Claremen who Fought in The Battle of the Somme
July-November 1916

By Ger Browne
The Battle of the Somme started on July 1st 1916 and lasted until November 18th 1916. For many people, it was the battle that symbolised the horrors of warfare in World War One.

- The Battle Of the Somme was a series of 13 battles in 3 phases that raged from July to November. Claremen fought in all 13 Battles.
- Claremen fought in 28 of the 51 British and Commonwealth Divisions, and one of the French Divisions that fought at the Somme.
- The Irish Regiments that Claremen fought in at the Somme were The Royal Munster Fusiliers, The Royal Irish Regiment, The Royal Irish Fusiliers, The Royal Irish Rifles, The Connaught Rangers, The Leinster Regiment, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and The Irish Guards.
- At least 77 Claremen were killed in action or died from wounds at the Somme in 1916. Hundred’s of Claremen fought in the Battle.
- Over 3,500 Irish soldiers died, with many more wounded.

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Infantry Divisions at the Somme

### An Infantry Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Consists of:</th>
<th>Number of men:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>3 or more Brigades</td>
<td>15,000 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigade</td>
<td>3 or more Battalions</td>
<td>4000 +</td>
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<td>Battalion</td>
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<td>1000 +</td>
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### Infantry Strength at the Somme

1. **1st July**
   - 13 British, 11 French Divisions
   - 10 German Divisions

2. **July – November 1916**
   - 51 British, 48 French Divisions
   - 50 German Divisions

### Infantry Divisions

Claremen fought in 29 of the 51 British and Commonwealth Divisions that fought between July and November 1916 at the Somme. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th, 32nd, 36th, 37th, 39th, 47th, 56th, 63rd, the Guards Division, the 2nd, 4th & 5th Australian Divisions, the 1st Canadian and the New Zealand Division.

The Division was the main fighting formation on the battlefield. Commanded by a Major General, he and his Staff of 15 officers and 67 men controlled three Brigades, each of four Battalions. Because a Division was a self-sufficient fighting force, it did not just comprise of infantry. In addition to the three Infantry Brigades there were: Heavy Trench Mortar Battery, Machine Gun Company, Engineers, Army Service Corps, Medical, the Army Veterinary Corps, a Divisional Signal Company of the Royal Engineers, plus Mounted Troops and a Cyclist Company.

These units combined would make the strength of a Division more than 15,000+ officers and men.

### The Somme

The line of trenches that stretched from the Belgian coastal town of Nieuport to the French/Swiss border was visible evidence of the stalemate that had existed on the Western Front since the autumn of 1914. In February, 1916, the British and French commanders-in-chief agreed to launch a joint offensive astride the river Somme at the start of July.

The German attack on Verdun in February forced the French to divert troops intended for the Somme to prevent the loss of the historic town. The need to relieve the pressure on Verdun grew but the French could only now provide five of the twenty-seven divisions which were to take part in the offensive. The objective was to pierce the German front line system at a known strong sector and to allow two cavalry divisions to push through the gap opened by the infantry to create havoc in the German rear. As part of the preparation, the British had placed 17 mines under major German fortifications, to be exploded at the start of the attack.

During 1915, the Germans had constructed a defensive line of barbed wire systems, deep underground concrete dugouts and strong points, known as redoubts, along their front line north of the Somme. In order to remove these obstacles, the British and French began an intensive artillery barrage on 24 June 1916.
The Battle of the Somme 1st July – 18th Nov. 1916

The Battle was a series of 13 battles in 3 phases that raged from July to November.

First phase: 1–17 July 1916
Second phase: July – September 1916
Third phase: September–November, 1916

Claremen fought in all 13 Battles.

The Number of British & Commonwealth Divisions that participated in each battle, is in brackets.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July (28)
2. Battle of Bazentin Ridge, 14–17 July (14)
   Attacks on High Wood 20–25 July (5)
3. Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July (2)
6. Battle of Gullemont, 3–6 September (6)
7. Battle of Ginchy, 9 September (3)
8. Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September (23)
10. Battle of Thiepval Ridge, 26–28 September (6)
11. Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November (19)
12. Battle of the Ancre Heights, 1 October – 11 November (6)
13. Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November (13)
1. The Battle of Albert 1-13th July 1916

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July

The Battle of Albert was the first two weeks of Anglo-French offensive operations in the Battle of the Somme.

First day on the Somme, 1 July

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.

No opposition was expected when 100,000 soldiers emerged from their trenches at 7.30 am to walk across No Man’s Land. Along 23 km stretch of front line, they advanced in the bright daylight of a midsummer morning at a walking pace, as instructed, in straight lines with 90metres between each assault wave.

The attack was made by five divisions of the French Sixth Army either side of the Somme, eleven British divisions of the Fourth Army north of the Somme to Serre and two divisions of the Third Army opposite Gommecourt, against the German Second Army of General Fritz von Below.

The French Sixth Army and the right wing of the British Fourth Army inflicted a considerable defeat on the German Second Army but from the Albert–Bapaume road to Gommecourt, the British attack was a disaster where most of the c. 60,000 British casualties were incurred. They were met with a hail of machine-gun fire and most did not reach the German line. There were 60,000 casualties (19,240 men were killed), before the attack was halted around noon. The French Sixth Army had 1,590 casualties and the German 2nd Army had 10,000–12,000 losses.
First Day on the Somme 1st July 1916

Divisions that Claremen fought with on July 1st 1916

36th Ulster Division
19th Division
7th Division
18th Division
One of the outstanding feats on that day of failure, carnage and death, was the success of the 36th (Ulster) Division in capturing their German front line objectives, including the supposedly impregnable Schwaben Redoubt opposite Thiepval Wood. Raised from the Ulster Volunteers, this was the largest unit of Irish soldiers to fight on that day, consisting of nine battalions of the Royal Irish Rifles, three of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and one of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

With conspicuous bravery and disregard for personal safety, the Ulstermen broke through the strongest German defences and penetrated deep into the rear positions, taking 500 German prisoners. But due to the failure of the flanking divisions to make progress, the sacrifices of the Ulstermen were in vain and they had to abandon their hard-won positions and return to their starting positions. The losses amounted to 5,500 of whom almost 2,000 were killed. Nearly every community in Ulster had cause to mourn, an event which seared itself into the folk memory of their community. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Division in one day.

Large numbers of Irish soldiers serving in other divisions had their first and last experience of “going over the top” on that morning. The 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 1st and 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers suffered heavily in an attempt by the 29th Division to capture another German strongpoint at Beaumont Hamel which was in a sector neighbouring that of the 36th (Ulster) Division. A tunnel had been dug under the Hawthorne Redoubt but the decision to fire the large store of explosives it contained at 7.20 am gave ample warning to the Germans of the impending attack and allowed them to occupy strong positions around the mine crater before the soldiers came forward.

The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers were in the second wave of the attack, going into battle with 503 men of whom 325 became casualties. The 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers captured the position known as the Quadrilateral but they also had to withdraw due to the isolation of their position.

Of the twelve British infantry divisions that took part in the attack on that day, three had a single Irish Battalion among their ranks. The 1st Royal Irish Rifles crossed No Man’s Land with the 8th Division in the second wave but had its Commanding Officer killed and could go no further.

The 2nd Royal Irish Regiment of the 7th Division helped to capture three miles of the German frontline trenches near the village of Mametz.

The 2nd Royal Inniskillings Fusiliers were in the 32nd Division which was repulsed at Thiepval village suffering 4,000 casualties. This allowed the Germans to concentrate their fire on the 36th (Ulster) Division and force them to withdraw.

Against Joffre’s wishes, Haig abandoned the offensive north of the road, to reinforce the success in the south, where the Anglo-French forces pressed forward towards the German second line, preparatory to a general attack on 14 July.
2. **Battle of Bazentin Ridge, 14–17 July**

The Fourth Army attacked the German second defensive position from the Somme past Guillemont and Ginchy, north-west along the crest of the ridge to Pozières on the Albert–Bapaume road. The objectives of the attack were the villages of Bazentin le Petit, Bazentin le Grand and Longueval which was adjacent to Delville Wood, with High Wood on the ridge beyond. The attack was made by four divisions on a front of 6,000 yards (5.5 km) at 3:25 a.m. after a five-minute hurricane artillery bombardment. Field artillery fired a creeping barrage and the attacking waves pushed up close behind it in no man's land, leaving them only a short distance to cross when the barrage lifted from the German front trench. Most of the objective was captured and the German defence south of the Albert–Bapaume road put under great strain but the attack was not followed up due to British communication failures, casualties and disorganisation.

3. **Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July**

The Battle of Fromelles was a subsidiary attack to support the Fourth Army on the Somme 80 kilometres (50 miles) to the south, to exploit any weakening of the German defences opposite. Preparations for the attack were rushed, the troops involved lacked experience in trench warfare and the power of the German defence was "gravely" underestimated, the attackers being outnumbered 2:1. On 19 July, von Falkenhayn had judged the British attack to be the anticipated offensive against the 6th Army. Next day Falkenhayn ordered the Guard Reserve Corps to be withdrawn to reinforce the Somme front. The Battle of Fromelles had inflicted some losses on the German defenders but gained no ground and deflected few German troops bound for the Somme. The attack was the début of the Australian Imperial Force on the Western Front and "the worst 24 hours in Australia's entire history". Of 7,080 BEF casualties, 5,533 losses were incurred by the 5th Australian Division; German losses were 1,600–2,000, with 150 taken prisoner.

4. **Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September**

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

5. **Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 7 August**

The Battle of Pozières 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.
**The Battles of Guillemont & Ginchy.**

6. **Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September**

The Battle of Guillemont was an attack on the village which was captured by the Fourth Army on the first day. Guillemont was on the right flank of the British sector, near the boundary with the French Sixth Army. German defences ringed the British salient at Delville Wood to the north and had observation over the French Sixth Army area to the south towards the Somme river. The German defence in the area was based on the second line and numerous fortified villages and farms north from Maurepas at Combles, Guillemont, Falfemont Farm, Delville Wood and High Wood, which were mutually supporting. **The battle for Guillemont was considered by some observers to be the supreme effort of the German army during the battle.** Numerous meetings were held by Joffre, Haig, Foch, Rawlinson and Fayolle to co-ordinate joint attacks by the four armies, all of which broke down. A pause in Anglo-French attacks at the end of August, coincided with the largest counter-attack by the German army in the Battle of the Somme.

**The 16th Irish Division** was transferred from the Loos sector in August, having suffered 6,000 casualties of whom 1,496 had been killed.

The Division was composed of seven battalions from Leinster, Munster and Connaught, five from Ulster and the 11th Royal Hampshire Regiment. The 47th Brigade (The 16th Irish Division) was assigned the task of capturing the German strongpoint at the village of Guillemont. This had withstood repeated attacks since July. On 3 September, the 6th Connaught Rangers, 7th Leinsters and the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers took the position in a feat of outstanding bravery. Lt. John Holland of the Leinsters was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 16th Irish Division had 4,330 casualties in September, of whom 1,200 were killed.

7. **Battle of Ginchy, 9 September**

In the Battle of Ginchy the 16th Irish Division captured the German-held village. Ginchy was 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) north-east of Guillemont, at the junction of six roads on a rise overlooking Combles, 4 kilometres (2.5 mi) to the south-east. After the end of the Battle of Guillemont, British troops were required to advance to positions which would give observation over the German third position, ready for a general attack in mid-September. British attacks from Leuze Wood northwards to Ginchy had begun on 3 September, when the 7th Division captured the village and was then forced out by a German counter-attack. **The capture of Ginchy** and the success of the French Sixth Army on 12 September, in its biggest attack of the battle of the Somme, enabled both armies to make much bigger attacks, sequenced with the Tenth and Reserve armies, which captured much more ground and inflicted c. 130,000 casualties on the German defenders during the month.

On 9 September, the 48th Brigade (The 16th Irish Division), consisting of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers succeeded in taking another heavily fortified German position at Ginchy which is about 1 km from Guillemont. This was the only success of the British attack on that day which cost 4,330 casualties, including 50% of the officers. Among those killed was the Irish Nationalist MP Tom Kettle, MP, who went into battle leading a company of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
8. **Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September**

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. **The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.**

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

9. **Battle of Morval, 25–28 September**

The Battle of Morval was an attack by the Fourth Army on Morval, Gueudecourt and Lesboeufs held by the German 1st Army, which had been the final objectives of the Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September). The attack was postponed to combine with attacks by the French Sixth Army on Combles, south of Morval and because of rain. The combined attack was also intended to deprive the German defenders further west, near Thiepval of reinforcements, before an attack by the Reserve Army, due on 26 September. **Combles, Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt were captured and a small number of tanks joined in the battle later in the afternoon.** Many casualties were inflicted on the Germans but the French made slower progress. The Fourth Army advance on 25 September was its deepest since 14 July and left the Germans in severe difficulties, particularly in a salient near Combles. The Reserve Army attack began on 26 September in the Battle of Thiepval Ridge.

10. **Battle of Thiepval Ridge, 26–28 September**

The Battle of Thiepval Ridge was the first large offensive mounted by the Reserve Army of Lieutenant General Hubert Gough and was intended to benefit from the Fourth Army attack at Morval by starting 24 hours afterwards. Thiepval Ridge was well fortified and the German defenders fought with great determination, while the British co-ordination of infantry and artillery declined after the first day, due to confused fighting in the maze of trenches, dug-outs and shell-craters. **The final British objectives were not reached until the Battle of the Ancre Heights** (1 October – 11 November). Organisational difficulties and deteriorating weather frustrated Joffre’s intention to proceed by vigorous co-ordinated attacks by the Anglo-French armies, which became disjointed and declined in effectiveness during late September, at the same time as a revival occurred in the German defence. **The British experimented with new techniques in gas warfare, machine-gun bombardment and tank–infantry co-operation**, as the Germans struggled to withstand the preponderance of men and material fielded by the Anglo-French, despite reorganisation and substantial reinforcements of troops, artillery and aircraft from Verdun. September became the worst month for casualties for the Germans.
The Battles of Transloy Ridges, Ancre Heights & Ancre.

11. Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November

The Battle of Le Transloy 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. Another pause followed before operations resumed on 23 October on the northern flank of the Fourth Army, with a delay during more bad weather on the right flank of the Fourth Army and on the French Sixth Army front, until 5 November. Next day 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.

12. Battle of the Ancre Heights, 1 October – 11 November

The Battle of the Ancre Heights was fought after Haig made plans for the Third Army to take the area east of Gommecourt, the Reserve Army to attack north from Thiepval Ridge and east from Beaumont Hamel–Hébuterne and for the Fourth Army to reach the Péronne–Bapaume road around Le Transloy and Beaulencourt–Thilloy–Loupart Wood, north of the Albert–Bapaume road. The Reserve Army attacked to complete the capture of Regina Trench/Stuff Trench, north of Courcellette to the west end of Bazentin Ridge around Schwaben and Stuff Redoubts, during which bad weather caused great hardship and delay. The Marine Brigade from Flanders and fresh German divisions brought from quiet fronts counter-attacked frequently and the British objectives were not secured until 11 November.

13. Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November

The Battle of the Ancre was the last big British operation of the year. The Fifth (formerly Reserve) 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. Political calculation, concern for Allied morale and Joffre’s pressure for a continuation of attacks in France, to prevent German troop transfers to Russia and Italy also influenced Haig. The battle began with another mine being detonated beneath Hawthorn Ridge Redoubt. The attack on Serre failed, although a brigade of the 31st Division, which had attacked in the disaster of 1 July, took its objectives before being withdrawn later. South of Serre, Beaumont Hamel and Beaucourt-sur-l’Ancre were captured. South of the Ancre, St. Pierre Division was captured, the outskirts of Grandcourt reached and the Canadian 4th Division captured Regina Trench north of Courcellette, then took Desire Support Trench on 18 November. Until January 1917 a lull occurred, as both sides concentrated on enduring the weather.

During the final attack on the 13th November, the 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers helped to capture Beaumont Hamel, one of the objectives for the first day. It had 50% casualties.
Claremen in the 1st Division at the Somme

The 1st Div fought in the following Battles and included The Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Battalion.

2  Battle of Bazentin Ridge, 14–17 July (Attacks on High Wood 20-25 July)

8  Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September

9  Battle of Morval, 25–28 September

Patrick Droney: Born in Ballymagh (Balliny North Fanore) Co Clare, enlisted in Ennis, died 22nd Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6831 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)


Thomas Glynn: Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, died 26th Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9511 (1st Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. (Possibly from the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September) Son of James and Bridget Glynn, Ballyvaughan. (TB)

Thomas Cusack: Born (1878) and lived in Kilrush, died 24th Oct 1916 age 38 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6173 (1st Div). G/M in France in Feuquieres-en-Vimeau Communal Cemetery which contains one Commonwealth burial of the First World War and three from the Second World War. He died of wounds (Possibly from the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Son of Tom and Mary Cusack, Glynn Street Kilrush (previously in Ballalley Lane). Husband of Anne Cusack, Pound Street. (TB) He is commemorated on the back of a headstone grave no. 31 in Old Shanakyle Cemetery (East Section) in Kilrush.

Edward Shannon: Born in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) lived in Kilkee, died 20th Dec 1916 age 25 on the Somme, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers S/6720 (1st Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. 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)

John Joseph Slattery: Corofin. ‘Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd D Company (1st Div). Enlisted in 1914 or 1915 and was discharged in 1922. I believe he was a sergeant. His serial number was 10717. I believe that he was posted to Khartoum, Kantara, Gebeit, Cairo, Egypt and Alexandria. When he was alive he mentioned having his birthday while in action in the Battle of the Somme. He ultimately emigrated to Australia and died in Sydney in 1986. Information supplied by his son, Rick Slattery, 15th March 2005.

A continual toll of casualties made September a costly month for the Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. After a month’s break in October, 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.
Claremen in the 1st Division at the Somme

The 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers went into the front line, a quarter of a mile north of Bazentin le Petit, where it found itself in a sector which had been the scene of bitter fighting and was badly exposed to enemy fire.

On 24th August, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)

John Cosgrove: Born and lived in Trough (Truagh?), Castlebank, Co Clare, died 17th August 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9681 (1st Div), G/M in France. Killed in Action on the Somme. (TB)

Patrick Moloney: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 24th August 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4921 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB)

Private Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clarecastle (Clare Abbey), died Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776 (1st Div). G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey. (TB)

2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, died 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.

Claremen in the 2nd Division at the Somme

The 2nd Division fought in the following Battle and included the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 99th Company, and the Royal Fusiliers (City of London) 22nd Bn.


14. Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November

Martin Moroney: Born and lived in Main Street, Miltown Malbay, died 27th July 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 99th Company 12070, 2nd Div (2nd Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September). Only son of Martin and Bridget Moroney General Merchants, Main Street, Miltown Malbay. (TB)

John Walsh: Born (1883) in Caherogan, Malbay Malbay lived in London, died of wounds 19th Feb 1917 age 34, at the Somme. Royal Fusiliers (City of London) 22nd Bn (Kensington), 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 (possibly for the Battle of Ancre 13-18 Nov 1916) before he was killed in action near Miraumont on the Somme, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery.
Clarem in the 3rd Division at the Somme

The 3rd Div fought in the following Battles and included The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) 13th Bn.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July
2. Battle of Bazentin Ridge, 14–17 July

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

John Lillis: Born in Kilrush, died Sept 9th 1916, 8th Irish Battalion (3rd Div), King’s Liverpool Regiment. (Massachusetts and the Great War) G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September)

Clarem in the 4th Division at the Somme

The 4th Div fought in the following Battles and included The Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd, Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding Regiment) 2nd Bn.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July
11. Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November

July 1st: The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers were in the second wave of the attack, going into battle with 503 men of whom 325 became casualties. The 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers captured the position known as the Quadrilateral but they also had to withdraw due to the isolation of their position.

Francis Blake: Lived in Ennis, died of wounds 20th July 1916 age 31 (probably from the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 23497 (4th Div), G/M in Scotland. He died in a Glasgow hospital. Son of James and Elizabeth Blake, Corbally, Quin. (TB)

Patrick Bennett: Born in Scariff lived in Killaloe, died 13th Oct 1916 age 30 on the Somme (Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 43152 4th Div, G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action. Son of Patrick and Mary Bennett Killaloe. (TB)

Denis Bergin: Born in Ennis lived in Kent, died 12th Oct 1916 on the Somme, Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st Bn 11101 (4th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 Oct – 11 November)

Charles Edward Walsh: Born in Leeds lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 17th Oct 1916, Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding Regiment) 2nd Bn 9687, (4th Div) G/M in France. Died of wounds. (TB) (Possibly after the Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November)
Claremen in the 5th Division at the Somme

The 5th Div fought in the following Battles and included The 28th Brigade Royal Field Artillery.

6. Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September

8. Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September


Lieutenant Robert Hallam Studdert MC: Hazelwood. Quin. 28th Brigade Royal Field Artillery (which was at the Somme until Oct 1916). (5th Div) Mentioned in Despatches ‘For gallant and distinguished service in the field’ Feb 1915 (CJ) He also received the Military Cross ‘For distinguished service in the field’ July 1915. (CJ) Wounded Sept 1916 (Guillemont). The shrapnel stopped just short of his heart. (CJ)
Claremen in the 7th Division at the Somme

The 7th Div fought in the following Battles and included The Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn. 7th Div.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July
6. Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September

July 1st: Of the twelve British infantry divisions that took part in the attack on that day, three had a single Irish Battalion among their ranks. The 2nd Royal Irish Regiment of the 7th Division helped to capture three miles of the German frontline trenches near the village of Mametz.

Royal Irish Regiment 2nd.

James Ryan: Born in Ballina Co Tipperary but lived in Killaloe, died 5th July 1916, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn. (7th Div), G/M in France. (TB) (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July)

Sgt Patrick Danaher: Born in Nenagh, lived in Killaloe, died 5th July 1916 age 35 on the Somme, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 3258 (7th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of Dan and Catherine Danaher and husband of Bridget Danaher, New Street, Killaloe. (TB) 'Wounded at Lille on 19 October 1914. Conveyed to Bologne and eventually to the Military Hospital at Fethard. He made a full recovery and returned to the front' (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse) (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July)

Patrick Breene/Breen: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 3rd Sept 1916 age 36, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 18009 (7th Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Guillemond, 3–6 September)

John Joseph Garrahy: Born and lived in Lahinch, died Sept 3rd 1916, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 5888 (7th Div), G/M in France. Formerly in the Leinster Regiment. Killed in action. (TB) NCS (Battle of Guillemond, 3–6 Sept)

Lieutenant Thomas Lionel Pilkington: Glenard, Clarecastle. Royal Irish Regiment. He received a commission as Second Lieutenant in Feb 1916. (CJ) Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) He was born in Ennis in 1896, 2nd child and eldest son to Thomas Henry Pilkington and his wife Florence Greene. After completing school, he went to Sandhurst Royal Military College in August 1915, and was posted to the Royal Irish Regiment in January 1916. In July of that year, he was sent to France to join the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment (7th Div) at the Somme. (Battle of Guillemond, 3–6 September)

Martin Leyden/Lyden: Born in Killuran (Tulla) lived in O’Callaghan’s Mills, died 19th Dec 1916 age 42, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 5054 (7th Div), G/M in England. Died at home. He had also served in India in 1895. (TB) POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Son of Denis and Bridget Leyden, Iragh, O’Callaghan’s Mills. (Battle of Guillemond, 3–6 September)

Michael Clarke (Real Name Michael Martin Gilligan): (1897-1972) Ennis. He used the assumed name Michael Clarke (his mothers maiden name) during the war. At the age of 17 he was a Machine Gunner with the Royal Irish Regiment. He fought in Ypres, and at the Somme. He emigrated to the US after the war where he became a newspaper reporter and poet. (Larry Brennan)
Claremen in the 8th Division at the Somme

The 8th Div fought in the following Battles and included The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn).


Of the twelve British infantry divisions that took part in the attack on that day (July 1st), three had a single Irish Battalion among their ranks. The 1st Royal Irish Rifles crossed No Man’s Land with the 8th Division in the second wave but had its Commanding Officer killed and could go no further.

Charles McNamara: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 23rd Oct 1916 on the Somme, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn) 6893, (8th Div) G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. (TB) On the 23rd October the Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn took part in the attack and capture of the South part of Zenith Trench, and the attack of Orion Trench. This was in The Battle of Transloy Ridges 1 Oct – 11 Nov 1916 at the Somme.

Claremen in the 11th Division at the Somme

The 11th Div fought in the following Battle and included The 58th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, 11th (Northern) Division.


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)
Claremen in the 16th Irish Division at the Somme

The 16th Div fought in the following Battle and included The 6th Connaught Rangers, 7th Leinsters and the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers (& the 8th Royal Dublin Fusiliers).

6. Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September

6. The Battle of Guillemont 3-6th September 1916

The 47th Brigade was assigned the task of capturing the German strongpoint at the village of Guillemont. This had withstood repeated attacks since July. On 3 September, the 6th Connaught Rangers, 7th Leinsters and the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers took the position in a feat of outstanding bravery. Lt. John Holland of the Leinsters was awarded the Victoria Cross.

8th Royal Munster Fusiliers

William Reybauld: Born and lived in Ennis (Clonroad), died 3rd Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4675 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Guilemout, 3–6 Sept)

William Rochford: Born in Drumbiggle Ennis, died 4th Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, RMF 8th Bn 5749 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of Patrick and Margaret Rochford Drumbiggle. (TB) He was reported missing in action in Sept 1916 in the Clare Journal. (CJ) (Battle of Guilemout, 3–6 Sept)

Patrick Blood: Born and lived in Ennistymon, died 4th Sept 1916 on the Somme, 8th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th 5844 (16th Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran) (Battle of Guilemout, 3–6 Sept)

John Woods: Born in Galway lived in Doolin, died 4th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5815 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Guilemout, 3–6 September)

Lieutenant Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien DSO: Ballyalla, Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF 8th Bn (16th Div). (PMcN) Severely wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) (He appears to have seen no further action) He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in Aug 1916 ‘for conspicuous gallantry during raids on enemy trenches. On one occasion after his return, finding that a man was missing, he went out in a wounded condition and brought him in under heavy gunfire.’ (Wounded probably at the Battle of Guilemout, 3–6 September)

John McDonnell: Born and lived Kilrush, died 14th Oct 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4337 (16th Div), G/M in Kilrush. He is also commemorated on Grangegeorman Memorial. He died of wounds (that he received at the Somme) in Cardiff Hospital. ‘Among the actions in which he took part in France and Flanders were Festubert, Neuve Chapelle, Le Bassee, Lens, Loos, Gainchey, Richburg, Vimy, Hulluch, Vermeilles, the Brickfields, Ypres, Arras and Contelmaison; and Guillemont, Ginchy, Combles and Espinal, in the big battles of the Somme. He was wounded in the latter battle, and died of wounds in Cardiff Hospital.’ (CJ) (Probably at the Battle of Guilemout, 3–6 September)


Later after the initial attack on Ginchy failed, the Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn was left open to a counter-attack, then withdrawn to recover from its losses. It returned on the 7th. 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.
In September 1916 the Connaught Rangers 6th Battalion entered the Battle of the Somme. In just over a week’s fighting in September the 6th Battalion lost 23 officers and 407 other ranks.

Michael Coleman: Born and lived in Sixmilebridge, died 1st August 1916 age 23, Connaught Rangers 6th Bn 5818 (16th Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. Son of John and Elizabeth Coleman, Mill Street Sixmilebridge. (TB)

Denis Alphonsus Hayes: Born in Parteen, lived in Kilmallock Co Limerick, died 9th July 1916 age 29, Leinster Regiment 7th Bn 3502 (16th Div), G/M in France. Died of wounds on the Somme. Son of Thomas and Mary Hayes, Kilmallock. (TB)

Captain Fitzwilliam Hume Crowe: Born at Dromore, Ruan Aug 24th 1897. Commissioned to Leinster Regiment 14th August 1914. Sent to France early 1915. Wounded that year for the first time with a bullet through his right arm. Sent back to England and then on leave home for a short period after which he returned to France. Was back in Ruan during the 1916 Rising, returning to France to fight in the Battle of the Somme. After a three week artillery bombardment the Leinster Regiment broke through the Prussian Guard. He was wounded in the leg during this battle and returned home to Ruan on leave.

Michael Kelly DCM: Hector Street. Leinster Regiment 4962. He was awarded the DCM for ‘conspicuous Gallantry at Guillemont.’ He was one of the Leinster bombers who successfully attacked Guillemont on 3rd Sept 1916, and one of only five who survived the Guillemont attack. (Michael Kelly)
Claremen in the 16th Irish Division at the Somme

The 16th Div fought in the following Battle and included The 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

9. Battle of Ginchy, 9 September

7. The Battle of Ginchy 9th September 1916
On 9 September, the 48th Brigade, consisting of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers succeeded in taking another heavily fortified German position at Ginchy which is about 1 km from Guillemont. This was the only success of the British attack on that day which cost 4,330 casualties, including 50% of the officers. Among those killed was the Irish Nationalist MP Tom Kettle, MP, who went into battle leading a company of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

1st Royal Munster Fusiliers left with the 16th. Division for the Somme sector on 30 August 1916, entering the line facing the strategic town of Ginchy, on 5 September, having suffered 200 previous casualties by gas-shelling on the way. After the Battle of Ginchy the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers was reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks.

John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359 (16th Div), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis. Killed in action in Ginchy. (TB)(CJ) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Patrick O’Neill: Lived in Feakle enlisted in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916 age 26, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5571 (16th Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of William O’Neill Ballylongford, Co Kerry. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

John Keane MM: Born in Kilrush, lived on Burton St Kilrush, died 9th Sept 1916 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Thomas Kelly: Born in Tulla, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9373 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Thomas Muldoon MM: Born in India, lived in Feakle, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7857 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal. (TB) Wounded in July 1916. Son of Thomas Muldoon.(CJ) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Lance Corporal T McMahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers (16th Div). Wounded in Sept 1916 at Ginchy where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the Military Service Medal and a Parchment Certificate ‘For courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy.’ (CJ) In Oct 1916 he was also awarded The Russian Cross of St George Second Class. This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ)

Michael Burke: Born in Ennis lived in Clarecastle, died 12th Jan 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 8202, G/M in Belgium. Killed in action. (TB) (Also wounded in Sept 1916 at the Somme. Probably at Ginchy.) (CJ)

John Moloney: Born in Clonlara, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 8th Bn 20351 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Tom Hill: Born in Miltown Malbay (Glendine House), lived in Limerick, died 6th Sept 1916 age 21, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 8th Bn 16234 (16th Div), G/M in Guillemont, France. Killed in action. Son of Dr John Hill. (TB)
Michael Kildea: Miltown Malbay, died 19th Oct 1916 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st (16th Div), G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie Kildea Ennistymon Road. (TB) Killed in Action. ‘I go into battle, after saying a few prayers and a light heart.’

Thomas Devers: Burton St, Kilrush one of 5 brothers, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn (16th Div). KM. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) He received a parchment certificate from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. (Probably at the Battle of Ginchy, 9 September) His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. (CJ) (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)


Sgt. William O’ Halloran: His family lived in the Turnpike Ennis. The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4800. He was killed on the 4th Nov. 1916. Brother of John Joseph O’Halloran, who survived the War. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Ginchy. He died in an area south of Ypres. (Eddie Lough) G/M in Belgium.

John ‘Jack’ Kelly: The Turnpike Ennis. ‘Joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1911, and went to Aldershot in England for training. On conclusion of his training he was sent to India and then on to Burma. These countries were under British rule at the time. He was called back to France after the War broke out in 1914, he spent 15 months in the trenches and he got wounded in the Battle of the Somme. He suffered an abdominal injury and he was sent to Ypres in Belgium to recover. (Flan Hehir)

Donat “Dunny” White MM: Scariff. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Dunny first came to prominence as a splendid hurler and played no small part in securing the County Championship for his native parish in 1907. He enlisted in 1914. He had survived the slaughter of the Somme and shortly after was awarded the Military Medal for going out under heavy enemy fire, and rescuing a senior officer who was lying wounded in what was known as no-man’s-land. Shortly after this daring rescue, Dunny received a serious eye wound that partially blinded him, and he received an honourable discharge from the army and was sent home. He died on Dec 23 1967.

Royal Army Medical Corps

Major Dr Augustus J Hickey MC: Carlton Terrace Kilkee. (aged 28 in 1916) Doctor in Kilmihil. Enlisted in May 1915. Royal Army Medical Corps. (CJ) He was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service at the Battle of Messines June 1917. He had previously been awarded honour Parchments for the Battles of Ginchy and Ypres. Son of Dr P C Hickey. (SR) He died in June 1935 aged 48 in England. ‘Draped with the Union Jack and bearing his military head-dress and sword, the coffin containing the body of Major Augustus J Hickey, R.A.M.C. was borne into Efford Cemetery (Plymouth) on the 6th inst. On a gun-carriage with an escort of 200 men and six officers of the King’s Regiment. He was accorded a military funeral’. (Clare Champion 15th June 1935) He is also remembered on the family gravestone in Kilferagh Kilkee.

Claremen in the 16th Irish Division at the Somme

The RMF 1st Battalion was then moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium and absorbed the 8th RMF on 23 November to bring it up to a strength of 48 officers and 1,069 men by 1 December.
Claremen in the 18th Eastern Division

The 18th Div fought in the following Battles and included The Bedfordshire Regiment 7th Bn and the Norfolk Regiment 8th Bn.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July


Alfred Murray: Born in Co Clare enlisted in Norwich, died 19th July 1916 on the Somme, Norfolk Regiment 8th Bn 13091 (18th Eastern Div) G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September)

Claremen in the 19th Western Division

The 19th Div fought in the following Battles and included The Gloucestershire Regiment 8th Service Bn. The Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Army Medical Corps 57th Field Ambulance.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July


Christopher McCormack: Born and lived in Ennis, died 23rd July 1916, Royal Horse Artillery (19th Division) Ammunition Col. 100572, G/M in France. Died of wounds. (TB) (Probably after the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July)

Leroy Laurence Tracey: Born in Dublin lived in The Cottage, Boherglass, Bodyke, Co Clare, died 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 Div), G/M in France. (TB) Brother of Joseph P. Tracy who served in the Royal Engineers.

Claremen in the 24th Division at the Somme

The 24th Div fought in the following Battle and included The Leinster Regiment 2nd Bn.


2nd Lt Frank Edward Sparrow: Corps of Royal Engineers 129th Field Company (24th Div). Died 13th Aug 1916 (Battle of Delville Wood: 15 July – 3 September 1916) age 37, G/M in France. He was Poor Law Inspector (and Local Government Board Inspector for Ennis when he enlisted. 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 13 August 1916, while inspecting new ground just taken from the enemy at the Battle of the Somme’. From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.
**Claremen in the 25th Division at the Somme**

Claremen fought in the following Battles with The South Lancashire Regiment 8th Bn. 25th Div.

1. **Battle of Albert, 1–13 July**


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**Claremen in the 29th Division at the Somme**

The 29th Div fought in the following Battles and included The Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn and The Lancashire Fusiliers 1st Bn 29th Div.

1. **Battle of Albert, 1–13 July.**

11. **Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November**

July 1st: Large numbers of Irish soldiers serving in other divisions had their first and last experience of “going over the top” on that morning. The 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers suffered heavily in an attempt by the 29th Division to capture another German strongpoint at Beaumont Hamel which was in a sector neighbouring that of the 36th (Ulster) Division. A tunnel had been dug under the Hawthorne Redoubt but the decision to fire the large store of explosives it contained at 7.20 am gave ample warning to the Germans of the impending attack and allowed them to occupy strong positions around the mine crater before the soldiers came forward.

**Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st**

Frederick McMahon: Born and lived in Ennis, died 22nd Oct 1916 age 38 (The Battle of the Transloy Ridges Oct 1st-Nov 11th), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 43088 (29th Div), G/M in France. Died of wounds. He was also in the Royal Munster Fusiliers (6724). Husband of Mary McMahon Lifford, Ennis. (TB)

Thomas Sharry: Born in Ennis, killed in action 28th Feb 1917 at the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 40092, (29th Div). G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB)

**Lancashire Fusiliers 1st Bn**

Claremen in the 30th Division at the Somme

The 30th Div fought in the following Battle and included The Manchester Regiment 19th Bn. 30th Div.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July

Martin Lynch: Born and lived in Miltown Malbay, died 23rd July 1916 age 21 on the Somme, Manchester Regiment 19th Bn 26713, (30th Div) G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action. Son of Thomas Lynch, Main Street, Miltown Malbay. (TB) (Probably fought in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July)

Claremen in the 32nd Division at the Somme

The 32nd Div fought in the following Battle and included The Royal Inniskilling Regiment 2nd Bn.

1. Battle of Albert, 1–13 July

Royal Inniskilling Regiment 2nd.

Of the twelve British infantry divisions that took part in the attack on that day, three had a single Irish Battalion among their ranks. The 2nd Royal Inniskillings Fusiliers were in the 32nd Division which was repulsed at Thiepval village suffering 4,000 casualties. This allowed the Germans to concentrate their fire on the 36th (Ulster) Division and force them to withdraw.

Lt. O’Moore Charles Creagh: Caherbane, Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare, died March 1918 age 21 in Arras, Royal Field Artillery 96th Brigade (32nd Div), G/M in France. Mentioned in Despatches 21 May 1918 for his ‘gallant and distinguished service in the field’ (TB) ‘At the Battle of Messines he was taking signals from the infantry to his headquarters for fifteen hours, and on 1 September was on liaison for the third attack, when he was reported killed in action at Fevillacourt, near Mont Street Quentin, 23 March 1918. He took part in the actions at Richebourg 17 May 1915, and those at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Loos, Verrelles, Ypres, on the Somme (Probably fought in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July), at Messines and Passchendaele etc, and when he was killed, he was within a few days of obtaining his Captaincy.’ From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.
Claremen in the 36th Ulster Division at the Somme

The 36th Div fought in the following Battle and included The Royal Irish Rifles 2nd.

1. **Battle of Albert, 1–13 July**

**July 1st 1916**

One of the outstanding feats on the 1st July, a day of failure, carnage and death, was the success of the 36th (Ulster) Division in capturing their German front line objectives, including the supposedly impregnable Schwaben Redoubt opposite Thiepval Wood. Raised from the Ulster Volunteers, this was the largest unit of Irish soldiers to fight on that day, consisting of nine battalions of the Royal Irish Rifles, three of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and one of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

With conspicuous bravery and disregard for personal safety, the Ulstermen broke through the strongest German defences and penetrated deep into the rear positions, taking 500 German prisoners. But due to the failure of the flanking divisions to make progress, the sacrifices of the Ulstermen were in vain and they had to abandon their hard-won positions and return to their starting positions. The losses amounted to 5,500 of whom almost 2,000 were killed. Nearly every community in Ulster had cause to mourn. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Division in one day.

**George Doherty**: Born in Liscannor, died 7th July 1916, Royal Irish Rifles 2nd Bn 8687 (36th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran) (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July)
Richard Corry: Born and lived in Cregluce Co Clare, enlisted in Bolton, died 1st July 1916, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 10th Bn 17124 (37th Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. The 37th Division took part in the Subsidiary Attack at Gommecourt Salient on the 1st July 1916 at the Somme. The attack was a part of the Battle of the Somme offensive, which resulted in a severe defeat for the attacking force.

William Hourigan: Born and lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 18th Dec 1916, Machine Gun Corps 17th Bn (the 117th? 39th Div) 4079, G/M in France. Wounded in Aug 1916. He died in Wimereux. Son of Mrs J Hourigan Ralahine, Newmarket on Fergus. (TB) The 117th Machine Gun Company joined the 39th Division on the 18th of May 1916. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including, the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights and the capture of Schwaben Redoubt and Stuff Trench as well as The Battle of the Ancre.

John Forde: Lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 15th Sept 1916 age 21, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) 8th Battalion, 4032, (47th Div) G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Forde Newmarket on Fergus. Killed in action. The 47th Division fought in the following Battle and included The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) 8th Bn. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

Patrick J O'Brien: Poulcarron, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare. Queens Westminster Rifles (56th Div). He died on the 7th Oct 1917 from shellshock in France and was buried in Carnon. (SR) He was awarded the Silver War Badge for services rendered in the strenuous fighting at Louis Wood (Leuze Wood) in Sept 1916 where he also suffered shell shock. (CJ) (Battle of Morval) He had a brother in the Irish Guards 2nd Bn. He was wounded also at Louis Wood. The 56th Division had 5,538 losses in September 1916.
Claremen in the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division at the Somme

The 63rd Div fought in the following Battle and included The 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

8. Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November

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

John Power: Born in Dublin lived in Clarecastle, died 13th Nov 1916 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 10th Bn (‘Pals’ Division) 26017 (63rd Div), G/M in France. Killed in action (Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November). Son of Patrick Power (Coal Importer) Clarecastle. (TB) He was a dental student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin.

Sinon Considine: born 27 March 1872, 5th son of Micheál Mór Considine and Bridget Calnan of Dromelihy Hill, Cooraclare, Co. Clare. Sinon joined the RIC in October 1898 and in February 1916 he enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers as a Private (No. 26139) in the 10th Bn. RDF (63rd Div). He served in France and fought at the Battle of the Somme where his friend was Fr. Willie Doyle SJ. He was wounded later and was discharged in 1918 as being medically unfit due to shrapnel being lodged in his leg. (D Murrihy)

Berkley Vincent CBE KBE: Summerhill House, Doonass, Clonlara. 1871 -1963. At the beginning of the 1914-18 War he left India for France where he took part in the Battle of the Somme and later at Ancre. During the Battle of Arras he was buried by constant shelling, but was dug out alive. Nearly all his command were killed. In 1919 he was awarded the CBE and six years later he was honoured by George V with the KBE. (Kiltenanlea Parish Church Clonlara)

Claremen in the 1st Canadian Division at the Somme

The 1st Canadian Div fought in the following Battle with The Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).

11. Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November

Thomas Heppel Crowe: Born 27th Jan 1892 in Newcastle on Tyne. (His father was Michael Joseph Crowe who was a surveyor of Excise and Customs in Ennis.) He died 9th Oct 1916 age 24, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment) 420031 16th Bn (1st Canadian Division), G/M in France. Killed in action. He was an accountant when he enlisted in Canada. (TB) (Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November)
Claremen in the Guards Division at the Somme


Thomas McKnight: Born and lived in Moylesey, Mullagh Co Clare, died 13th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 3198 (Guards Div). Killed in action. G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. (TB)


Michael Higgins MM: Born in Liscannor, lived in Seamount House, died 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7493(Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He lived in Killaloe, died 15th Sept 1916 age 27, Grenadier Guards 2nd Bn 6481(Guards Div), G/M in France.(TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

Michael Houlihan: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 18th Sept 1916 age 29, Irish Guards 2nd Bn, 7835(Guards Div), G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Houlihan, Crofton St Kilrush. He died of wounds in the Battle of the Somme.(TB)(Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

Joseph McNamara: Born in Kilmihil enlisted in Ennis, died 15th Sept 1916 age 29 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7259(Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of Michael and Mary McNamara Knockalough Ennis.(TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)


Albert Muir: Lived in Killaloe, died 16th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 6481(Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB)(Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

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

John Fox: Newmaket on Fergus. Irish Guards (Guards Div). A member of the 1914 Clare All Ireland winning team. He was wounded in the Battle of the Somme (Probably after the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September), and returned to hospital in Dublin. A piece of shrapnel lodged in his head was still there when he died in 1967. ‘The story is that Martin Faulkner an itinerant man, carried the injured Fox from the battlefield at the Somme, to the safety of a field hospital. But on their way, they were arrested by the Germans who did not detain them. They released them when they realised they were Irish!’

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

Michael Guthrie / Gutherie: Born in Ennis, died 14th Sept 1916 age 27, Grenadier Guards 2nd Bn 20229(Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Just before the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept)

Thomas Coonan MM: Born in Ogonnelloe, died 7th May 1918 age 23, Grenadier Guards Machine Gun Regiment 4th Bn 76(Guards Div), G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal at the Somme (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Killed in action. (TB) He is the grand uncle of Myles Dungan the renowned historian and broadcaster.

Grenadier Guards 2nd Bn & 4th Bn.
The most costly action that the South African forces on the Western Front fought was the **Battle of Delville Wood** in 1916 – of the 3,153 men from the brigade who entered the wood, only 780 were present at the roll call after their relief.

James Cusack: Died 18\textsuperscript{th} July 1916 age 39 at Delville Wood, South African Infantry 1\textsuperscript{st} Regiment 1125 (9\textsuperscript{th} Scottish Division) G/M in Thiepval, France. Son of James and Catherine Cusack, Old Mill Road, Sixmilebridge.(TB) (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September)

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**Claremen in the South African Brigade**  
**9\textsuperscript{th} Scottish Division at the Somme**

The 9\textsuperscript{th} Div fought in the following Battle and included The South African Infantry 1\textsuperscript{st} Regiment.

4. **Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September**

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J. F. Chambers: From Cooraclare lived in New Zealand, died 15\textsuperscript{th} Sept 1916 in the Battle of the Somme, New Zealand Expeditionary Force Wellington Regiment 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn 11828 (New Zealand Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of John Chambers Clonfineen, Cooraclare. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

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**Claremen in the New Zealand Division at the Somme**

The New Zealand Div fought in the following Battle and included The New Zealand Expeditionary Force Wellington Regiment 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn.

8. **Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September**

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Thomas Breslin: Born in Co Clare (also down as Co Carlow), died 19\textsuperscript{th} July 1916 on the Somme, Australian Infantry 59\textsuperscript{th} Bn.1914 (5\textsuperscript{th} Aus Div), G/M in France. Husband of Mary Breslin Edinburgh. (TB) (Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July)

Patrick Barry: Born in Kilnamona lived in New South Wales Australia, died 22\textsuperscript{nd} Oct 1916 age 44, Australian Infantry 55\textsuperscript{th} Bn. 5339 (5\textsuperscript{th} Aus Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB) MA (Probably fought at the Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July at the Somme)
Claremen in the Australian 2nd & 4th Divisions at the Somme

The Aus 2nd & 4th Divisions fought in the following Battle and included The Australian Infantry 20th Bn., The Australian Infantry 25th Bn., The Australian Infantry 48th Bn. and The Australian Infantry 4th Pioneers.

5. The Battle of Pozières (23 July – 3rd Sept 1916) Including the Attack on Mouquet Farm

The Battle of Pozières (23 July – 3rd Sept 1916) Including the Attack on Mouquet Farm (1st, 2nd & 4th Australian Divisions) was a struggle for the French village of Pozières 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, Pozières 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 Pozières ridge "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth."


Michael Joseph Breen: Born in Cooraclare lived in Queensland Australia, died 14th Sept 1916 from wounds received at the Battle of Pozières, age 41, Australian Infantry 25th Bn 312 (2nd Aus Div), G/M in England. Mentioned in Despatches. Breen was also recommended for the Military Medal. (TB)

Thomas Neylon/Naylon: Born in Kilshanny lived in Brisbane Australia, died 29th July 1916 at Pozieres age 42, 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) (Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 3rd Sept)

Martin Mineter: Born in Moynoe Scariff. He enlisted in Perth Australia on the 6th March 1915 at the age of 41. He was a tailor and not married. He died 5th Aug 1916, Australian Infantry 48th Bn 473 (4th Aus Div), G/M in France. (TB) MA (Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 3rd Sept)

Patrick Lynch: Born in Kilmoon, Lisdoonvarna, enlisted in Australia, died 6th Aug 1916 age 34 in the Battle of Pozieres, Australian Infantry 4th Pioneers 1660 (4th Aus Div), G/M in France. (TB) MA He was a butcher. Son of Patrick and Margaret Lynch Lisdoonvarns, who owned Lynch’s Hotel. He is also commemorated on the family gravestone in Ennistymon. (Guss O’Halloran) Killed in action. (Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 3rd Sept)


Thomas Stuart: Bodyke. Australian Army. 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 (At Mouquet Farm). He died of these wounds on the 12th Sept 1916 in the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station. His mother was Kate Stuart, Bodyke. (UNSW) G/M in France.
Battle of Pozières Ridge & the attack on Mouquet Farm

23rd July – 3rd Sept

Following the attack on Pozières 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. The other two divisions of I Anzac fared only slightly better in these attacks and at the end of the engagement, Australian casualties at Mouquet Farm totalled 6,300 men.

Fr Francis Clune MC: Born in Ruan (Brother of Rev Patrick Joseph Clune who he met at the Somme in 1916) and lived in Marrickville New South Wales Australia. He became a Chaplain to the Australian Forces in 1915. ‘On 20th September at Bellewaarde Ridge N.E. of Hooge Chaplain Captain Francis Clune was at the dressing post. The post was being heavily shelled and a number of wounded were accumulating. Under heavy fire Captain Clune regardless of personal risk stood by the wounded, giving a hand with the dressing and ministering to their needs in a manner which inspired confidence in all during this trying time. This work was performed in the open, after the Cupola Dressing Post had been destroyed and despite the heavy shelling, which continued for over an hour. Father Clune has always shown magnificent devotion in action and under fire and notably so near Bullecourt in May 1917.’ (Australian Chaplains in WW1) He was Mentioned in Despatches in Jan 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross in Jan 1918 for ‘conspicuous bravery.’ He was aged 48.

Rev. Patrick Joseph Clune: (6th Jan 1864 -1935). Born in Ruan. Became the Chaplain General of the Australian Forces in August 1916. He served on the Western Front, in Ypres and in Egypt. He met his brother Fr Francis Clune at the Somme in 1916. He returned to Australia in March 1917. His parents were James and Margaret Clune (nee Lynch) and he was educated at St Flannan’s College Ennis. He negotiated between Sinn Fein and the British Government in 1920 during the War of Independence. (Australian Chaplains in WW1)
Claremen in the Royal Artillery at the Somme

Michael ‘Robineen’ Gallagher: Kilrush. Royal Garrison Artillery. KM He enlisted in Dec 1914 at the age of 17. He was discharged subsequently for being under age. He went back to Kilrush, and a few weeks later re-enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery in Cork. From there he was sent to fight in all the major battles of the war. During the Battle of the Somme he was buried under a pile of rubble after a shell landed, and was sent to a hospital in Warrington for treatment. After the war he re-enlisted again and was sent to India. He died in Dec 1988. (Joe Power)


Gunner James J Sullivan MM: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Medal for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 19th July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dugout that was being shelled. (CJ)

Claremen in the Royal Engineers at the Somme

Corporal J A Hayes MM: Royal Engineers. Former P.O. Clerk in Ennis awarded the Military Medal in August 1916 ‘For bravery displayed at the battle of the Somme’. He is from Hospital in Co Limerick.

Claremen in the French Army at the Somme

John (Jack) Joseph Barrett: Clarecastle, died April 1917, French Army, G/M in France. He saw service during the 1916 Somme battle (including the famous assault on Belloy en Santerre on 4th July 1916). Transferred to the 3e Battalion RMLE (possibly following promotion to corporal after the Somme battle). He died in 1917 when advancing at the head of his squad of riflemen on assault of a heavily defended trench. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. (TB)

The Assault on Belloy-en-Santerre July 4th 1916

‘The Marching Regiment of the Foreign Legion (R.M.L.E) was engaged in an attack as part of Gerneral Joffre’s offensive on the Somme front to relieve pressure on Verdun. The unit was moved up to the edge of the battle and ordered to advance and take the heavily fortified village of Belloy-en-Santerre.

On July 4th 1916, after a heavy preparatory artillery barrage, the leading battalion of the RMLE leapt out of its trenches and the legionaries ‘went over the top’. In the pouring rain, and under sustained German machine-gun fire, the men crossed the 800-meter-wide broken no-man’s-land full of muddy shell craters. The first wave was beaten to a halt, and the Second Battalion moved out into the attack and reached the outskirts of the village. The ruins of Belloy were taken after furious hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets and grenades in the streets, lanes, gardens and destroyed houses. The Legion took 750 prisoners, including 15 officers... The Germans launched several serious infantry counterattacks supported by artillery fire but the ruins of Belloy-en-Santerre were held until July 6 when the Legion was relieved.’ (The French Foreign Legion: An Illustrated History)From the July 4 to the 9, the regiment lost 1368 out of 3000 men. (14 Officers killed and 22 wounded - 431 Legionnaires killed or disappeared and 901 wounded in action).
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

The Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.)

Level 2 Gallantry Award

Distinguished Service Order (DSO) was generally awarded to officers ranked Major and higher for an act of meritorious or distinguished service in wartime and usually when under fire or in the presence of the enemy.

Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien DSO: Ballyalla, Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF 8th. (PMcN)
Severely wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) (He appears to have seen no further action) Lieut Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien: Ballyalla Ennis. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in Aug 1916 ‘for conspicuous gallantry during raids on enemy trenches. On one occasion after his return, finding that a man was missing, he went out in a wounded condition and brought him in under heavy gunfire.’ See Clare Newspapers and WW1 pages 95, 97 and 101.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

Level 2 Gallantry Award

Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was awarded to non-commissioned officers for gallantry in the field in the face of the enemy. The D.C.M. was the first official medal awarded to recognise an act of gallantry in the field by a member of the armed forces who was below the rank of officer. It was the other ranks’ equivalent of the Distinguished Service Order.

Sgt. Michael Kelly DCM: Hector Street. Leinster Regiment. He was awarded the DCM for ‘conspicuous Gallantry at Guillemont.’ He was one of the Leinster bombers who successfully attacked Guillemont on 3rd Sept 1916, and one of only five who survived the Guillemont attack. (Michael Kelly)
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

The Military Medal (M.M.)

**Level 3 Gallantry Award**

The Military Medal was awarded to the non officer ranks of the British Army and Commonwealth Forces. It was an award for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land. On the reverse of the medal is inscribed “For Bravery in the Field”.

**Thomas Coonan**: Born in Ogonnelloe, died 7\textsuperscript{th} May 1918 age 23, Guards Machine Gun Regiment 4\textsuperscript{th} Bn 76, G/M in France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcellette, 15–22 September). (TB) He is the grand uncle of Myles Dungan the renowned historian and broadcaster.

**Corporal J A Hayes MM**: Royal Engineers. Former P.O. Clerk in Ennis awarded the Military Medal in August 1916 ‘For bravery displayed at the battle of the Somme’. He is from Hospital in Co Limerick. He enlisted in 1915. (CJ)

**Michael Higgins**: Born in Liscannor, lived in Seamount House, died 15\textsuperscript{th} Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2\textsuperscript{nd} Bn 7493, G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action possibly in the lead up to the Battle of Morval (25\textsuperscript{th}–28\textsuperscript{th} Sept). He won the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

**John Keane MM**: Born in Kilrush, lived on Burton St Kilrush, died 9\textsuperscript{th} Sept 1916 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 4612, G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate. Killed in action. (TB)

**Thomas Muldoon**: Born in India, lived in Feakle, died 9\textsuperscript{th} Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 7857, G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal. (TB) Wounded in July 1916 . Son of Thomas Muldoon. (CJ)

**Gunner James J Sullivan MM**: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Medal for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 19\textsuperscript{th} July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dugout that was being shelled. (CJ)

**Donat “Dunny” White MM**: Scariff. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Dunny first came to prominence as a splendid hurler and played no small part in securing the County Championship for his native parish in 1907. He enlisted in 1914. He had survived the slaughter of the Somme and shortly after was awarded the Military Medal for going out under heavy enemy fire, and rescuing a senior officer who was lying wounded in what was known as no-man’s-land. Shortly after this daring rescue, Dunny received a serious eye wound that partially blinded him, and he received an honourable discharge from the army and was sent home. He died on Dec 23 1967. (Michael O’Gorman)
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

Mentioned in Despatches (MID)

“Mentioned in Despatches” is not an award of a medal, but as a commendation of an act of gallantry. It is when an individual is mentioned by name and commended for having carried out an noteworthy act of gallantry or service. A Despatch is an official report written by the senior commander of an army in the field. A bronze oak leaf was issued and could be worn on the ribbon of the British Victory Medal.

Michael Joseph Breen: Born in Cooraclare lived in Queensland Australia, died 14th Sept 1916 from wounds received at the Battle of Pozieres, age 41, Australian Infantry 25th Bn 312, G/M in England. Mentioned in Despatches. Breen was also recommended for the Military Medal. (TB)

A Parchment Certificate

A Parchment Certificate was awarded for bravery and devotion to duty in the 16th Irish Division. It was signed by the Commanding Officer, Major General William Hickie from Tipperary.

Major Dr Augustus J Hickey MC: Carlton Terrace Kilkee. (aged 28 in 1916) Doctor in Kilmihil. Enlisted in May 1915. Royal Army Medical Corps. (CJ) He was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service at the Battle of Messines June 1917. He had previously been awarded honour Parchments for the Battles of Ginchy, the Somme and Ypres. Son of Dr P C Hickey. (SR)

He died in June 1935 aged 48 in England. ‘Draped with the Union Jack and bearing his military head-dress and sword, the coffin containing the body of Major Augustus J Hickey, R.A.M.C. was borne into Efford Cemetery (Plymouth) on the 6th inst. On a gun-carriage with an escort of 200 men and six officers of the King’s Regiment. He was accorded a military funeral’. (Clare Champion 15th June 1935) He is also remembered on the family gravestone in Kilferagh Kilkee.

Thomas Devers: Kilrush one of 5 brothers, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. He received a a parchment certificate from Maj General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division.
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

The Russian Cross of St George Second Class.

The Order of Saint George is the highest purely military decoration of the Russian Government. It is awarded to top and senior military officers for the conduct of military operations to protect the Fatherland in the case of attack by an external enemy which resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy, for the execution of combat and other operations in other states aimed at restoring international peace and security, for being a model of military science with feats that exemplify military prowess, and who were previously awarded state awards for distinction in combat.

Lance Corporal T McMahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers Wounded in Sept 1916 at Ginchy where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the Military Service Medal and a Parchment Certificate ‘For courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy.’ (CJ) In Oct 1916 he was also awarded The Russian Cross of St George Second Class. This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ)

The WW1 Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge was issued in the UK to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness during World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the Discharge Badge, Wound Badge or Services Rendered Badge, was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

Patrick J O’Brien: Poulcarron, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare. Westminster Rifles Officer Training Corps (OTC). He died on the 7th Oct 1917 from shellshock in France and was buried in Carron. (SR) He was awarded the Silver War Badge for services rendered in the strenuous fighting at Louis Wood in Sept 1916 where he also suffered shell shock. (CJ)
Corporal John (Jack) Joseph Barrett

Jack Barrett was born in 1890. He was a member of the Barrett family from Barnageeha, in the parish of Clare Castle and Ballyea, members of whom were prominent in Sinn Fein and in the War of Independence. Indeed, his brother Frank Barrett was commandant of the Mid-Clare Brigade of the IRA during the War of Independence and the Civil War. Perhaps because of his family’s political allegiances, Jack Barrett, a railway official, did not join the British Army. Instead he joined the French Foreign Legion on 10th September 1914 and, after training, was sent to Morocco. In September 1915 he transferred to the First Foreign Regiment and was promoted to the rank of corporal. He was sent to the Western Front on 18th November 1915 and was killed on 20th April 1917 at Auberive in the Marne. He was advancing at the head if his squad of riflemen during an assault on a heavily defended trench when he was killed. For his heroic actions, Cpl Jack Barrett was posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre, with Silver Star. (Joe Power)

On 11th November 1915 (following the amalgamations), he transferred to the 1er bataillon of the Regiment de Marche de la Legion Etrangere (RMLE) and saw service during the 1916 Somme battle with these (including the famous assault on Belloy en Santerre on 4th July 1916). Transferred to the 3e Battalion RMLE (possibly following promotion to corporal after the Somme battle) moved to the Champagne front and, as part of the 10e Compagnie, took part in the ‘Battle of Moronvilliers’ from 17th April 1917. Killed in action on the day that they took Auberive (20th April) along with 21 other ranks and 1 officer. (Tom Burnell)
Private Patrick Barry

Patrick Barry: Born in Kilnamona lived in New South Wales Australia, killed in action 22nd Oct 1916 age 44, Australian Infantry 55th Bn. 5339, 5th Aus Division, G/M in France. (TB) MA Patrick Barry was a labourer aged 43 when he enlisted in 1916 in Liverpool NSW into C Company 3rd Bn. (Depot 5339) and later in the 55th Infantry Bn. His brother David Barry lived in Newtown NSW. (UNSW)

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

The 5th Aus. Div. had fought at the Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July at the Somme. The battle was responsible for the greatest loss of Australian lives in one 24-hour period - 5,533 Australian casualties. The attack had completely failed as a diversion when its limited nature became obvious to the German defenders. The perceived "failure" of the British 61st Division poisoned relations between the AIF divisions and the British. In its communiqués, the British GHQ passed the Battle of Fromelles off as "some important raids".

The 5th Division was not ready for combat again until October 1916, when it joined the other Australian divisions on the Somme, in extreme winter conditions.
Arthur Edward Baxter: Born in Sixmilebridge lived in Sydney Australia, killed in action 12\textsuperscript{th} Nov 1916 age 23, Australian Infantry 20\textsuperscript{th} Bn. 4371 (2nd Aus Div), G/M in France. \textbf{(TB)} MA He was a Labourer aged 22 when he enlisted in Nov 1915 in Sydney into the 20\textsuperscript{th} Bn. 4371. His mother was Margaret Baxter Scotland. He was KIA 12/11/1916 ‘in the Fula’. 

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

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

Patrick Bennett: Born in Scariff lived in Killaloe, killed in action 13th Oct 1916 age 30 in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges (1 Oct – 11 Nov) at the Somme. Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 43152 (4th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Bennett Killaloe. (TB)

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

The Battle of Le Transloy Ridges 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.

Another pause followed before operations resumed on 23 October on the northern flank of the Fourth Army, with a delay during more bad weather on the right flank of the Fourth Army and on the French Sixth Army front, until 5 November. Next day 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.

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 Denis Bergin

Denis Bergin: Born in Ennis lived in Kent, killed in action 12th Oct 1916 in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges (1 Oct – 11 Nov) at the Somme, Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st Bn 11101 (4th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB) The Somme July 1st: The 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers captured the position known as the Quadrilateral but they also had to withdraw due to the isolation of their position.

Thiepval Memorial
Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: Pier and Face 15 A.

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Private Francis Blake

Francis Blake: Lived in Ennis, died of wounds 20th July 1916 age 31, (probably from the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 23497 (4th Div), G/M in Scotland. He died in a Glasgow hospital. Son of James and Elizabeth Blake, Corbally, Quin. (TB)

Glasgow Western Necropolis
Glasgow
Glasgow City, Scotland
Plot: H. 1324A.
It contains 355 First World War burials.

The Somme July 1st: The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers were in the second wave of the attack, going into battle with 503 men of whom 325 became casualties. They had to withdraw due to the isolation of their position.

Sat Record July 1916.

The following Clare casualties are reported in the late published lists—DIED OF WOUNDS:
Pte. Frank Blake, Corbally, Quin, R. Dublin Fus.  
Pte. P. O’Grady, Kilkee, R Munster Fus. WOUNDED.
J. Fitzpatrick, Clare Castle, R. M. Fus.  
D. McKenna, Ballyke, Leinster Regt.  
J. Lyans, Newmarket-on-Fergus, R. M. Fus.
P. G. Mehan, Ennis, do.  
P. Woods, Doonlin, do.
S. Moloney, Clare Castle, do. (shell shock).
T. Donegan, Clare, Irish Guards.  
P. Foley, Kilrush, R. M. Fus.  
P. Jeffries, Clare, Suffolk Regt. KILLED.
R. Currie, Cefidace (?), Co. Clare, 11th Lancashire Regt.  
P. Hillen, Corofin, R. M. Fus. MISSING.
M. McGrath, Dunbeg, do.  
Pte. Blake was son of Mr James Blake, Corbally. And much sympathy is felt with him in his bereavement. He died at Bellahouston Hospital, Glasgow.
Patrick Blood: Born and lived in Ennistymon, died 4th Sept 1916 on the Somme, 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th 5844 (16th Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran) (The 8th RMF fought in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme)

Delville Wood Cemetery
Longueval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: XXI. F. 3.

There are now 5,523 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery.

‘On September 3rd the 8th 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.’
Private Michael Joseph Breen

Michael Joseph Breen: Born in Cooraclare lived in Queensland Australia, died 14th Sept 1916 from wounds received at the Battle of Pozieres, age 41, Australian Infantry 25th Bn 312 (2nd Aus Div), G/M in England. Mentioned in Despatches. Breen was also recommended for the Military Medal.

Wandsworth Cemetery.
Wandsworth
London Borough of Wandsworth
Greater London, England
Plot: Aust. 7.

He was in the 88th Infantry (Galway) before he enlisted in Queensland in 1914. Mentioned in Despatches for gallant conduct. Divisional Orders: ‘Complimented as rendering good service by staunchly remaining at his post with a supply of bombs ready for use when required by the patrol in charge of Lt. H Page on 29th October 1915.’ Promoted to Sergeant in November 1915 and reverted to Private by his own request. In June 1916 he was charged with discharging his rifle near his billet and striking his superior Officer in the execution of his office. Awarded penal servitude for life, suspended by GOC Reserve Army. Breen was mortally wounded during the Brigades third time in the trenches at Pozieres where his behaviour from a fighting point of view was an example to all. Further for his good work at Armentieres and Messines, Breen was recommended for the Military Medal. He died of gunshot wounds to his back in London General Hospital on the 14th Sept 1916.
Private Patrick Breene

Patrick Breene/Breen: Born and lived in Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 3rd Sept 1916 age 36, in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme. Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn (7th Div). 18009, G/M in France.(TB)

Serre Road Cemetery No. 2.
Beaumont-Hamel
Departement de la Somme.
Picardie, France

Serre Road Cemetery No.2 was begun in May 1917 when the battlefields of the Somme and Ancre were cleared. There are now 7,127 Commonwealth burials.

The villages of Guillemont and Ginchy lie at the southern end of the Somme battlefield which has been the setting for fierce and costly fighting since the beginning of July. The attack on Guillemont began on the 3rd September and the Irish, according to one account, ‘swept clean through and over a quarter of a mile beyond the village’. From 23 August – 7 September the 7th Division lost 3,800 men. Photos – Keir McNamara.
Private Thomas Breslin

Thomas Breslin: Born in Co Clare (also down as Co Carlow), died 19th July 1916 on the Somme, the Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July. Australian Infantry 59th Bn.1914 (5th Aus Div), G/M in France. Husband of Mary Breslin Edinburgh. (TB)

Ration Farm Military Cemetery
La Chapelle-d’Armentieres
Departement du Nord
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: VI. D. 46.

Ration Farm Military Cemetery is on the south-eastern outskirts of Armentieres.

For much of the war, Ration Farm was just over 1 kilometre behind the front line at the end of a communication trench. The present cemetery was begun (as Ration Farm New Military Cemetery) in October 1915 and remained in use until October 1918. It was very greatly increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites and small cemeteries on the battlefield.

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

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive (The Battle of the Somme) on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure.

Repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained.
Sergeant Thomas Brogan

Thomas Brogan: Born in Clarecastle lived in Sydney Australia, killed in action 25th Oct 1916 in The Battle of the Transloy Ridges (Oct 1st - Nov 11th), Lancashire Fusiliers 1st Bn 561 (29th Div), G/M in France. (TB)

The Battle of Le Transloy 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.

Another pause followed before operations resumed on 23 October on the northern flank of the Fourth Army, with a delay during more bad weather on the right flank of the Fourth Army and on the French Sixth Army front, until 5 November. Next day 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.

The cemetery was begun on 19 September 1916 and was used by fighting units until March 1917. The 154 burials made during these months now form Plot I. There are now 776 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. Photos –Keir McNamara

Private Henry George Browne

Henry George Browne: Born in Ennis lived in Hampshire, killed in action 1st July 1916 age 29 at the Somme, (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme). Bedfordshire Regiment 7th Bn 20097 (18th Eastern Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Son of Henry George and Jane Browne, Hertfordshire.(TB)

Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval
Departement de la Somme. Picardie, France
Pier and Face 2C.

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive, The Battle of the Somme, on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure.

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.
Corporal Michael Burke

Michael Burke: Born in Ennis lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 12th Jan 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. 8202 (16th Div), G/M in Belgium.(TB) (Also wounded in Sept 1916 at the Somme. Probably at Ginchy.) (CJ)

Pond Farm Cemetery Heuvelland
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium. Plot H.10 There are now 296 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

Messines Sector January 1917: ‘In January, February and March, 1917, the 1st Battalion spent most of its time, when in the trenches, in the Spanbrock section in turn with the 7th Leinsters. ‘Up to the middle of March rotating routine trench duties continued with light casualties (2 officers and 20 men killed).
Corporal Michael Butler DCM: Cloughleigh Ennis. Killed in action Sept 9th 1916 age 30 at Ginchy. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 8121. G/M in Thiepval Addenda Panel (CWGC). He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (2nd RMF 14/1/1916) for helping a comrade under heavy shell, maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (CJ) He was recommended for the Victoria Cross. (PMcN) He received a Civic reception in the Town Hall Ennis in April 1916.
Aubers Ridge May 1915: ‘He travelled close on 300 yards of ground...and he succeeded in getting his comrade to safety (in front of an enemy trench), but badly wounded. He did all he could to assist his comrade, for 3 hours while under terrible artillery fire. When dusk came on he brought his friend to the trenches, but unfortunately the wounded man died, and Sergeant Butler gained the DCM for that heroic deed’. (Clare Champion April 2016) He was recommended for the Victoria Cross. (PMcN)

Ginchy Sept 9th 1916: ‘At zero time (4.45pm) it left the trenches in four waves...With the exception of 2nd Lt Baily all the company officers and the Second-in – Command were either killed or wounded within the first 50 yards ... 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.’ (History of the RMF 1861 to 1922. Captain S Mc Cance)
Private Daniel Carey

Daniel Carey: Born in Kilmacduane Cooraclare, killed in action 15th Sept 1916 at the Somme in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept. Irish Guards 1st 9440, G/M in Thiepval France. He was in the RIC. (TB)

Thiepval Memorial
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: Pier and Face 7 D.

Oct 1916 Sat Record

Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.

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

James Francis Chambers: From Cooraclare lived in New Zealand, killed in action Sept 1916 at the Somme in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 Sept 1916). New Zealand Expeditionary Force Wellington Regiment 2\(^{nd}\) Bn 11828, G/M in France. Son of John Chambers Clonfineen, Cooraclare. (TB)

Caterpillar Valley (New Zealand) Memorial Albert. Departement de la Somme. Picardie, France The Memorial commemorates more than 1,200 officers and men of the New Zealand Division who died in the Battles of the Somme in 1916, and whose graves are not known.

Private James Francis Chambers: (DOB 27/11/1883) He was a Bushman who lived in Wanganui when he enlisted in Jan 1916 into the 2\(^{nd}\) Bn. Wellington Regiment 11828. His brother was John Chambers Wellington. (WW1 Archives-New Zealand) Photos – Keir Mcnamara

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 Sept 1916) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.
Michael Clarke (Real Name Michael Martin Gilligan): (1897-1972) Ennis. He used the assumed name Michael Clarke (his mother's maiden name) during the war. At the age of 17 he was a Machine Gunner with the Royal Irish Regiment. He fought in Ypres, and at the Somme. He emigrated to the US after the war where he became a newspaper reporter and poet. (Larry Brennan)

The Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn. were in the 7th Div., that fought in the Battle of Albert (1 – 13 July 1916) and the Battle of Guillemont (3 – 6 September 1916).


Born the 12th. September 1897. At 17 he served in the British Army as a machine gunner with the Royal Irish Regiment a southern Ireland Division during World War 1. He fought in such battles as the first and second Ypres, Flameatunge, Belgium and the Somme. Michael used an assumed name of Michael Clarke (his mother’s maiden name).

Michael enlisted in the Munster Fusiliers with the name Michael Gilligan and was given the regiment number 6582. I came across a post card mailed to Michael Gilligan at Private M. Clarke, 2nd. Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. A company was a subdivision of a Battalion and had about 230 men in it. He was entitled to a British War Medal and a Victory Medal, but was not entitled to a 1914-15 Star medal. The fact that he was not entitled to the Star means that he was not a Regular, i.e. he was not in the Army at the outbreak of the war in August 1914. However, the regiment number of 6582 is a low number (as the war went on the numbers got higher and higher), suggesting that he enlisted shortly after the war began. Michael was transferred from the Munster Fusiliers to the Connaught Rangers and given the regiment number 8308. This again is a low number, suggesting that this transfer happened early in the War. At some stage he was transferred back to the Royal Munster Fusiliers and given the number 32353. This being a high number to the first regiment number, suggesting this transfer came later in the war. His medals were issued, but were returned to the war office. This isn’t unusual as a man had to receive the medals himself and if he was not there to take them, the Post Office returned them to the War Office. They were then reissued and he seems to have received them, as there is no record of them being returned.

Michael emigrated to the U.S.A. from Queenstown (Cobh) aboard The Celtic. This ship carried 2,857 passengers 347 first class, 168 second class and 2,350 third class. The ship was 700 bpi long and 75 feet wide. He arrived at Ellis Island on the 15th. August 1921. He was registered on board the ship as Michael Clarke. He gave his age as 23 and listed Michael Gilligan a friend of 527 West 52st. St.New York City as his destination. The details listed on the ship manifest also gives his height as 5 foot 6 inches fair hair and blue eyes. Also a passenger aboard the ship was his brother John Gilligan aged 21. John gave his destination as Michael Gilligan (Cousin) 129 West 51st. Street New York City.

Michael settled in the U.S.A. writing for newspapers and composing poetry, some of which was published in the Sentinel, a newspaper in Winchester, Connecticut by Joseph A.O’Brien. He printed a further ½ page article on Michael in the Winstead journal on Friday the 16th. March 2001. The Clare Champion on page 9 on the 22nd reprinted the same article. March 2002. (Larry Brennan)
Private Michael Coleman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When relieved the brigade had lost 2,536 men, similar to the casualties of many brigades on 1 July.
Private Thomas Coonan MM


**Gommecourt Wood New Cemetery Foncquevillers Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: II. E. 15.**

**Thomas Coonan** was born in 1895. He was the fifth of six children (three boys and three girls) of William Coonan, a National School teacher and his wife Margaret Coonan of Ogonelloe, Co. Clare. He enlisted in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire in 1914. His first service number was 18123 Pte., 5 battalion Grenadier Guards – his service number in the Guards Machine Gun Regiment was 76. He was ‘gazetted’ on 10 October 1916 – his name appeared in the *London Gazette* as having been awarded a **Military Medal** while serving with the Grenadier Guards. He entered the France/Flanders theatre of war with the Grenadier Guards on 26 July 1915. He was killed in action on 7 May 1918, aged 23 years, whilst serving with the 4th Battalion, Guards Machine Gun Regiment in France. *(Myles Dungan)* Photos-Keir McNamara
Private John Cosgrove

John Cosgrove: Born and lived in Trough (Truagh?), Castlebank, Co Clare, killed in action 17th August 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9681, (1st Div). G/M in France. (TB)

Albert Communal Cemetery Extension Albert Departement de la Somme Picardie, France
Plot: I. M. 12.

The Extension was used by fighting units and Field Ambulances from August 1915 to November 1916, and more particularly in and after September 1916. There are now 862 First World War and 25 Second World War casualties commemorated in this site.

‘The 2nd Battalion was transferred with its Division down to the Somme in July for the opening of the Battle of the Somme, entering the lines on 14 July capturing its objectives two days later, and repulsing the German counterattack on 18 July, in all with an officer and 26 men killed, 127 wounded and 50 gassed.

They were in reserve until 20 August, when they entered the lines again for steady fighting but ran into heavy off-target and ineffective British bombardment, killing 4 officers and 29 other ranks.’

Photos – Keir McNamara
John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, Killed in action in Ginchy 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of the Somme. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359, G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis. (TB)(CJ)

Delville Wood Cemetery. Longueval Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Plot : I. G. 2. Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916. There are now 5,523 WW1 burials and commemorations in this cemetery.

On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper Headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’.

Private John Coughlan was selected as a representative of a WW1 Clare soldier on the RTE Nationwide My Adopted Soldier series (Nov 2015), where teenagers from the 32 Counties researched the history of a soldier from their County, and then visited the grave/memorial on the Somme.

Photos – Keir McNamara

Nathan Peer from Clare researched Private John Coughlan: ‘John enlisted in Ennis. He was a private in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers. His Service number was 6359. He fought in Gallipoli before being transferred to the western front in France. This is where he met his demise. He died on the 9th of September 1916 in Ginchy, France. He was 26 years of age and earned three medals; British war medal, a victory medal and a 1915 star. This tells us he joined the war after August 1914, otherwise he would be entitled to a 1914 star. His memorial reference is I.G.2. He is buried in Delville Cemetery, Longueval, France.’ Nathan gave an excellent tribute to Private Coughlan at the graveside, in what was an excellent programme.
Lt. O’Moore Charles Creagh: Caherbane, Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare, killed in action 23rd March 1918 age 21 near Mont St Quentin. Royal Field Artillery C Battery 108th Army Brigade (32nd Div). G/M in France. (TB) He was educated at Eastmans and Cheltenham College, from which he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and obtained his commission in February, 1915. He shortly afterwards went to France, and whilst in command of a Trench Mortar Battery, was severely wounded. He was Mentioned in Despatches for gallant and distinguished service, and was within a few days of obtaining his captaincy when he fell. Date of Publication: Friday, July 5, 1918. (Our Heroes Website.)

At the Battle of Messines he was taking signals from the infantry to his headquarters for fifteen hours, and on 1 September was on liason for the third attack, when he was reported killed in action at Fevillacourt, near Mont St Quentin, 23 March 1918. He took part in the actions at Richebourg 17 May 1915, and those at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Loos, Vermelles, Ypres, on the Somme, at Messines and Passchendale etc, and when he was killed, he was within a few days of obtaining his Captaincy.’ From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.

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.
**Captain Fitzwilliam Hume Crowe**

**Captain Fitzwilliam Hume Crowe**: Dromore, Ruan. Leinster Regiment. Wounded by a bullet in the arm 4 days after he arrived on the front in March 1915. *(CJ)* He returned to France and fought in the Battle of the Somme, where he was also wounded. In October 1917 as he was leading a raiding party to capture German prisoners, a grenade burst beside his head blinding him and killed his sergeant. He spent 4/5 months in England after which he returned to Dromore for the rest of the war. *(Keir McNamara)* *(The Leinster 7th Bn. fought in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September)*

Born at Dromore, Ruan Aug 24th 1897. Commissioned to Leinster Regiment 14th August 1914. Sent to France early 1915. Wounded that year for the first time with a bullet through his right arm. Sent back to England and then on leave home for a short period after which he returned to France.

Was back in Ruan during the 1916 Rising, returning to France to fight in the **Battle of the Somme**. After a three week artillery bombardment the Leinster regiment broke through the Prussian Guard. He was wounded in the leg during this battle and returned home to Ruan on leave.

He returned to France in August 1916 and escaped injury until October 1917. In 1918 he married Helen Stewart and they had two children. They lived in Chiswick, London. He died in the 1960’s and is buried in Norwich.

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**Clare Officer Wounded.**

We are sorry that Lieutenant H. Crowe, son of Mr Thomas Crowe, D.L., Dromore, has been wounded in action. He was only four days at the front, when he was hit by a rifle bullet, which passed through the fleshly upper part of one arm. The wound is not a severe one, and we hope to hear of his being all right in a short time.

Clare Journal March 1915
Private Thomas Heppel Crowe

**Thomas Heppel Crowe**: Born 27th July 1892 in Newcastle on Tyne, lived in Canada. His father was Michael Joseph Crowe who was a surveyor of Excise and Customs in Ennis. Killed in action 9th Oct 1916 age 24 in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges (1 Oct – 11 Nov), Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment) 420031, G/M in France. He was an accountant when he enlisted in Winnipeg, Canada in Jan 1915. (TB)

![Vimy Memorial](image1)

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

![Dec 1916 Clare Journal](image2)

**Dec 1916 Clare Journal**

- There is very general sympathy with Mr M J Crowe, the esteemed Surveyor of Excise and Customs, Ennis, on the loss of his gallant son, Cpl. Thomas H Crowe, news of whose death in action in France came this week. Cpl. Crowe, who was a fine, athletic young man, of only 25 years, as in Canada when the war broke out, and promptly joined the 15th Battalion of the Canadian Scottish, and was attached to the Grenade Co. He quickly won promotion. He had several narrow escapes, and was wounded by shell fragments in the ear. His death is understood to have taken place on the 8th or 9th October. The deceased was in Ennis for a time during the summer, and was very popular here.

**The Battle of Le Transloy** 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. **The Canadian National Vimy Memorial** bears the inscribed names of 11,168 missing Canadians.
Private James Cusack

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

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

Boer War Medal of Private Cusack.

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

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

Thomas Cusack: Born (1878) and lived in Kilrush, died of wounds 24th Oct 1916 (Possibly from the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept 1916) age 38 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6173 (1st Div). G/M in France in Feuquieres-en-Vimeau Communal Cemetery which contains one Commonwealth burial of the First World War and 3 from WW2. Son of Tom and Mary Cusack, Glynn Street Kilrush (previously in Ballally Lane). Husband of Anne Cusack, Pound Street.

(TB) He is commemorated on the back of a headstone grave no. 31 in Old Shanakyle Cemetery (East Section) in Kilrush.

Feuquieres-en-Vimeu Communal Cemetery
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

Cusack Pound Street
Thomas Cusack R.M. Fus killed at war 24 Dec 1916.

‘I am gone from your grave but my thoughts are still there.
My prayers will not cease until we meet in the Kingdom of Peace
and when others forget I still remember thee.’
Old Shanakyle Cemetery Kilrush

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September 1916) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. ‘The 2nd Battalion was marched back to the front again on the 17th (September 1916)... between Martinpuich and Flers... The trench was full of German dead, the result of an unsuccessful effort at recapture the day before... the enemy attacked... but the Munsters’ bombers could not be beaten, and they gradually drove the enemy back... the following days were spent strengthening the line.’
**Sergeant Patrick Danaher**

**Sgt Patrick Danaher**: Born in Nenagh, lived in Killaloe, Killed in action 5\(^{th}\) August 1916 age 35 on the Somme, in the Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 Sept. Royal Irish Regiment 2\(^{nd}\) Bn 3258 (7\(^{th}\) Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Son of Dan and Catherine Danaher and husband of Bridget Danaher, New Street, Killaloe. *(TB)* ‘Wounded at Lille on 19 October 1914. Conveyed to Bologne and eventually to the Military Hospital at Fethard. He made a full recovery and returned to the front’. *(The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse)*

**Thiepval Memorial**

*Thiepval*
*Departement de la Somme*
*Picardie, France.*
*Pier and Face 3 A.*

![Thiepval Memorial](image)

**Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 Sept**: The Battle of Delville Wood was an operation to secure the British right flank, while the centre advanced to capture the higher lying areas of High Wood and Pozières. After the Battle of Albert the offensive had evolved to the capture of fortified villages, woods, and other terrain that offered observation for artillery fire, jumping-off points for more attacks, and other tactical advantages. The mutually costly fighting at Delville Wood eventually secured the British right flank.

**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 Thomas Devers

Thomas Devers: Burton St, Kilrush one of 5 brothers, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn (16th Div). KM. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) He received a a **parchment certificate** from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and **fought at the Somme** (The RMF 1st Bn fought in the Battle of Ginchy, 9 September). His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. (CJ) (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)

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**A Gallant Kilrush Man.**

Private T. Devers, R.M.F., of Burton St, Kilrush, has received a parchment certificate from Major General Hickie, Commanding 16th (Irish) Division, in which tribute is paid to his “gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.”

Private Devers is now 16 months in France and fought throughout with the Division, having been wounded four times. He was at the Battle of the Somme. He was one of five brothers serving in the forces.

The following is a copy of the certificate:

**COPY.**

**THE IRISH BRIGADE.**

No. 4315. Pte. T. Devers, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers— I have read with much pleasure the reports of your Regimental Commander and Brigade Commander regarding your gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916, and have ordered your name and deed to be entered in the records of the Division.

W. B. HICKIE, Major General.
Commanding 16th Irish Division.

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**The Battle of Ginchy**

On 9 September, the 48th Brigade (The 16th Irish Division), consisting of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers succeeded in taking another heavily fortified German position at Ginchy which is about 1 km from Guillemont. This was the only success of the British attack on that day which cost 4,330 casualties, including 50% of the officers. Among those killed was the Irish Nationalist MP Tom Kettle, MP, who went into battle leading a company of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
Owen Devins: Born in Ennis, lived in Co Sligo, killed in action 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept), Irish Guards 1st Bn 2981 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combes and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.

Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Plot: Pier and Face 7 D.

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.
**Sergeant George Doherty**

George Doherty: Born in Liscannor, killed in action 7th July 1916, in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme. Royal Irish Rifles 2nd Bn 8687 (36th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

Thiepval Memorial
Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Pier and Face 15A and 15B

One of the outstanding feats on the 1st July, a day of failure, carnage and death, was the success of the 36th (Ulster) Division in capturing their German front line objectives, including the supposedly impregnable Schwaben Redoubt opposite Thiepval Wood. Raised from the Ulster Volunteers, this was the largest unit of Irish soldiers to fight on that day, consisting of nine battalions of the Royal Irish Rifles, three of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and one of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

With conspicuous bravery and disregard for personal safety, the Ulstermen broke through the strongest German defences and penetrated deep into the rear positions, taking 500 German prisoners. But due to the failure of the flanking divisions to make progress, the sacrifices of the Ulstermen were in vain and they had to abandon their hard-won positions and return to their starting positions. The losses amounted to 5,500 of whom almost 2,000 were killed. Nearly every community in Ulster had cause to mourn. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Division in one day.
Private Patrick Droney

**Patrick Droney**: Born in Ballymagh (Balliny North Fanore) Co Clare, enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 22nd Sept 1916 on the Somme in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept at the Somme. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6831 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. *(TB)*

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**The Battle of Flers–Courcelette** (15–22 September 1916) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme.

‘The Battalion was marched back to the front again on the 17th (September 1916)... between Martinpuich and Flers... The trench was full of German dead, the result of an unsuccessful effort at recapture the day before... the enemy attacked... but the Munsters’ bombers could not be beaten, and they gradually drove the enemy back... the following days were spent strengthening the line.’

**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 Duffy

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

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

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

The Battle of Delville Wood was an operation to secure the British right flank, while the centre advanced to capture the higher lying areas of High Wood and Pozières. After the Battle of Albert the offensive had evolved to the capture of fortified villages, woods, and other terrain that offered observation for artillery fire, jumping-off points for more attacks, and other tactical advantages. The mutually costly fighting at Delville Wood eventually secured the British right flank.

Photos – Keir McNamara
John Fox: Newmaket on Fergus. Irish Guards (Guards Div). A member of the 1914 Clare All Ireland winning team. He was wounded in the Battle of the Somme (The Guards Division fought in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September), and returned to hospital in Dublin. A piece of shrapnel lodged in his head was still there when he died in 1967. ‘The story is that Martin Faulkner, an itinerant man, carried the injured Fox from the battlefield at the Somme, to the safety of a field hospital. But on their way, they were arrested by the Germans who did not detain them. They released them when they realised they were Irish!’ Con Woods.

He only played the odd game after the war and an examination of the line-outs of Newmarket and Clare teams after 1916 do not contain the name of John Fox.

Fox and World War I

Fox joined the Munster Fusiliers Regiment of the Irish Guards in 1915. Regarding his recruitment, The Clare Journal of July 19, 1915 had a brief note as follows: "John Fox, the well known and popular Gael from Newmarket-on-Fergus, who was on the All-Ireland winning team last year, volunteered for The Irish Guards this weekend and got a great send off on Tuesday evening."

The enlistment of Fox was regarded as a minor propaganda boost by British recruitment officers. He certainly met the criteria laid down by Lieutenant General Sir Lawrence Parsons when he said he wanted “to see the clean, fine, strong, temperate, hurlery-playing country fellows, such as we used to get in the Munsters, Royal Irish, Connaught Rangers.”

Fox fought and got injured during 1916 in the Battle of the Somme and returned to hospital in Dublin. A piece of shrapnel, lodged in his head, was never removed and, according to his grandson, also John, was still lodged in his head when he died in 1967.

Finally, an anecdote told by Fox’s family and others was of an itinerant man, Martin Faulkner, who also joined the British Army at this time. He also survived the war, returned to County Clare and lived the rest of his life travelling the highways and byways and was universally known throughout the county.

The story is that Faulkner carried the injured Fox from the battlefield at the Somme to the safety of a field hospital. But on their way, they were arrested by the Germans who did not detain them. They released them when they realised they were Irish!

It is good that something is being recorded at this time about this man. His story is similar to the other 79 men from Newmarket and the tens of thousands from across Ireland that went to fight in World War I.

These men all went for different rea-

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The 1st and 2nd Irish Guards had very heavy losses in this Battle.
Private Michael ‘Robineen’ Gallagher

Michael ‘Robineen’ Gallagher: Kilrush. Royal Garrison Artillery. KM He enlisted in Dec 1914 at the age of 17. He was discharged subsequently for being under age. He went back to Kilrush, and a few weeks later re-enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery in Cork. From there he was sent to fight in all the major battles of the war. During the Battle of the Somme he was buried under a pile of rubble after a shell landed, and was sent to a hospital in Warrington for treatment. After the war he re-enlisted again and was sent to India. He died in Dec 1988. (Joe Power)
**Private John J. Garrahy**

**John Joseph Garrahy**: Born and lived in Lahinch, killed in action **Sept 3rd 1916**, in Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme. Royal Irish Regiment 2\(^{nd}\) Bn 5888 (7\(^{th}\) Div), G/M in France. Formerly in the Leinster Regiment. (TB)NCS

The Battle of Guillemont was an attack on the village which was captured by the Fourth Army on the first day. Guillemont was on the right flank of the British sector, near the boundary with the French Sixth Army. The German defence in the area was based on the second line and numerous fortified villages and farms north from Maurepas at Combles, Guillemont, Falfemont Farm, Delville Wood and High Wood, which were mutually supporting. **The battle for Guillemont was considered by some observers to be the supreme effort of the German army during the battle.**

Numerous meetings were held by Joffre, Haig, Foch, Rawlinson and Fayolle to co-ordinate joint attacks by the four armies, all of which broke down. A pause in Anglo-French attacks at the end of August, coincided with the largest counter-attack by the German army in the Battle of the Somme.

**Clare Casualties.**

The following casualties appear in the latest published list:—

**KILLED.**

- John Garrahy, Lahinch, Royal Irish Rgt.
- W. J. Murphy, Clare, Irish Guards.

**WOUNDED.**

- Corp. M. Burke, Clare Castle, R.M.F.
- P. Garvey, Faskle, 60.
- M. Tierdor, Castleconnell, 60.
- M. White, Ennistymon, 60.
- J Moloney, Newmarket-on-Fergus, 60.

Private Garrahy was son to Mr. John Garrahy, a well-known and popular resident of Lahinch, and proprietor of a boarding house on the Promenade. He was a fine young fellow, and there is general sympathy with his parents.

**Oct 1916 Clare Journal**
**Private Thomas Gleeson**

**Thomas Gleeson:** Born and lived in Clarecastle (Clare Abbey), killed in action Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776. G/M in Thiepval France. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey. (TB)

The 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers went into the front line, a quarter of a mile north of Bazentin le Petit, where it found itself in a sector which had been the scene of bitter fighting and was badly exposed to enemy fire.

On 24th August, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)
Private John Glynn

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

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

The Battle of the Somme: On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. Repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained.
Thomas Glynn: Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, died of wounds 26th Sept 1916 age 30 at the Somme in The Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9511, G/M in France. Son of James and Bridget Glynn, Ballyvaughan. (TB)

Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France  Plot: I. F. 20.

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

‘The Battalion was marched back to the front again on the 17th (September 1916)… between Martinpuich and Flers… The trench was full of German dead, the result of an unsuccessful effort at recapture the day before… the enemy attacked… but the Munsters’ bombers could not be beaten, and they gradually drove the enemy back… the following days were spent strengthening the line.’

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private Michael Guthrie

Michael Guthrie/ Gutherie: Born in Ennis, killed in action 14th Sept 1916 age 27. Just before the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme. Grenadier Guards 2rd Bn 20229 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France.(TB)

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

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Frégicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders.

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.
Corporal J A Hayes MM: Royal Engineers. Former P.O. Clerk in Ennis awarded the Military Medal in August 1916 ‘For bravery displayed at the battle of the Somme’. He is from Hospital in Co Limerick. He enlisted in 1915. (CJ)

The Military Medal (M.M.)

The Military Medal was awarded to the non officer ranks of the British Army and Commonwealth Forces. It was an award for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land. On the reverse of the medal is inscribed “For Bravery in the Field”.

The war of 1914-1918 relied on engineering. Without engineers there would have been no supply to the armies, because the RE's maintained the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport.

There would have been no communications, because the RE's maintained the telephones, wireless and other signalling equipment.

There would have been little cover for the infantry and no positions for the artillery, because the RE's designed and built the front-line fortifications.

They also maintained the guns and other weapons. By 1917, it had grown to a total manpower of 295,668, which was twelve times bigger than the peacetime establishment.

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

Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 7 Aug

The Battle of Pozières 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.

There are now 10,738 Australian servicemen officially commemorated by this memorial and named within the register.
Major Dr Augustus J Hickey MC: Carlton Terrace Kilkee. (aged 28 in 1916) Doctor in Kilmihil. Enlisted in May 1915. Royal Army Medical Corps (16th Div). (CJ) He was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service at the Battle of Messines June 1917. He had previously been awarded honour Parchments for the Battles of Ginchy, the Somme and Ypres. Son of Dr P C Hickey. (SR) He died in June 1935 aged 48 in England. ‘Draped with the Union Jack and bearing his military head-dress and sword, the coffin containing the body of Major Augustus J Hickey, R.A.M.C. was borne into Efford Cemetery (Plymouth) on the 6th inst. On a gun-carriage with an escort of 200 men and six officers of the King’s Regiment. He was accorded a military funeral’. (Clare Champion 15th June 1935) He is also remembered on the family gravestone in Kilferagh Kilkee.
Lance Corporal Michael (O) Higgins MM

Michael Higgins: Born in Liscannor, lived in Seamount House, killed in action 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme (in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September), Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7493 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. He won the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 September 1916) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Frégicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders.

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.

Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval Departement de la Somme Picardie, France. Plot: Pier and Face 7 D.
Tom Hill: Born in Miltown Malbay (Glendine House), lived in Limerick, killed in action 7th Sept 1916 age 21 (in the build up to the Battle of Ginchy, 9 Sept), Dublin Fusiliers 8th Bn 16234, G/M in Guilmont, France. Son of Dr John Hill. (TB) He is also remembered on the family vault in Miltown Malbay.

Guilmont Road Cemetery. Guilmont
Departement de la Somme

Corporal Tom Hill

DEATH OF MR TOM HILL, JUNE.
MILTON-MALBAY.

The relatives and friends of the late Dr.
John Hill, for many years the popular and
well-known Medical Officer of Miltown Malbay
and districts, and of Mrs Hill, formerly
of Glendine House, Miltown Malbay, who in
years gone by took a prominent part in
social matters in Miltown, will be very sorry
to hear that their youngest son, Tom, has
been killed in action, with the Expedtionary
Force on the Western Front.

Mr Thomas Hill endeared himself to a
wide circle of friends during boyhood's days,
by his sunny, happy and unselfish disposi-
tion, and his cheery word for everybody.

He was abroad at the time of the out-
break of the war and immediately hastened
home to join the Army, and do a manly
man's part in the cause of freedom and
liberty.

His sad death has been communicated to
his sorrowing mother by his superior officer,
Captain White Bell, who wrote that her son
Sergt. T. Hill, "had been killed in action
on the 6th Sept." He added that "he was a
gallant soldier, and had been promoted
to the rank of sergeant only a short time
previously, that he was a great loss to him
(Capt. White Bell) and that he was having
forwarded to her his Rosary beads and
wrist watch."

There is no doubt that Tom Hill been
served, a brilliant career in the army lay
before him, but Providence in His Wisdom
willed it otherwise. All deeply regret the
death of this gallant young Clareman, and
extend to his relatives and friends their
sincere sympathy.

Sept 1916 Clare Journal
Private Michael Houlihan

Michael Houlihan: Born and lived in Kilrush, died of wounds 18th Sept 1916 age 29, in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7835, Guards Div, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Houlihan, Crofton St Kilrush.(TB)

Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: I. D. 40.

Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 WW1 burials.

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

The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.

Native of Kilrush R.I.P.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private William Hourigan

William Hourigan: Born and lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 18th Dec 1916, Machine Gun Corps 17th Bn 22784 (the 117th 39th Div), G/M in France. Wounded in Aug 1916. He died in Wimereux. Son of Mrs J Hourigan Ralahine, Newmarket on Fergus. (TB) (CJ)


Wimereux was the headquarters of the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps during WW1. It contains 2,847, Commonwealth burials of WW1, two of them unidentified.

Buried among them is Lt.-Col. John McCrae, author of the poem "In Flanders Fields."

Photos – Keir McNamara

The 117th Machine Gun Company joined the 39th Division on the 18th of May 1916. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including, the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights and the capture of Schwaben Reddoubt and Stuff Trench.
John Keane MM: Born in Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 age 20 (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 21/10/1916. (TB)

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

‘The death is announced of a brave Kilrush soldier, Private J Keane, of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action. He received the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street.’Clare Journal 1917.

On the 5th September 1916 the 16th Irish Division was ordered south of the Somme battlefield, the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn. entering the line facing the strategic town of Ginchy, having suffered 200 previous casualties by gas-shelling on the way. On the 9th September 1916 it took part in the ensuing attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops.

The loss of Ginchy deprived the Germans of observation posts, from which they could observe all of the battlefield and eliminated the salient at Delville Wood, which had been costly to defend.

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.
Sergeant Michael Kelly DCM: Hector St, Kilrush. Leinster Regiment. He was one of the Leinster bombers who successfully attacked Guillemont on 3rd Sept 1916. (Michael Kelly)

For conspicuous gallantry in action. After the battalion bombers had bombed all dugouts within the objective, Sjt. Kelly, with great bravery, pushed or threw our own barrage and assisted to clear a village of the enemy, thus greatly facilitating the second advance.

Hi Ger,
Yes, he got it for bravery at Guillemont. See Cork Examiner clipping above. The reason you haven’t heard of him is that he faked his age and address. He even fooled my father!

But with the help of people like PJ Culligan, Paddy Waldron, Miriam Scall and, particularly the staff at the births’ registry office in Ennis, I eventually tracked him down.

He was with the Leinster Regiment based in Fermoy and eventually ended up in Victoria Barracks, Cork. When the British left, he joined the Irish Army but was found dead in bed in 1924 in Waterford Barracks, aged 45. His death cert says he was 39!

Previously, he had fought in the Boer War.

If you need anymore details, let me know. He was one of only five who survived the Guillemont attack.

Regards, Michael Kelly

Michael Kelly joined the Leinster Regiment in Dublin on 15/01/1897 and was in Birr three days later. He went to Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1898 with the Kings County Militia and was there until 1900.
He then left for South Africa until 1902. He was in Cape Colony and Transvaal. He was at home from 1902 to 1916 except for periods of training in Blackdown, Devonport and Deepcut.

In 1906 he married Annie Deasy in Fermoy and they had five children. He was in France from 1916 to 1920 and joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers on 20/09/1918. He was promoted to corporal on 07/08/1914 and sergeant on 09/01/1915. My great grandfather, also called Michael Kelly, was a gunner with the Royal Artillery on Scattery Island. (Michael Kelly)
Private Thomas Kelly

Thomas Kelly: Clarecastle. Born in Tulla, died 9th Sept 1916 at Ginchy, 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9373, G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action (the same day, the same Regiment, the same Battalion as Private John Keane) (TB) He was taken prisoner in Etreux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany, from where he wrote a letter to his father. POW Dec 1915 (CJ)

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

‘When the 1st 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 (4.45pm) it left the trenches in four waves…With the exception of 2nd Lt Baily 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 T Kelly, Clare Castle, has received the following letter from his son, Corporal T Kelly, who was one of the 500 or 600 Munster Fusiliers taken prisoners on Aug-27. It is dated “ France, 31/08/1914,” and from the tone one can understand why it was let through so soon. A German censor was not far away when it was written. “……Of course I told you I was going to the war in France. Well I left on 13th August along with my regiment. I was 14 days in France, and on 27th August the Munster Fusiliers had a great battle with the Germans, where we lost a few men, but there was a lot of us captured by the Germans, about 500 men, and I was lucky to be amongst them. Of course I cannot give you any information.’ Clare Journal, November 1914. Tom Burnell
Private John Kenneally

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

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

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

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

Photos – Keir McNamara

In September 1916, the 34th and 2/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at this point, known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields. Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 First World War burials.
Private Michael Kildea

Michael Kildea: Born in Ennis lived in Miltown Malbay, killed in action 19th Oct 1916 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4483, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie Kildea, Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay. (TB) ‘I go into battle, after saying a few prayers and a light heart.’ (After the Battle of Ginchy on the Somme, the RMF 1st Bn was moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium.)

La Laiterie Military Cemetery
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen),
Belgium    Plot: VII. C. 3.

The Roll of Honour.
ANOTHER YOUNG CLAREMAN
KILLED IN ACTION.

It is with feelings of deep regret his friends have heard of the death of Private Michael Kildea, killed in action in France. He was a son of Mr Michael Doherty, Miltown Malbay, and a cousin to the local newsagent, Martin Whyte, of same place. Joining at the outbreak of hostilities, he spent most of his time in France. Splendid in physique, and handsome and manly in appearance, as a boy of 18 years of age, he carried an irreproachable character to the blood-stained fields of France. Since God bestowed upon him the use of reason, he was a good and faithful Catholic, always attentive and exacting in his religious duties, and now that the end has come, many friends are left to deplore his loss. In the course of a letter written to his cousin, Martin Whyte, he said: ‘I go into battle, after saying a few fervent prayers, with a light heart.’

Nov 1916 Clare Journal
Second Lieutenant Gerald Lefroy


On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the 2nd Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack.

The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack.
Lance Corporal Martin Leyden/Lyden

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

Whalley (Queen Mary’s Hospital) Military Cemetery
Whalley
Ribble Valley Borough
Lancashire, England

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

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

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

John Lillis: Enlisted in Oct.1915, in Nova Scotia, 8th Irish Bn., King’s Liverpool Regiment. Born 5 May, 1880, in Kilrush, son of Thomas (died 1906) and Margaret (Hanrahan) Lillis; brother of Mrs. Minnie Curren, Mrs. Charles O’Neil, Mrs. William M. Fitzgerald, Mrs. John F. Houlihan, Bridget, Anna, Patrick, and Thomas F., the last two deceased. Lumberman. Resident in Massachusetts twenty-five years. (Massachusetts and the Great War)

Thiepval Memorial. Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie,
France
Plot: Pier and Face 1 D 8 B and 8 C.

Battle of Delville Wood (14 July – 15 Sept 1916) The Battle of Delville Wood was an operation to secure the British right flank, while the centre advanced to capture the higher lying areas of High Wood and Pozières. After the Battle of Albert the offensive had evolved to the capture of fortified villages, woods, and other terrain that offered observation for artillery fire, jumping-off points for more attacks, and other tactical advantages. The mutually costly fighting at Delville Wood eventually secured the British right flank.

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 Martin Lynch

**Martin Lynch:** Born and lived in Miltown Malbay. Killed in action 23rd July 1916 age 21 in Guillemont on the Somme, Manchester Regiment 19th Bn 26713 (30th Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Son of Thomas Lynch, Main Street, Miltown Malbay. (TB)

**Thiepval Memorial Thiepval**
Departement de la Somme Picardie, France.
Plot: Pier and Face 13 A and 14 C.
The Thiepval Memorial, 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.

Orders were received that the Manchester Regiment 19th Battalion were to attack the Village of Guillemont on the 23rd (July 1916) and on the 22nd they moved to Silesia support trench. At 10pm, the Battalion moved off in single file along the Maricourt-Montauban Road. The battalion formed up in a mass single rank behind Trones wood facing Guillemont. Trones wood was continually shelled during the night and at 2.30am the Companies moved through the wood and took up positions facing Guillemont.

The attack began at 3.40am, and from the start, was subject to heavy shell, rifle and machine gun fire—but there were few casualties until the Men reached the German wire defences, when the losses became serious. At 3.30pm on the 23rd July the Battalion withdrew to Silesia support trench and later moved to Happy Valley. Casualties suffered by the Battalion in the above actions were: Killed; 7. Wounded; 55. Missing; 500.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Patrick Lynch: Born in Kilmoon, Lisdoonvarna, enlisted in Australia. Died 6th Aug 1916 age 34 in the Battle of Pozières (23 July – 7 August), Australian Infantry 4th Pioneers 1660, G/M in France. (TB) MA He was a butcher. Son of Patrick and Margaret Lynch Lisdoonvars, who owned Lynch’s Hotel. He is also commemorated on the family gravestone in Ennistymon. (Guss O’Halloran) Killed in action.
Driver Christopher McCormack

Christopher McCormack: Born and lived in Ennis, died of wounds 23rd July 1916 (after the Capture of La Boisselle 1st – 6th July 1916, during the Battle of Albert), Royal Horse Artillery 19th Division, Ammunition Col. 100572, G/M in France. (TB)

Heilly Station Cemetery. Heilly Departement de la Somme Picardie, France Plot: II. B. 64.

The 19th Division fought in the Capture of La Boisselle (1–6 July 1916) which was a British local operation during the Battle of Albert. On 1 July 1916, the first day on the Somme, La Boisselle was attacked by the 34th Division as part of the III Corps but the bombardment had not damaged the German deep-mined dug-outs (minierte Stollen) and a German listening post overheard a British telephone conversation the day before, which gave away the attack. The III Corps divisions lost more than 11,000 casualties and failed to capture La Boisselle or Ovillers, gaining only small footholds near the boundary with XV Corps to the south and at Schwabenhöhe, after the Lochnagar mine explosion had destroyed some of the defences of Reserve Infantry Regiment 110. The advance of the 103rd Brigade was over ground with a fold, which meant that the disastrous attack by the preceding brigades could not be seen as the brigade advanced to be engaged by artillery and machine-gun fire, which inflicted 70 percent casualties, before the troops had reached the British front line. The 19th (Western) Division was rushed forward from reserve, in case of a German counter-attack on Albert. The 19th Division continued the attack and captured most of the village by 4 July, completing the operation by 6 July.  Photos – Keir McNamara
Private John McDonnell

John McDonnell: Born and lived Kilrush, died 14th Oct 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4337 (16th Div), G/M in Kilrush. He is also commemorated on Grangegorman Memorial. He died of wounds in Cardiff Hospital (The RMF 8th Bn fought in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme).

A 26-year-old tailor from Moore Street before his enlistment into the 8th RMF. His remains arrived in Kilrush on 19 October, 1916, and lay overnight in the church before a Requiem Mass and funeral the following day, which witnessed "a cortege of large proportions"
Sergeant Thomas McKnight

Thomas McKnight: Born and lived in Moylesky, Mullagh Co Clare, killed in action 13th Sept 1916 on the Somme (In the lead up to the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September), Irish Guards 2nd Bn 3198 (Guards Div). G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. (TB)

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15th – 22nd Sept) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Fréjicourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme.

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

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 Frederick McMahon

Frederick McMahon: Born and lived in Ennis, died of wounds 22\textsuperscript{nd} Oct 1916 age 38, (The Battle of the Transloy Ridges Oct 1\textsuperscript{st}-Nov 11\textsuperscript{th}), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1\textsuperscript{st} Bn 43088 (29\textsuperscript{th} Div), G/M in France. He was also in the Royal Munster Fusiliers (6724). Husband of Mary McMahon Lifford, Ennis. (TB)

Heilly Station Cemetery. Heilly. Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France. Plot: V. C. 7.

The burials in this cemetery were carried out under extreme pressure and many of the graves are either too close together to be marked individually, or they contain multiple burials. There are now 2,890 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

The Battle of Le Transloy 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. Another pause followed before operations resumed on 23 October on the northern flank of the Fourth Army, with a delay during more bad weather on the right flank of the Fourth Army and on the French Sixth Army front, until 5 November. Next day 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.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Lance Corporal T McMahon

Lance Corporal T McMahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers (1st Bn 16th Div). Wounded in Sept 1916 at Ginchy (at the Somme) where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the Military Service Medal and a Parchment Certificate ‘For courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy.’ (CJ) In Oct 1916 he was also awarded The Russian Cross of St George Second Class. This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ)

Battle of Ginchy, 9 September 1916

On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper Headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’. 
Charles McNamara: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 23rd Oct 1916 at the Somme, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn) 6893, 8th Div. G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB) On the 23rd October the Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn took part in the attack and capture of the South part of Zenith Trench, and the attack of Orion Trench. This was in The Battle of Transloy Ridges 1 Oct – 11 Nov 1916.

The Battle of Le Transloy Ridges (1st Oct - 11th Nov 1916) 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. Another pause followed before operations resumed on 23 October on the northern flank of the Fourth Army, with a delay during more bad weather on the right flank of the Fourth Army and on the French Sixth Army front, until 5 November.
Private Joseph McNamara


Thiepval Memorial
Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: Pier and Face 7 D.

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette (15–22 Sept) was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army, which attacked an intermediate line and the German third line to take Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, which was combined with a French attack on Frégiacourt and Rancourt to encircle Combles and a supporting attack on the south bank of the Somme. The strategic objective of a breakthrough was not achieved but the tactical gains were considerable, the front line being advanced by 2,500–3,500 yards (2,300–3,200 m) and many casualties were inflicted on the German defenders. The battle was the début of the Canadian Corps, New Zealand Division and tanks of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Somme. The 1st and 2nd Irish Guards had very heavy losses in this Battle.

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 Martin Mineter

**Martin Mineter**: Born in Moynoe Scariff. He died 5th Aug 1916, during the Battle of Pozières Ridge (23 July – 7 Aug) at the Somme, Australian Infantry 48th Bn 473, G/M in France. **(TB)**

MA He was an unmarried Tailor aged 41 when he enlisted in March 1915 in Perth into the 48th Bn. 473 (4th Aus Div). He landed in Gallipoli in Oct 1915. He was KIA in France on the 5th Aug 1916. **(UNSW)**

The memorial was erected to commemorate all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during WW1, and especially to name those of the dead whose graves are not known. There are now 10,738 Australian servicemen commemorated by this memorial.

**The Battle of Pozières Ridge** (23 July – 7 Aug 1916) 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 Moloney**

**John Moloney**: Born in Clonlara, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, in the Battle of Ginchy, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 8th Bn 20351, (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

**Thiepval Memorial**

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

‘. . . The 8th Battalion (200 strong) . . . on the 9th September moved towards Ginchy . . . . The Battalion was in the right attack which was launched about 4.45pm . . . the enemy trenches . . . were strongly held by five machine-guns. In consequence a frontal attack was impossible . . . a number of the men succeeded in penetrating the enemy trench, the remainder were only able to advance about one hundred yards; there were many casualties . . . Casualties: Killed 1 officer; wounded 4 officers, other ranks 76.’

The 8th Battalion was inflicted to heavy casualties and was unable to bury its dead. The other battalions of the 48th Brigade of the 16th (Irish) Division captured Ginchy (1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers).

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 Moloney**

Patrick Moloney: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 24th August 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4921, (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

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

'On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the 2nd Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack.' (Pat McNamara Parteen)

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.
**Sergeant Martin Moroney**

**Martin Moroney:** Born and lived in Main Street, Miltown Malbay, died 27th July 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 99th Company 12070 (2nd Division), G/M in Thiepval France. **Killed in action** (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September at the Somme). Only son of Martin and Bridget Moroney General Merchants, Main Street, Miltown Malbay. (TB)

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**Thiepval Memorial**

Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: Pier and Face 5 C and 12 C.

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**Aug 1916 Clare Journal**

**Another Brave Clareman Killed in Action.**

Our Mitchel Malbay correspondent wires — The sad intelligence has reached here, by the mid-day mail, from his company’s officer, that Sergeant Martin Moroney, the only child of Mr and Mrs Martin Moroney, General Merchants, Main Street Miltown-Malbay, was killed while bravely leading his team. The greatest sympathy of the town people, and their warmest thanks is extended to the sorrowing parents on the death of their only son.

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

**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 Albert Muir

Albert Muir: Lived in Killaloe, killed in action 16th Sept 1916 at the Somme, in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September. Irish Guards 2nd Bn 6481, G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

Thiepval Memorial
Thiepval
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France
Plot: Pier and Face 7 D.

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette was a battle within the Franco-British Somme Offensive which took place in the summer and autumn of 1916. Launched on 15 September 1916 the battle went on for one week. Flers–Courcelette began with the objective of cutting a hole in the German line by using massed artillery and infantry attacks. This hole would then be exploited with the use of cavalry. It was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army during the Battle of the Somme. By its conclusion on 22 September, the strategic objective of a breakthrough had not been achieved; however tactical gains were made in the capture of the villages of Courcelette, Martinpuich and Flers. In some places, the front lines were advanced by over 2,500 yards (2,300 m) by the Allied attacks.

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.
Sergeant Thomas Muldoon MM


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

His Military Medal was not added to his name at Thiepval.

‘The attack on Ginchy which had previously repelled the attacks of five divisions, was carried out by the 56th Division on the right and the 16th on the left - the 16th Division attack being carried out by the 47th Brigade on the right, and the 48th on the left...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..... 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.’ (History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922. Captain S McCance)

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
Jack Mulqueen: Born in Kilfenora, killed in action 15th Sept 1916, in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 Sept at the Somme, Irish Guards 1st Bn 8565 (Guards Div), G/M in France. Son of Mrs Harry Mulqueen, Kilfenora. (TB)

Delville Wood Cemetery Longueval
Département de la Somme
Picardie, France.
Plot: XVI. D. 6.

The Battle of Flers–Courcelette was a battle within the Franco-British Somme Offensive which took place in the summer and autumn of 1916. Launched on 15 September 1916 the battle went on for one week. By its conclusion on 22 September, the strategic objective of a breakthrough had not been achieved. In some places, the front lines were advanced by over 2,500 yards (2,300 m) by the Allied attacks. The 1st and 2nd Irish Guards had very heavy losses in this Battle.

DELVILLE WOOD CEMETERY was made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from a few small cemeteries and isolated sites, and from the battlefields. Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916. There are now 5,523 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery.
**Private Alfred Murray**

**Alfred Murray:** Born in Co Clare enlisted in Norwich, killed in action 19th July 1916 at the Somme, in the Battle of Delville Wood (14 July – 15 Sept 1916), Norfolk Regiment 8th Bn 13091, (18th Eastern Division) G/M in France. (TB)

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

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 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.
Lieutenant Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien MC: Ballyalla, Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn (16th Div). Severely wounded Aug 1916 in Loos. He appears to have seen no further action after this. He died on the 31st May 1955 in Rathkeale Co Limerick.

He was awarded the Military Cross (not the Distinguished Service Order) in Aug 1916 ‘for conspicuous gallantry during raids on enemy trenches. On one occasion after his return, finding that a man was missing, he went out in a wounded condition and brought him in under heavy gunfire.’

On July 20th/21st July 1916, at 11.50pm, following an intense bombardment, the raiding parties again left their trenches. As before the enterprise was covered by salvoes of rifle grenades... “A” and “B” parties again failed to penetrate the enemy wire... “C” Party under Second-Lieutenant O’Brien, penetrated into the fire trench and bombed it successfully; all dug-outs were bombed... “D” party reached the fire trench... An officer surrendered himself to one of the section leaders of “C” Party, but wounded the non-commissioned officer with his revolver after his surrender had been accepted, and was shot. Casualties: Killed - 5 other ranks; wounded 23 other ranks.’ See Clare Newspapers and WW1 pages 95, 97 and 101.

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)

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.

Rifleman Patrick Joseph O’Brien:
Poulecarron 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)

Death of Gallant Young Clareman.

PATRICK J. O’BRIEN, QUEEN’S WESTMINSTER RIFLES, O.T.C.

It is with feelings of deep regret we have to announce the death of the above named, who was the second son of Mr James O’Brien, of Poulcarron, which occurred on Sunday, 7th October, from shell shock received in France, to the grief of a wide circle of friends. The funeral procession, which started from the Cathedral, Kinvara, after Solemn Requiem Mass, for the family burial place at Carron, was, notwithstanding the terrible inclement weather, one of the largest for some time, showing the esteem in which this gallant young Clareman was held.

Oct 1917 Sat Record
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.
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 Pozières was a two-week struggle for the French village of Pozières 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, Pozières 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 Pozières ridge "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth."
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.

Sergeant William O’ Halloran

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.
Lieutenant P J O’Kelly

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.

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 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 (4.45pm) 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.’

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 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.
Lieutenant Thomas Lionel Pilkington: Glenard, Clarecastle. Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn (7th Div). He received a commission as Second Lieutenant in Feb 1916. (CJ) Wounded Sept 1916 (The 7th Div fought in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September). (CJ) He was born in Ennis in 1896, 2nd child and eldest son to Thomas Henry Pilkington and his wife Florence Greene. After completing school, he went to Sandhurst Royal Military College in August 1915, and was posted to the Royal Irish Regiment in January 1916.

In July of that year, he was sent to France to join the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment at the Somme. Thomas was wounded and evacuated twice during the next 2 years. At the end of the war, he volunteered for transfer to the Indian Army and was posted to the 2nd Battalion 128th Bombay Pioneers. He continued as a career soldier in the Indian Army until invalided out in 1943 due to failing sight as a result of retinitis contracted while serving in Constantinople in 1921. (Katrina Vincent)

**Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September**

The Battle of Guillemont was an attack on the village which was captured by the Fourth Army on the first day. Guillemont was on the right flank of the British sector, near the boundary with the French Sixth Army. German defences ringed the British salient at Delville Wood to the north and had observation over the French Sixth Army area to the south towards the Somme river. The German defence in the area was based on the second line and numerous fortified villages and farms north from Maurepas at Combles, Guillemont, Falfemont Farm, Delville Wood and High Wood, which were mutually supporting. The battle for Guillemont was considered by some observers to be the supreme effort of the German army during the battle. Numerous meetings were held by Joffre, Haig, Foch, Rawlinson and Fayolle to co-ordinate joint attacks by the four armies, all of which broke down. A pause in Anglo-French attacks at the end of August, coincided with the largest counter-attack by the German army in the Battle of the Somme.
Private John Power

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.

Death of Private Power,
CLARE CASTLE.

We much regret to hear of the death in action in France, of Pte Power, son of Mr Patrick Power, Clare Castle, to whom sincere sympathy goes out in full measure on the loss of his gallant son. He joined the 10th Battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers, soon after its formation, and had taken part in many engagements. He had a promising career before him in the service.

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.
Private William Reybauld

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

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

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 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.’
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. (TB) 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.
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
Departement de la Somme Picardie, France
Plot: II. R. 4. The cemetery now contains 1,293 WW1 Commonwealth burials.

‘On 11th October’ they march out of billets to relieve the 4th Beds on the front at “White City”. The White City is an area near Beaumont Hamel, including the Sunken Road and the Redan Crater. 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
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 Department 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.
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’Abbeye 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 Sharry

Thomas Sharry: Born in Ennis, killed in action 28th Feb 1917 (during the attack at Saillly-Saillisel Feb 28th 1917 at the Somme), Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 40092, 29th Div. G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB)

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

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.
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.
**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 Farm 10th 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)

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

**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.
Lieutenant Robert Hallam Studdert MC: Hazelwood. Quin. 28th Brigade Royal Field Artillery (5th Div). Mentioned in Despatches ‘For gallant and distinguished service in the field’ Feb 1915 (CJ) He also received the Military Cross ‘For distinguished service in the field’ July 1915. (CJ) Wounded Sept 1916. The shrapnel stopped just short of his heart. (CJ)

Gunner James J Sullivan MM: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Medal for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 19th July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dugout that was being shelled. (CJ)
Private John Joseph Tierney


Netley Military Cemetery

Lisdoonvarna War Victim.

At the last meeting of the Lisdoonvarna Improvement Committee, on the motion of the Chairman (Very Rev M. D. Correy, P.P.), seconded by Mr McGuire, there was passed a vote of condolence with Mr John J. Callanan, a member of the Committee, on the death of his sister, and also with Mr John Tierney. See 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.
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.

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.
Berkley Vincent CBE KBE: Summerhill House, Doonass, Clonlara. 1871 -1963. At the beginning of the 1914-18 War he left India for France where he took part in the Battle of the Somme and later Ancre. During the Battle of Arras he was buried by constant shelling, but was dug out alive. Nearly all his command were killed. In 1919 he was awarded the CBE and six years later he was honoured by George V with the KBE. (Kiltenanlea Parish Church Clonlara)

He was second Lieutenant Royal Artillery in 1894 and Captain in 1900. After service with the Chinese Expeditionary Force he served in the Boer War, later promoted Major in the 6th Iniskilling Dragoons. During the Russian Japanese War 1904-05 he served as Military Attache with the Japanese Army and was awarded the Order Sacred Treasure by the Emperor and the Japanese War Medal.

At the beginning of the 1914-18 War he left India for France where he took part in the Battle of the Somme and later Ancre. During the Battle of Arras he was buried by constant shelling, but was dug out alive. Nearly all his command were killed.

In 1919 he was awarded the CBE and six years later he was honoured by George V with the KBE. He retired with the rank of Brigadier- General having completed 33 years in army life, 13 of which was spent on active service. He died in Jan 1963 aged 92. (Kiltenanlea Parish Church Clonlara)

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.
**Donat ‘Dunny’ White MM**

**Donat “Dunny” White MM**: Scariff. Royal Munster Fusiliers. *(Michael O’Gorman)* He is buried in Moynoe Cemetery Scariff Grave no 2.

In loving memory of Winifred White (Nee Sheedy) who died 2nd Feb 1957.

**Donat White** who died 23rd Dec 1967.


**Donat “Dunny” White MM:**

On 23 December 1967, the elderly, quiet and unassuming **Donat “Dunny” White** passed on to his eternal reward, unheralded and unsung. Maybe that was the way he wanted it to be, but let there be no doubt, Dunny deserves to be remembered with pride. As can only be expected in such a place as Scariff, Dunny first came to prominence as a splendid hurler and played no small part in securing the County Championship for his native parish in 1907, the first time that Scariff won that coveted “double”.

He married a local girl, Winnie Sheedy of Deerpark, in 1914, and they had four children, Mary Ellen, Margaret, who later married John Carolan, the local postman, Annie and Christopher Donat, who was born in 1919. Life in Ireland, back in the early years of the 20th century, was very different to the Ireland of today, socially, economically and politically and, during that time, Scariff was caught up in the tidal wave of the great Irish Cultural Revival movement. So much so, that at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, the British call to arms went mostly unheeded in Scariff.

However, the spirit of adventure in Dunny prompted him to enlist, and he joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers. His military career was short and violent, but even during that short period he managed to distinguish himself on the field of battle and was awarded the **Military Medal**. This decoration for gallantry was the highest award bestowed on non-commissioned officers and other ranks. He had **survived the slaughter of the Somme** and, later, had gone out, under heavy enemy fire, and rescued a senior officer who was lying wounded in what was known as no-man’s-land. By an astonishing coincidence, he was accompanied on that venture by another Scariff man, the late **John “Sacco” Downes**, who was also in the Munster’s (he is interred in Feakle Graveyard).

Shortly after this daring rescue, Dunny received a serious eye wound that partially blinded him, and he received an honourable discharge from the army and was sent home. Political ideals had changed radically in Scariff following the executions of the leaders of the Easter Rising of 1916, and Dunny’s gallantry in the uniform of the British Army went unheralded. This was a great pity: Bravery and gallantry doesn’t need a uniform. Very little has ever been said about Dunny’s military career, but his fame as a Scariff hurling hero lives on, and so we can proudly add his name to that ever expanding galaxy of stars who have made Scariff such an interesting place. *(Michael O’Gorman)*
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 (16thDiv), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB)

‘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.’

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Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

- Thiepval Memorial
- Villers-Bretonneux Memorial
- Delville Wood Longueval

Albert Communal Cemetery Extension in France.


Bethune Town Cemetery in France.


Bulls Road Cemetery, Flers in France.

Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery and Caterpillar Valley (New Zealand) Memorial, Longueval in France.

James Francis Chambers: Cooraclare, died Sept 1916, New Zealand EF, G/M Caterpillar Valley (New Zealand) Memorial, Longueval in France.

Corbie Communal Extension in France.


Dive Copse British Cemetery, Sailly-Le-Sec in France.

Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

**Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval in France.**


**Euston Road Cemetery, Coolincamps in France.**


**Feuquieres-en-Vimeu Communal Cemetery**

Thomas Cusack: Kilrush, died Oct 1916 age 38 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M At the far east of the end of the main path. Cemetery: Feuquieres-en-Vimeu Communal Cemetery in France.
**Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme**

**Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz in France.**


**Gommecourt Wood New Cemetery, Foncqueviller, Pas-De-Calais, in France.**


**Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte in France.**


Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

**Guillemont Road, Guillemont in France.**


**Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L’Abbe in France.**


**Knightsbridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, in France.**


**Serre Road Cemetery No 2 in France.**

Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

**Thiepval Memorial in France.**

**Patrick Bennett:** Scariff, died Oct 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Denis Bergin:** Ennis, died Oct 1916 on the Somme, Royal Irish Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Henry George Browne:** Ennis, died July 1916 age 29 on the Somme, Bedfordshire Regiment, G/M Pier and Face 2 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Daniel Carey:** Kilrush, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards, G/M Pier and Face 7 D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**James Cusack:** Sixmilebridge, died July 1916 age 39 on the Somme, South African Infantry, G/M Pier and Face 4 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Patrick Danaher:** Killaloe, died Aug 1916 age 35 on the Somme, Royal Irish Regiment, G/M Listed on Pier and Face 3A of the Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Owen Devins:** Ennis, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards, G/M Pier and Face 7D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**George Doherty:** Co Clare, died July 1916, Royal Irish Rifles, G/M Listed on Pier and Face 15A and 15B of the Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Patrick Droney:** Ballymagh Co Clare, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**John Joseph Garrahy:** Lahinch, died Sept 1916, Royal Irish Regiment on the Somme, G/M Pier and Face 3 A. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Thomas Gleeson:** Clarecastle, died Aug 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**John Glynn:** Ballyorughia Co Clare, died Sept 1916 age 32 on the Somme, Grenadier Guards, G/M Pier and Face 8D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Michael Gutherie/Guthrie:** Ennis, died Sept 1916 age 27, Grenadier Guards, G/M Pier and Face 16C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Michael Higgins:** Liscannor, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards, G/M Pier and Face 7D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal.

**John Keane:** Kilrush, died Sept 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M Pier and Face 16C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal and parchment.
Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

Thiepval Memorial in France. (Continued)

**Thomas Kelly**: Clarecastle, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France. Was taken prisoner in Étréux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany.

**Gerald Lefroy**: Killaloe, died Aug 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Martin Lynch**: Miltown Malbay, died July 1916 age 21 on the Somme, Manchester Regiment, G/M Pier and Face 13A and 14C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Thomas McKnight**: Mullagh, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards, G/M Pier and Face 7 D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Charles McNamara**: Kilrush, died Oct 1916 on the Somme, Scottish Rifles, G/M Pier and Face 4 D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Joseph McNamara**: Ennis, died Sept 1916 age 29 on the Somme, Irish Guards, G/M Pier and Face 7 D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**John Moloney**: Clonlara, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Patrick Moloney**: Cloughleigh Road Ennis, died March 1916 age 21 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Martin Moroney**: Miltown Malbay, died July 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Manchester Regiment, G/M Pier and Face 5C and 12C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Albert Muir**: Killaloe, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards, G/M Pier and Face 7 D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Thomas Muldoon**: Feakle, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M Pier and Face 16C of the Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal.

**Alfred Murray**: Co Clare, died July 1916 on the Somme, Norfolk Regiment, G/M Pier and Face 1C and 1D. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**John Nelson**: Ennis, died July 1916 on the Somme, Gloucestershire Regiment, G/M Pier and Face 5A and 5B. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Michael O’Connor**: Ennistymon, died Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Herbert Parker Peacocke**: Kilrush, died July 1916 age 20 on the Somme, South Lancashire Regiment, G/M Pier and Face 7A and 7B. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.
Cemeteries/Memorials with Claremen at the Somme

**Thiepval Memorial in France. (Continued)**

**John Power:** Clarecastle, died Nov 1916 age 25 on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**William Reybauld:** Ennis, died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**William Rochford:** Drumbiggle Ennis, died Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M Pier and Face 16 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Leroy Laurence Tracy/Tracey:** Boherglass Co Clare, died July 1916 age 29 on the Somme, Royal Army Medical Corps, G/M Pier and Face 4 C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**John Woods:** Doolin, died Sept 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers on the Somme, G/M Pier and Face 16C. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial in France.

**Patrick Barry:** Kilnamona, died Oct 1916 age 44, Australian Infantry, G/M listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

**Arthur Edward Baxter:** Sixmilebridge, died Nov 1916 age 23, G/M listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

**Patrick Lynch:** Lisdoonvarna, died Aug 1916 age 34, Australian Infantry, G/M Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery in France.

**Martin Mineter:** Scariff, died Aug 1916, Australian Infantry, G/M Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery in France.

**Thomas Neylon/Naylon:** Kilshanny, died July 1916 age 42, Australian Infantry, G/M Villers-Bretonneux Memorial Military Cemetery in France.

**John Patrick O’Dea:** Co Clare, died Aug 1916, Australian Infantry in the Battle of Pozieres, G/M Listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

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Alphabetical Index of the Claremen who were killed, or died from wounds at the Somme July – December 1916

Patrick Barry: Born in Kilnamona lived in New South Wales Australia, died 22nd Oct 1916 age 44, Australian Infantry 55th Bn. 5339 (5th Aus Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB) MA (The 5th Aus Div. had fought at the Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July at the Somme)


Patrick Bennett: Born in Scariff lived in Killaloe, died 13th Oct 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 43152 (4th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action. Son of Patrick and Mary Bennett Killaloe. (TB) (Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November at the Somme)

Denis Bergin: Born in Ennis lived in Kent, died 12th Oct 1916 on the Somme, Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st Bn 11101 (4th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November at the Somme) The Somme July 1st: The 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers captured the position known as the Quadrilateral but they also had to withdraw due to the isolation of their position.

Francis Blake: Lived in Ennis, died of wounds 20th July 1916 age 31, (probably from the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme) Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 23497 (4th Div), G/M in Scotland. He died in a Glasgow hospital. Son of James and Elizabeth Blake, Corbally, Quin. (TB) The Somme July 1st: The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers were in the second wave of the attack, going into battle with 503 men of whom 325 became casualties.

Patrick Blood: Born and lived in Ennistymon, died 4th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th 5844 (16th Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran) (Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme)

Michael Joseph Breen: Born in Cooraclare lived in Queensland Australia, died 14th Sept 1916 from wounds received at the Battle of Pozieres at the Somme, age 41, Australian Infantry 25th Bn 312 (2nd Aus Div), G/M in England. Mentioned in Despatches. Breen was also recommended for the Military Medal. (TB)

Patrick Breene/Breen: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 3rd Sept 1916 age 36, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn (7th Div). 18009, G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme)

Thomas Breslin: Born in Co Clare (also down as Co Carlow), died 19th July 1916 on the Somme, Australian Infantry 59th Bn.1914 (5th Aus Div), G/M in France. Husband of Mary Breslin Edinburgh. (TB) (Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July)

Henry George Browne: Born in Ennis lived in Hampshire, died 1st July 1916 age 29 on the Somme, Bedfordshire Regiment 7th Bn 20097 (18th Eastern Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. Son of Henry George and Jane Browne, Hertfordshire. (TB) (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme)

Daniel Carey: Born in Kilrush, died 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 1st Bn 9440 (Guards Division), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He was in the RIC. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)


Michael Coleman: Born and lived in Sixmilebridge, died 1st August 1916 age 23, Connaught Rangers 6th Bn 5818 (16th Div.), G/M in France. He died of wounds. Son of John and Elizabeth Coleman, Mill Street Sixmilebridge. (TB)


John Cosgrove: Born and lived in Trough (Truagh?), Castlebank, Co Clare, died 17th August 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9681 (1st Div), G/M in France. Killed in Action at the Somme. (TB)

John Coughlan/Coghlan: Born and lived in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916, age 26 in the Battle of the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 6359 (16th Div), G/M in France. Son of Michael and Mary Coughlan ‘The Cottage’ Circular Road, Ennis. Killed in action in Ginchy. (TB)(CJ) On the 9th Sept 1916 the 1st RMF took part in the attack and triumphant capture of Ginchy by the 16th Division but at a high cost for its battalions, the 1RMF reduced to 5 officers and 305 other ranks. A London newspaper headlined ‘How the Irish took Ginchy – Splendid daring of the Irish troops’.

Thomas Heppel Crowe: Born 27th Jan 1892 in Newcastle on Tyne. (His father was Michael Joseph Crowe who was a surveyor of Excise and Customs in Ennis.) He died 9th Oct 1916 age 24, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment) 420031 16th Bn (1st Canadian Division), G/M in France. Killed in action. He was an accountant when he enlisted in Canada. (TB) (Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November at the Somme)

James Cusack: Died 18th July 1916 age 39 at Delville Wood, South African Infantry 1st Regiment 1125, (9th Division) G/M in Thiepval, France. Son of James and Catherine Cusack, Old Mill Road, Sixmilebridge. (TB) (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September at the Somme)

Thomas Cusack: Born (1878) and lived in Kilrush, died 24th Oct 1916 age 38 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6173 (1st Div). G/M in France in Feuquieres-en-Vimeau Communal Cemetery which contains one Commonwealth burial of the First World War and three from the Second World War. He died of wounds (Possibly from the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Son of Tom and Mary Cusack, Glynn Street Kilrush (previously in Ballally Lane). Husband of Anne Cusack, Pound Street. (TB) He is commemorated on the back of a headstone grave no. 31 in Old Shanakyle Cemetery (East Section) in Kilrush.
Sgt Patrick Danaher: Born in Nenagh, lived in Killaloe, died 5th July 1916 age 35 on the Somme, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 3258 (7th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of Dan and Catherine Danaher and husband of Bridget Danaher, New Street, Killaloe. (TB) ‘Wounded at Lille on 19 October 1914. Conveyed to Bologne and eventually to the Military Hospital at Fethard. He made a full recovery and returned to the front’ (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse) Battle of Albert, 1–13 July) July 1st: The 2nd Royal Irish Regiment of the 7th Division helped to capture three miles of the German frontline trenches near the village of Mametz.

Owen Devins: Born in Ennis lived in Co Sligo, died 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 1st Bn 2981 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

George Doherty: Born in Liscannor, died 7th July 1916, Royal Irish Rifles 2nd Bn 8687 (36th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran) (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme)

Patrick Drony: Born in Ballymagh (Balliny North Fanore) Co Clare, enlisted in Ennis, died 22nd Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6831 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action.(TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme

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

John Forde: Lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 15th Sept 1916 age 21, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) 8th Battalion, 4032, (47th Div) G/M in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Forde Newmarket on Fergus. Killed in action.(TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme)

John Joseph Garrahy, Born and lived in Lahinch, died 3rd Sept 1916, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 5888 (7th Div), G/M in France. Formerly in the Leinster Regiment. Killed in action. (TB) NCS (Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme)

Private Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clarecastle (Clare Abbey), died Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776 (1st Div). G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey. (TB) On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; theouter sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken.

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

Thomas Glynn: Born and lived in Ballyvaughan, died 26th Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 9511 (1st Div), G/M in France. He died of wounds. (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). Son of James and Bridget Glynn, Ballyvaughan. (TB)
Michael Guthrie/ Gutherie: Born in Ennis, died 14th Sept 1916 age 27, Grenadier Guards 2nd Bn 20229 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. **Killed in action.** (TB) **(Just before the** Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme)


Michael Higgins MM: Born in Liscannor, lived in Seamount House, died 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7493 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. **Killed in action.** He won the **Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field.** (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)(Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

Tom Hill: Born in Miltown Malbay (Glendine House), lived in Limerick, died 6th Sept 1916 age 21, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 8th Bn 16234 (16th Div), G/M in Guillemond, France. **Killed in action.** Son of Dr John Hill. (TB) He is also remembered on the family vault in Miltown Malbay. (Battle of Guillemond, 3–6 September at the Somme)

Michael Houlihan: Lived in Pound St /Hector St Kilrush, died 18th Sept 1916 age 29, Irish Guards 2nd Bn (Guards Div), 7835, G/M in France. Son of Thomas and Mary Houlihan, Crofton St Kilrush. **He died of wounds** in the Battle of the Somme.(TB)(Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September)

William Hourigan: Born and lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 18th Dec 1916, Machine Gun Corps 17th Bn (the 117th 39th Div) 4079, G/M in France. Wounded in Aug 1916. **He died in Wimereux.** Son of Mrs J Hourigan Ralahine, Newmarket on Fergus. (TB) (CJ) The 117th Machine Gun Company joined the 39th Division on the 18th of May 1916. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including, the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights and the capture of Schwaben Reddoubt and Stuff Trench as well as The Battle of the Ancre.

John Keane MM: Born in Kilrush, lived on Burton St Kilrush, died 9th Sept 1916 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. **He won the Military Medal. Killed in action.** (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme)

Thomas Kelly: Born in Tulla, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9373 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme)

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

Michael Kildea: Born in Ennis lived in Miltown Malbay, died 19th Oct 1916 age 18, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4483, G/M in Belgium. Son of Annie Kildea, Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay. **Killed in action.** (TB) ‘I go into battle, after saying a few prayers and a light heart.’ (After the Battle of Ginchy on the Somme, the RMF 1st Bn was moved northwards to the South of Ypres in Belgium.)
2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, died 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe. On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the 2nd Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)

Martin Leyden/Lyden: Born in Killuran (Tulla) lived in O’Callaghan’s Mills, died 19th Dec 1916 age 42, Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 5054 (7th Div), G/M in England. Died at home. He had also served in India in 1895. (TB) POW in Dec 1915. (CJ) Son of Denis and Bridget Leyden, Iragh, O’Callaghan’s Mills. (Probably wounded in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme)

John Lillis: Born in Kilrush, died Sept 9th 1916, 8th Irish Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment (3rd Div). (Massachusetts and the Great War) G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September at the Somme)

Martin Lynch: Born and lived in Miltown Malbay, died 23rd July 1916 age 21 on the Somme, Manchester Regiment 19th Bn 26713, (30th Div) G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Killed in action (Probably fought in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme). Son of Thomas Lynch, Main Street, Miltown Malbay. (TB)

Patrick Lynch: Born in Kilmoon, Lisdoonvarna, enlisted in Australia, died 6th Aug 1916 age 34 in the Battle of Pozieres, Australian Infantry 4th Pioneers 1660 (4th Aus Div), G/M in France. (TB) MA He was a butcher. Son of Patrick and Margaret Lynch Lisdoonvarns, who owned Lynch’s Hotel. He is also commemorated on the family gravestone in Ennistymon. (Guss O’Halloran) Killed in action. (Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 7 August at the Somme)

Christopher McCormack: Born and lived in Ennis, died 23rd July 1916, Royal Horse Artillery 19th Division Ammunition Col. 100572, G/M in France. Died of wounds. (TB) (Probably after the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme)

John McDonnell: Born and lived Kilrush, died 14th Oct 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4337 (16th Div), G/M in Kilrush. He is also commemorated on Grangegorman Memorial. He died of wounds (that he received at the Somme) in Cardiff Hospital. ‘Among the actions in which he took part in France and Flanders were Festubert, Neuve Chapelle, Le Basse, Lens, Loos, Gainchey, Richburg, Vimy, Hulluch, Vermeilles, the Brickfields, Ypres, Arras and Contelmaison; and Guillemin, Ginchy, Combes and Espinal, in the big battles of the Somme. He was wounded in the latter battle, and died of wounds in Cardiff Hospital.’ (CJ) (Probably received at the Battle of Guillemin, 3–6 September)

Thomas McKnight: Born and lived in Moylesky, Mullagh Co Clare, died 13th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 3198 (Guards Div). Killed in action (In the lead up to the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. (TB)
Frederick McMahon: Born and lived in Ennis, died 22nd Oct 1916 age 38, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 43088 (29th Div), G/M in France. Died of wounds. He was also in the Royal Munster Fusiliers (6724). Husband of Mary McMahon Lifford, Ennis. (TB)

Charles McNamara: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 23rd Oct 1916 on the Somme, Camerons (Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn) 6893, (8th Div) G/M in Thiepval, France. Killed in action. (TB) On the 23rd October the Scottish Rifles 2nd Bn took part in the attack and capture of the South part of Zenith Trench, and the attack of Orion Trench. This was in The Battle of Transloy Ridges 1 Oct – 11 Nov 1916 at the Somme)

Joseph McNamara: Born in Kilmihil enlisted in Ennis, died 15th Sept 1916 age 29 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7259 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. Son of Michael and Mary McNamara Knockalough Ennis. (TB)

Martin Mineter: Born in Moynoe Scariff. He enlisted in Perth Australia on the 6th March 1915 at the age of 41. He was a tailor and not married. He died 5th Aug 1916, Australian Infantry 48th Bn 473 (4th Aus Div), G/M in France. (TB) MA (Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 7 August at the Somme)

John Moloney: Born in Clonlara, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 8th Bn 20351 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Patrick Moloney: Born and lived in Kilrush, died 24th August 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 4921 (1st Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB) On 24th August 1916, orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the 400 yards of the old German trench still remaining in enemy hands. The effort was doomed to failure from the start. It is said that another Commanding Officer had declined to deliver the attack. The artillery preparations was misdirected and inaccurately delivered; the outer sectors of the objective were to have been blown in by trench mortars, which completely failed; the attack was ordered by daylight and as a consequence of faulty preparations the enemy was completely unshaken. At 7 a.m. the assault was delivered and the Germans immediately opened a heavy fire from concealed machine-gun emplacements and held up the attack. (Pat McNamara Parteen)

Martin Moroney: Born and lived in Main Street, Miltown Malbay, died 27th July 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 99th Company 12070 (2nd Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September). Only son of Martin and Bridget Moroney General Merchants, Main Street, Miltown Malbay. (TB)

Albert Muir: Lived in Killaloe, died 16th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 6481 (Guards Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). (TB)

Thomas Muldoon MM: Born in India, lived in Feakle, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7857 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal. (TB) Wounded in July 1916. Son of Thomas Muldoon. (CJ) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Jack Mulqueen: Born in Kilfenora, died 15th Sept 1916, Irish Guards 1st Bn 8565 (Guards Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of Mrs Harry Mulqueen, Kilfenora. (TB) (Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September at the Somme)
Alfred Murray: Born in Co Clare enlisted in Norwich, died 19th July 1916 on the Somme, Norfolk Regiment 8th Bn 13091, (18th Eastern Division) G/M in France. Killed in action. (TB) (Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September)


Thomas Neylon/Naylon: Born in Kilshanny lived in Brisbane Australia, died 29th July 1916 at Pozieres age 42, 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) (Battle of Pozières Ridge, 23 July – 7 August at the Somme)


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)

William Reybauld: Born and lived in Ennis (Clonroad), died 3rd Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4675 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. (TB)

Patrick O’Neill: Lived in Feakle enlisted in Ennis, died 9th Sept 1916 age 26, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5571 (16th Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. Son of William O’Neill Ballylongford, Co Kerry. (TB) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme)


John Power: Born in Dublin lived in Clarecastle, died 13th Nov 1916 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 10th Bn (‘Pals’ Division) 26017 (63rd Div), G/M in France. Killed in action (Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November at the Somme). Son of Patrick Power (Coal Importer) Clarecastle. (TB) He was a dental student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. 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.

William Reybould: Born and lived in Ennis (Clonroad), died 3rd Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4675 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action (Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September). (TB)

William Rochford: Born in Drumbiggle Ennis, died 4th Sept 1916 age 30 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5749 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action (Battle of
Guillemont, 3–6 September). Son of Patrick and Margaret Rochford Drumbiggle. (TB) He was reported missing in action in Sept 1916 in the Clare Journal. (CJ)

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

**James Ryan:** Born in Ballina Co Tipperary but lived in Killaloe, died 5th July 1916 (Battle of Albert, 1–13 July at the Somme), Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn. (7th Div), G/M in 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.

**Edward Shannon:** Born in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) lived in Kilkee, died 20th Dec 1916 age 25 on the Somme, 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5/6720 (1st Div), G/M in France. Killed in action. 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)

2nd Lt Frank Edward Sparrow: Corps of Royal Engineers 129th Field Company (24th Div). Died 13th Aug 1916 (Battle of Delville Wood: 15 July – 3 September 1916) age 37, G/M in France. He was Poor Law Inspector (and Local Government Board Inspector) for Ennis when he enlisted. 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’ 13 August 1916, while inspecting new ground just taken from the enemy at the Battle of the Somme’. From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.

**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. He died of these wounds on the 12th Sept 1916 in the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station. His mother was Kate Stuart, Bodyke. (UNSW)

**John Joseph Tierney:** Born in Co Longford lived in Lisdoonvarna, died 3rd Nov 1916 age 21 (The RMF 8th Bn fought in the Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 8/5718 (16th Div), G/M in England. (TB) Son of John and Ellen Tierney Rooska, Lisdoonvarna.

**Leroy Laurence Tracey:** Born in Dublin lived in The Cottage, Boherglass, Bodyke, Co Clare, died 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.

**Charles Edward Walsh:** Born in Leeds lived in Newmarket on Fergus, died 17th Oct 1916, Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding Regiment) 2nd Bn 9687, (4th Div) G/M in France. Died of wounds (The 4th Div fought in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November at the Somme). (TB)

**John Woods:** Born in Galway lived in Doolin, died 4th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5815 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action (Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September at the Somme). (TB)
WHY WE FAILED TO BREAK.

OUR ARMY'S CRUEL LUCK ON THE SOMME.

HOW THE WEATHER ROBBED IT OF VICTORY "MUCH GREATER THAN ANY ATTAINED."

SIR DUGLAS HAIG'S STORY OF GREAT DEEDS.

Sir Douglas Haig's despatch on the Somme operations are published to-day.

Although the main facts were already well known from the British Commander's daily reports, the story now told, which is as full as circumstances permit, thrown much new light on the various phases of the offensive beginning on July 1 and ending in the middle of November with the victorious advances on the Ancre.

It is a story which no man can read without a consciousness of pride in all that was achieved. It has a story of British doggedness and courage against Teutonic arrogance and scheming.

The despatch leaves no doubt as to the result of the conflict, and reveals the reason why the result, although gloriously satisfactory, was not even more emphatic.
The British and French had advanced about 6 miles (9.7 km) on the Somme, on a front of 16 miles (26 km) at a cost of 419,654 British and Commonwealth (including nearly 60,000 on the first day alone), and 202,567 French casualties, against 465,181 German casualties.

Ennis to Ennistymon is 26 Km. Ennis to Ruan is 10Km.

Imagine over half a million soldiers, in 2 armies on either side of the Ennis-Ennistymon road, 200m apart, dug into trenches, protected by razor-like barbed wire. Three months later, with 2 million+ more soldiers, 1 million+ casualties, millions of artillery shells and 13 vicious battles, one army has pushed the other back to a line between Ruan and Kilfenora.

Early in 1917, the Germans withdrew to the Hindenburg Line thus negating the sacrifices made on the Somme.

In March 1918, the Germans swept through all of the gains since July 1916 in their final attempt at victory before the American forces could intervene. The territory that had taken over 4 months and 600,000 casualties to obtain, was lost in one day.
The 100\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy 3\textsuperscript{rd} September 2016.

The Chairman & The Board of Trustees Of The Somme Association
Invite you to the Centenary Commemoration Of The Battle of Guillemont and Ginchy At 1100hrs on Saturday 3\textsuperscript{rd} September 2016,
The 16\textsuperscript{th} (Irish) Division Memorial (Ginchy Cross), Guillemont Village, France

This invitation is your means of admission. Please bring on the day.

“To my daughter Betty, the gift of God” by Tom Kettle

In wiser days my darling rosebud, blown
To beauty proud as was your mother’s prime,
In that desired, delayed, incredible time,
You’ll ask why I abandoned you, my own,
And the dear heart that was your baby throne,
To dice with death. And, oh! they’ll give you rhyme
And reason, some will call the thing sublime,
And some decry it in a knowing tone.
So here, while the mad guns curse overhead,
And tired men sigh, with mud for couch and floor
Know that we fools, now with the foolish dead,
Died not for flag, nor King, nor Emperor,
But for a dream, born in a bersian’s shed,
And for the secret Scripture of the poor.

The Somme Association would like to thank The Royal Irish Regiment, The Irish Defence Forces, The Jersey Field Squadron, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, The Northern Ireland Office, Monsieur Didier Samain and the villagers of Guillemont and Ginchy and the Band Ecole de Musique d’Epicye’.  

The Somme Association
Commendation of the 100th Anniversary of
The Battle of the Somme
The 16th (Irish) Division Service,
Guillemont, France
3\textsuperscript{rd} September 2016

At 1100hrs

“Our greatest success on the 3rd September 1916 was the capture of Guillemont by the Irish troops. They advanced on Guillemont with an impertinence which carried all before it: charged through the German positions with the wild music of their pipes playing them on. Before the afternoon was out the 2000 Prussians who constituted the garrison-with imperative orders to hold the ground at all cost—were killed, wounded or captured. The same Irish troops charged into Ginchy as they had charged into Guillemont, through the barrage of shells and the storm of machine-gun fire, clambering over shell-holes, fallen trees, and the great mounds of bricks and rubble which were all that remained of the village itself: cheering like mad, and driving the enemy before them in a fierce assault against which nothing could stand.”
2100 poppy crosses in the shape of a shamrock for all the 16th Irish Division dead that liberated Guillemont and Ginchy. Each cross had the name of an Irish soldier from the 16th Div who died.
The 100th Anniversary of the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy 2016.

The locals wore green shamrocks (to remember the Irish in the 16th Division that fought, died and liberated Guillemont and Ginchy) with Brian Honan above from Kilrush.
The 100th Anniversary of the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy 2016.

Paddy O’Meara, Roger Casement (Air Corps) Branch from Ennis, with the General David The O’Morchoe CB, CBE, RBL, ROI.

Alan McFarland the Chairman of the Somme Association.

The Mayor of Guillemont
The 100th Anniversary of the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy 2016.
Guillemont Cemetery

The Somme