville or High Wood (at least in early September) its undergrowth was well furnished with German barbed wire and defensive posts.
Private Peter O’Brien

Peter O’Brien: Born in Inch lived in Ennis, killed in action 27th Nov 1917, in the Battle of Cambrai (20 Nov-7 Dec 1917). Irish Guards 2nd Bn 10048, Guards Division. G/M in Cambrai, France. (TB)

Cambrai Memorial. Louverval
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 2 and 3.
The Cambrai Memorial commemorates more than 7,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known.

The Battle of Cambrai (20 Nov-7 Dec 1917): The proposed method of assault was new, with no preliminary artillery bombardment. Instead, tanks would be used to break through the German wire, with the infantry following under the cover of smoke barrages. The attack began early in the morning of 20 November 1917 and initial advances were remarkable. However, by 22 November, a halt was called for rest and reorganisation, allowing the Germans to reinforce. From 23 to 28 November, the fighting was concentrated almost entirely around Bourlon Wood and by 29 November, it was clear that the Germans were ready for a major counter attack. During the fierce fighting of the next five days, much of the ground gained in the initial days of the attack was lost.

Bourlon Wood (27th Nov 1917): ‘By five in the morning, after a most wearing night, the Battalion was in position; and the Wood in front alive with concealed machine-guns and spattered with shells. They led off at 6.20 behind their own barrage, in two waves;... A barrage of big stuff, supplemented by field-guns, was steadily threshing out the centre and north of the Wood, and, somewhere to the rear of the Battalion a nest of machine-guns broke out viciously and unexpectedly. Then the whole fabric of the fight appeared to crumble, as, through one or other of the many gaps between the Battalions, the enemy thrust in, and the 2nd Irish Guards, hanging on to their thin front line, realized him suddenly at their backs. What remained of them split up into little fighting groups; sometimes taking prisoners, sometimes themselves being taken, and again breaking away from their captors, dodging, turning, and ducking in dripping coppices and over the slippery soil, while the shells impartially smote both parties.’ “The Irish Guards in the great war” Rudyard Kipling
Leading Seaman Thomas O'Brien

Thomas O'Brien: Lived in Doonbeg, died 15th Sept 1918 age 39, Royal Naval Reserve Unit 3720C, SV Mary Fanny, G/M in England. Son of Thomas and Mary O’Brien and husband of Bridget O’Brien, Killard, Doonbeg. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

The ketch SV Mary Fanny was shelled and sunk in the Irish Sea 14 nautical miles (26 km) east south east of the Codling Bank Lightship by the German submarine UB-64 (Ernst Krieger), on the 15th Sept 1918. A ketch is a sailing craft with two masts. The distinguishing characteristic of a ketch is that the forward of the two masts (the "mainmast") is larger than the after mast (the "mizzen").

Plymouth Naval Memorial
Plymouth
Plymouth Unitary Authority
Devon, England. Plot: 29

Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.
Private Thomas O'Brien

Thomas O'Brien: Born in Kilmurry Ibrickane lived in Co Wexford, killed in action 8th Nov 1915, Royal Welsh Fusiliers 9th Bn 13264, G/M in Loos France. (TB)

Loos Memorial
Loos-en-Gohelle
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Panel 50 to 52.

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers 9th Bn landed at Boulogne on the 19th of July 1915. Their first action was at Pietre, in a diversionary action supporting the Battle of Loos (Sep 25-28 1915). They were in the front line from Canadian Orchard to Barnton Road in front of Quinque Rue. It was a feint attack to keep German reserves pinned at zero when the Battle of Loos began. There was little further fighting after the 14 October although military operations did not officially cease until 4 November 1915.
Private John O’Connor

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

Etreux British Cemetery, Etreux
Departement de l’Aisne
Picardie, France. Plot: I. 13. The Cemetery at Étreux was created in the aftermath of a fierce rearguard action fought by a detachment of the British Expeditionary Force during the retreat from Mons in August 1914.

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

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

By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces. Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered.’
After the armistice, the orchard in which the casualties had been buried was purchased by the family of Lieutenant Frederick Styles, an officer of the Munsters who had been killed during the rearguard action. The family erected the large Celtic Cross in the centre of the cemetery which lists the First World War battle honours of the Munsters, as well as a stone memorial bench and plaque. In 1924 the cemetery was handed over to the French state and its care became the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private Michael O’Connor


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

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.
Chief Steward Michael O'Connor


HMS Redbreast was a passenger/cargo ship requisitioned by the British Government during World War I, and used as a messenger ship and antisubmarine Q ship. She was torpedoed and sunk by UC-38 in the Aegean Sea on 15 July 1917 whilst on passage from Skyros to the Doro Channel. Forty two crew were killed.

Plymouth Naval Memorial
Plymouth
Plymouth Unitary Authority
Devon, England. Plot: 26

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave. It was recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, to commemorate the seamen of the Royal Navy who sailed from that port. Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War.
Daniel Joseph O’Dea: Ballynacally, died 12th Dec 1917 age 22, at St Emilie, Royal Irish Regiment 7th (South Irish Horse) Bn 25665, 16th (Irish) Division. G/M in Templeux-Le-Guerard (right next to St Emilie), France. Son of Thomas and Bridget O’Dea.

The 7th (South Irish Horse) Battalion was formed in France on the 1st September 1917, from the dismounted 1st and 2nd South Irish Horse. On the 14th October 1917 they came under orders of 49th Brigade, 16th (Irish) Division, during the Third Battles of Ypres. On the 12th Dec 1917: ‘Battln. relieved in evening by 7/8 R. Innis. Fus. & returned to billets at ST EMILIE. Billets shelled & 28 men killed & 40 wounded. Capt. Vernon & 1 OR wounded during relief. Battln moved out of billets & occupied Railway Cutting.’ War Diary for the Royal Irish Regiment 7th (South Irish Horse) Bn.

Templeux-Le-Guerard British Cemetery
Templeux-le-Guerard
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: II. H. 28.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private Daniel O’Dea

Daniel O’Dea: Born in Kilmihil, killed in action 3rd April 1918 age 19, at Le Hamel, during the German Spring Offensive, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 20961, 16th (Irish) Division. G/M in Pozieres France. Only son of Daniel and Maria O’Dea Knockmore, Kilmihil. (TB)

Daniel O’Dea: Exhibits: framed and glazed memorial scroll, Victory Medal and British War Medal; Memorial Plaque.

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

When Private Daniel O’Dea from Knockmore, Kilmihil, was a young boy his father died and he was sent to the home of an uncle who subsequently raised him. In his teens O’Dea was refused money by his uncle to purchase a suit and in a fit of pique he enlisted with the South Irish Horse, a cavalry regiment founded only two decades earlier. In an undated handwritten letter which was not included in this exhibition, Private O’Dea wrote to his sister from his barracks in Cahir, County Tipperary and informed her that he was to be sent to Cork to be trained as infantry and that he had heard that his unit was to be attached to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. This subsequently occurred. (Clare Museum)

Before dawn on March 21st, the 1st and 2nd Dublins (the latter in the trenches for 40 days and nights) were side by side awaiting the German attack, during the Battle of St. Quentin. The German pre-assault bombardment was eight miles deep: gas and shelling claimed 1,062 of the 1st and 2nd RDF in under ten hours. On the 28th March the Division dug in near Le Hamel to stop the German advance. 31 March 1918: The 1st Dublins got 23 men back from 2nd Dublins. And at 11pm the 1st Dublins relieved the 2nd Dragoon Guards in front of Le Hamel. 1, 2, 3 April 1918: 1st and 2nd Dublins remained in position. The 1st Battalion by now had received 200 reinforcements. On 3rd April they were relieved, and marched via Aubigny to Blangy-Tronville, where the took buses to Saleux on the outskirts of Amiens.’ The 16th (Irish) Division lost 7,149 men.
Private Patrick John O'Dea


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

The memorial is the Australian National Memorial erected to commemorate all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during the First World War, to their dead, and especially to name those of the dead whose graves are not known. There are now 10,738 Australian servicemen officially commemorated by this memorial and named within the register.

Patrick John O'Dea: Australian Army. MA He was a Labourer aged 36 when he enlisted in 1915 in Adelaide into the C Coy 2nd Depot Bn. 1792 (and later in the 48th Bn.). His mother was Anne O'Dea Adelaide. He was killed in action on the 8th Aug 1916. ‘Last seen by his mates on No Mans Land just before the battle’. (UNSW)

The Battle of Pozieres was a two-week struggle for the French village of Pozieres and the ridge on which it stands, during the middle stages of the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Though British divisions were involved in most phases of the fighting, Pozieres is primarily remembered as an Australian battle. The fighting ended with the Allied forces in possession of the plateau north and east of the village, in a position to menace the German bastion of Thiepval from the rear. The cost had been very large for both sides and in the words of Australian official historian Charles Bean, the Pozieres ridge "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth."
Lance Corporal Timothy O'Dea MM

Timothy O Dea: From Cooraclare, killed in action 27th Nov 1917 age 39, in the Battle of Cambrai(same day, place, Regiment and Battalion as Peter O'Brien). Irish Guards 2nd Bn 10251, 2nd (Guards) Brigade of the Guards Division. G/M in France. He won the Military Medal. Son of Michael and Honor O’Dea Tullabrack, Cooraclare.(TB)

The Battle of Cambrai (20 Nov-7 Dec 1917): The proposed method of assault was new, with no preliminary artillery bombardment. Instead, tanks would be used to break through the German wire, with the infantry following under the cover of smoke barrages. The attack began early in the morning of 20 November 1917 and initial advances were remarkable. However, by 22 November, a halt was called for rest and reorganisation, allowing the Germans to reinforce. From 23 to 28 November, the fighting was concentrated almost entirely around Bourlon Wood and by 29 November, it was clear that the Germans were ready for a major counter attack. During the fierce fighting of the next five days, much of the ground gained in the initial days of the attack was lost.

Bourlon Wood (27th Nov 1917): ‘By five in the morning, after a most wearing night, the Battalion was in position; and the Wood in front alive with concealed machine-guns and spattered with shells. They led off at 6.20 behind their own barrage, in two waves;.... A barrage of big stuff, supplemented by field-guns, was steadily threshing out the centre and north of the Wood, and, somewhere to the rear of the Battalion a nest of machine-guns broke out viciously and unexpectedly. Then the whole fabric of the fight appeared to crumble, as, through one or other of the many gaps between the Battalions, the enemy thrust in, and the 2nd Irish Guards, hanging on to their thin front line, realized him suddenly at their backs. What remained of them split up into little fighting groups; sometimes taking prisoners, sometimes themselves being taken, and again breaking away from their captors, dodging, turning, and ducking in dripping coppices and over the slippery soil, while the shells impartially smote both parties.’ "The Irish Guards in the great war" Rudyard Kipling

Cambray Memorial. Louverval Departement du Nord Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 2 and 3.

The Cambray Memorial commemorates more than 7,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known.
Private Martin O’Dell

Martin O’Dell: Born in Ogonnelloe lived in Western Australia, killed in action 30th April 1915 in Gallipoli, Australian Infantry 16th Bn 116, G/M in Turkey. He enlisted in Oct 1914 when he was 33 years old. (TB) MA He was a Lumper aged 33 when he enlisted in Oct 1914 in Helene Valley WA into C Company. His mother was Mrs M O’Dell Killaloe Co Clare. His sister was Delia Moran, Coolgardie Australia. His brothers were Patrick O’Dell Corhula Killaloe and Michael O’Dell Carlhubane Killaloe.

Quinn’s Post Cemetery, Anzac
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: A.26

Quinn’s Post was established on the afternoon of the 25 April 1915 by a New Zealand machine-gun crew. In the coming months, the post was held by a number of different Australian and New Zealand units and was the subject of incessant attacks and continual hand-to-hand fighting with the Turkish post opposite, who knew it as 'Bomba Sirt' (Bomb Ridge).

There are now 473 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

On 11 April 1915, the 16th Battalion boarded the troopship Hyda Pasha and sailed to the Gallipoli peninsula. On the afternoon of 25 April, the battalion assembled in the ship’s hold. At about 6pm the battalion went ashore at Anzac Cove and made their way up the hills. For the next five days they stayed there, under heavy fire from Turkish troops to their front and rear. The hill they held was later called ‘Pope’s Hill’, the name of their commanding officer.

At dawn on 26 April, the warships shelled ‘Russell’s Top’, breaking up the Turkish ranks, and during the next two days there were attempts to reinforce the battalion. On the evening of 30 April, after five days of intense fighting, the 16th Battalion was relieved by the 15th Battalion and were able to rest for two days.
**Private John O’Donnell (Grave/Memorial unknown)**

*John O’Donnell:* Son of Simon O’Donnell and Delia Kitson of Shannon View. (KCT) He is remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

![The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.](image)
Private Philip O'Donnell

Philip O Donnell: Born and lived in Kilrush, died in Edinburgh from wounds received in France, 5th Nov 1918 age 21, Royal Munster Fusiliers 3rd Bn 9983. G/M in Scotland. Son of Philip and Mary O'Donnell.

During the First World War, Edinburgh was headquarters to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Scots, with the 7th Battalion at Leith.

The 2nd Scottish General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied Craigleith Poorhouse, the Edinburgh War Hospital (2,600 beds) was in the Asylum buildings at Bangour and the Leith War Hospital (585 beds) in the infirmary at Leith.

The port of Leith was used by hospital ships from north Russia and about 4,500 officers and men passed through it.

Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery contains 225 burials of the First World War, most of them forming a war graves plot in Section D.
Private Cornelius O’Donoghue

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

The 2nd RMF saw action near Zillebeke, Belgium on 12 November and helped to defend against the last great German effort in the First Battle of Ypres. ‘At 6.30 (12th Nov 1914) in the morning, the bombardment was resumed with redoubled vigour...It lasted two hours, and then a heavy attack followed; but the Munsters held on gamely, and threw back the enemy each time he renewed the attempt.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

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

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

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.
Captain John O’Gorman

John O’Gorman: Born in Carrigaholt lived in Co Antrim, died 2nd Nov 1917 age 35 on the SS Jessie, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in Antrim. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of John and Bridget O’Gorman, Carrigaholt.

At 4 am North of Flamborough Head, the Jessie was attacked from behind by gun fire from a German submarine U-35. The Master (John O’Gorman) ordered the vessel hard to port attempting to run for the shore, then along with the chief engineer and two seaman took to one of the lifeboats. As the ship’s engine were still engaged and the vessel still making way, the lifeboat capsized in the launch attempt, drowning the four men. The enemy submarine continued to fire at the Jessie which was hit several times whilst the 2nd engineer managed to stop the ship’s engines within a mile of the shore. He and the rest of the crew got away in the other lifeboat and pulled to Filey as they watched the Jessie drift ashore and beech herself, eventually becoming a total loss.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

A.61 Carnlough (Cavalry) Roman Catholic Cemetery. Co Antrim.
Lance Corporal Thomas O’Gorman: Born in Tullycrine, Kilmurry McMahon. Died 22nd April 1917 age 32. Royal Engineers 1st A Wireless Company 26617. G/M in France. He was one of six children, his father was a national school teacher. (Arthur Forde) The Royal Engineers maintained the telephones, wireless and other signaling equipment.

Bailleul-Sire-Berthoult was occupied by the 2nd Division on 13 April 1917 and Albuera Cemetery was made in April-November 1917 by fighting units; the origin of its current name is not known and it was often called Bailleul Military Cemetery. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Arras (Battle of Arras April 9th - May 16th 1917). Albuera Cemetery contains 253 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.
**Margaret O Grady**

Margaret O Grady: Born in Tomfinlough Co Clare in 1889, died 10th Oct 1918 on the SS RMS Leinster, G/M in Quin Abbey. (TB) Her body was found.

**Location:** Quin Abbey, is a ruined Franciscan abbey or friary in Quin, roughly 12Km from Ennis. It was built in the Gothic style in the early 15th century on the remains of an earlier Norman castle.

Daughter of Francis O'Grady and Mary J. [née Kitson] O'Grady, of Tomfinlough, Co. Clare. [North-east of Newmarket-on-Fergus] They were married in Ennis district, in early 1883. Margaret was a nurse, working in England, and was returning to the Isolation Hospital at Mitcham. She and her sister May 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.

Over 500 died in the tragedy. Other Clare people who died in this tragedy were Delia & Nora Davoren, Nellie Hogan, John Coyne and Owen Ward.

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.’
Mary Teresa (May) O’Grady: Born in Tomfinlough Co Clare in 1894, died 10th Oct 1918 on the SS RMS Leinster, G/M in Quin Abbey. Her body was not found.

Location: Quin Abbey, is a ruined Franciscan abbey or friary in Quin, roughly 12Km from Ennis. It was built in the Gothic style in the early 15th century on the remains of an earlier Norman castle.

Daughter of Francis O’Grady and Mary J. [née Kitson] O’Grady, of Tomfinlough, Co. Clare. [North-east of Newmarket-on-Fergus] They were married in Ennis district, in early 1883. Mary was a nurse, working in England, and was returning to the Isolation Hospital at Mitcham. She and her sister Margaret 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.

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Guardsman Thomas O’Halloran

Thomas O’Halloran: Born in Ennis lived in Kildysart, killed in action 11th Nov 1914 age 21, in the First Battle of Ypres, Scots Guards 1st Bn 6607, 1st (Guards) Brigade of the 1st Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB) He was only three weeks at the front. Brother of Johnny and Jimmy O’Halloran. (Holly Mularkey)

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

The Scots Guards 1st Battalion, of the 1st (Guards) Brigade of the 1st Division, was part of the British Expeditionary Force which arrived in France in 1914. The Battalion took part in the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914, and saw very heavy fighting at Ypres and in the surrounding area. Over 50,000 British soldiers become casualties, though the British Army held the line against seemingly overwhelming German attacks, stopping the final German attempt to break the Allied line in 1914.

On 11th November, the Germans attacked from Messines to Herenthage, Veldhoek woods, Nonne Bosschen and Polygon Wood. Massed small-arms fire repulsed German attacks between Polygon Wood and Veldhoek. The German 3rd Division and 26th Division broke through to St Eloi and advanced to Zwarteleen, some 3,000 yards (2,700 m) east of Ypres, where they were checked by the British 7th Cavalry Brigade. The remains of II Corps from La Bassée, held a 3500yards (3,200m) front, with 7,800 men and 2,000 reserves against 25 German battalions with 17,500 men. The British were forced back by the German 4th Division and British counter-attacks were repulsed.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
**Private Thomas O Halloran**

**Thomas O Halloran**: Born in Kilkee lived in Moyasta, killed in action 30th Nov 1915 age 25, in Salonika, Connaught Rangers 5th Bn 6137, G/M on the Doiran Memorial in Greece. This is soon to be deleted as his body was found, to be buried elsewhere. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of Patrick and Winifred O’Halloran, Dunlickey Road, Kilkee.

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**The Doiran Memorial** stands near Doiran Military Cemetery, which is situated in the north of Greece close to the Macedonia border and near the south-east shore of Lake Doiran. It stands roughly in the centre of the line occupied for two years by the Allies in Macedonia. It marks the scene of the fierce fighting of 1917-1918, which caused the majority of the Commonwealth battle casualties. The memorial serves the dual purpose of Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force, and place of commemoration for more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known.
Sgt. William O’ Halloran: His family lived in the Turnpike Ennis. He was killed in action on the 4th Nov 1916. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4800. Brother of John Joseph O’Halloran, who survived the War. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and Ginchy. He died in an area south of Ypres, in the Messines Sector. (Eddie Lough) G/M in Belgium.

Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery
Heuvelland
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium
Plot: X. 38.

In April 1894 at the age of 13 he enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers as a drummer, and was discharged in Oct 1894. Reason given “Not Likely to become an efficient drummer”.

He enlisted again with the RMF and served in India and in the Boer War. He married Rose Anne Lynch in 1905. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and Ginchy. He died in an area south of Ypres. (Eddie Lough)

Kemmel Chateau was north-east of Kemmel village and the cemetery was in December 1914. There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.
Private Austin Francis O’Hare

Austin Francis O’Hare: Born 12th Aug 1888 in Boughill Kilfenora, killed in action 11th Nov 1918 near Grande Montagne, Gibercy, Montague sector, in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26-Nov 11, 1918). U.S. Army 314th Inf., 79th Div. Son of James and Sarah (Shannon) O’Hare of Boughill, Kilfenora, County Clare, brother of Mary T. (wife of John W. Robinson) and Delia, both of Malden, Margaret M. (wife of John T. Nagle of Dorchester), James of Somerville, and Thomas of Kilfenora, Ire. Teamster. Resident at 43 Julia Street, Malden Massachusetts. (Massachusetts and the Great War/ City of Malden.org)

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetry and Memorial
Romagne-sous-Montfaucon
Departement de la Meuse
Lorraine, France
Plot D Row 3 Grave 30

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Sept 26-Nov 11, 1918): 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.
Private Patrick P O'Keefe

Patrick O'Keefe: Lived in New Zealand working as a Railway labourer, killed in action 30th March 1918, in the German Spring Offensive (21st March – 18th July 1918). New Zealand Div, Auckland Regiment 2nd Bn, 49736, G/M in France. (TB) (DOB 21/6/1880) He was a Labourer in the NZ Railways when he enlisted in Feb 1917 into the 2nd Bn. Auckland Regiment 49736. He lived in Frankton. His parents were Michael and Ellen O’Keefe Broadford, Co Clare.

Grevillers (New Zealand) Memorial
Grevillers
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

There are now 2,106 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Grevillers British Cemetery.

The German Spring Offensive: The New Zealanders' defensive positions had been improved despite the weather and the harassment from German artillery, which killed Fulton, the original commander of the Rifle Brigade, when a barrage targeted his headquarters. The division undertook the first offensive action by the British forces during the Spring Offensive when three battalions seized the high ground of La Signy farm on 30 March. This success, although relatively trivial to the New Zealanders, was a morale booster for the rest of the beleaguered Third Army. Casualties for this period of the war were high; nearly 1,000 of the division's personnel were killed through March and April and almost 2,700 were wounded.
Lieutenant P J O’Kelly: Feakle. Killed in action Sept 26th 1916. 58th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, 11th (Northern) Division. G/M in France. Son of Mr P Kelly Caher, Feakle. ‘Lieutenant P J Kelly, R.F.A., whose death is reported from Athlone where he had been in the legal business before getting a commission, was a prominent member of the Athlone Boat Club. He was a Clareman, being, we understand, son of Mr P Kelly, Caher Feakle, East Clare.’ Clare Journal Oct 1916. (TB)

Lieutenant P J O’Kelly

Ovillers Military Cemetery
Ovillers-la-Boisselle
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

On the 17th of June 1916 the 11th Division was ordered to France to reinforce Third Army on The Somme. They departed from Alexandria on with the last units leaving on the 3rd of July. By the 27th July, they were in the front line on the Somme and took part in The capture of the Wundt-Werk, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette and The Battle of Thiepval.

The Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26–28 Sept 1916) was the first large offensive mounted by the Reserve Army (Lieutenant General Hubert Gough), during the Battle of the Somme. The attack was intended to benefit from the Fourth Army attack in the Battle of Morval, by starting 24 hours afterwards. The battle was fought on a front from Courcelette in the east, near the Albert–Bapaume road to Thiepval and the Schwaben Redoubt (Schwaben-Feste) in the west, which overlooked the German defences further north in the Ancre valley, the rising ground towards Beaumont-Hamel and Serre beyond. Thiepval Ridge was well fortified and the German defenders fought with great determination.

The final British objectives were not reached until a reorganisation of the Reserve Army and the Battle of the Ancre Heights (1 October – 11 November).
Private Michael O’Leary

Michael O’Leary: Lived in Ennis, died 5th July 1916 in Salonika, possibly from illness, Connaught Rangers 5th Bn 2878, G/M in Greece. He wrote a letter that appeared in the Clare Journal in Feb 1915. (TB)

Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Thessaloniki. Regional unit of Thessaloniki Central Macedonia, Greece. Plot: 193

There are now 1,648 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

Clare Journal Feb 1915

LETTER FROM AN ENNIS SOLDIER.

Private O’Leary, The Connaughts, from whom we published a letter, while he was lying wounded in the Versailles Hospital, has sent another note to a friend in Ennis. Writing from Havre he says “I am now out of hospital and am at the base of operations, but I don’t know whether I will be at the front or not, as there is a bullet still in my side and the muscles are badly injured. I am out of hospital since before Christmas, and I met a lot of chaps from Ennis going up to the front. They are leaving in thousands every day here for the front. Let me know if Jack (a brother) was killed, as a chap of the Leinster told me he was killed on Xmas Eve. He was in the Maxim gun section. I would be glad if you send a paper. We don’t see any here. This war is fearful slaughter, and I hope it will soon be over.”

July 1916 Salonika (10th Div): According to men’s diary they claimed that “the weather conditions are worse than the enemy itself”. During the summer months in the central Struma valley men could march 25 miles (40 km) in temperatures of 114 °F. The marches were occasionally fatal; in July 1916 men fainted in their scores while marching and one young soldier died on the side of the road. Sometimes the rain too would reduce the ground to "a sea of mud". Thunderstorms also affected the men who weren’t use to them. The 5th battalion Connaught Rangers remained at the Salonika Front during 1916 & 1917 with little progress made by either side. The Allied presence in northern Greece prevented the Bulgarian army invading Greece but the inhospitable mountainous terrain and adverse weather, unbearable heat and malaria in summer and ice and snow in winter, made an offensive almost impossible.
 Acting Bombardier John P O’Loughlin


Vieille-Chapelle New Military Cemetery
Vieille-Chapelle
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: IV. F. 2.

There are now nearly 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

During the Second Battle of Ypres (22 April – 25 May 1915), the Germans released a second gas attack on the morning of the 24th April as part of an effort to take St. Julien. Though the Canadian troops attempted to improvise protective measures such as covering their mouths and noses with water or urine-soaked handkerchiefs, they were ultimately forced to fall back though they exacted a high price from the Germans.

Subsequent British counterattacks over the next two days failed to retake St. Julien and the units engaged sustained heavy losses.
Sapper John O'Loughlin


Volunteer Instructor Killed: The Ennistymon Volunteers have learned with deepest regret of the death at the Front in Belgium of their late instructor Sapper John O’Loughlin who was attached to the Royal Engineers. The commanding officer, in communicating news of the death to the bereaved widow of the deceased under the date 15/01/1915, wrote "It is with deep regret that I report to you the death of your husband. He was killed last night when doing his duty at the front. Only two weeks ago it was my great pleasure to mention his name in despatches for the very good work he had done on previous occasions in the face of the enemy. His loss is very deeply felt by the officers and men of the company. With greatest sympathy in your terrible loss." A native of Ennistymon, the deceased was only 35 years old and besides his widow leaves 4 little ones ranging from 4 months to 6 years of age to mourn his loss. The local Volunteer Corps for whom the late sapper did so much during his period as instructor has arranged for a memorial mass to be offered for him. The Clare Journal Feb 1915.

Wytschaete Military Cemetery
Heuvelland. Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.

In Dec 1914 the French and the 3rd Division were to capture Wytschaete and Petit Bois. Even though the attack failed, the 3rd Division got to within 50 yards (46 m) of the German line and found uncut wire. One battalion captured 200 yards (180 m) of the German front trench and took 42 prisoners.
Private Patrick Joseph O'Loughlen

Patrick Joseph O'Loughlin/O'Loughlen: Born in Ballyvaughan lived in Australia, died 18th Sept 1917 age 29, just before the The Battle of the Menin Road (20 – 25 Sep 1917) in the Third Battle of Ypres. Australian Infantry 3rd Bn 7048, 1st Brigade, 1st Div, 1st Anzac Corps. G/M in Belgium (Menin Gate). Son of Mary O’Brien (formerly O’Loughlen) Corkscrew Hill. (TB) (AI) He was a Labourer aged 28 when he enlisted in 1916 in Dubbo NSW into the 3rd Bn. 23rd Reinf 7048. (UNSW)

The 1st Australian Division fought in The Battle of the Menin Road (20 – 25 Sep 1917) which was part of The Third Battles of Ypres (31 July – 10 Nov 1917). They advanced on a 1,000 yd (910 m) front north of the Menin Road, with its right aimed at FitzClarence Farm, against part of the Bavarian Ersatz Division and most of the 121st Division. The Australians passed through Glencorse Wood, which had changed hands twice in August and quickly suppressed German resistance.

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.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Acting Sergeant Thomas O’Loughlin

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

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

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

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

Clare Journal May 1915
The Rev Isidore James O’Meehan: Born 5/7/1867 in Ennis, died 19th Dec 1919 age 52 in Mesopotamia, Army Chaplains Dept Chaplain 4th Class, G/M in Iraq. (TB)

Amara War Cemetery
Al `Amarah

Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3 June 1915 and it immediately became a hospital centre. The accommodation for medical units on both banks of the Tigris was greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917, seven general hospitals and some smaller units were stationed there.

Amara War Cemetery contains 4,621 burials of the First World War, more than 3,000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. The cemetery was destroyed during the Iraq war.
Private Michael O’Neill


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

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

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

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

For their part, the Irish Guards held trenches east of Zillebeke Wood against superior forces. Driven back to the tree line by heavy shelling and machine-gun fire, ‘the Micks’ readied themselves for a last stand. As explained by the regimental historian, Rudyard Kipling, at this point ‘the officers, every cook, orderly and man who could stand, took rifle and fought’.

Reduced to tatters, the Guards held out, but at a terrible cost. By the end of the action, total casualties—including 88 men killed in a single trench completely blown in by shellfire—surpassed 600 men.’ History Ireland Issue 4
Private Michael O’Neill

Michael O’Neill/O’Neill: Born in Kilkee, lived in New South Wales, died of wounds 18th May 1917 age 24. Australian Infantry 21st Battalion 6073, 2nd Aus Div. G/M in France. He was wounded in action on the 3rd May 1917 (gunshot wounds to the back), in the Second Battle of Bullecourt, and died in the 9th General Hospital in Rouen on the 18th May 1917. Son of Patrick and Ellen O’Neill (nee Melican), Lismuse Lisdeen. (TB) MA He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Baptised in Kilkee parish 4 Sept 1892. He lived in Redfern NSW. He was a Labourer aged 23 when he enlisted in Feb 1916 in Sydney into the 4th Bn. 6073 (and later in the 21st Bn.). (UNSW)

Saint Sever Cemetery Extension. Rouen
Departement de la Seine-Maritime
Haute-Normandie, France
Plot: P. II. O. 2A.

The Cemetery Extension contains 8346 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The Second Battle of Bullecourt (3rd – 17th May 1917): As part of the final throes of the British Army’s Arras offensive, a renewed attempt was made to secure the fortified village of Bullecourt in the period 3-17 May. At 03:45, elements of the 2nd Australian Division attacked east of Bullecourt village, intending to pierce the Hindenburg Line and capture Hendecourt-lès-Cagnicourt. German resistance was fierce and when the offensive was called off on 17 May, few of the initial objectives had been met. The Australians were in possession of much of the German trench system between Bullecourt and Riencourt-lès-Cagnicourt but had been unable to capture Hendecourt.
Private Patrick O’Neill


Queant was close behind the Hindenburg Line, at the South end of a minor defence system known as the Drocourt-Queant Line. There are now nearly 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

The Battle of Ginchy took place on 9 September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, when the 16th Division (including the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn) captured the German-held village.

‘When the Battalion left the trenches at zero for the attack on Ginchy (Sept 9th) only 8 officers and under 400 men remained out of the original strength who had marched into Bernafay Wood…. At zero time (4.45 pm) it left the trenches in four waves… all the company officers and the Second-in – Command were either killed or wounded within the first 50 yards… CSM Harris wheeled the left of his company and charged, driving the enemy out… on continuing the advance, he found the enemy strongly entrenched, so dug in opposite them, and with the assistance of one machine gun, held his position until relieved… The Battalion marched back to Carnoy on the 10th. Strength after the attack, 5 officers, 305 other ranks.’
Mr Andrej Ordyniez

Mr Andrej Ordyniez: Age 48. A 3rd Class passenger on the Lusitania which sank on May 7th 1915. His body was washed ashore on the Clare coastline and he was buried in Killilagh Churchyard, Doolin. (Brian Doyle)

On May 7, 1915, the RMS Lusitania, was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sunk, off the Old Head of Kinsale. Of the 1,959 people on board, 1,198 died, including 128 Americans. The sinking of the Lusitania enraged Americans.

Male: A passenger on the Lusitania which sank on May 7th 1915. His body was washed ashore on the Clare coastline at Ballaghaline, Doolin. He was also buried in Killilagh Churchyard, Doolin.

Location: Leave Doolin on the road to Fanore, pass McGann’s pub, take the next left and up the hill on the right is the Cemetery and Church. It overlooks the Doolin countryside with the majestic Cliffs of Moher on the horizon.

The Lusitania Memorial in Cobh Old Church Cemetery. Co Cork
Private J O’Shea

J O’Shea: Turnpike Ennis, died 13th March 1920 age 20 in Turkey, possibly due to illness, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 31339, G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs Sarah O’Shea Turnpike Ennis. (TB)

Haidar Pasha Cemetery
Istanbul, Turkey
Plot: I. K. 1. After the Armistice, when Istanbul was occupied, further burials were made, mainly from No.82 General Hospital. The war graves plot contains 407 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

At the end of the war a large British occupation army was maintained in Turkey. The strength of the Army of Occupation in the Ottoman Dominions on the 1st of December 1919 was 13,000 British plus 14,000 Indians. At the end of November 1919, the 2nd Dublins were ordered to Constantinople. They embarked on board the hired transport ship, Rio Pardo, with a battalion strength of 29 officers, 8 warrant officers, 40 sergeants, 40 corporals and 670 other ranks.

In March 1920, Martial Law was declared in Constantinople and Scutari. The Allied Navies closed the Bosphorus and the northern exit to the Sea of Marmora to all ferry and boat traffic. Over the next year or so, the 2nd Dublins took part in operations such as guarding prison camps, patrolling and occupying the telegraph and telephone offices in Haidar Pasha. On the 17th of November 1920, they left occupied Turkey for Multan in India.
Gunner T O’Shea

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

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

Location: To Killofin Cemetery, take the R473 from Ennis to Labasheeda. At the end of the village take a right turn up the hill.

The cemetery is on the left side of the road and is signposted. This cemetery is situated on the ruins of a 12th Century Church.
Thomas O'Shea/Shea: Ruan, killed in action on July 18th 1918, age 28, at Vierzy France.
9th Infantry US Army (2nd Div). (PMcN) His body was returned to Ireland in 1922 for burial in Ruan. (Paddy Waldron) Brother of Michael J Shea (42nd Div).
Sergeant Thomas Shea/O’Shea continued

Late in the afternoon of July 18, 1918, a platoon of the 49th Company of the Fifth Marines, three companies of the Third Battalion of the Fifth Marines, and the Eighth Machine Gun Company of the Fifth Marines attacked and captured the town of Vierzy, after which a line was formed extending north from this village. Following the advance of the Fifth Marines, both the Division and Brigade Headquarters had moved forward, the Division being established at Verte Feuille Farm and the Brigade in a cave in Vierzy. In the meantime, the Sixth Marines had followed the attack and advance of the Fifth Marines about three kilometers in rear of the attacking troops.

The O’Shea brothers from Ruan: Thomas Christopher and Michael Joseph O’Shea were the sons of Edward O’Shea and Catherine Kilderry. They were born and raised in Ruan, Co. Clare. The 1911 census records the two brothers working as labourers before they left for America.

On 14th of May 1911 Thomas set sail on the SS Cedric from Queenstown. He arrived at the Port of New York on the 22nd of May where he was meeting his friend William Frawley. Michael followed in his little brother’s footsteps and emigrated a year later. On the 25th of October 1912 Michael set sail from Queenstown aboard the SS Celtic to meet up with his friend Thomas Frawley. The following year their sister Margaret made the journey over to America and met up with her brother Thomas who living in Hempstead, Long Island, New York at the time.

On 2nd of June 1917 at Fort Slocum, New York Thomas enlisted in the U.S. Army. He began his military life as a Private in Co. G of the 48th Infantry but was soon promoted to Corporal of Co. G of the 9th Infantry 2nd Division. Months later he was promoted to Sergeant. Sadly, shortly after his promotion, he was fatally wounded. On the 18th of July 1918 at Vierzy, France he was hit in the head by enemy shrapnel and died instantly. He was buried outside the town of Pierrefond, France. His sister Margaret who was now married with her first child on the way was officially notified of her brother’s passing.

Almost a year later on the 21st of May 1919 his body was exhumed and reburied in the Military Cemetery in Ploisy, Aisne, France. The following year the French Government lifted their ban and allowed the US to have the remains of their soldiers return home if their next of kin wished to. Attempts to reach Thomas’s sister in early 1921 were unsuccessful as she has moved at this time. The case was referred to Europe in order to track down Thomas’s family in Ireland. It took a few more months to contact the O’Sheas. On 20th July 1921 Catherine O’Shea, Thomas’s mother, formally requested her son’s remains be returned to Co. Clare. Six months later, on 12th December 1921, Thomas was disinterred for the second time and preparations were made for his final journey home. It took another six months, but on 24th May 1922 Thomas returned home to Ruan, Co. Clare and was buried in the local graveyard.
Private John O'Sullivan

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

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

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

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

It was one of only two battalions to reach the German lines. But suffered the regiment’s highest loss of any one day of the war, 11 officers and 140 men killed in action.’
Lt Ronald Elphinstone Parker: Ballyvalley, Killaloe, killed in action 9th Sept 1914 age 28 in the Battle of the Marne, Royal Horse Artillery D Battery, G/M in France. He is also commemorated on a Memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe. Brother of Major R G Parker.


The cemetery contains 150 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

A career soldier, having joined the Royal Artillery in 1907, he arrived in France on 14th Aug 1914. He was killed in the battle of Marne. His battery was supporting the advance of the 3rd Calvary when the Germans brought back 12 guns against them, but the battery held its ground. The battery lost its Major, wounded, and both Subalterns killed. His Brigade commander wrote "He died like a hero, fighting his gun at great odds to the last".

The Battle of the Marne was fought from 7–12 September 1914. It resulted in an Allied victory against the German Army. A counter-attack by six Frenchfield armies and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) along the Marne River forced the Imperial German Army to retreat north-west, leading to the Battle of the Aisne and the "Race to the Sea".
Second Lieutenant Herbert Parker Peacocke


Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Plot: Pier and Face 7 A and 7 B. The Thiepval Memorial, , bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave.

‘While cheering his men on he was wounded. His Commanding Officer writes: Lieutenant Peacocke led his men in a gallant charge against the German lines. Lieutenant Peacocke was in the Provincial Bank at Cork when he volunteered and joined the Cadet Corps of the Leinster Regiment, from which he was gazetted into the South Lancashires.’ (Kilrush County Clare: Notes from c 1760 to 1960 by Senan Scanlan. Clare Library)

The Battle of Albert (1–13 July 1916), comprised the first two weeks of Anglo-French offensive operations in the Battle of the Somme. The Allied preparatory artillery bombardment commenced on 24 June and the Anglo-French infantry attacked on 1 July, on the south bank from Foucaucourt to the Somme and from the Somme north to Gommecourt, 2 miles (3.2 km) beyond Serre. The French Sixth army and the right wing of the British Fourth Army inflicted a considerable defeat on the German 2nd Army but from the Albert-Bapaume road to Gommecourt the British attack was a disaster, where most of the c. 60,000 British casualties of the day were incurred.

Against General Joffre's wishes, General Sir Douglas Haig abandoned the offensive north of the road, to reinforce the success in the south.
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
Département 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.
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.
Sergeant George Perry

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..’
Captain Dudley Eyre Persse

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

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

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

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

Michael Pierce Born and lived at Old Mill Street, Ennis. Killed in action 16th Aug 1915 age 33 in Suvla Bay Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 7th Bn 3519, 10th (Irish) Division. G/M in Turkey. Son of Mrs Bridget Pierce, Old Mill Street, Ennis. (TB)

Helles Memorial. Gallipoli. Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 185 to 190. The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

‘The 7th Battalion again took over the line from the Pimple (Hill 60) to the sea on the 16th August (1915), and was heavily bombed by the enemy, but was able to retaliate on the arrival of their own supply. The position was also heavily shelled .... Captain Aplin received orders at 7.30pm that the whole position was to be evacuated. Unfortunately, the final orders did not reach the extreme left of the line .... 25 men remained all night, beating back the enemy attacks .... Casualties; killed 19; wounded 63; missing 12.’
John Power: Born in Dublin lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 13th Nov 1916 age 25, in the Battle of the Ancre (13–18 Nov) at the Somme. Royal Dublin Fusiliers 10th Bn (‘Pals’ Division) 26017 (63rd Div), G/M in France. Son of Patrick Power (Coal Importer) Clarecastle. (TB) He was a dental student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. He was a brother of Timothy Power who survived the war but never recovered from ‘shell-shock’. His nephew is the historian Joe Power who wrote ‘Clare and the Great War’ as a Tribute to his uncles.

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

Clare Journal Jan 1917

The Battle of the Somme finally came to an end in November 1916. During the final attack on the 13th Nov, the 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers helped to capture Beaumont Hamel, one of the objectives for the first day. It had 50% casualties.

The Thiepval 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.
Michael Purtell: Born in Kilrush Co Clare. He was aged 26 when he enlisted in the US Army 308 Infantry 1709878 in Sep 1917 (77th Div). He lived in New York City. He served abroad from April 1918. He died of Typhoid Fever on the 2nd December 1918. His next of kin was his sister Della Moylan who lived at the same address as Michael, 1495 Lexington Avenue, New York. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919 Ancestry .com) G/M in France.

Within the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in France, which covers 130.5 acres, rest the largest number of our military dead in Europe, a total of 14,246. Most of those buried here lost their lives during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I.

The immense array of headstones rises in long regular rows upward beyond a wide central pool to the chapel that crowns the ridge.

A beautiful bronze screen separates the chapel foyer from the interior, which is decorated with stained-glass windows portraying American unit insignia; behind the altar are flags of the principal Allied nations.
Private Michael Purtell

**Michael Purtell/Purtill**: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 10th Sept 1916 age 34 in Salonica Greek Macedonia, (probably from shelling), Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th Bn 483, G/M in Greece. Son of Thomas and Mary Purtill, Moore Street. (TB)

Plot: II. B. I.  
Struma Military Cemetery  
Kalokastron  
Regional unit of Serres  
Central Macedonia, Greece

‘On September 5th 1916 the Battalion waded across the Struma and took up position on the edge of a wood to cover the retirement of the 31st Brigade after it attacked several villages, The only casualties were in the company left behind in the lines - **1 man killed**, 1 officer wounded. Steel helmets were worn for the first time on the 14th.

From the Allied base at Salonika, a road ran north-east across the Struma river to Seres, and it was this road that the right wing of the Allied army used for the movements of troops and supplies to the Struma front during the Salonika Campaign. Struma Military Cemetery contains 947 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.
Francis Quaile: Born in Killaloe, died 14th Nov 1914 in India, Royal Irish Regiment 1st Bn 8925, G/M in India. (TB) The 1st Battalion was in Nasirabad, India in 1914 and embarked at Bombay on 19 October 1914. Francis Quayle probably contracted Influenza and was unable to take this journey. He died on the 14th Nov 1914, and was most likely buried in Nasirabad Cemetery (as other soldiers were), Rajasthan, India. Nasirabad was a town and cantonment in the district of Aimere, Rajputana.

Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial
Mumbai (Bombay) Maharashtra, India
Face 4.

The MEMORIAL commemorates more than 1,800 servicemen and women who died in India during the First World War, who are buried in civil and cantonment cemeteries in India, where their graves were considered to be unmaintainable.

In 1918 India was hit particularly hard by the Influenza pandemic where as many as 17 million died, about 5% of the population with about 13.8 million deaths in the British ruled areas alone.

When India was granted independence in 1947 the British Government decided it could no longer maintain the old cantonment cemeteries. It was an impossibility for the Commission to take over all the sites which had served the British in India for 300 years.

It was a difficult decision between abandoning them or moving them. The decision was made and the dead of the First World War were left undisturbed and their names inscribed on memorials in the new cemeteries.
Private Alfred Quinlivan

Alfred Quinlivan: Born and lived in Ennis, killed in action 15th August 1917 age 33, at the Frezenberg Ridge near Passchendaele. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4549, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) France. Son of Mrs Mary Quinlivan Market Street, Ennis. (TB)

Panel 44
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

‘The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11; on the 14th August wounded 13. During the operations of the Frezenberg Ridge on the 16th the Battalion... lost 1 killed; 15 wounded.’

In the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was 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.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
**Private John Quinn MM**

**John Quinn**: Lived in Lahinch, died of wounds 23\(^{rd}\) Feb 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\(^{st}\) Bn 5897, G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 10/4/1918. *(TB)* (MM Confirmed with fold.3. **His MM is not on his headstone**)

**Tincourt New British Cemetery**
**Tincourt-Boucly**
**Departement de la Somme**
**Picardie, France**  **Plot: IV. F. 17.**

‘On February 7\(^{th}\) 1918 …. Lieut-Colonel R R G Kane DSO (from Tulla) assumed command…On February 18\(^{th}\) …‘Z’ Company left **Tincourt** in lorries for the front line. The raid took place at 4am on the 19\(^{th}\); an hour after the Company reported that they had captured five of the enemy, had killed a considerable number, and had only the following casualties: killed 1; **wounded 17**.’

Photos – Keir McNamara

The villages of Tincourt and Boucly were occupied by British troops in March 1917, during the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line From the following May until March 1918, Tincourt became a centre for Casualty Clearing Stations. On the 23rd March 1918, the villages were evacuated and they were recovered, in a ruined condition, about the 6th September. There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.
Major William Hoey Kearney Redmond MID

William Hoey Kearney Redmond: MP for East Clare 1892-1917. Died of wounds 7th June 1917 age 56, during the Battle of Messines. Royal Irish Regiment 6th Bn, G/M in Belgium. Awarded the Legion of Honour (France), British War Medal and Victory Medals with oak leaf (Mentioned in Despatches).

Locre Hospice Cemetery
Heuvelland
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium
Plot: Close to Path leading to the Cemetery

William Hoey Kearney Redmond was born in Wexford in 1861 the son of an Irish Member of Parliament who came from a long line of Catholic nationalist politicians.

He went to France with the 16th Irish Division in the winter of 1915-16 and was soon in action, winning a mention in despatches from Sir Douglas Haig. He gained his majority but this promoted him away from the action much to his displeasure and he only succeeded in returning to his beloved ‘A’ Company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, the night before the Battle of Messines. By then he was 56 years old.

One of the nineteen mines blown on 7 June was at Macdelstede Farm immediately in front of the Royal Irish. ‘A’ and ‘B’ companies. But Major Willie Redmond, one of the first out of the trenches, had been hit almost immediately in the wrist and then, when hit in the leg, could do no more than urge his men on. stretcher bearers of the Ulster Division brought him in and eventually he reached the Casualty Clearing Station at the Catholic Hospice at Locre (now Loker) where he died that afternoon - almost certainly from shock. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Redmond, who was Miss Eleanor Dalton, daughter of Mr. James Dalton, of Orange, New South Wales. (Our Heroes website)
Major William Hoey Kearney Redmond continued

House of Commons panel listing Major WHK Redmond killed.


Redmond plaque on the Redmond monument, Redmond Square, Wexford.

Steele’s Terrace
Ennis
Private John Regan

**John Regan:** Born in Kilrush lived in Ennis, killed in action 3rd May 1915 (2nd May in the newspapers) in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6353, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

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Helles Memorial Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth Battle Memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for more than 21,000 of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles.

There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters.

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‘On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn (May 2nd) the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days.’

**Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn:** On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.
Private John Reidy

**John Reidy:** Born 1888 in Ennistymon, died 5th July 1919 at home age 31, (from TB), Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 24444, 5th Battalion (in the UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920), G/M in Ennistymon Cemetery. (TB) Son of Mrs. Margaret Reidy, of Bogberry, Ennistymon. He entered the war on the 17/10/1915 and was discharged on the 27/3/1919. (Guss O’Halloran)

**Ennistymon Cemetery,**
South of gate,
leading from West to East.
Ennistymon Co Clare

John Reidy enter the War in Oct 1915 when the Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 5th (Service) Battalion (10th Div), was deployed to Salonika and engaged in various actions against the Bulgarian Army including: The Battle of Kosturino, Retreat from Serbia, Capture of the Karajokois, Capture of Yenikoi.

In Sept 1917 they were deployed to Egypt and then Palestine and engaged in various actions during the Palestine Campaign including; Third Battle of Gaza, Capture of the Sheria Position, Capture of Jerusalem, Defence of Jerusalem.

On the 28.05.1918 they left the 10th Division and deployed to France, embarking at Alexandria via Taranto arriving at Serqueux. On the 19.07.1918 they transferred to the 198th Brigade of the 66th Division, and fought in The Battle of Cambrai, The Pursuit to the Selle, The Battle of the Selle, and a phase of the Final Advance in Picardy. On the 11.11.1918 they ended the war near Avesnes.
Private Michael Reidy

**Michael Reidy**: Born in Leitrim, lived in Cooraclare, died of wounds 19th July 1918, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 6194, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. G/M in Louvencourt (not far from Albert), France. His personal effects and property were received by Miss Nano Reidy, Cooraclare Co Clare. (TB)

**Louvencourt Military Cemetery**
Departement de la Somme.
Picardie, France
Plot: Plot 1. Row E. Grave 11. There are now 151 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery.

Withdrawning further, the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division fought at Bapaume on March 24th and 25th 1918, and on April 5th at the Ancre, well known territory for the old stagers of the division left alive. The British armies had to yield a lot of terrain in March and April, but were able to hold at Amiens. Gough's Fifth Army was practically annihilated. When the balance swung in the allies' favour, the Royal Naval Division took part in the second battle at the Somme on August 21st - 23rd 1918.

Artillery Wood Cemetery Boezinge
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: I.A.16.

Until July 1917, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German front line over the Yser canal, but at the end of that month, the Battle of Pilckem Ridge pushed the German line back and Artillery Wood, just east of the canal, was captured by the Guards Division. They began the cemetery just north of the wood when the fighting was over and it continued as a frontline cemetery until March 1918.

There are now 1,307 First World War casualties buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

The Battle of Pilckem Ridge, 31 July – 2 August 1917, was the opening attack of the main part of the Third Battle of Ypres in the First World War. The battle took place in the Ypres Salient area of the Western Front.
Private William Reybauld

**William Reybauld:** Born and lived in Ennis (Clonroad), killed in action 3\(^{rd}\) Sept 1916 at Guillemonton the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8\(^{th}\) Bn 4675,(16\(^{th}\) Div). G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

The name on this penny is William Reybauld, listed as one of the Ennis men who died in World War 1. The current owner of this penny is Alan Lewis from Clonroad. William Reybauld was related to the Lewis family. (Flan Hehir)

‘On September 3\(^{rd}\) the Battalion moved into position at 3am for the attack on Guillemont.... The leading companies left their trench together with the 6\(^{th}\) Bn Connaughts at 12.30am..... The enemy had been cleared from Guillemont and the Quarries and Battalion HQ was established in the village. At 2.35pm... the Battalion advanced as far as the sunken road east of Guillemont.... consolidating the position.... the failure of the Brigade on the left to make good its advance on Ginchy exposed the left flank of the Battalion, and three heavy counter-attacks preceded by artillery preparation had to be repulsed. The Battalion was relieved at 2am on the 4\(^{th}\) September..... Casualties; 265 all ranks.’

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

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

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

Corporal James Reynolds British War Medal.

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

Peter Reynolds: Born in Kilrush lived in New South Wales Australia. Wounded in France, August, 1917; died in Secondee, Gold Coast West Africa (Ghana), Sept 1918 from influenza. Admirality ship "SS Panayiotis" Son of William and Bridget Reynolds No 8 Moore St Kilrush. (TB)KM

He was a Seaman aged 21 when he enlisted in Feb 1916 in Newcastle NSW into the 35th Bn. 1st Reinf.1685. His parents were Bridget and William Reynolds, 8 Moore Street Kilrush. He was discharged illegally absent in Sept 1916.

The SS Panayiotis docked at Iddo Wharf in Lagos on Sept 11th 1918. Dr Gray (a European Private Medical Doctor), reported that three of the ‘native’ passengers were suffering from influenza. These passengers were quickly isolated and sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Lagos. The ship was immediately disinfected and quarantined. Two other ships docked that day in Lagos with infected passengers, and on one of them the SS Bida the passengers were simply allowed go ashore. The virus spread rapidly through Lagos and Nigeria with thousands of deaths. (Toyin Falola, Emily Brownell)

Although the statistics for “Spanish” flu mortality in Africa by whole countries are very inexact, the worst hit states appear to have been those where three features came together: first exposure to the pandemic only in its most virulent, second-wave form; being part of an extensive transport network by sea or by land; being regularly traversed by large numbers of people on the move, such as soldiers, sailors and migrant workers. That all three features coincided most fully in countries like South Africa, Kenya, Cameroon, Gold Coast, Gambia, Tanganyika and Nyasaland, and that these appear to have sustained the highest flu mortality (more than 5 percent of their populations) is unlikely to be coincidental. Nor is it likely to be coincidental that flu mortality in North Africa (where the toxic trio of features was not simultaneously present) probably did not rise above 1 percent of the population.
Private Joseph Riordan

Joseph Riordan: Born in Ennistymon, killed in action 29th Nov 1917 age 26, in the Battle of Cambrai (20 Nov - 7 Dec 1917). Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 1st Bn 26467, 87th Brigade in 29th Division. G/M in France. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of J Riordan RIC. (TB)

Cambray Memorial
Louverval
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 5 and 6.

The CAMBRAI MEMORIAL commemorates more than 7,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known. The proposed method of assault was new, with no preliminary artillery bombardment. Instead, tanks would be used to break through the German wire, with the infantry following under the cover of smoke barrages. The attack began early in the morning of 20 November 1917 and initial advances were remarkable. However, by 22 November, a halt was called for rest and reorganisation, allowing the Germans to reinforce.

From 23 to 28 November, the fighting was concentrated almost entirely around Bourlon Wood and by 29 November, it was clear that the Germans were ready for a major counter attack. During the fierce fighting of the next five days, much of the ground gained in the initial days of the attack was lost.

Private Joseph Riordan died on the 29th Nov 1917.
Patrick Riordan: Born in Ennistymon lived in Australia (emigrated to Australia when he was 27 as a bootmaker), enlisted in Queensland, died of wounds (gunshot to the breast) 20th May 1916 age 29, in action near Armentieres. Australian Infantry 25th Bn 3300, 2nd Division. G/M in France. Son of John and Johanna Riordan, Church Street Ennistymon. (TB)MA

Ration Farm Military Cemetery
La Chapelle-d’Armentieres
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.
Plot: I. G. 12.

He was a Labourer aged 25 when he enlisted in Dec 1915 in Enoggera Queensland into the 7th Reinf 25th Bn. 3300. His brother was Michael Riordan, Ennistymon. He is buried in Cemetery Ration Farm 1.5 miles South of Armentiers.(UNSW)

The 2nd Division started to arrive in France in March 1916, and was initially sent (as part of the I Anzac Corps with the Australian 1st Division) to a quiet sector south of Armentières to acclimatise to the Western Front conditions.

There are now 1,313 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery.

During the Great War Armentières was an important town in the British lines in Artois: a main route to and from the trenches where units were billeted, a depot for support and Lines of Communication troops, Divisional headquarters for the neighbouring sectors, the site of many artillery gun sites and a forward rail

Captain Archibald William Robertson-Glasgow

Le Touret Military Cemetery
Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I. B. 10.

‘He left India with his Regiment for France, 21 September 1914, and on arrival was detailed Railway Transport Officer until early in November, when he rejoined his regiment in the trenches. He was Killed in action at Bethune a few days later, 13-14 Nov 1914. His Colonel wrote; “He had charged right up most valiantly to the enemy’s trench and in a yard or two would have been in it..’ British Roll of Honour 1914-1916.

The Cemetery was begun by the Indian Corps in November, 1914. There are now over 900 Commonwealth World War I casualties commemorated in this site.
Private William Rochford

William Rochford: Born in Drumbiggle Ennis, killed in action 4th Sept 1916 age 30 at the Somme at Guillemont, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5749(16th Div). G/M in Thiepval France. Son of Patrick and Margaret Rochford Drumbiggle. He was reported missing in action in Sept 1916 in the Clare Journal.

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

‘On September 3rd the Battalion moved into position at 3am for the attack on Guillemont.... The leading companies left their trench together with the 6th Bn Connaughts at 12.30am.... The enemy had been cleared from Guillemont and the Quarries and Battalion HQ was established in the village. At 2.35pm... the Battalion advanced as far as the sunken road east of Guillemont.... consolidating the position.... the failure of the Brigade on the left to make good its advance on Ginchy exposed the left flank of the Battalion, and three heavy counter-attacks preceded by artillery preparation had to be repulsed. The Battalion was relieved at 2am on the 4th September... Casualties; 265 all ranks.’

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 Michael Ronan

**Michael Ronan**: Born in Kilshanny lived in South Australia, killed in action 17th Oct 1917 age 27 in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Australian Infantry 50th Bn 1582, G/M in Belgium (Menin Gate). In June 1917 (during The Battle of Messines 7–14 June 1917), he received gunshot wounds to the head and was hospitalised in Boulogne. Rejoined his unit in September 1917. (TB) MA He was a Labourer aged 24 when he enlisted in 1914 in Oaklands SA into the 50th Bn. 1582. He had fought in Gallipoli and after that served in France and Belgium. (UNSW)

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

The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. 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.

The Menin Gate MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Captain Rose C.E. (Chief Engineer): He was stationed at the Ordnance Survey in Ennis. Taken from the Clare Journal Dec 1914. Could be Launcelot St Vincent Rose Royal Engineers. Killed in action 28th Nov 1914. Mentioned in Despatches. (CJ)

Ordnance Survey in Ennis

Dec 1914 Clare Journal
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 Département de la Somme Picardie, France
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. 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)

Photos – Keir McNamara
Petty Officer Thomas Rowan

**Thomas Rowan:** Kilrush, died Jan 21\(^{st}\) 1915 age 34, Petty Officer on the submarine HMS/ME-10 that sank off the coast of Heligoland, G/M in England. He left behind his wife Theresa who lives in Portsmouth and his father James in Kilrush. (TB)

**Portsmouth Naval Memorial**

**Portsmouth**

**Portsmouth Unitary Authority**

**Hampshire, England**

**Plot:** Final resting place unknown. Name listed on Panel 7.

HMS E10 sailed from Harwich for operations NNW of Heligoland. No further contact was made with the submarine after parting company with HMS E5. It is believed that E10 was destroyed by an enemy mine.

E10 was discovered off Germany in 2002 and is now preserved as a war grave.

The HMS E-10 submarine that was lost off Heligoland & Lt Cdr William St J Fraser.
John Robin Roy: Born in Suffolk, died of wounds (Gas) 2nd Oct 1918 age 38, in the Advance of Flanders (28 Sept – 2 Oct 1918). Royal Army Medical Corps, 98th Field Ambulance. G/M in France. (TB) Son of Mary Bertha Roy, of Masonic Hall, Ennis, Co. Clare; husband of Bertha Roy, of 13 Highland Road, Itchen, Hants. (findagrave website)

La Kreule Military Cemetery
Hazebrouck.
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.
Plot: VI. A. 1.

The 98th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps joined the 30th Division in November 1915. In 1918 they were in action during the Advance of Flanders (28 Sept – 2 Oct 1918) a series of battles in northern France and southern Belgium. By 1 October the left bank of the Lys had been captured up to Comines and the Belgians were beyond a line from Moorslede to Staden and Dinxmude. The advance continued until 2 October, when German reinforcements arrived and the offensive outran its supplies.

Due to the state of the ground, 15,000 rations were delivered by parachute, from 80 Belgian and British aircraft.

Photo – Keir McNamara
Private James Russell

James Russell: Born in Ennis, killed in action 22nd March 1918 in the German Offensive. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6938, G/M in France. (TB)

The Pozieres Memorial relates to March and April 1918 when the Allies were driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties.


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

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

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

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

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

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.
Lance Corporal Thomas Russell

**Thomas Russell**: Born and lived in Kilmaley, killed in action 15th Aug 1917 age 21, (at the Frezenberg Ridge near Passchendael). Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6825, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. Son of John and Catherine Russell, Culleen Kilmaley. *(TB)*

**Corporal T Russell**: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the wounded list in Oct 1916 (Ginchy). *(CJ)*

*Panel 44*
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ypres (Ieper) Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium

‘The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11; on the 14th August wounded 13. During the operations of the Frezenberg Ridge on the 16th the Battalion... lost 1 killed; 15 wounded.’

In the **Third Battle of Ypres** an offensive was 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.**

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Private Austin Francis Ryan

Austin Francis Ryan: Born in Ballyvaughan lived in Llanelly Wales, died at home 9th June 1916 age 22, Royal Munster Fusiliers 3rd Bn 6740, G/M in Cobh Co Cork. Son of Mrs Ryan, Fanore. (TB) The 3rd Bn were based in Aghada at the time he died.

C. 24. 54.
Cobh Old Church Cemetery.
Co Cork.
Private James Ryan: Born in Limerick lived in Clarecastle, died July 28th 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 8/3951. He is buried in St Lawrence’s Cemetery in Limerick and he is also commemorated on the Grangegorman Memorial. He jumped into a river in Limerick on the way to the RMF Barracks in Tralee and drowned. He was home on leave due to wounds. He left behind his wife M Ryan and eight children, aged from 2 to 12.
Private James Ryan

James Ryan: Born in Ballina Co Tipperary, lived in Killaloe, killed in action 5th July 1916 (in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme), Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn. (7th Div), G/M in Mametz, France. (TB) July 1st 1916: The 2nd Royal Irish Regiment helped to capture three miles of the German frontline trenches near the village of Mametz.

Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz
Mametz Département de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: VII. C. 6.

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

July 1st 1916: When the 7th Division advanced behind a creeping barrage, much of the German front line was quickly overrun and many prisoners taken; delays further forward caused the infantry to lag behind the barrage and suffer far more casualties. Mametz was occupied during the morning by the 20th Brigade but a German counter-attack forced most of the British troops out, until a second attack during the afternoon, when the advance of the 18th Division on the right flank, had cut the Germans in the village off from Montauban to the east. The German defence collapsed and the 7th Division reached all its objectives on the right and in the centre and began to consolidate, ready to receive a German counter-attack. The 7th Division was relieved by the 38th Division on 5 July.

Photos – Keir McNamara
**Private John Patrick Ryan**

**John Patrick Ryan**: Born in Lissycasey lived in Kildysart, died of wounds 1st July 1918 age 21, at Gommecourt Wood. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6840, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Ryan, Effeman, Kildysart. (TB)

Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt Gezaincourt. Departement de la Somme Picardie, France.

‘On May 5th 1918 ...the 1st Battalion took up their positions in front of Gommecourt Wood (a quiet sector during the summer). The ordinary trench routine was carried out all May, June and July 1918. Nothing out of the ordinary happened.’

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private Thomas Joseph Ryan

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

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

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

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

Maroc British Cemetery now contains 1,379 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.
Private William Ryan

William Ryan: Born in Castletown Co Tipperary but residing in Killaloe, killed in action 9th Oct 1917 age 27, 3rd Battles of Ypres - Battle Of Poelcapelle (9/10/1917). Irish Guards 1st Bn 10592, 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 2nd Division. G/M in Belgium. Son of Matthew and Mary Ryan Cloneybrien Killaloe. (TB)

Panel 10 to 11 Tyne Cot Memorial Zonnebeke. Arrondissement Ieper West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.

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

3rd Battles of Ypres - Battle Of Poelcapelle (9/10/1917): The incessant rain which hampered preparations had turned the battlefield into a sea of mud. At 05.20am on 9th October, British and Australian troops attacked across a waterlogged landscape devoid of any form of cover except water filled shell holes. Many of the artillery shells landing in the soft ground failed to impact hard enough to explode. Around midday the attack halted, was forced to withdraw and by the end of the day the survivors had returned to their lines. Of an attacking force of 30,000 men, around 7,000 were killed, wounded or posted missing and only one of the main objectives was taken.
Sergeant William F Ryan

American Sergeant William F Ryan: Born in County Clare about 1885. Lived in New York City. He was aged 32 when he enlisted on the 23rd May 1917 into Co A 18th Infantry 45804. He served overseas from June 1918 until he was killed in action on the 11th Oct 1918. He was also severely wounded on the 18th July 1918. He fought at Catigny, Chateau Thierry, Soissons Verdun, Metz and finally the Argonne. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. His next of kin was his sister Jennie Reidy, 116th St New York. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919)
Private First Class Pat Sammon

Pat Sammon: Born in Scariff Co Clare, lived in New York. Enlisted in Jan 1916 aged 22 into the 101 CAC (Coast Artillery Corps) in the QMC (Quarter Master Corps). He did not serve overseas. He died of Broncho Pneumonia on the 21st March 1918. His father was Thomas Sammon, Scariff (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919) He is buried in Arlington Cemetery, the final resting place of over 400,000 US Soldiers.

Private Patrick Sammon,
Q Company M,
Company C,
US Army.
Died Mar 21 1918
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington County.
Virginia, USA
Plot: Site 19138

Pat Sammon: Meenross, Scariff. His passing is recorded on family gravestone in Moynoe Graveyard, Scariff with the incorrect date of his death. ‘Patrick Sammon Son who died in USA Forces 28th August 1917 Aged 22.’ A relative remembers a plaque from the US government on the wall of the family home in her childhood (since gone). Brother of Jack Sammon. (Keir McNamara)

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 400,000 US fallen heroes, including veterans of WW1. Established in 1864, the cemetery is still fully operational today.
Private Francis Saunders


Private Saunders was evacuated from France and brought to England by hospital ship. He was brought by train to a military hospital in Nottingham. He died of his wounds on October 19, 1918, aged still only 17 years, well below the minimum age for overseas service. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Nottingham Cemetery and Crematorium
Nottingham Unitary Authority
Nottinghamshire, England
Screen Wall. 03259.

The Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn fought in The Battle of Cambrai (8th – 10th Oct 1918), which was a battle between troops of the British First, Third and Fourth Armies and German Empire forces during the Hundred Days Offensive. The battle took place in and around the French city of Cambrai. The battle incorporated many of the newer tactics of 1918, in particular tanks. The attack was an overwhelming success with light casualties in an extremely short amount of time.
Private John Scanlan / Scanlon


The Aisne-Marne Operation (July 18-August 6, 1918):

The American 1st, 2nd, 26th, 3rd, 28th, 4th, 42nd and 32nd Infantry Divisions are organized into the American I and III Corps that participate with the French 10th, 6th, 9th and 5th armies in the Franco-American offensive that marks the beginning of the German Army’s retreat from France.

Casualties: 38,490. (7 Claremen died)

John Scanlan of Newtown, Killaloe was the son of John and Kate Scanlan (née Burke). He was a member of the American Expeditionary Forces and was killed in France on 29 July 1918.

Name: John Scanlon. Residence: 1214 E. 9th St., Cleveland, Ohio.


Buried at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Fere-en-Tardenois, France. Plot A Row 5 Grave 8. (Clare Library)
**Bombardier Martin Scanlan**

**Martin Scanlan:** Born in Kilrush, died of disease (contracted while on service) 9th Feb 1916 age 28, (9th Jan 1916 on Headstone). Royal Field Artillery 3778, G/M in Kilrush. Son of Mrs Mary Scanlan, 71 Moore St, Kilrush. (TB) He is also commemorated on a panel on the Grangegorman Memorial. Brother of Thomas who died in March 1920 and Patrick Scanlan.

111
Private Patrick (Paddy) Scanlan

Patrick (Paddy) Scanlan: Born in Kilrush 1879, lived in Limerick, died 20th Nov 1917 age 38, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6750, G/M in France. He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Cambrai.

Croisilles Railway Cemetery. Croisilles
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: I. C. 22.

The Railway Cemetery now contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The Battle of Cambrai. ‘At zero (6.20 am 20th Nov 1917) the barrage opened. At zero plus two minutes the front wave left the trenches.....

At 6.24 the first wave entered the German trench...The charge for the enemy’s trench was made so swiftly, and with such dash that no time was given to the enemy to man his parapet... At 7am consolidation commenced and continued all day....Casualties 13 killed; wounded 60; missing 5......The enemy counterattacked on November 30th ...and we had to withdraw to Bourlon Wood and give up about half the ground we had gained.... On December 2nd the Battalion was relieved...’
Private Thomas Scanlan

Thomas Scanlan: Born in Kilrush, died due to a complete fracture of the skull as a result of a fall due to dizziness 19th March 1920 age 33. Labour Corps and Royal Munster Fusiliers G/4627, G/M in Kilrush Church of Ireland Churchyard. Also commemorated on a panel at Grangegorman Memorial. Son of Mrs. Mary Scanlan, Moore St. Brother of Martin who died in Feb 1916 and Patrick. (TB)

Private Thomas Scanlan: Hector Street, Kilrush. Aged 27 when he enlisted in 1915. 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4627. He married Margaret Madigan in May 1914 and they had 2 daughters. He survived the War. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Buried in the Kilrush Church of Ireland Churchyard, grave no.555, near the North boundary of the Cemetery.

The Grangegorman Memorial
Corporal Daniel J Scanlon

**Corporal Daniel J Scanlon**: Born in Co Clair (Clare). Lived in New York City. He was aged 23 when he enlisted on the 13th April 1917 into Co G 69th Infantry (165th Infantry 42nd Div 90480) until his death. He was accidentally killed on the 21st April 1918. He served overseas from Oct 1917. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919) G/M in France.

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery
and Memorial
Romagne-sous-Montfaucon
Departement de la Meuse
Lorraine, France
Private First Class Patrick Scanlon

Private 1st Class Patrick Scanlon: Born in Co Clare. He was aged 21 when he enlisted in the US Army 69 Infantry 90672 in June 1917 (42nd Div). He lived in New York City. He served abroad from July 1918. He was killed in action at Chateau Thierry on the 29th July 1918. He had also fought at Luneville, Baccarat and Champagne. His next of kin was his sister Mary Scanlon who also lived in New York City. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919 Ancestry .com) G/M in France.

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial Fere-en-Tardenois
Departement de l'Aisne
Picardie, France.

This Cemetery contains the remains of 6,012 American war dead, most of whom lost their lives while fighting in this vicinity in 1918 during World War I.

‘The name of Château-Thierry, more than any other French town, will always stands out in American World War I history. Château-Thierry will always be an American shrine in France—not the old Marne City alone or chiefly, but rather the American battlefields which surround the city. Château Thierry still occupies a major position large in our national military traditions for it was there that our military forces first participated in a great battle and first figured in a large offensive.’ (David Homsher)

Photos – Keir McNamara
Martin Sculley/Scully: Born in Limerick, lived in Kilkee, died 17th Oct 1914, in The Battle of Messines (12 Oct – 2 Nov 1914). Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 7465, 10th Brigade in 4th Division. G/M in France. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. He was the first Clare soldier reported killed in the war. He had previously been wounded in the Boer War.

The Battle of Messines (12 Oct – 2 Nov 1914). The BEF was ordered to make a general advance on 16 October, as the German forces were falling back. The cavalry were ordered to cross the Lys between Armentières and Menin as the III Corps advanced north-east, to clear the way for the cavalry and gain touch with the 7th Division near Ypres.

The cavalry advanced towards the Lys between Houplines and Comines at 6:00 a.m. in fog, which grounded Royal Flying Corps (RFC) reconnaissance aircraft and made artillery support impossible. The river was a muddy stream 45–60 feet (14–18 m) wide and 5 feet (1.5 m) deep at that point, flanked by water meadows. The banks of the Lys were cut by boggy streams and dykes, which kept the cavalry on the roads. German outposts were pushed back but the crossings were well-defended and dismounted cavalry attacks were not able to dislodge the German defenders. Cavalry which got to Warneton town square, were withdrawn during the night.
Private Michael Scully

Michael Scully: Born in Clarecastle, lived in Kilkee, killed in action 1st Nov 1914 age 23, in the First Battle of Ypres, at Klein Zillebeke. Irish Guards 1st Bn 4460, 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 2nd Division. G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. Son of Patrick and Mary Scully, Tiermaclane, Ennis. (TB)

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

Klein Zillebeke: ‘Bombardment was renewed on the 1st November. The front trenches were drenched by field-guns, at close range, with spurts of heavy stuff at intervals; the rear by heavy artillery, while machine-gun fire filled the intervals…It was hopeless to send reinforcements; the machine-gun fire would have wiped them out moving and our artillery was not strong enough to silence any one sector of the enemy’s fire.

In the afternoon the enemy attacked—with rifle-fire and a close-range small piece that broke up our two machine-guns—across some dead ground and occupied the wrecked trench, driving back the few remains of No. 3 Company…One platoon, however, of No. 1 Company, under Lieutenant N. Woodroffe (he had only left Eton a year), did not get the order to retire, and so held on in its trench till dark and “was certainly instrumental in checking the advance of the enemy.” The line was near breaking-point by then, but company after company delivered what blow it could, and fell back, shelled and machine-gunned at every step, to the fringe of Zillebeke Wood. Here the officers, every cook, orderly, and man who could stand, took rifle and fought; for they were all that stood there between the enemy and the Channel Ports……Yet the time was to come when three hundred and fifty casualties would be regarded as no extraordinary price to pay for ground won or held.’ The Irish Guards in the Great War Rudyard Kipling)

By the end of 'First Ypres' on the 22 November 1914, the battalion had suffered over 700 casualties.

New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium.
New Southgate
London Borough of Enfield
Greater London, England
Plot: F. 1177.

This Cemetery contains 109 Commonwealth burials from WW1.

QMS Michael Sexton: Born in 1879 in Kilmurray, Miltown Malbay. He was a Clerk aged 18 when he enlisted in Feb 1897 into the Army Service Corps S/13182. He went to France in Sept 1914. He was discharged in April 1917 as he was medically unfit due to ‘General Paralysis of the Insane’. ‘His character was exemplary... An excellent Clerk. Honest, sober, reliable. Has been a Non - Commissioned Officer since May 1900. He has served for two and a half years in France during the recent war.’ Lt Col C Worthington “A” Co ASC 5th April 1917. He had served in South Africa from 1899-1902 and had received 2 Kings and 2 Queens Clasps. He also received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in August 1917.

He was transferred to the County Asylum in Tooting London on the 21st May 1917, so that his wife could be with him. He married Ellen Power in 1908 and they had 2 boys Frederick and Francis and a girl Cilia, who born in 1916. He lived at 128 Maryland Road, Woodgreen, London. (British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920)
Staff Quartermaster Sergeant Michael Sexton continued

WW1 "DOG TAG" "13182 M Sexton, ASC, R.C.". BOER WAR MEDAL RIBBONS.

COPY OF MEDAL INDEX CARD SHOWING ENTITLEMENT TO 1914 STAR, WAR MEDAL, VICTORY MEDAL
AND SILVER WAR BADGE ( WOUND BADGE ). ALSO ENTITLED TO ARMY LONG SERVICE AND GOOD
CONDUCT MEDAL, KING AND QUEENS BOER WAR MEDALS. "LUNATIC ASYLUM" IN BIG LETTERS ON MIC,
INDICATES SHELL SHOCK, SERVICE RECORDS MENTION PARALYSIS MADE WORSE BY ACTIVE SERVICE.
ENTERED FRANCE 26/9/1914

WW1 1914 STAR WAR MEDAL, CASUALTY, BOER WAR VETERAN, FROM KILMURRAY, CLARE.

These went on sale on eBay in Sept 2017. (Eric Shaw) Sold for over £130.
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. His parents were James and Susan Shank, Ivy Lodge, Clarecastle.

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

_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.

_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._
Seaman Edward Shannon

Edward Shannon: Died 16\textsuperscript{th} June 1918 age 26, Royal Naval Reserve \textbf{SS Zelo} 5287/A, G/M in Wales. Son of James and Susan Shannon Quilty East. (TB) The \textbf{SS Zelo} was a salvage vessel that did U-Boat recovery.

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{cathays_cemetery}
\end{center}

\begin{center}
\textbf{Cathays Cemetery}
Cardiff, Wales
\end{center}

Edward Shannon: Born in Quilty 25\textsuperscript{th} Jan 1890. Royal Naval Reserve Service A5287. (UK Royal Naval Reserve Service Records Index, 1860 - 1955)

The cemetery, known locally as Cathays Cemetery was opened in 1859 and has been extended to cover over 100 acres.

Just over a third of the 1914-1918 burials are contained in a War Graves Plot in the portion of Section EB, this plot is on two converging roadways leading to the main entrance. The remainder of the graves are scattered in other parts of the cemetery.

There are now nearly 500, 1914-1918 war casualties commemorated in this site.
Private Edward Shannon

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

Warlencourt British Cemetery
Warlencourt-Eaucourt
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot: VIII. A. 12.

The Warlencourt British cemetery now contains 3,505 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War.

After a month’s break in October 1916, the 2RMF returned to the Somme for maintenance duties, then into front-line trenches full of mud from 27 November onwards, with steady frostbite and raids continuing to the end of December. ‘About November 20th the Battalion took up a position in the front line between Eaucourt L’Abbaye and Flers… In December (1916) a raid on a portion of the enemy’s lines named the Maze was ordered….the patrol (2 officers and 12 men) went out and found the enemy not unnaturally had evacuated the trench (due to an artillery barrage). They returned and reported the matter…and were told to go out again and see if the German’s had returned…to what was certain death or capture…’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

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

Thomas Shannon: Cahersherkin, Ennistymon. Died in 1918. US Army. (PMcN) He is buried in Killeinagh Cemetery over 1 mile from Ennistymon. (Guss O’Halloran) Private Thomas Shannon: Born in Co Clare. He was aged 25 when he enlisted in the US Army 69th Infantry 91144 in June 1917. He lived in New York City. He served overseas from Oct 1917. He died of wounds received in action at Ourcq on the 12th August 1918. He had also fought at Luneville, Baccarat, Chasseus-Champagne and Chateau Thierry. His next of kin was his father Patrick Shannon from Cahersherken Co Clare. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919 Ancestry .com)(42nd Div)(July 18-August 6, 1918-The Aisne-Marne Operation) SAD HOMECOMING: His body was returned to Ireland on the steamer SS Orloch Head on the 4th Nov 1921, during the Civil War and consigned to Mrs. Anne Shannon, Cahersherkin, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, and subsequently buried in Killeinagh Cemetery.

Location: Killeinagh
Graveyard is located off the Ennistymon – Ennis road.
Leaving Ennistymon turn left after 1Km at Glann Cross. The cemetery is 1Km on the right.

Thomas Shannon,
New York.
PVT 165 INF 42 Div.
August 12th, 1918.
Andrew Shannon,
died 9th February, 1945, aged 45.
Veronica Shannon,
died 18th February, 1945, aged 18.
Ignatius Shannon,
died 16th June, 1988, aged 48.
Bridget died 16th May, 1996, ages 88.
Thomas died 12th August, 1918.
John died 6th May, 1969, aged 72.

On 28th July 1918, the Irish American regiment (the 69th) engaged the German forces on the River Ourcq, advancing without the normal preliminary artillery bombardment. They forced a river crossing and fought alone with exposed flanks on the enemy’s side of the river against withering machine-gun fire. The Shamrock battalion was in the eye of the storm, suffering heavy casualties, amongst them Sergeant Joyce Kilmer, renowned poet and author of the ballad “Trees”, who was killed in action.

It was at this juncture that the whole of the battalion came under the command of Captain Martin Meaney from Cree. Meaney led them in the last attack that broke the German resistance which included the elite Fourth Prussian Guard Division under the Kaiser’s son Prince Ethel Frederick. This victory was widely acclaimed as a great feat of arms. (D Murrihy)
Rifleman Thomas Sharry

Thomas Sharry/Sherry: Born in the Burren Co Clare, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 27, in the Battle of Aubers Ridge (9th May 1915). Royal Irish Rifles 1st Bn 2511, 25th Infantry Brigade, 8th Division. G/M in Belgium. Son of Michael and C Sharry New Quay. (TB)

Ploegsteert Memorial
Comines-Warneton
Arrondissement de Mouscron
The Memorial commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the UK and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave.

The Battle of Aubers Ridge (9th May 1915): This battle was an unmitigated disaster for the British army. No ground was won and no tactical advantage gained. Intelligence about the newly strengthened German positions was not available or given sufficient attention. No surprise was achieved. The British bombardment was wholly insufficient to break the German wire and breastwork defences, or to destroy or suppress the front-line machine-guns. German artillery and free movement of reserves were also insufficiently suppressed. Trench layout, traffic flows and organisation behind the British front line did not allow for easy movement of reinforcements and casualties. British artillery equipment and ammunition were in poor condition: the first through over-use, the second through faulty manufacture. It soon became impossible to tell where British troops were; accurate close-support artillery fire was impossible.

British casualties - 11,619 men.
Private Thomas Sharry

Thomas Sharry: Born in Ennis, killed in action 28th Feb 1917 (during the attack at Sailly-Saillisel Feb 28th 1917 at the Somme), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn, 29th Div. G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB)

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.

Operations on the Ancre took place from 11 January – 13 March 1917, between the British Fifth Army and the German 1st Army, on the Somme front during the First World War. After the Battle of the Ancre (13–18 November 1916), British attacks on the Somme front stopped for the winter. For the rest of the year and early January 1917, both sides were reduced to surviving the rain, snow, fog, mud fields, waterlogged trenches and shell-holes. As preparations for the offensive at Arras due in the spring of 1917 continued, the British attempted to keep German attention on the Somme. British operations on the Ancre from 11 January – 22 February 1917, forced the Germans back 5 mi (8.0 km) on a 4 mi (6.4 km) front, ahead the scheduled German retirements of the Alberich Bewegung (Alberich Manoeuvre/Operation Alberich) and eventually took 5,284 prisoners. On 22/23 February, the Germans fell back another 3 mi (4.8 km) on a 15-mile (24 km) front.
James Shaughnessy: Born in Inagh, died 15th Dec 1917 in Salonika, possibly due to illness. Royal Garrison Artillery Unit 143rd Heavy Battery 280990, G/M in Greece. (TB)

Lahana Military Cemetery. Lachanas
Regional unit of Thessaloniki
The cemetery was begun in July 1916 for burials from the 27th Casualty Clearing Station, to which sick and wounded men were brought from the Struma front. The cemetery now contains 279 Commonwealth burials of WW1.

The 143rd Heavy Battery (Ashton-under-Lyne) were sent to Salonica on the 25th July 1916. During 1917 there was comparatively little activity on the British part of the front in Macedonia, due in part to complex political changes in Greece throughout the year. Accommodation for the front line soldier usually comprised little more than a bivouac tent or dugout. Much effort was expended on improving the local road network and in constructing light railways. Even so, many parts of the front could only be reached by pack mules. Disease, in particular malaria, proved endemic throughout the campaign. The BSF alone suffered 162,517 cases of malaria, the majority occurring in units serving with XVI Corps in the Struma Valley, at the time one of the worst malarial areas in Europe.
Private Michael Shaughnessy

Michael Shaughnessy: Born in Ennis, killed in action 21st March 1918 age 21, in the German Offensive. Royal Irish Regiment (South Irish Horse) 7th Bn 25771, G/M in Pozieres France. Son of Frederick and Ellen Shaughnessy. (TB)

Pozieres Memorial. Pozieres Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Panel 30 and 31. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties related to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed.

March 1918 at St Quentin: The 16th Division held an exposed position from early 1918 at Ronssoy during the German Army's Spring Offensive. At 4.40am on 21 Mar 1918 the Germans fired 1.16 million shells over a 80 km front in a 5 hour period. Their shells were both explosive and gas. Further as dawn broke, a thick mist reduced visibility to 25 metres. At 9.35 am, 500,000 German soldiers advanced through the mist (against 200,00 British). There were heavy losses. The 16th Div was practically wiped out in the retreat which followed Operation Michael.

The retreat lasted 8 days and nights, with stops to briefly hold defensive position.
**Private Basil Claude Shaw**

**Basil Claude Shaw:** Born in Clarecastle, lived in Newport Wales, died 4th June 1918, Monmouthshire Regiment 1st Bn 226237, G/M in France. (TB) Brother of Charles below.

**Pernes British Cemetery**
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: II. F. 10.

There are now 1,078 First World War burials in this cemetery.

In September 1915 the Monmouthshire Regiment 1st Bn was assigned to the 46th (North Midland) Division as a pioneer battalion, where they remained for the rest of the war. In 1918 they fought in the Battle of the St Quentin canal, The Battle of the Beaurevoir Line, The Battle of Cambrai, The Battle of the Selle and The Battle of Sambre.

They were at Avesnes (very close to Pernes where Basil Claude is buried) in northern France at the time of the Armistice of 11 November 1918.
Private Charles Shaw

Charles Shaw: Born in Clarecastle lived in Newport Wales, killed in action 13th March 1915 age 20, Royal Welsh Fusiliers 1st Bn 10587, G/M in France. (TB) Brother of Basil above.

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 13 and 14.

Over 13,000 names are listed on the memorial of men who fell in this area before 25 September 1915 and who have no known grave.

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle (10–13 March 1915) was a British offensive in the Artois region of France and broke through at Neuve-Chapelle but the success could not be exploited. More troops had arrived from Britain and relieved some French troops in Flanders, which enabled a continuous British line to be formed, from Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée north to Langemarck. The battle was intended to cause a rupture in the German lines, which would then be exploited with a rush to the Aubers Ridge and possibly Lille. On 12 March, German forces commanded by Crown Prince Rupprecht, launched a counter-attack which failed but forced the British to use most of their artillery ammunition and the British offensive was postponed on 13 March and abandoned two days later.

Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along Aubers ridge, reinforcing their positions with thick barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements.
Batt Shea: Born in Trough Co Clare, died 1st Nov 1914 age 36 on the HMS Good Hope off Chile, Royal Navy 284107, G/M in England. Son of John and Margaret Shea Glenbeigh Co Kerry. (TB)

The HMS Monmouth and HMS Good Hope participated in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on 1 November 1914. Early in the battle, a shell from SMS Gneisenau penetrated the armour of the forward gun turret of HMS Monmouth. When it was clear that Monmouth was out of action, Gneisenau shifted fire to HMS Good Hope. A short while later, drifting and on fire, Monmouth was attacked by the newly arrived light cruiser SMS Nürnberg. Monmouth and Good Hope both sank with a combined loss of 1,570 lives. There were no survivors from either ship.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave. It was recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, to commemorate the seamen of the Royal Navy who sailed from that port. Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War.
Private T (Patrick) (O) Shea

Patrick Shea: (Pat O’Shea) Born in Miltown Malbay, lived in Lancashire, killed in action 29th April 1916, at Vlamertinghe near Ypres, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7430, Guards Division. G/M in Belgium. His father was the Head Constable in Miltown Malbay. (TB) (CJ) His brother John Joseph O’Shea Royal Munster Fusiliers was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) age 24 in March 1916.

White House Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium. Plot: I. H. 8.

Clare Journal May 1916

D.C.M. For Miltown-Malbay Man.

Intelligence has reached us that Srgt. John Joseph O’Shea of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, has been awarded the D.C.M. for gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty. Only 28 years of age, he joined the army two years ago at Ashton, England. His brother, Pat O’Shea, of the Irish Guards, was killed in France about ten months ago, while another brother is serving in the Royal Irish Constabulary. The brothers were born in Miltown Malbay, where their grandmother resides, who nursed them, and is widely respected in that West Clare town.

Clare Journal March 1917
Mr Patrick Sheedy

Patrick Sheedy: Darragh, Ennis. He died May 7th 1915 age 30, when the Lusitania was sunk off the south coast of Ireland, by a torpedo from the German U-Boat U-20. (Clare Champion)

On May 7, 1915, the RMS Lusitania was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sunk, off the Old Head of Kinsale. Of the 1,959 people on board, 1,198 died, including 128 Americans. The sinking of the Lusitania enraged Americans.

His body was recovered and he is buried in a mass grave in Cobh. (Eric Shaw)

‘Sheedy had been denied permission to land in the United States and was deported to Ireland on the Lusitania. He was buried in Mass Grave A in Queenstown’s (Cobh) Old Church Cemetery on 10 May. It is perhaps notable that the man who was unluckily sent back by the US authorities was officially designated number thirteen in the lists! His property, such as it was, was sent to his mother Honora Sheedy, at Bansha, Darragh, as late as 1 December 1915.’ (Lusitania - An Irish Tragedy - Senan Molony)

Plaque at Lusitania Mass Grave Site, Cobh, Ireland (formerly Queenstown) Cobh Old Church
Mr James Shineman

Mr James Shineman: A 2nd Class passenger on the Lusitania which sank on May 7th 1915. His body was washed ashore on the Clare coastline and he was buried in Kiltrellig Graveyard, Caggigaholt. (Brian Doyle) His wife Margaret McKenzie Shineman is buried in the graveyard at St. Multose Church in Kinsale. They were returning to visit her family in Lochcarron, Scotland, having been married in New York on the 19th April 1915. (Lusitania Memorials website)

Female: A passenger on the Lusitania which sank on May 7th 1915. Her body was washed ashore on the Clare coastline at Ross, Carrigaholt on 20th July 1915. She was also buried in Kiltrellig Graveyard, Kilbaha.
Private John Philip Shipley

John Philip Shipley: Born in Manchester lived in Claureen Ennis, killed in action 16th Oct 1915 age 32 in Gallipoli, Manchester Regiment 1st/7th Bn 2243, G/M in Turkey. Husband of A K Shipley, Claureen, Ennis (TB)

Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: C. 3

On the 8th September the Manchester Regiment 1st/7th battalion moved to a new position, Border Barracade, where the 1st/7th lost 13 men when the turks exploded a mine under their position, later they lost another three when a British trench mortar fell short. As the campaign slowly slipped into stalemate and men from the battalion were attached to various units as signallers machine gunners etc, putting strain on the ones left, their health suffered and the only relief from trench life was sea bathing. In October the battalion moved to Fusilier Bluff, close to the Turkish line. The battalion stayed on the penninsular until December and in January 1916 the Battalion returned to Egypt.

The SS Lewisham was torpedoed by a German submarine off the Fastnet. 24 men died. Three survivors were taken as prisoners of war.

The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea.
Francis James Slattery: Darragh Ennis, died 9th Jan 1919, Royal Engineers Unit 8th Field Coy., G/M in Ballynacally (Kilchreest) Cemetery. Son of Thomas Slattery, of Fergus View, Darragh, Ennis. He was Mentioned in Despatches dated April 7th 1918 ‘for gallant and distinguished services in the field’.

(TB) He contracted the Spanish Flu in London, while returning home, after being in a prisoner of war camp in Danholm for about nine months. His incarceration may have contributed to his death.

Ballynacally (Kilchreest) Cemetery, Grave No. C29, in the North East part of the Cemetery.

Death of a Clare Officer.

Another Hun Victim.

The many friends of Mr. Thomas Slattery, Fergus View, Darragh, will hear with unspeakable regret of the death of his son, Capt. Frank J. Slattery, R.E., in London, at the end of last week. It may be remembered that Capt. Slattery, soon after leaving Galway College, became Engineer in charge of the German advance early last year, was taken prisoner of war, and released on December 16th, from Danholm, his health being much impaired by the rigours of his treatment and confinement. He sailed from Copenhagen to Hull and thence to London on his way home, where he fell a victim to influenza. He was a splendid type of young manhood and there is general sympathy with his bereaved family.

The remains were expected at Clare Castle on Friday for interment at Kilchreest to-day (Saturday).

Sat Record Jan 1919
Lance Corporal Simon Smyth

Simon Smyth: Born and lived in Lisgreen (Lisdeen, Kilkee) Co Clare, died of wounds 7th July 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9683, G/M in Turkey. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

‘the Battalion.. embarked at 4.30am on the 20th August (1915) in a trawler and transhipped into HMHT Osmanich and arrived at Suvla at 10.30. It moved to Chocolate Hill, arriving at midnight, preparatory to the attack on Scimitar Hill next day...there were some 20 casualties during the night. The advance of the Battalion was rendered difficult owing to the dense prickly scrub...The Turkish retaliation set alight to the scrub..the advance having to be carried out through the smoke and fire....

The Battalion, in the air as regards its right flank, was caught by a frontal and enfilading fire. Very heavy casualties were suffered in consequence, and the attack failed....Under cover of darkness the Battalion was withdrawn....killed, other ranks, 13; wounded, 149; missing, 143.’
2nd Lt Cyril Dermott Fouace Somers: Lived in Mountshannon Rectory, died of wounds on Sunday 20th May 1917 aged 20, received in action in the Battle of Arras, at the Third Battle of the Scarpe (3–4 May 1917). Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. (TB) He is also commemorated on a Memorial, on the wall in Mountshannon Church of Ireland. (Photo of grave taken by Sean Glennon.)

Most of the graves in the Cemetery relate to the Battles of Arras in 1917, and the trench warfare that followed. There are now 3,207 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated at Duisans British Cemetery.

He was the eldest son of the Rev. S.H. Somers, Rector of Inniscaltra Parish (Mountshannon), Co. Clare, and grandson of Mr. Ambrose McEnnery, Dalguise, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. He was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, and entered Sandhurst from school in May, 1915. In the following October he was gazetted to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He joined his battalion in France in October, 1916, and took part in the fighting on the Somme. He was invalidated home suffering from blood poisoning, but again went to France in April 1917, and died of wounds received in action just a month afterwards. Our Heroes website.
Private Thomas Christopher Somers

Thomas Christopher Somers: Born in Newmarket Co Clare, died 22nd Nov 1918, possibly from wounds during the Capture of Damascus. South Irish Horse (Dorsetshire Yeomanry) 73492, G/M in Israel. (TB)

Ramleh War Cemetery. Ramla HaMerkaz (Center District), Israel Plot: DD. 29.

RAMLEH WAR CEMETERY contains 3,300 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

In July 1918 the 1st Line Regiment of the Queens Own Dorset Yeomanry, was part of the 10th Cavalry Brigade and the 4th Cavalry Division. This Division served with the Desert Mounted Corps for the rest of the war, in particular the Capture of Damascus (1 October).

In this battle the commander of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, General Edmund Allenby ordered Lieutenant General Harry Chauvel's Desert Mounted Corps to pursue the remnants of the three Ottoman armies and capture Damascus. The 4th Cavalry Division began the pursuit, attacking rearguards along the inland road at Irbid on 26 September, at Er Remta and Prince Feisal's Sherifial Army captured Deraa on 27 September. Allenby estimated that 40,000 Ottoman soldiers had been retreating towards Damascus on 26 September. The pursuit by Desert Mounted Corps had captured half of them. "This great cavalry operation in effect finally decided the fortune of the campaign." After the Armistice of Mudros, the division remained in Palestine on occupation duties after the end of the war.

Road from Jisr el Majamie to Irbid at the Wadi Ghafur on 29 September when 30 lorries which supplied the 4th Cavalry Division passed by; the bridge breaking under the pressure so the lorries crossed the stream bed on the right
Lieutenant Frank Edward Sparrow

Lt Frank Edward Sparrow: He was Poor Law Inspector (and Local Government Board Inspector) for Ennis when he enlisted. Died of wounds 13th Aug 1916 in the Battle of Delville Wood (15 July – 3 Sept 1916) age 37, G/M in France. Corps of Royal Engineers 129th Field Company (24th Div). He is also commemorated on the Great War Memorial St Canice’s Cathedral, Kilkenny (TB) “Served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed in action 13th August 1916, while inspecting new ground just taken from the enemy at the Battle of the Somme’. From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.

Dive Copse Cemetery now contains 589 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 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. The mutually costly fighting at Delville Wood eventually secured the British right flank.

Lieutenant Frank Edward Sparrow was the elder son of the late Mr. Edward Sparrow and Mrs. Sparrow, 55 Palmerston Road, Dublin. He was educated at Newtown School, Waterford, and the College of Science. He was a pupil of Mr. R. Caulfield Orpen, R.H.A., and was closely identified with the Architectural Association, of which he was hon. secretary and treasurer for several years, and some time prior to obtaining his commission he was Poor Law Inspector (and Local Government Board Inspector) for the southwest of Ireland. He was a member of Trinity College O.T.C., and was well known as an enthusiastic golfer. Our Heroes website
Lance Corporal Christopher Spillane

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

Étreux British Cemetery, Étreux
Departement de l'Aisne Picardie, France. Plot: I. 8. The Cemetery at Étreux was created in the aftermath of a fierce rearguard action fought by a detachment of the British Expeditionary Force during the retreat from Mons in August 1914.

Photos – Keir McNamara

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

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

By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces. Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered.’

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Lance Corporal Bernard Joseph Spinnett: His father was Mr A Spinnett from Lifford in Ennis. Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action. (Sean Ryan) According to the UK Soldiers Died in the Great War database (ancestry.com), he was born in Whitegate Connaught. (Whitegate was in Galway during WW1) He was killed in action on the 2nd April 1917 with the 2nd Bn Yorkshire Hussars 27039 (Alexandra, Princes of Wales’ Own). He had enlisted in Bradford. He is buried in Henin Communal Cemetery in France. (findagrave.com) According to the Ireland Civil Registrations Birth Index (ancestry.com) he was born in the Scariff District, and registered in Oct/Nov/Dec 1892.
Private Charles Henry Squirrell

Private Charles Henry Squirrell: Born in Co Clare. He was aged 23 when he enlisted in 1914 into the Kings (Liverpool Regiment) 19th Bn 17721 (KLCB Army Reserve). Killed in action on the 1st May 1918, just after the Battle of Scherpenberg (29th April). G/M Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. Son of Alfred and Sarah Jane Squirrell. (WW1 British Army Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Panel 31 to 34 and 162 and 162A and 163A
Tyne Cot Memorial
Zonnebeke
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.

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

The Battle of the Lys (7–29 April 1918), also known as Fourth Battle of Ypres, was part of the 1918 German offensive in Flanders. It was planned with the objective of capturing Ypres, forcing the British forces back to the channel ports and out of the war. In planning, execution and effects, Operation Georgette was similar to (although smaller than) the earlier Operation Michael.

On the 29th April, a final German attack captured the Scherpenberg, a hill to the north-west of the Kemmelberg. However by now it was clear that the attacks toward Hazebrouck had failed. Faced with mounting casualties and the arrival of further French reinforcements it was clear Operation Georgette could not achieve its objectives and on 29th April the German high command called off the offensive.

Photos – Keir McNamara
**Lieutenant George Eric Stacpoole DSO**

**Lt. George Eric Guy Stacpoole DSO:** Born in London Jan 1891, lived at Edenvale Ennis. Killed in action at St Eloi in Ypres on 27th Jan 1915 age 23. Royal Irish Regiment 1st Bn, 27th Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB) A brother of R H Stacpoole MC. He was the great grandson of John de la Zouche Stacpoole (who fought at Waterloo). He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1915. (Joe Power)

**Dickebusch Old Military Cemetery**

**Ypres (Ieper)**
**Arrondissement Ieper**
**West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium**

Plot: B. 10.

The Old Military Cemetery was used as a front line cemetery in January, February and March 1915.

**St Eloi:** January 1915 was a month of rain, snow and floods, made worse for both sides by artillery-fire and sniping and the need for constant trench repairs. The British front was extended when the 27th Division and the 28th Division arrived in France and took over from the French XVI Corps. The British divisions had only 72 18-pounders between them and had to hold the front line with far more men to compensate, the French being able to defend an outpost line with 120 75 mm, 24 90 mm and six 120 mm guns.
Private Samuel Stevens(Stephens)


TO THE GLORY OF GOD
and in memory of those from this parish who made
THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
in the great war of
1914-1918
Lieut. The Honourable Desmond O’Brien, RNIF
2nd Lieut. Harold Taylor, Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Sgt. Richard Wolfe, M.M. Royal Irish Rifles
Pte. Samuel Stevens, Leinster Rgt. And Royal Irish Rifles

The Battle of the Ancre (13-18 Nov 1916) was the last big British operation of the year. The Fifth Army attacked into the Ancre valley to exploit German exhaustion after the Battle of the Ancre Heights and gain ground ready for a resumption of the offensive in 1917. During the final attack on the 13th, the 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers helped to capture Beaumont Hamel, one of the objectives for the first day. It had 50% casualties.

The 10th RDF War Diary for Ancre Attack on 13 November 1916: The 10th RDF attacked with 24 officers and 469 other ranks. 7 officers and 63 other ranks were left in reserve. Zero + 46 min. The battalion advanced in four waves and met little opposition until within 20 yards of the German wires. The mist at this time was very thick and one could only see some 25 yards to the front and flank. At this point the Bosche machine Guns opened a heavy fire more especially in front of my 3 left companies. Also several machine guns were enfilading the line from our left Beaumont Hamel direction. Snipers were busy and were endeavouring to pick off the officers...On getting into the Bosche front trench, I ordered 2nd Lt McMahon to organise a bombing party and to proceed to the left up the trench and bomb and snipe the Bosches who were holding up my left companies...Lt Commander Sprang informed me that he had been as far as the Beaucourt Road, and that Bosche MGs and snipers were busy there, but no other opposition and small parties off all units were on green line and Station Road...10th RDF - 241 casualties.
Elizabeth Grace Stewart: From Limerick. Nurse at the military hospital in Aldershot (Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service). Her brother was a wellknown jeweller on Church St Ennis. She died of typhus at the Cambridge Military Hospital Aldershot on the 15th Feb 1916. PMcN

Aldershot Military Cemetery
Aldershot. Rushmoor Borough
Hampshire, England
Plot: AH. 343.

The military funeral of Elizabeth Grace Stewart.

In Loving Memory of

Elizabeth Grace (Bessie) Stewart

Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve
Daughter of
H.L Stewart
of Limerick

who
died at the Cambridge Military Hospital Aldershot on the 15th Feb 1916

“Thy will be Done”

At the outbreak of The First World War, Aldershot was the Depot of the Royal Army Medical Corps. There are 690 First World War graves in the cemetery.
Private J W Stinchcombe


Moeuvres British Cemetery.
Moeuvres
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

The Battle of the Canal du Nord (Sept 27 - Oct 1 1918) was part of a general Allied offensive against German positions on the Western Front during the Hundred Days Offensive. The battle took place in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France, along an incomplete portion of the Canal du Nord and on the outskirts of Cambrai. At 5:20 on the morning of September 27, all four divisions attacked under total darkness, taking the German defenders of the 1st Prussian Guards Reserve Division and the 3rd German Naval Division by absolute surprise.

By mid morning, all defenders had retreated or been captured. Stiffening resistance east of the canal proved that only a surprise attack had the possibility of ending in victory. Because of Canal du Nord's capture, the final road to Cambrai was open.
Private John Stokes

John Stokes: Born in Gort lived in Ennis, killed in action 28th May 1915 in Krithia Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6009, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Helles Memorial
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The RMF 1st battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th May 1915 were down to 372 men.

On receiving new drafts on the 29th May, the Munsters and Dubliners were separate units again, the Munsters by 4 June numbering 40 officers and 500 other ranks, though handicapped by the new recruits being much too young and inexperienced. Shelling absolutely demoralised them.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.
Private Thomas Stuart

**Thomas Stuart**: Bodyke. Australian Imperial Force. **MA** Born in 1887. He was a Farm Hand aged 27 when he enlisted in Sept 1915 in Toowoomba Queensland into the 50th Bn. 3905 and later the 52nd Bn. (4th Aus.Div.). He was wounded in action at the Somme (gun shot wounds to the Abdomen) on the 3-4th Sept 1916. (Attack on Mouquet Farm10th Aug – Sept 3 1916) He died of these wounds on the 12th Sept 1916 in the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station. His mother was Kate Stuart, Bodyke. (UNSW)

**Puchevillers British Cemetery**

Puchevillers
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: IV. C. 5.

This Cemetery contains 1,763 First World War burials.

Following the attack on Pozières (23rd July – 5th Aug) the Australians were called upon to attack **Mouquet Farm** in August. All three divisions of I Anzac Corps were committed in an effort to force a breach in the German lines behind Thiepval, to the north of Pozières. The task of the initial advance fell to the 4th Division on 10 August, which had already suffered 1,000 casualties resisting the final German counter-attack, but in the ensuing battle it would lose a further three times that number as the Australians once again suffered at the hands of the German artillery, finding themselves squeezed into a frontage of less than 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) against which the Germans were able to concentrate the weight of their defence.

Three more attacks were made over the course of the next three weeks as the Australians fought their way across the shell-pocked countryside to the farm, only to be forced out again shortly after by the concentration of German artillery. Australian casualties at Mouquet Farm totalled 6,300 men.

This is a list of the personal effects of Thomas Stuart that was sent to his mother Kate Stuart in Bodyke.
Lance Corporal Theodore Studdert


The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Hospital Plot
Thunder Bay (St Andrew’s) Roman Catholic Cemetery
Ontario, Canada.

This cemetery contains 6 1914-1918 burials.

The 52nd Battalion (New Ontario) was an infantry battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the Great War. The 52nd Battalion was authorized on 7 November 1914 and embarked for Britain on 23 November 1915. It disembarked in France on 21 February 1916, where it fought as part of the 9th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders until the end of the war. The 52nd Battalion recruited in Port Arthur, Kenora, Fort Frances and Dryden, Ontario and was mobilized at Port Arthur.
John Sullivan: Lived in Carrigaholt. Died 7th Oct 1917 age 27 on the SS Aylevarroo, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England. Son of Patrick and Mary Sullivan Rienvalla, Kilballyowen, Carrigaholt. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

The 908-ton Irish cargo/transport Aylevarroo sailed out into Liverpool Bay and, after clearing Holyhead, headed south through the Irish Sea then westward into the Atlantic after passing Wexford. Nearing Cork on the southern coast of Ireland she was intercepted by the U-57.

At nine knots the submerged U-57 was marginally slower than the ten knots of its prey. However, this difference was more than accommodated for by the twenty-seven knots of the C 06 AV torpedo fired against the target. The torpedo breached the hull of the Aylevarroo and the two hundred and seventy pound warhead exploded.

The Aylevarroo and her twenty crew, including the ship’s master, were lost off the Ballycotton Islands near Cork on 8th October 1917.

Tower Hill Memorial
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Greater London, England

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

Able Seaman John Sullivan
Lance Corporal John Sullivan

Lance Corporal John Sullivan: Born in Killaloe, killed in action 29th May 1916 near Hulluch. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn, G/M in France. (TB) ‘The Battalion moved to Mazingarbeon May 17th... and the following day 2 officers and 50 other ranks... went to Noeux-les-Mines for the presentation of decorations from ...General Sir Charles Monro.’

Philosophe British Cemetery
Mazingarbe
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I. A. 3.

The cemetery was started in August 1915. In 1916 it was taken over by the 16th (Irish) Division, who held the Loos Salient at the time, and many of their dead were brought back to the cemetery from the front line. There are now 1,996 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.
Bombardier John Sullivan

John Sullivan: Born in Kilrush, killed in action 17th Oct 1917, just after the First Battle of Passchendaele (12th Oct 1917). Royal Field Artillery D Battery 83rd Brigade 3844, 18th (Eastern) Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB)

John O’Sullivan: Lived in the Glen Kilrush, killed in action Oct 18th 1917 age 33, Royal Field Artillery. (PMcN) SR

Bard Cottage Cemetery Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: VI. A. 17. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

Nov 1917 Sat Record

The First Battle of Passchendaele (12th Oct 1917): The British attack was costly for both sides, captured more ground opposite Passchendaele than the attack of 9 October and the British took more than 1,000 prisoners.
Private Thomas Sullivan

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

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

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

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

In early December 1914 the 2nd RMF aided in the evacuation of the Ypres Benedictine Convent, whose occupants subsequently established Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Ireland
Private John Talty

**John Talty:** Born and lived in Kilrush, died at home of a disease contracted while on service on the 2nd Nov 1918 age 23, Royal Army Service Corps M/416111, G/M in Old Shanakyle Cemetery, Kilrush. (TB) In the 1911 census, John Talty was a 20 year old Railway Clerk, living with his parents and 2 sisters. He was the only son of Michael & Margaret Talty, of Stewart Street, Kilrush, Co. Clare. He was buried privately, and there is no note of his military service on the headstone.

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In loving memory of
Jack Talty
died
Nov. 2nd 1918
aged 23 years.

Old Shanakyle Cemetery, Kilrush.
Grave no. 138
In the middle of the East section of the Cemetery.
Private (Geoffry) Goff Taylor

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

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

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

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

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2nd Lieut. John Arthur Harold Taylor

2nd Lieut. John Arthur Harold Taylor: Born in Limerick, lived in Dublin. Killed in action 24th Sept 1915 in Gallipoli (Sniper), 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers. (PMcN) He was the son of the Rector of Kilnasoolagh Church (Newmarket on Fergus) the Rev Thomas Taylor. He had three brothers who also fought in the war and survived. They were Lt Col. T Edgar Taylor, Capt W Alfred Taylor and Lt N Vivian Taylor. (Kilnasoolagh Church Booklet) He is also remembered on a Memorial in Kilnasoolagh Church in Newmarket on Fergus.

Azmak Cemetery, Suvla
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: I.G.20.

‘Next evening the Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion King’s Own Scottish Borders in the fire trenches, and at once set to work to improve and extend them. During the next few days there was very little rifle fire from the Turks, simply intermittent shelling and persistent sniping, Second-Lieutenant J.A.H. Taylor being killed by a sniper on the night of 23rd-24th.’ Neill’s Blue Caps, Volume III, Page 55.

He is also commemorated on the St. Columba’s College War Memorial, Whitechurch, Rathfarnham, and the 1937 Reading Room, Trinity College, Dublin. Mal Murray

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
and in memory of those from this parish who made
THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
in the great war of
1914-1918

Lieut. The Honourable Desmond O’Brien, RNAF
2nd Lieut. Harold Taylor, Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Sgt. Richard Wolfe, MM. Royal Irish Rifles
Pte. Samuel Stevens, Leinster Rgt. And Royal Irish Rifles
2nd Lieut. John Arthur Harold Taylor

Continued

The 1937 Reading Room, Trinity College, Dublin.

St. Columba’s College War Memorial, Whitechurch, Rathfarnham, Dublin.
Able Seaman Albert Richard Thompson: Cappaduff, Mountshannon. Royal Navy. Died on the 1st November 1914, age 29 on board HMS Good Hope in the Battle of Colonel off the coast of Chile. ‘All of Craddock’s cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth and the light cruiser Glasgow were sunk with all their crew numbering 1600 sailors. Albert Thompson from Cappaduff was one of the sailors on board the cruiser HMS Good Hope. Albert was aged 29 years and left a young wife behind him. His name is remembered on the Royal Naval Memorial in Portsmouth, England. For years a memorial plate for Albert was on the wall of St Caimins Church in Mountshannon. But it was removed during one of the Art festivals and never replaced.’ (World War 1 Stories written by Sean Glennon)

The HMS Monmouth and HMS Good Hope participated in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on 1 November 1914. Early in the battle, a shell from SMS Gneisenau penetrated the armour of the forward gun turret of HMS Monmouth. When it was clear that Monmouth was out of action, Gneisenau shifted fire to HMS Good Hope. A short while later, drifting and on fire, Monmouth was attacked by the newly arrived light cruiser SMS Nürnberg. Monmouth and Good Hope both sank with a combined loss of 1,570 lives. There were no survivors from either ship.
Private John Thynne

John Thynne: Born and lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 27th Aug 1914, near Caudry after the Battle Of Le Cateau (26/08/1914). Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 10330, 8th Brigade, 3rd Division. G/M in France. Tragically his two brothers also died in the war, Michael (died May 1915) and Patrick Thynne (died May 1915). Son of John and Catherine Thynne, Church Hill Ennistymon. (TB)

Chambieres French National Cemetery, Metz
Departement de la Moselle
Lorraine, France
Plot: 393

Metz is located in the Department of the Moselle, in the north-east of France on the River Moselle.

Chambieres French National Cemetery is on the northern side of the city. There are now nearly 100, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

The 2nd battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment had performed a redboundable rearguard action at the Belgium town of Mons on August 23rd, 1914, taking up positions along the Mons-Conde canal, which saved the British army from disaster.

During the Retreat From Mons they fought in the Battle Of Le Cateau on the 26/08/1914 at Caudry. On the evening of 25th August, the troops were too exhausted to continue the retreat from Mons and it was decided to stand fast and give battle to the pursuing German First Army. In the early hours of 26th August, II Corps took up a defensive position in the open downs between Caudry and Le Cateau, and prepared to fight. Using similar tactics to those used at Mons, rapid fire volleys and air-shrapnel artillery fire, the four British Divisions inflicted heavy losses on the numerically superior German divisions, keeping them at bay for several hours until their reserve divisions arrived.

The 3rd Division took up a position around Caudry. The 7th Infantry Brigade on the left, north of Caudry village, 8th Infantry Brigade in the centre and the 9th Infantry Brigade on the right. They held off the German attacks, allowing the majority of the Division was able to retire in good order.
Private Michael Thynne

Michael Thynne: Church Hill Ennistymon, died of wounds on the 4th May 1915 age 30 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6934, G/M in Turkey. Brother of John (Dec 1918) and Patrick (May 1915) who both also died in the War. Son of John and Catherine Thynne, Church Hill, Ennistymon.

Helles Memorial. Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: Final resting place unknown.
Name listed on Panel 185 to 190.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

On the night of 1 May the Turks, almost out of ammunition but spurred by the then young Atatürk carried out a tremendous attack. "They crept up in the dark into our trenches bayoneting our men before we knew it had begun. Bayoneting on both sides was terrible. At dawn the Turks were mowed down, and heaps of bodies and streams of blood remaining everywhere." The RMF 1st battalion was reduced to 4 officers and 430 men, who attempted further attacks the following days, but by the 11th were down to 372 men.
Lance Corporal Patrick Thynne

Patrick Thynne: Born in Ennistymon lived in Brighton, Killed in action in Festurbet, 17th May 1915, Irish Guards 1st Bn 3179, G/M in France. Brother of Michael (May 1915) and John (Dec 1918) who both also died in the War. Son of John and Catherine Thynne, Church Hill, Ennistymon. (TB)

Le Touret Memorial
Richebourg-l'Avoue
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Panel 4.

The Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915) was the continuation of the Battle of Aubers Ridge (9 May) and part of the larger French Second Battle of Artois. The battle was preceded by a 60-hour bombardment after which 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. The British forces dug in at the new front line in heavy rain. The Germans brought up reinforcements and reinforced their defences. From 20–25 May the attack was resumed and Festubert was captured. The offensive had resulted in a 3-kilometre (1.9 mi) advance.

Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war. This included the battle of Festubert (15 – 25 May 1915).

Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along the Aubers ridge, reinforcing their positions with thick barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements. These extra defences frustrated British attempts to break through enemy lines and led to very heavy casualties at the battles of Aubers Ridge and Festubert in May 1915.
Private John Joseph Tierney


Netley Military Cemetery
NetleyEastleigh Borough
Hampshire, England.

Lisdoonvarna War Victim.

At the last meeting of the Lisdoonvarna Improvement Committee, on the motion of the Chairman (Very Rev M. D. Conroy, P.P.), seconded by Mr McGuire, there was passed a vote of complacence with Mr John J. Callanan, a member of the Committee, on the death of his sister, and also with Mr John Tierney, Sec. to the Committee, on the death of his son, John Joe, at Netley Hospital, where he was invalided from the Western front.

Nov 1916 Clare Journal

The Netley Military Cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital.

The cemetery contains 636 First World War burials.

The Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn was part of the assault which took Guillemont on 3rd September along with the Connaught Rangers. After the initial attack on Ginchy failed, the 8th Bn was left open to a counter-attack, then withdrawn to recover from its losses. It returned on the 7th Sept with 200 men for the next attack on Ginchy. With inadequate cover, by the 9th it was inflicted to heavy casualties and was unable to bury its dead. The other battalions of the 16th (Irish) Division captured Ginchy. Casualties – 346.
Private Patrick Tierney

Patrick Tierney: Ennis, died of wounds 6th July 1915 in Krithia Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in Turkey. (TB)

Lancashire Landing Cemetery
Gallipoli
Canakkale, Turkey
Plot: D.79.

There are now 1,237 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the Lancashire Landing Cemetery.

In June 1915 new drafts to the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers replenished officers to 23, other ranks to 588.

They took part in the Divisions assault on 28 June securing five trench lines. This provoked a general attack by the Turkish side along the Cape Helles front on 5 July, the Turks losing heavily.

‘On June 28th the Battalion left the Eske lines for Bruce’s Ravine at 9.45am, and assembled for the attack.

The 87th Brigade captured the first three lines of trenches, and at 11.30am the Battalion and the rest of the 86th Brigade ....captured a further two lines of trenches-a total advance of 1000 yards....two further lines of enemy trenches ....were gained.

The casualties for the 28th and 29th were 20 killed; wounded 8 officers and 112 other ranks; missing 19 other ranks.’
Private James Toohey

James Toohey: Born in Killuran, Broadford lived in New South Wales Australia, died of wounds 11th Dec 1917 age 33, after the Third Battle of Ypres, Australian Infantry 56th Bn 5461, 5th Division. G/M in Belgium. Died of a shell wound to the head on admission to the 8th Field Ambulance.


James Toohey was a labourer aged 32 when he enlisted with the Australian Army in New South Wales Jan 1916. He was attached to the Anzac Light Railways. (Australia WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com) (and also the 17th Reinf 4th Bn. 5461) His sister Mary Butler lived in Newtown NSW.

Irish House Cemetery owes its name to a small farmhouse 90 metres to the west, known to the troops as "Irish House". It was begun in June 1917 by the 16th (Irish) Division, and used at intervals until September 1918.

Third Battle of Ypres (Jul 31-Nov 10, 1917): The 5th Division took over from the 1st Division following the Battle of Menin Road on 20 September. The next step was taken on 26 September in the Battle of Polygon Wood with two Australian divisions (4th and 5th) attacking in the centre of seven divisions. In keeping with current policy, the attacking divisions were immediately relieved and the 5th Division was spared involvement in most of the worst fighting that followed as the British line edged towards Passchendaele.
Patrick Toomey/Twomey: Born and lived in Kilkee, killed in action 10th April 1916, in the Hulluch Sector. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 3860, 16th (Irish) Division. G/M in France. (TB) (KCT) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

F. 15.
Bois-Carre Military Cemetery, Haisnes. France.

April 1916: ‘The Battalion took over the left half section of the Hulluch Sector on April 5th 1916 from the 9th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers.’

Bois-Carre Military Cemetery is named from a small copse about 274 metres to the South-West. It was begun in September, 1915, and used, largely by the 16th (Irish) Division, until August, 1916. There are now over 200, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The irregular arrangement of the rows is due to the difficult conditions under which these burials were carried out.

The Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.
Robert Richard Topham: Born (and lived in Clarisford) Killaloe on the 22nd May 1897 to Robert William and Minnie Topham (formerly Moore). They had 8 children: Minnie C Topham, Robt R Topham, Eveline I Topham, Maria C Topham, Maryanne I Topham, MargtTopham, Georgina Topham and Beatrice F Topham. The 1911 census records Robert living with his Mother and Sister at Abbey Street, Killaloe (his Father died in 1904 and his other siblings had dispersed by this time).

Robert joined The Royal Munster Fusiliers in Limerick as number 5/6596 on 14th October 1915. He was aged 18 years 150 days, and his trade or calling was that of Chauffeur. His mother was listed as the next of kin but her location appears to be Clarisford Lodge and I have been unable to locate this. I have established that there was a Clarisford House/palace (now a private residence) that was formerly the Bishop's residence and wonder if Clarisford Lodge could have been something akin to a Gate House. Robert transferred (willingly or otherwise) to the newly formed Machine Gun Corps with the allotted number 26755. Following training he crossed to France and joined the 9th Machine Gun Company (3rd Division) on 26th March 1916.

Robert reported sick and was admitted to a Casualty Clearing Station on 26th August 1916. He was later diagnosed as having diabetes and discharged from the Machine Gun Training Centre, Grantham as being no longer physically fit for active service on 29th January 1917. It was considered by the Medical Authorities that the diabetes had been brought on by shock. Robert did not long outlive the war. He died in Barrington’s Hospital, Limerick on 2nd July 1919, aged 22. The cause of death was given as Diabetes, Phthisis. Apparently Robert (as is the case with his Father & Mother) is included in the records of Killaloe Cathedral and I presume that he may therefore be buried thereabouts. (Jim Cunningham)

He would have fought with the 3rd Division in the following battles: The Actions of the St Eloi Crater. (March 27 – April 16 1916), The Battle of Albert. (Jul 1, 1916 – Jul 13, 1916), The Battle of Bazentin. (14–17 July 1916) in which the Division helped capture Longueval, The Battle of Delville Wood. (15 July – 3 September 1916). The Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915 with Infantry, Cavalry, and Motor branches, followed in 1916 by the Heavy Branch. A depot and training centre was established at Belton Park in Grantham, Lincolnshire. (He is not buried in St Flannan's Cathedral Graveyard, Killaloe.)

[Image of a certificate]
Private Leroy Laurence Tracy /Tracey

Leroy Laurence Tracey: Born in Dublin lived in The Cottage, Boherglass, Bodyke, Co Clare, killed in action 20th July 1916 age 29 on the Somme (In the Attacks on High Wood: 20–25 July ), Royal Army Medical Corps 57th Field Ambulance 51507 (19th Western Div), G/M in France. (TB) Brother of Joseph P. Tracy who served in the Royal Engineers.

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

In his will, he left £3,000 Guinness Preference shares to his mother Sarah Ann Tracy, The Cottage, Bodyke, Co. Clare, Ireland and the use of his house known as the The Cottage to her for life. On her death to his brother J.P. Tracy Royal Engineers in the event of his death house & land and fixtures to be sold and proceeds to his cousin Ralph Ronald Tracey R.N. failing which to the Catholic Orphans Society Dublin. Leroy L. Tracey CE, Engineering Inspector, Congested District Board, The Cottage, Bodyke, Clare Co, Ireland

High Wood is a wood near Bazentin le Petit in the Sommedépartement of northern France. After the big British attack on 14 July 1916 (the Battle of Bazentin Ridge), High Wood lay undefended for most of the day but delays in communication and confusion caused by orders and counter-orders from different British corps headquarters with overlapping responsibilities, led to the occupation of High Wood being forestalled by German reserves, which had moved forward to counter-attack British troops in the villages of Bazentin-le-Grand and Bazentin-le-Petit.
Private John Troy

**John Troy:** Lived in Kilkee, died of wounds 21\(^{st}\) April 1918, in London. South Wales Borderers 6\(^{th}\) Bn 39227, 76th Brigade, 25th Division. G/M in England. (TB) He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church.

**Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium**
Hendon
London Borough of Barnet
Greater London, England
Plot: D. 10. 23961.

There are 69 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war here.

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

**Battle of Messines (10–11 April)** part of the Battle of the Lys (7–29 April 1918): On the 10\(^{th}\) April, the German Fourth Army attacked north of Armentières with four divisions, against the British 19th Division. The Second Army had sent its reserves south to the First Army and the Germans broke through, capturing Messines. The **25th Division** to the south, flanked on both sides, withdrew about 4 kilometres. By 11 April, the British situation was desperate; it was on this day that Haig issued his famous "backs to the wall" order.

**The Battle of the Lys** (7–29 April 1918), was part of the 1918 German offensive in Flanders. It was originally planned by General Ludendorff as Operation George but was reduced to Operation Georgette, with the objective of capturing Ypres, forcing the British forces back to the channel ports and out of the war. In planning, execution and effects, Georgette was similar to (although smaller than) Operation Michael, earlier in the Spring Offensive.
Edward Tuohey: Born in Co Clare, lived in Gort, killed in action 26th April 1915, possibly during the Battle of St Julien 24 April – 4 May 1915, which was a phase of the Second Battle of Ypres. Connaught Rangers 1st Bn 3984, in 3rd (Lahore) Division. G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium.(TB)

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

St Julien was taken by the Germans during their attack using gas for the first time on the 24th of April 1915, and then they held it for two years. It was only recaptured during the Third Battle of Ypres.

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

The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence.

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

Patrick Tuohy: Born in Co Clare enlisted in Sheffield, killed in action 19th Sept 1918, just after the Battle of Ephy. Leicestershire Regiment 6th Bn 47230, 110th Brigade, 21st Division. G/M in France. (TB)

Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery
Gouzeaucourt
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: V. G. 20.

Gouzeaucourt village was lost on 22 March 1918, attacked by the 38th (Welsh) Division on the following 18 September, and finally retaken by the 21st Division on 8 October.

The cemetery was begun in November 1917, taken over by the Germans in 1918, and used again by Commonwealth forces in September and October 1918. The cemetery now contains 1,295 burials and commemorations of the First World War.

Battles Of The Hindenburg Line - Battle Of Epehy - 18/09/1918: Location: Vaucellette Farm.

The Fourth Army was to deal with the German outposts before the Hindenburg Line. Three Corps of Fourth Army, Australian Corps, III Corps and IX Corps, with infantry support from V Corps (on left) and French First Army (on right), would advance and attack a fortified zone approximately 20 miles long and 3 miles deep. Though fierce fighting continued long after nightfall, the battle represented a considerable Allied success with over 9,000 prisoners taken and the British line advanced over 2 miles.

21st Division in V Corps, Third Army were immediately north of Épehy, attacking the trenches at Chapel Hill and Vaucellette Farm which they had fought to defend against the German Operation Michael Spring Offensive, on 21st March. 110th Infantry Brigade and 64th Infantry Brigade passing through to continue the advance eastwards.
Private Michael L Tuohy

Michael L Tuohy: Born and lived in Scariff, killed in action 30th April 1918, Irish Guards 1st Bn 11319, G/M in France. (TB) 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division.

Ayette British Cemetery
Ayette
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: A. 10.

The village of Ayette remained in British hands from March, 1916 to the 27th March, 1918, when it was captured by the enemy; it was the scene of fighting by the Guards Division on the 28th, and it was retaken by the 32nd Division on the 3rd April, 1918. Ayette British Cemetery was made by fighting units in March-June, 1918.

There are now over 50, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

Photos – Keir McNamara

‘So on the 29th April they arranged a battalion raid on a German post (supposed to be held by night only) to occupy it if possible. But the enemy were in occupation and very ready. The little party returned with their officer, 2nd Lieutenant G. C. MacLachlan, and a sergeant wounded.....April had been an inexpensive month for both men and officers.....Three men had been killed and forty-one wounded. But no less than twenty-six were sent down sick—proof that the strain had told.’ The Irish Guards in the Great War. Rudyard Kipling.
Private John Tuttle

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

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

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


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

Man after man was killed and lay against the obstacle... The first effort, costly and ineffective as it appeared at the time, was in reality a brilliant success. Green’s force, bombing down from the north, found the enemy’s attention diverted, and when the Munsters advanced again to the attack, the enemy gave under the strain and surrendered.’

The Battalion lost ‘8 officers and 210 other ranks killed and wounded.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)
**Private Michael John Tuttle**

Private Michael John Tuttle: Ennis. Australian Imperial Force. **MA** Killed in Action on the 26th of Sept 1917 in the Battle of Polygon Wood (26 Sept – 3 Oct 1917). He was a labourer aged 26 when he enlisted in 1915 in Adelaide into the 2nd Depot Bn. 3033 (and later the 29th Bn.). He was buried in the vicinity of Polygon Wood. His wife was Ellen Tuttle, Adelaide. G/M in Belgium Menin Gate.

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

The Battle of Polygon Wood (26 Sept – 3 Oct 1917) took place during the second phase of the Third Battle of Ypres and was fought near Ypres in Belgium, in the area from the Menin Road to Polygon Wood and thence north, to the area beyond St. Julien.

**26th Sept 1917:** I Anzac Corps attacked with the 5th Australian Division on the right. At some pillboxes there was resistance but many German soldiers surrendered when they were rapidly surrounded. The Butte was rushed and was found to be full of German dugouts. Two battalions passed through at 7:30 a.m. towards the second objective, a 1,000-yard (910 m) stretch of the Flandern I Stellung and some pillboxes, until held up by fire from a German battalion headquarters on the Polygonebeek. A reserve battalion overran the dugouts and more pillboxes nearby, advancing to just beyond the final objective, taking 200 prisoners and 34 machine-guns. The 5th Australian Division had 5,471 dead and wounded from 26–28 September.

Australian soldiers in trenches at the Battle of Polygon Wood.
Able Seaman Thomas Twyford

Thomas Twyford: Born in Kilrush, died 13th March 1918 age 32 on the SS Castlebar, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England. Husband of Teresa Twyford (nee Hillian) Carrigrohane Co Cork. (TB)

The 508 ton SS Castlebar disappeared at sea. She departed Glasgow on 12th March 1918 for Limerick with a cargo of wheat. The vessel was reported to have passed Fanad Head on 14th March. She was listed as missing on 7th August 1918.

The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea.
Second Lieutenant Charles Richard Griffin Vance:

Limerick. Killed in action 9th March 1915 age 22 in Ypres. 3rd Cheshire Regiment. He was in command of a trench at the time he was shot, a bullet hitting him on the head and killing him instantly. Youngest son of Rev Chancellor Vance M.A, Rector of Ardagh Co Limerick. His brother is also at the front. He was the nephew of Thomas R Griffin, Liscrona House Kilkee, ‘where part of many happy years of youthful life were spent in the land of the West’. (Clare Journal)

Ramparts Cemetery - Lille Gate
Ypres (Ieper)Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: D. 25.

Gallant Young Officer
Killed.

In the last list of casualties we regret to see the name of Second Lieutenant R. C. R. G. Vance, 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment. The deceased officer volunteered for service on the outbreak of the war, and was appointed on the 10th August last, proceeding with his regiment to the front shortly afterwards, and had been in many engagements up to the time of his death. He was a young man of splendid physique, standing almost 6ft. 3ins, and although only in his 22nd year, he was in command of a trench at the time he was shot, a bullet hitting him on the head and killing him instantly. His remains were brought to Ypres by his comrades. He was the youngest son of the Rev Chancellor Vance, M.A., Rector of Ardagh, County Limerick. Canon Vance has another son serving with the Royal Irish Fusiliers at the front. There is great sympathy with Canon Vance, and also with his many relatives and friends in Clare, where the deceased officer was well known, being a nephew of Mr. Thomas R. Griffin, Liscrona, Kilkee, where part of many happy years of his youthful life were spent, “in the land of the West,” and where he endured himself to all who had the pleasure of meeting him. Many a day will pass before he is forgotten by his numerous friends, who will think with pain of his manly form now resting for ever in the silent grave. It was only a few days ago he was at home on a short holiday, and he returned to the front full of hope, and looking forward to another brief holiday in the near future. Such is life “Whom the gods love die young.”

Clare Journal March 1915
Captain Alexander Moore Vandeleur: Lived in Cahercon, Kildysart, killed in action 30th Oct 1914 age 30, the 2nd Life Guards, G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. (TB) He was killed in action in the **Battle of Gheluvelt** (28th-31st Oct 1914 First Battle of Ypres) in Zanvoorde in Belgium, where fierce fighting led to the British Expeditionary Force suffering many casualties. He leaves behind a three year old son and heir Giles Alexander Meysey and his wife of four years Violet Ethel Meysey-Thompson. The Vandaleur family, of Dutch descent, were the big landowners in west Clare since the early 1800’s.

**Battle of Gheluvelt** (28th-31st Oct 1914): On 30 October, German attacks on the left flank of the BEF at Gheluvelt, were repulsed but the British were pushed out of Zandvoorde, Hollebeke and Hollebeke Château as German attacks on a line from Messines to Wytschaete and St. Yves were repulsed. The British rallied opposite Zandvoorde with French reinforcements and "Bulfin's Force" a command improvised for the motley of troops. The BEF had many casualties.
Captain H M C Vandeleur

Captain H M C Vandeleur: Ralhine. (Newmarket on Fergus) He was killed in action Sept 14th 1914. He was the first Clare Officer reported killed in the war. (P McNamara) He was also cited for bravery. (Joe Power) Could be Capt William Mountcharles Vandeleur: Killed in action Aug 26th 1914 aged 44. Essex Regiment. Son of Lt. Col. William R. Vandeleur and Mrs Emma Vandeluer of Hove. (findagrave website)

Esnes Communal Cemetery
Esnes
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I.

Captain William Mountcharles Crofton Vandeleur. Essex Regiment. Served in India 1897-98 and the Boer war where he received the Queen’s Medal with 4 clasps and the King’s Medal with 2 clasps. He died in the Great War 26/8/1914. (Our Heroes)
Charles A Walker: Canada, died 3rd Oct 1918 age 25 on the SS Eupion torpeded off Loop Head. G/M in Kilrush. (TB) Son of Charles and Sarah Elizabeth Walker, of 20, Edward St., Brantford, Ontario. Born at Brantford, Canada. Buried at Kilrush [Church of Ireland] graveyard (along with Christopher Clark and Sidney F Walters), and commemorated on a panel at Grangegorman Memorial.

SS Eupion was a British steam powered tanker. On the 3rd October 1918 when on route from Philadelphia for Limerick, Ireland she was torpedoned by German submarine UB-123 (just a week before the same submarine sank the Leinster) and sunk 10 miles West of Loop Head, with the loss of 11 crew. They died of exposure in a raft after their ship was sunk.

The Grangegorman Memorial Panel 2 [Screen Wall]

Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte
Meaulte
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

Photos – Keir McNamara

The Battle of Le Transloy (1 Oct–11 Nov) began in good weather and Le Sars was captured on 7 October. Pauses were made from 8–11 October due to rain and 13–18 October to allow time for a methodical bombardment, when it became clear that the German defence had recovered from earlier defeats. Haig consulted with the army commanders and on 17 October reduced the scope of operations by cancelling the Third Army plans and reducing the Reserve Army and Fourth Army attacks to limited operations, in co-operation with the French Sixth Army. On the 6th November the Fourth Army ceased offensive operations, except for small attacks intended to improve positions and divert German attention from attacks being made by the Reserve/Fifth Army. Larger operations resumed in January 1917.
Lance Corporal John Walsh

John Walsh: Born and lived in Ennistymon, killed in action 7th June 1917 age 32, at Wytschaete. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 3683, G/M in Belgium. Son of Michael Walsh, Ballygastel, Lisdoonvarna.(TB)

Wytschaete Military Cemetery
Heuvelland
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),

The Flanders offensive began at 3.10am on 7 June 1917 with the detonation of nineteen huge mines previously burrowed under the German lines. There followed the advance of the 16th Irish Division (incl 1st RMF)opposite the village of Wytschaete, to the right the 36th (Ulster) Division opposite the village of Messines, the largest ever concentration of Irish soldiers on a battlefield.

Their advance has been reported by all who saw it as a sight never to be forgotten, a captured German officer stated that they moved as if on parade.

The 1RMF took all its objectives on schedule despite the loss of nearly all of its supporting tanks. The subsequent battle was a complete success militarily. Casualties were low in an action which was one of the most successful of the battalion's actions, resulting from thorough planning, training and good leadership.
**Major John Walsh**

**John Walsh**: Born (1883) in Caherogan Malbay Malbay lived in London, died of wounds 19th Feb 1917 age 34, at the Somme, in the Action of Miraumont/Battle of Boom Ravine (17–18 February). Royal Fusiliers (City of London) 22nd Bn, 99th Brigade 2nd Division. G/M in France. (TB) He was promoted to Major in March 1916. (CJ) Major John Walsh, who had been Mentioned in Despatches before he was killed in action near Miraumont on the Somme, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery.

The son of the principal of Dunsallagh National School, which was in existence from 1885 to 1975. Walsh was civil servant in London when he joined the 22nd (Service) Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, formed by the Mayor of the Borough of Kensington at White City on 11th September, 1914. This service battalion was made up of office workers, bank officials and other professionals that answered Kitchener’s call to form Pals battalions at the start of the war.

Letter from the King, Memorial Plaque, Photo, and a poem dedicated to Major Walsh written by one of his brother officers.

(Clare Museum)

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**The Late Major Walsh.**

At Mass at Milltown Malbay yesterday, the Very Rev. Canon Hannon feelingly asked the prayers of the people for the repose of the soul of Major Walsh, whose sad death has just occurred from wounds received in battle in France. Only a few weeks ago he was home on a few days’ leave, and he was a splendid specimen of a man. Deceased was the eldest son of Mr Michael Walsh, N.C., Caherogan, Milltown-Malbay. In their great sorrow the sympathy of everyone goes out to his parents, brothers, and sisters.

**Clare Journal Feb 1917**

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**Further Promotion of Young Clare Officer.**

It is with much pleasure we announce the promotion of Capt. J. Walsh, 22nd Bn, the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.), to the rank of Major. A few months ago we heartily offered this young gentleman our congratulations on his receiving his Captaincy. He is the eldest son of Mr and Mrs M. Walsh, Caherogan, Milltown-Malbay. To Major Walsh we tender our hearty congratulations and wish him every success.

**Clare Journal Dec 1916**
Defensive positions held by the German army on the Somme after November 1916 were in poor condition, the garrisons were exhausted and postal censors reported tiredness and low morale. The German defences on the Ancre began to collapse under British attacks in January 1917, and particularly the Action of Miraumont/Battle of Boom Ravine (17–18 February), caused, on the night of 22 February, a preliminary German withdrawal of about 4 miles (6.4 km) to the Hindenburg Line.

A poem dedicated to Major Walsh written by one of his brother officers. (Sean Lenihan)
The Action of Miraumont/Battle of Boom Ravine
(17–18 February)

The divisional boundary was west of the western road from Courcelette to Miraumont, the 99th Brigade attacking on a 700 yards (640 m) front, with boundaries marked by the two sunken roads. Each brigade attacked with two battalions, the 99th Brigade with two companies to extend the defensive flank formed on the right with the subsidiary attack and 2 1/2 companies following-on to leap-frog through to the final objective. The German infantry proved alert and inflicted many casualties with small-arms fire, which with the darkness, fog and a sea of mud slowed the advance and caused units to become disorganised. The 99th Brigade reached the first objective and established a defensive flank against German counter-attacks. They then advanced towards the second objective but was much hampered by the fog and mud. The failure to maintain the defensive flank on the right left the Germans free to rake the brigade with machine-gun fire from the right, which caused more casualties.

South Miraumont Trench was entered by a small number of troops, who were then forced back to the first objective. Fresh German troops also counter-attacked. Many of the British troops had weapons clogged with mud and fell back, the troops on the right forming a defensive flank along West Miraumont road, where they were fired on from South Miraumont Trench behind its left flank and withdrew to a line 100 yards north of Boom Ravine. The attack had not reached its furthest objectives but had advanced the line 500 yards on the right, 1,000 yards in the centre and 800 yards on the left. Boom Ravine was captured but the Germans had retained Hill 130 and inflicted 779 casualties on the 99th Brigade of the 2nd Division.

Major John Walsh continued

Major John Walsh was killed by a German machine gun as he lead his unit (“D” Company) in an assault on the Somme near Miraumont.

...‘and the fine work of D Company had had its influence on the action to the end. Well posted in an advanced position, it prevented the Germans debouching on East Miraumont Road. But the battalion lost very heavily. At noon only three officers remained. Major (John) Walsh, who had joined the battalion in February, 1915, and had had command of a company since March, 1916, was mortally wounded. A natural leader of men, he was a great loss to the battalion.‘(From the unit’s war diary.) Sean Lenihan
Private Martin Walsh MM

Martin Walsh: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 1st June 1917, just before the Battle of Messines Ridge (7-14th June 1917). Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6745, 48th Brigade in 16th (Irish) Division. G/M in Belgium. He won the Military Medal. Son of Mrs Johanna Walsh. He was awarded the MM with the RDF 2nd Bn 6745. (fold3.com)

Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery
Heuvelland. Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: G. 74.

Kemmel Chateau was north-east of Kemmel village and the cemetery was established on the north side of the chateau grounds in December 1914. It continued to be used by divisions fighting on the southern sectors of the Belgian front until March 1918.

There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

The Battle of Messines Ridge (7-14th June 1917): Taking the Messines Ridge was strategically important to straighten the line south of Ypres. The 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) were to fight together to take the Belgian village of Wytschaete. General Plumer had a scaled model of the Ridge made so troops could see what lay ahead. He had mines dug for explosives beneath German defences. About 3 million shells bombarded Messines for over a week. The barrage eased just before Plumer detonated 9,500 tons of explosives under the Germans. The 47th and 49th Brigades led the attack, the 48th in reserve.
**Private Michael Walsh**

**Michael Walsh:** Born in Ennis, killed in action 22nd March 1918 age 26, during the Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March). Northumberland Fusiliers 9th Bn 55455, 103rd Brigade, 34th Division. G/M in Arras France. Son of John and Mary Walsh 30 Steeles Terrace. (TB)

The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

**Arras Memorial. Arras**
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Bay 2 and 3.

**Battle of St. Quentin, 21–23 March: Day 2, 22 March:** On the second day of the offensive, British troops continued to fall back, losing their last footholds on the original front line. Thick fog impeded operations and did not disperse until early afternoon. Isolated engagements took place as the Germans pressed forward and the British held their posts, often not knowing who was to either side of them. Brigade and battalion control over events was absent. It was a day of stubborn and often heroic actions by platoons, sections and even individuals isolated from their comrades by the fragmented nature of the battle and lack of visibility.

**Operation Michael** (21 March – 5 April 1918) was a major German military offensive that began the Spring Offensive on 21 March 1918. It was launched from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin, France. Its goal was to break through the Allied (Entente) lines and advance in a north-westerly direction to seize the Channel ports, which supplied the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and to drive the BEF into the sea.
Gunner Michael Joseph Walsh

**Michael Joseph Walsh:** Lived in CappaKilrush, died 3rd Oct 1917, Gunner on H.M.S. "Vivid." (which was a Naval Land Base), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, G/M in Scattery Island Graveyard. Husband of Mrs Walsh CappaPier. (TB) The RNVR was formed in June 1903 by the 'Naval Forces Act 1903'. Volunteers joining up agreed to serve 'either ashore or afloat' and therefore performed a wide range of duties. At the outbreak of World War One, volunteers reported to their divisional headquarters. Some men were drafted into ships of the fleet, but many were ordered to join the Royal Naval Division.

Buried on Scattery Island, Grave no. 45.

Erected by Bridget Martin in memory of her beloved husband John Martin Cappa, who died March 2nd 1873 aged 80, may he rest in posterity RIP amen.

Bridget Martin, Daughter Bridget, Catherine Walsh, James Walsh RNVR.
Michael Walsh: Born in Kilrush, died 6th May 1916 in Mesopotamia, due to neglect in Turkish hands as a POW after Kut. Royal Garrison Artillery 86th Heavy Battery 34518, 12th Indian Division. G/M in Iraq. (TB)

Kut War Cemetery

After a siege of 147 days, Townshend surrendered Kut on 29th April 1916. The following day 277 British and 204 Indian officers, together with 2,592 British and 6,988 Indian other ranks were taken into captivity, together with 3,248 Indian non-combatants.

Of the 2,592 British troops captured at Kut, about 1,750 died on the march or later in the camps, and of the 6,988 Indian troops, about 2,500 died in similar fashion. On 6 May 1916, the Turks began the 1,200-mile forced march of the British and Indian prisoners across the Syrian Desert from Kut. Mounted Arab and Kurdish guards prodded over 2,500 British soldiers with rifle butts and whips on the long death march. Starvation, thirst, disease, and exhaustion thinned out the British column, and only 837 soldiers survived the march and the years in captivity. Gunner Michael Walsh died on the 6th May 1916.

Kut War Cemetery was made between October 1915 and May 1916 and was increased in size when graves were brought in from other sites after the Armistice. The cemetery now contains 420 First World War burials.
Private Robert Walsh


Brandhoek New Military Cemetery
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium
Plot: VI. F. 1.

Brandhoek New Military Cemetery contains 530 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

‘The Battalion relieved the 8th Dublins on the 11th August in the front line by the Frezenberg Redoubt, being under heavy fire day and night. Killed 6; wounded 17; on the 13th, wounded 11.’

In the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June 1917 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.
Second Mate Sidney Frederick Walters


SS Eupion was a British steam powered tanker. On the 3rd October 1918 when on route from Philadelphia for Limerick, Ireland she was torpedoed by German submarine UB-123 (just a week before the same submarine sank the Leinster) and sunk 10 miles West of Loop Head, with the loss of 11 crew. They died of exposure in a raft after their ship was sunk.

Buried in the Kilrush Church of Ireland Churchyard, in the North East corner of the Cemetery.

In memory of
Christopher Clarke aged 30.
Sidney Walters aged 27.
John Walker aged 19.

Seamen of the steam ship Eupion who died from exposure on a raft.

Their vessel was sunk without warning by a German submarine 3rd Oct., 1918.

Erected by donation from the owners and subscriptions collected by J. J. Bradley. J Coffey Limerick.

The Grangegorman Memorial Panel 2 [Screen Wall]
Private Michael Ward

Michael Ward: Born and lived in Mountshannon, died of wounds 3rd Oct 1918 age 23, near Graincourt France. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 1107, G/M in France. Son of John and Caroline M Ward, Drewsboro, Scariff. (TB)

Mont Huon Military Cemetery. Le Treport
Departement de la Seine-Maritime
Haute-Normandie, France
Plot: VIII. G. 5B. During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

The 1st RMF made a 3,000 yard advance on 27 September 1918 when Graincourt was captured.

The Germans counter-attacked recapturing many positions. The battalion remained under shellfire even behind the lines and was reduced to 7 officers and 261 men by 3 October 1918.

‘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...’
Head Constable Owen Ward

Owen Ward: Born in Monaghan. Head Constable (Sergeant) in the RIC 59102, in charge of Ennis, died on the RMS Leinster 10th Oct 1918. He is believed to have been travelling to Birmingham on official business. (TB) He was buried in Carrickmacross Co Monaghan. (Philip Lecane)

‘Owen Ward was born about 1879 in Corlygorm, close to the town of Carrickmacross in County Monaghan.... There were at least six children in the family..... In January 1907 he was moved to Londonderry and then Belfast. That year he married Rosina Hughes, daughter of Head Constable William Hughes...... Despite only being in his mid-thirties Owen was promoted again the following February (1918) to the position of Head Constable and sent to Ennis in County Clare, a town that was experiencing much unrest from republican supporters. On 10 October 1918 Owen Ward was travelling to England on RMS Leinster. Reports vary as to his destination city, as do reasons for travelling, which vary from escort duty, to official business to secret mission. He did not survive the sinking but his body was recovered and his remains were brought to Broomfield parish church in Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan and interred in the family burial ground.... The townspeople of Ennis raised a very generous sum for his widow and children (Mary Kathleen, Owen Patrick, Henry Joseph and Anthony Francis).’

(Lucille Ellis – The RMS Leinster Commeroration 1918-2018)

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.’
Private Eugene Watt

Eugene Watt: Born in Co Clare 24/1/1893, lived in Ontario Canada, died 24th March 1918 age 23, during the German offensive Operation Michael. Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade 174951, G/M in France. Husband of Marie Watt from Lemeneigh, Newmarket on Fergus. Son of Robert and Georgina Watt, Hamilton Ontario. He was a Manual Worker when he enlisted in Oct 1915 in Hamilton Ontario.(TB)

Vimy Memorial. Vimy
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Final resting place unknown. Name listed on the Vimy Memorial

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial bears the inscribed names of 11,168 missing Canadians, killed in action in France but whose remains have not been found or identified.

Operation Michael: On 21 March 1918, the German offensive began, spearheaded by specially trained ‘storm troopers’ and savage barrages of gas and high explosive shells. The attack mauled two British armies and overran thousands of stunned Allied troops. The Canadian Corps escaped a direct blow, but several of its divisions were pulled away temporarily to plug holes in the Allied line. The 2nd Division fought with British units for several months.

The Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade, led by Brigadier-General Raymond Brutinel, raced along the British front offering important fire support from its armoured cars.

An armoured car from the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade. With a crew of five, these cars carried two Vickers machine-guns and combined
Gunner Charles Wheeler

Charles Wheeler: Born in Kilrush lived in Cork, died of wounds 18th May 1918 age 25, Royal Field Artillery 2nd Bn 69465, G/M in France. Husband of K Wheeler, Carrigrohane, Co Cork. (TB)

Mont Huon Military Cemetery Le Treport
Departement de la Seine-Maritime
Haute-Normandie, France
Plot: V. H. 1B.

During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

The Royal Field Artillery was the largest arm of the artillery. It was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. It was organised into brigades, attached to divisions or higher formations.
Private Michael Whelan

Michael Whelan: Born in Ballyvaughan Workhouse lived in Kilnaboy, killed in action 7th Nov 1914 age 21, Connaught Rangers 2nd Bn 3938, 5th Brigade in the 2nd Division. G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. Son of Mrs Winifred Whelan, Faherlaughroe Cottage, Carron, Kilnaboy, Co Clare. (TB)

The Connaught Rangers 2nd Battalion landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer, to cheering French crowds, with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914 for service on the Western Front. Its marching song It's a Long Way to Tipperary became famous. By October, the battalion was involved in the First Battle of Ypres. (19th Oct – 22nd Nov 1914). The German offensive continued on 29 October, attacking most heavily in the south and east - once again without decisive success. The offensive continued for the following ten days, the fate of Ypres still in the balance. A further injection of French reinforcements arrived on 4 November. Even so, evacuation of the town seemed likely on 9 November as the German forces pressed home their attack, taking St Eloi on 10 November and pouring everything into an attempt to re-capture Gheluvelt on 11-12 November, without success.

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


![DEOLALI GOVERNMENT CEMETERY](image)

"**Deolali station:** During both world wars this served as a transit camp for troops arriving from or proceeding to Europe. It is also a hill-resort much patronised by Parsis and others from Bombay."

Deolali (also known as Devlali) is a Cantonment in the Nashik District of Maharashtra State. It is about 175 kilometres north-east of Mumbai, a journey which takes approximately 4 hours by road. There are trains to Nashik from both Mumbai and Pune, although the cemetery itself is 12 kilometres away from Nashik Railway Station. The cemetery is located inside the Cantonment area south of Nashik.
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. Son of Thomas and Anne White, Tulla, Co Clare. (TB)

32 West Side
Henu Churchyard
Henu
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

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.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and in memory of those from this parish who made
THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
in the great war of
1914-1918

Lieut. The Honourable Desmond O’Brien, RN6
2nd Lieut. Harold Taylor, Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Sgt. Richard Wolfe, M.M. Royal Irish Rifles
Pte. Samuel Stevens, Leinster Rgt. And Royal Irish Rifles

Boves East Communal Cemetery

Boves
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France. Plot: A.11

Privatee Sidney L.B. White was killed just after the First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux (30 March – 5 April 1918): By 4 April the 14th Division fell back under attack from the German 228th Division. The Australians repulsed the 9th Bavarian Reserve Division and the British 18th Division held off the German Guards Ersatz Division and 19th divisions.
Private James Williams

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

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

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

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

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

Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered.’
After the armistice, the orchard in which the casualties had been buried was purchased by the family of Lieutenant Frederick Styles, an officer of the Munsters who had been killed during the rearguard action. The family erected the large Celtic Cross in the centre of the cemetery which lists the First World War battle honours of the Munsters, as well as a stone memorial bench and plaque. In 1924 the cemetery was handed over to the French state and its care became the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Photos - Keir McNamara
Michael Williams: Born and lived in Ennis, died 27th Oct 1917 age 42, in the Third Battle of Ypres, Royal Garrison Artillery Unit 159th Heavy Battery 3682, G/M in Belgium. Son of John and Susan Williams. (TB)

Huts Cemetery. Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: XII. C. 15.

Nearly two-thirds of the burials are of gunners as many artillery positions existed nearby.

This cemetery takes its name from a line of huts strung along the road from Dickebusch (now Dikkebus) to Brandhoek, which were used by field ambulances during the 1917 Allied offensive on this front. Plots I to X and XII to XIV were filled between July and November 1917. There are now 1,094 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.
Rifleman Henry Wiseman: Cappaduff Mountshannon. He was killed in action on the 16th August 1917, near Langemarck in the Battle of Langemarck (16–18 August 1917). 1st Bn Royal Irish Rifles 12371. 8th Div. G/M in Belgium.

Tyne Cot Memorial
Zonnebeke
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium.
Panel 138. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.

‘Henry was with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, which being a regular Battalion was part of the 8th Regular Division... On the 16th August 1917 Henry Wiseman and 70 of his comrades were killed in a bayonet charge on German trenches near Langemarck... The Royal Irish Rifles were attacking up a hill against German machine guns in concrete bunkers. One of the machine gun bunkers is still there. I remember walking the area a few years ago and came to the conclusion that they hadn’t a chance. Henry was 6 foot 6 inches in height.’ (World War 1 Stories Sean Glennon)

The Battle of Langemarck (16–18 August 1917), was the second Allied general attack of the Third Battle of Ypres. The battle took place near Ypres against the German 4th Army. The French had a big success on the northern flank and the main British gain of ground occurred near Langemark, adjacent to the French. The Allied attack succeeded from Langemarck to DrieGrachten (Three Canals) but early advances in the south on the Gheluvelt Plateau, were forced back by powerful German counter-attacks.
**Sergeant Richard Wolfe MM**

**Sergeant Richard John Wolfe MM:** Born in Markethill Co Armagh. Royal Irish Fusiliers 9th Battalion (Co Armagh) 18609. 108th Brigade in 36th (Ulster) Division. Killed in action Aug 16th 1917 age 21, in the **Battle of Langemarck** (16–18 August 1917). G/M Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. He was awarded the Military Medal. He is also remembered on a Memorial in Kilnasoolagh Church in Newmarket on Fergus. Son of Richard and Margaret Wolfe of The Keeper's Lodge, Cabra, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan. Did he live in Newmarket on Fergus?

The **Battle of Langemarck** (16–18 August 1917), was the second Allied general attack of the Third Battle of Ypres. The battle took place near Ypres against the German 4th Army. The French had a big success on the northern flank and the main British gain of ground occurred near Langemark, adjacent to the French. The Allied attack succeeded from Langemarck to DrieGrachten (Three Canals) but early advances in the south on the Gheluvelt Plateau, were forced back by powerful German counter-attacks.

**Tyne Cot Memorial**

**Zonnebeke**

**Arrondissement Ieper**

**West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.**

Panel 140 to 141.

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

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2nd Lieut. Harold Taylor, Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Sgt. Richard Wolfe, M.M. Royal Irish Rifles

Pte. Samuel Stevens, Leinster Rgt. And Royal Irish Rifles

Private John L. Woods

John Woods: Born in Galway lived in Doolin, killed in action 4th Sept 1916 at Guillemont on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5815 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

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

‘On September 3rd the Battalion moved into position at 3am for the attack on Guillemont.... The leading companies left their trench together with the 6th Bn Connaughts at 12.30am..... The enemy had been cleared from Guillemont and the Quarries and Battalion HQ was established in the village. At 2.35pm... the Battalion advanced as far as the sunken road east of Guillemont.... consolidating the position.... the failure of the Brigade on the left to make good its advance on Ginchy exposed the left flank of the Battalion, and three heavy counter-attacks preceded by artillery preparation had to be repulsed. The Battalion was relieved at 2am on the 4th September..... Casualties; 265 all ranks.’

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.
Private Patrick Woulfe

Patrick Woulfe: Born in Ennistymon lived in Lahinch, killed in action 28th March 1918 age 29 in The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28th March 1918). The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) 13th Bn 307085, 9th Brigade 3rd Division. G/M in Arras France. Son of Patrick and Mary Woulfe, Lahinch Road Ennistymon. He left the USA to enlist. (TB)

Arras Memorial
Arras
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Bay 3.

Photo – Gerry Sadlier

The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28th March 1918): The focus of the German attack changed again on 28 March. The Third Army, around Arras, that would be the target of Operation Mars. Twenty nine divisions attacked the Third Army and were repulsed. German troops advancing against the Fifth Army, from the original front at St. Quentin, had penetrated some 60 km (40 mi) by this time, reaching Montdidier.

Operation Michael was a major German military offensive on 21 March 1918. It was launched from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin. Two days later General Ludendorff, the Chief of the German General Staff, changed his plan and pushed for an offensive due west, along the whole of the British front north of the River Somme. This was designed to separate the French and British Armies and crush the British forces by pushing them into the sea. The offensive ended at Villers-Bretonneux, to the east of the Allied communications centre at Amiens, where the Allies managed to halt the German advance.
Christopher Wynne: Born in Ennis, killed in action 30th March 1918 age 29 in Arras, Irish Guards 1st Bn 10850, G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Wynne Mill St Ennis. (TB) (Brother of Agnes Murphy who was married to Mick Murphy Woodquay)

Arras Memorial
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: Bay 1.

The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

‘On the 30th March the attack rolled up again from the south where it had met no particular encouragement, and barraged the Battalion’s sector with heavies for a couple of hours; causing forty-two casualties among the men and wounding Lieutenants Stacpoole and Bagenal. It then fell upon the 2nd Grenadiers and 1st Coldstream immediately to the Battalion’s left and right, and was driven off with loss. There were other attacks, but with less venom in them, before the Hun could be induced to withdraw. Half the Battalion spent the night digging a line of posts in support which they occupied by dawn.’ Rudyard Kipling The Irish Guards in the Great War.

Agnes Murphy (sister of Christopher Wynne), wife of Mick Murphy (who survived the War), with her three sons, Michael, Dermot and Christy. This photo was taken in the early 1940’s. Christy was born in 1918 and named after his uncle Christopher who had died in March 1918.
The poet Lord Dunsany wrote of the disregarded Great War dead of Ireland:

“Sleep on forgot, a few more years and then
The ages that I prophesy shall see
Due honours paid to you by juster men.”