Clarecastle and Ballyea in the Great War

By Ger Browne

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I would like to thank Eric Shaw who kindly gave me a tour of Clarecastle and Ballyea, and showed me all the sites relevant to WW1. Eric’s article on the Great War in the book ‘Clarecastle and Ballyea - Land and People 2’ was an invaluable source of information. Eric also has been a great help to me over the past five years, with priceless information on Clare in WW1 and WW2. If that was not enough, Dr Joe Power, another historian from Clarecastle published his excellent book ‘Clare and the Great War’ in 2015. Clarecastle and Ballyea are very proud of their history, and it is a privilege to write this booklet on its contribution to the Great War.
Main Street Clarecastle

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. 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. He was a brother of Timothy Power who survived the war but never recovered from ‘shell-shock’. His nephew is the historian Dr Joe Power who wrote ‘Clare and the Great War’.

Power’s Pub

That pub was opened on 31 May 1872 by John & Joe’s Grandfather, Patrick Power. All his children were born in that house.’ (Eric Shaw)

Private Timothy Power: Clarecastle. Royal Army Medical Corps. He never recovered from ‘shell-shock’ suffered on the battlefields of the Western Front. He was a brother of John Power who died in 1916. His nephew is the historian Dr Joe Power who wrote ‘Clare and the Great War’.

Michael McMahon: Born in Sixmilebridge, lived in Clarecastle, died of wounds 20th Aug 1917 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 40124, 29th Div, G/M in Belgium. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of Pat and Kate McMahon, and husband of Mary (Taylor) McMahon (she remained a war widow for the rest of her life), Main Street, Clarecastle. (TB)
The Creggaun Clarecastle – The Dardanelles

‘Ger, an old photo of the Creggaun showing 7 houses in the main part and about 5 houses on the return to the main Street.’ (Eric Shaw)

James McMahon: Clarecastle, killed in action 15th May 1916 in the Hulluch Sector, Royal Munster Fusiliers 9th, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Anne McMahon Craggaun Clarecastle. (TB) James McMahon: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)
**The RIC Barracks in Clarecastle**

**Private Daniel Quill:** RIC Barracks Clarecastle Co Clare. He was a Clerk aged 19 when he enlisted in Jan 1916 in the South Irish Horse service no 1941. He was discharged in Feb 1916 as he was underage. His parents were David and Kate Quill. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

**The Blacksmith Clarecastle**

**Sergeant John Joe McMahon:** A village blacksmith in Clarecastle. He seems to have initially enlisted with the Munsters but transferred to the Royal Irish Regiment. (Eric Shaw)

**Sergeant Michael (Mick) Moore:** Ennis Road. Clarecastle. A soldier in WW1. The Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st Bn. He was aged about 80 when he died in 1965 (born 1885). He was buried in Clarehill. His house is now part of the Antique Loft in Clarecastle. (Eric Shaw)
Clarecastle Harbour


The SS Keeper Monument was unveiled in Clarecastle in June 2017.

Remembering the Keeper

Jessica Quinn

This family of four Clarecastle men who died in World War I, gathered together in the village on Saturday for the unveiling of a memorial commemorating their lives.

The Clarecastle and Dysart Hertiage and Wildlife Group have honoured all of those lost on the SS Keeper who died here seven years ago, during the week-end of the week "remembered." While the names of the four Clarecastle men, William McCready, Della Murphy, and Steven Cole, are engraved in a plaque beside the monument, the names of four more Clarecastle men, John McMahon, A. Considine, and R. Cole, are also engraved on the plaque.

The SS Keeper was on a voyage from Belfast to Limerick, when she was sunk by a German submarine UC-66 off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917. Among those drowned were three sailors from Clare Castle, A. Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready. (Eric Shaw)

William McCready and Della Murphy.
Clare Castle, Ennis. View of the boat 'Queens Channel' at Clarecastle quay with Clare Castle and Barracks in the background.

**Gunner Francis O’Brien**: Shehana, Clarecastle Co Clare. He was a Railway Porter aged 21 when he enlisted in Feb 1917 in the Royal Garrison Artillery 148493. He was honourably discharged in July 1917, and awarded the Silver War Badge. His father was Thomas O’Brien. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Mrs McElroy from the Barracks Clarecastle launched an appeal ‘for comforts such as flannel shirts, woolen underclothing, or flannelette garments, socks etc or money to purchase materials for making garments, for our prisoners of war in Germany of the Munster Fusiliers: also for those shortly to be sent to the front where this regiment has been earning undying fame.’ Clare Journal March 1st 1915.
The Great Houses Clarecastle & Ballyea

Carnelly, Clarecastle

Mr and Mrs Lane Joynt
donated £2 to the Ennis Sub Depot of the Irish War Hospital Supply Fund in June 1917. This money was used to buy materials for bandages and dressings which were sent to the front. Miss Lane Joynt organised Christmas treats for the children of sailors and soldiers in 1915. (Joe Power)

Lt Lane-Joynt:
Carnelly, Clarecastle. He was cited for bravery. (Joe Power)

Clare Abbey House Clarecastle
Home to the O’Brien, Huott, Burton, Copleman, Casey, and Leydon families. In 1984 part of it was developed as a sports complex by the Clarecastle GAA Club. Still standing and inhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 70.

Daniel Joseph O’Brien:
Clare Abbey House Clarecastle, died Nov 1917 age 33 in Passchendaele, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Belgium. He was a member of Clare County Council and a leader of the Clarecastle National Volunteers. He was accidentally wounded in training in Oct 1915, and a devoted follower of Willie Redmond.
Glenard House Clarecastle
Home to the Church of Ireland, Pilkington, O’Donoghue, Fahy and McCarthy families. Still standing and inhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 135.

Lieut Thomas Lionel Pilkington: Glenard, Clarecastle. Royal Irish Regiment. He received a commission as Second Lieutenant in Feb 1916. Wounded Sept 1916.

Islandmagrath House (Island) Clarecastle
Home to the Burton, Maunsell, Mellett and O’Connor families. Still standing and inhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 151.

George Wyndham (Lyndham) Maunsell: Islandmagrath House, Clarecastle, died Feb 1917 age 28, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, G/M in Iraq. An Excecutive Engineer. He died in Kut Mesopotamia. Son of Richard and Elizabeth Maunsell. Wyndham was killed in the Battle of the River Tigris.

Mrs Maunsell from The Island Clarecastle, launched an appeal for comforts such as flannel shirts, woolen underclothing, or flannelette garments, socks etc or money to purchase materials for making garments, for our prisoners of war in Germany of the Munster Fusiliers: also for those shortly to be sent to the front where this regiment has been earning undying fame.’ Clare Journal March 1st 1915.
The Great Houses Clarecastle & Ballyea

Eden Vale Ballyea
Home to the O’Brien, Patterson, Stacpoole families and the Health Board. Still standing but uninhabited. See ‘Houses of Clare’ by Hugh W L Weir page 115.

George Eric Guy Stacpoole: Edenvale, Ennis, died Jan 1915, Royal Irish Regiment, G/M in Belgium.

Lt R.H. Stacpoole MC: Edenvale Ennis. Royal Field Artillery. Awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry. (See Clare WW1 Individual Profiles)

Miss Norah Stacpoole held a collection for sandbags for the front in 1915.

New Hall
Margaret Cooke: Born in Tipperary, had worked in Newhall Ballyea. She died after the sinking of the RMS Leinster on the 10th October 1918.

Dr McDonnell from New Hall attended a meeting between Nationalists and Unionists in August 1914 in Carmody’s Hotel Ennis. The meeting was for the two traditions to pledge solidarity to one another during the Great War.

Mrs MacDonnell set up a fund for wounded soldiers in 1915. In Dec. 1915 she was elected to the Co Clare Prisoner Of War Aid Committee.
Old Clarehill Cemetery

Location: When you enter Clarecastle from Ennis take a right turn in the centre of the village, then take a left turn up Clare Hill Road. The Cemetery is located opposite the Roche Ireland car park, on the right.

Michael McMahon: Born in Sixmilebridge, lived in Clarecastle, died 20th Aug 1917 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, G/M on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium (Panel 144 to 145). Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. He is remembered on the family headstone in Clarehill Cemetery in Clarecastle, grave no. 62. Son of Pat and Kate McMahon Newmarket on Fergus, and husband of Mary McMahon Main Street, Clarecastle. Service Number 7049.

Death of Gallant Clare Castle Man.

We are sorry to have to announce the death in action, in France, on August 16th, of Pte Michael McMahon, of Clarecastle. His officer writes he was until the last man of his platoon, and proved by his bravery to be a most trustworthy and excellent soldier. "For his good work he was made a battalion gunner, and stayed at headquarters during our last tour. During a bombardment he was struck by a shell, and although he received medical aid at once, he died within an hour, and was buried at headquarters. His heroism made a most remarkable impression on those who knew him, and who attended him even to the very end. All who knew him mourn his loss. With deepest sympathy to his sorrowing wife and child. Nobby and bravely he died—D. P. Waghoe, 2nd Lieut."

Sept 1917
Tommy Kinnane joined the Royal Engineers and for two years was stationed in France. On his return on furlough he was arrested by the R.I.C. on a charge of a breach of the regulations in existence at the time – possession of a Sinn Fein flag. For this “offence” he was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment. While in prison, he contacted some prominent members of the I.R.A. and immediately on his release joined that organisation and was appointed to one of the Flying Columns where he gave remarkable service. His life-long ambition was achieved – his contribution to the fight for a free and united Ireland. In the course of his activities, he suffered the loss of an eye, and having retired from the military and political arena, spent the remainder of his days in the village he loved so well, and with the people who respected him and looked upon him as a brave soldier. (Eric Shaw)

I.R.A. Man's Memory Honoured at Unveiling Ceremony at Clarecastle

An unveiling ceremony, the first of its kind to be performed in Clarehill Cemetery, Clarecastle, was witnessed there on Sunday, [16 July 1950] when, in the presence of a large crowd of people a beautiful Celtic Cross was unveiled to the memory of the late Tommy Kinnane of the Mid-Clare Brigade, I.R.A. He died April 28th 1947.
**Location:** Killone Abbey and Graveyard lies 5km southwest of Ennis town, off the road to Kildysart. Take a right turn for Ballyhea, and then the next right down a track to the entrance gate, where you park. You have to walk to the graveyard which is attached to the beautiful Killone Abbey and lake, founded for nuns by Donald O’Brien, King of Limerick in 1190.

**John Barrett:** Ennis, died April 1917, French Army. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre (Silver Star). He was buried in France and is remembered in Killone Graveyard, Grave 73 on the east side of the graveyard close to the boundary wall.

**In loving memory of**

**Sylvester Barrett**
died on Good Friday 18th. April 1924.
His wife Johanna (nee Cotter) died 2nd. April 1943.

**John Barrett**
mort pour la France April 1917 and Elizabeth Barrett
 died July 1921. R.I.P.
Erected by family
**Killone Abbey and Graveyard**

**Michael Carrigg:** Clarecastle. New Zealand Army. Carrigg came home to Tiermaclane with shrapnel wounds and shell-shock and never worked again. He died and is buried in the family plot in Killone Abbey. He died on 10 Oct 1978 aged 84. (Eric Shaw)

**Michael Carrig,** a grand uncle of PJ, was a member of the New Zealand and Australian Expeditionary Force involved in World War One. PJ showed us one of the medals that he was awarded. With a couple of cousins, Kerins from Drumquin, he emigrated to New Zealand from Tiermaclane in the hope of getting land out there. Unfortunately for them, they were conscripted into the army and sent to the war in the Balkans in 1916. He is recorded on Category Nominal Roll Vol. 2, Regimental No. 21976. His next of kin was his mother Mrs. Carrigg, Tiermaclane, and his occupation was listed as Asylum Attendant. Colm, PJ's son, discovered that he was part of the Otago Infantry Battalion D Company NZEF 16th Reinforcements. D company left NZ on board the troopship NAVUA on 20 August 1916. He survived the War and came home to Tiermaclane to live for a while. He then moved to Limerick but was never able to work as he suffered from shrapnel in his leg and his mind was disturbed from his experience of the War. He is buried at Killone, in a Carrigg grave but his name was not added to the gravestone. (Eric Shaw)

**Lance Corporal Terence McMahon MM:** Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 16th Div. (5407 from the RMF Book) 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.** *(15/2/1917 in RMF Book)* This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. *(CJ)* L Corporal Terence McMahon. 8th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers 5407. Military Medal. (fold3.com)

After the War, Terence came to live in Barnageeha and died there on 8 November 1944, aged 73. His death was registered by his brother John, of Tullassa. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Killone Abbey. Fr O’Neill, the CC in Clarecastle, who attended the burial, carefully noted in the Parish Burial Register that Terence was a bachelor and put the note after the entry – C, De Guard, [Croix de guerre?], M.C., D.S.O. (Eric Shaw)
Clareabbey Augustinian Abbey and Cemetery

Location: The Cemetery is over three Kilometres, South of Ennis on the Limerick Road. In the same enclosure are the ruins of a 12th century Augustinian Abbey.

Pioneer Andrew Jones: Fahy’s Lane Ennis, died June 1916 age 47, 12th Labour Bn., Royal Engineers Unit. Buried in Clare Abbey Cemetery Ennis, grave no. 4, 5 metres from the South Boundary. Brother of Patrick Jones, Upper Jail St., Ennis, Co. Clare. Service Number 163594.

Born in Cahir, County Tipperary. Enlisted in Ennis. Died at home. Supplementary information: Brother of P. Jones, of Upper Jail St., Ennis, Co. Clare. Patrick and his brother Andrew Jones show up in the 1911 census with the Piggott family in number 6 Fahey's Lane, Ennis as boarders.
Individual Profiles

The 35 War Dead from Clarecastle and Ballyea – Named on the new Great War Memorial in Ennis
Corporal John (Jack) Joseph Barrett

John (Jack) Joseph Barrett: Born 2/5/1890 in Clarecastle, killed in action 20th April 1917, First Foreign Regiment, French Army, G/M in France. The Necrople Nationale of Le Bois du Puits. (TB) He is also remembered on a family headstone in Killone Abbey Cemetery in Clarecastle, and Heuston Station.

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.
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)

Bulls Road Cemetery.
Flers.
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France

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 Thomas Browne

Thomas Browne: Born in Clare Abbey Clarecastle, killed in action 22nd June 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5670, G/M in Loos France. (TB) ‘Killed by a shell in the front trench.’ CJ

Saint Patrick’s Cemetery, Loos
Loos-en-Gohelle
Departement du Pas-de-Calais
Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Plot: I. D. 5.

‘Whilst in the line (June 1916) the 8th Battalion was employed on clearing the trenches, reinforcing the parapets, strengthening shelters, wiring etc. The drummers of the Battalion sounded the “Last Post” at the memorial service for the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum held.. on June 13th 1916..... Casualties whilst in the Loos Sector, June 17th to July 3rd: Killed – 36; Wounded – 130.’

St. Patrick’s Cemetery was begun during the Battle of Loos (September 1915) by French and British troops, and used in 1916 very largely by the units of the 16th (Irish) Division.

There are now 583 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war commemorated in this cemetery.
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).
Lance Corporal William Carroll

William Carroll: Born in Killaloe lived in Edenvale Ennis, killed in action 2nd May 1915 age 24, 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers Household Cavalry 3961, G/M in Menin Gate, Ypres Belgium. Son of John and German born Mrs Augusta Carroll, of Edenvale near Ennis. Mrs Carroll had to report weekly to the RIC.

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

The Second Battle of Ypres (22nd April – 28th May 1915) began when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied
Fireman Richard Cole

Richard Cole: Lived on Mill Road Ennis, died 10th June 1917 age 23 on the SS Keeper, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England. Husband of Delia Cole. (TB) He is also remembered on the SS Keeper Monument in Clarecastle which was unveiled in 2017. (Eric Shaw)

SS Keeper

Among those drowned (12), were three sailors from Clare Castle, A.Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship

The SS Keeper, was on a voyage from Belfast to Limerick carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, when she was sunk by a German submarine UC-66 off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917.

The SS Keeper Monument was unveiled in Clarecastle in June 2017.

The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea.
Seaman Arthur Considine

Arthur Considine: Lived in Clarecastle, died 10th June 1917 on the SS Keeper (owned by J Bannatyne Limerick), Mercantile Marine Unit. G/M in England. (TB) He is also remembered on the SS Keeper Monument in Clarecastle which was unveiled in 2017. (Eric Shaw)

Among those drowned (12), were three sailors from Clare Castle, A. Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship The SS Keeper, was on a voyage from Belfast to Limerick carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, when she was sunk by a German submarine UC-66 off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917.

The SS Keeper Monument was unveiled in Clarecastle in June 2017.
Margaret Cooke: Born in Tipperary, had worked in Newhall Ballyea. She died after the sinking of the RMS Leinster on the 10th October 1918.

‘Margaret Cooke was born on 19 March 1885 in the townland of Marlhill in the parish of Ardfinnan, Co Tipperary. She was the third of thirteen children born to Walter Coote, a Labourer, and his wife Margaret Kiely.... in 1911 Margaret Cooke was working in the McDonnell household in Newhall, Ennis, Co Clare, with her sister Hannah, Margaret as Parlour Maid and Hannah as Cook........ When the Cooke sisters were at Newhall the Household consisted of the parents, five daughters and six servants, including a governess, numerous cats and, reputedly, a mermaid in the lake.

The McDonnells left Newhall about 1915 and were living on Ailesbury Road in Dublin in 1918, where Margaret Cooke continued to be employed by the family as Parlour Maid... The Cork Examiner reported that Margaret was engaged to be married, the event to take place on the 15th of October in England. Having bought her trousseau, she was travelling on RMS Leinster on the 10th.... Margaret survived the explosions and was rescued from the water and brought to hospital in Kingstown. Apparently she talked freely in the hospital about her experience, but, having suffered from exposure, she passed away within four hours.... Margaret’s remains were brought by train to Cahir, with the cortege then continuing to Whitechurch for the burial.’ (Lucille Ellis – The RMS Leinster Commemoration 1918-2018)

Shortly before 9.00 am on 10 October 1918 the RMS Leinster left Carlisle Pier, Kingstown, bound for Holyhead carrying 808 passengers, 76 crew and 22 postal sorters from Dublin Post Office. Of the passengers there were more than 180 civilians and 495 military personnel, going on, or returning, from leave. Just before 10.00 am, having travelled about sixteen miles, a torpedo fired from the German submarine UB-123 struck the port side causing an explosion, before ripping out through the starboard side. There were 567 casualties and only 241 survived.
Sapper Oliver Cusack

Sapper Oliver Cusack: Born in Thurles, lived in Clarecastle. He died of shrapnel wounds 28th June 1915 age 20 (possibly from the Battle Of Festurbet 15–25 May 1915 - 2nd Div), Royal Engineers 11th Field Coy 26169 (2nd Div), G/M in England. Son of Thomas and Margaret Cusack, of Clarecastle, Co. Clare.

Tottenham Cemetery
London Borough of Haringey
Greater London, England
Plot: Gen. 7337 (Screen Wall).

Tottenham Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Most of the 291 First World War graves are in a plot on the western side of the cemetery, backed by a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried both there and elsewhere in the cemetery, whose graves could not be individually marked.
David Gallery: Ballybeg. A driver in the US Army in France. In Feb 1919 he was awarded the French Military Medal. On June 9th 1918 he drove his ambulance to the entrance of a dressing station ‘in spite of the volleys of machine gun bullets fired from an advanced position, he loaded his ambulance with the regulation number of wounded (3), seated 3 at his side, and placed another on board the engine’. He drove away with ‘imperturbable calm’. Moments later the station was captured by the Germans. (SR) Died 1966 aged 78. ‘He was decorated three times, having received the Croix de Guerre twice, and having been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross.’

David Gallery from Ballybeg was my granduncle. His obit mentions he was decorated in the First World War.

‘Mr. David Gallery, who died at his home, 57 Avon Rd. Wellesley, Boston, USA, was a member of an old and respected County Clare family. He was aged 78 years and was the third son of the late Mr and Mrs David Gallery who farmed extensively at Ballybeg, Ennis. He was brother of the late George Gallery, who for years was Assistant Secretary of the Clare County Council. The late David Gallery left Ennis as a young man and was decorated for his services in the US Army during World War 1. He was a retired Police Officer and a member of Wellesley Post A.L.’ Clare Champion 23 July 1966. (Margaret Gallery)
Private 1st Class David A Gallery: Section 552 U.S. Army Ambulance Service with the French Army 8549. He departed Brest France on a journey to Holboken New Jersey on the 13th April 1919. His next of kin was his mother Minnie Gallery Ennis Co Clare. (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910-1939)

Driver David Gallery continued

Saint Marys Cemetery
Needham. Norfolk County
Massachusetts, USA
Plot: Section A, lot 94

Birth: March 13 1888 Ennis Co Clare
Death: June 14 1966 Norfolk County. Massachusetts, USA.
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)

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

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)
Francis Patrick Gordon DSC: Clarecastle, died of wounds 20th April 1918 (in the Battle of Seicheprey, April 20, 1918), US 103rd Field Artillery Regiment, 26th Division, G/M in France. (TB) He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest awards from the French and US Governments. A rare honour to win both. ‘He lost his life when he went out to rescue a Stamford companion named Wilson who had both his legs blown off. Gordon went out to carry him in when a shell took off one of his arms and the two men dropped to the ground and died moments later’. When found Wilson still had his arm around Gordon’s neck. Gordon’s father worked in the Ordnance House in Ennis.

The World War I St. Mhiel American Cemetery and Memorial in France, 40.5 acres in extent, contains the graves of 4,153 of military dead.
**John ‘Pal’ Horan**

John Pal Horan: Clarecastle. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers (4647). He won the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He survived the war. *(Eric Shaw)*

John ‘Pal’ Horan had joined the Clare Militia in 1894 for a soldiers pay of 9d a day, trained in Dover and Plymouth and served in the Coastal Defence Artillery at Queenstown in defence of Cork Harbour. He retired from the army as a reservist, but was called up in August 1914, at the start of the Great War. He was assigned to the 9th Battalion (and later the 1st) of the Munster Fusiliers and was sent to France in 1915 after some training in Buttevant County Cork. He took part in many engagements with the Germans, had numerous narrow escapes in the trenches and came through without any wounds. In 1917 he was transferred back to the Coastal Defence Artillery followed by the Labour Corps. He ended the war on the ground staff of the Royal Flying Corps. He was then 44 years old. *(Joe Power)*

These are the medals of John Pal Horan of the RMF 4647. Well, the top row is and the RMF cap badges as well as the Coronation medals of 1937 and 1952 at the bottom. The 5-star medal on the left is for John McMahon.

Curious cap badge for the KSLI (Kings Shropshire Light Infantry), I assume something that Pal picked up. The LDF medal bottom right is of 1941 won by his brother Michael. The picture is of Pal in his uniform. *(Eric Shaw)*
Private Daniel Howe

Daniel Howe: Born in Clarecastle, died of wounds 11th Aug 1918 age 26, possibly from the Battle of Amiens Aug 1918. Tank Corps 6th Bn 308723, G/M in France. (TB) He was also wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) (SR) Son of Mr & Mrs James Howe, Claremount, Clarecastle.

Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery
Departement de la Somme
Picardie, France Plot: II. AA. 9. There are now 2,142 Commonwealth servicemen of WW1 buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

The Whippet Mk A tank A347 "Firefly", of 6th Battalion Tank Corps.

Aug 1918 Clare Journal

When tanks were first used in action in 1916, they were operated by the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps. This constituted six companies. F Company became F Battalion of the Heavy Branch in November 1916, then F Battalion of the Tank Corps, then redesignated as 6th Battalion of the Tank Corps in January 1918. They used Whippet Mk A tanks.

Battle of Amiens which began on 8 August 1918, was the opening phase of the Allied offensive later known as the Hundred Days Offensive that ultimately led to the end of the First World War. Allied forces advanced over 11 kilometres (7 mi) on the first day, one of the greatest advances of the war, with Henry Rawlinson's British Fourth Army playing the decisive role (due to their tanks). Amiens was one of the first major battles involving armoured warfare and marked the end of trench warfare on the Western Front. The battle began in dense fog at 4:20 am on 8 August 1918. The French 1st Army began its advance 45 minutes later, supported by a battalion of 72 Whippet tanks.
Private Christopher Keane

Christopher Keane: Born in Clareabbey lived in Clarecastle, enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 4th June 1918, Highland Light Infantry 18th Battalion 43505, 35th Division, G/M in France. (TB)

Martinsart British Cemetery
Mesnil-Martinsart
Departement de la Somme. Picardie, France
Plot: I. D. 40.

The 35th Division was largely comprised of locally raised units known as “Bantams”, manned by troops who were under the normal regulation minimum height of 5 feet 3 inches. In late 1915 orders were received to kit for a move to Egypt but this was soon rescinded. On 28 January 1916 the Division began to cross the English Channel and by early on 6 February all units were concentrated east of St Omer. The Division then remained on the Western Front for the remainder of the war, including the The First Battle of Bapaume, a phase of the First Battles of the Somme in March 1918.

Martinsart British Cemetery was begun at the end of June 1916, and was used as a front-line cemetery until October 1916 and again in September 1918.

There are now 488 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the cemetery.

Photos – Keir McNamara
Private Thomas Keane

**Thomas Keane:** Born in Ennis, lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 23rd Nov 1914 age 25, 1st Bn. Connaught Rangers 8696, 3rd (Lahore) Division, G/M in France. Son of James and Bridget Keane, Clarecastle. (TB)

![Le Touret Memorial Richebourg-l'Avoue Departement du Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: Panel 43. Almost all of the 13,400 men commemorated on the Memorial were killed in actions along a part of the Western Front that was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of]

**Connaught Rangers 1st Battalion:** In August 1914 they were in Ferozepore, India. Part of the 7th (Ferozepore) Brigade in 3rd (Lahore) Division. They sailed from Karachi on 28 August 1914 as part of the Indian Corps and moved to France, landing at Marseilles on 26 September 1914.

In the winter that followed, the sector of the Lys became a "forgotten front" where soldiers suffered in the badly organized trenches, with mediocre supplies. The threat of death hung over them from the bullets of expert marksmen, unexpected mines, heavy shelling and the murderous attacks they were ordered to carry out on the lines of the enemy. Among the first confrontations of the war of position were the defence of Festubert by Indian troops on 23-24 November.
Private Michael M Lahiffe

Michael Lahiffe: Born in Carrowdotia South, Killimer, lived at Islandavanna, Tiermaclane, Ennis. Killed in action 9th May 1915 age 30 in Rue Du Bois at the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 5530, G/M on the Le Touret Memorial in France. Son of Patrick and Mary Lahiffe. (TB) Brother of James and Patrick.

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

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. Colonel Victor Rickard is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T. Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.
2nd Lieutenant George Wyndham Maunsell

2nd Lt George Wyndham (Lyndham) Maunsell: Born at Islandmagrath House, Clarecastle, died 23rd Feb 1917 age 28, Indian Army Reserve of Officers (2nd Queen Victoria’s Own Sappers and Miners), G/M in Iraq. An Executive Engineer. He died in Kut Mesopotamia. Son of Richard and Elizabeth Maunsell. (TB)

Wyndham was killed in the Battle of the River Tigris. ‘Your son was killed on the morning of 23rd February whilst working with my company of Sappers (Royal Engineers) on the crossing of the Tigris River at Shamran bend. We were working the centre of three ferries under very heavy shell and machine-gun fire. Your son was out on an exposed beach with the men, and with my other subalterns (2nd Lieutenants), organising the Sapper rowing parties embarking men of the 9th Gurkhas in the pontoons doing splendid work, when he was hit through the heart and died instantly.’ From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.

Basra Memorial Al Basrah
Basra, Iraq
Plot: Panel 43 and 65.

March 1917 Clare Journal

Islandmagrath in Clarecastle as it looks today. He is also remembered on a Memorial in St Columba’s Church in Ennis.
Private Joseph McCarthy

**Joseph McCarthy:** Born in Clarecastle Co Clare lived in Nenagh, killed in action 21st April 1915, in the **Battle of Hill 60** (17 April – 7 May 1915), Leinster Regiment 1st Bn 4195, 27th Division, G/M in Menin Gate Ypres Belgium.

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

The Leinster Regiment 1st Battalion arrived at Ypres on 2 April 1915, and took part in the **Battle of Hill 60** (17 April – 7 May 1915) south of Ypres. It was captured by the British on the 17th April. The Germans maintained a heavy bombardment of the hill and on the 20th April, attacked again mainly with bombing parties, before infantry assaults were attempted at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. German attacks continued into **21 April**, by when the hill had become a moonscape of overlapping shell-holes and mine craters.

The divisions of II Corps and V Corps simulated attack preparations on 21 April but on 22 April, British attention was diverted further north, where the French 45th Division was struck by the first German gas attack of the Second Battle of Ypres.

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

**William McCready** Born in Antrim, died 20th June 1917 age 31 on the **SS Keeper**, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England. She was sunk by a submarine. Husband of Delia Murphy from Clarecastle. (TB) He is also remembered on the SS Keeper Monument in Clarecastle which was unveiled in 2017. (Eric Shaw)

**Tower Hill Memorial**

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Greater London, England. The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea.

Among those drowned (12), were three sailors from Clare Castle, A. Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship The SS Keeper, was on a voyage from Belfast to Limerick carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, when she was sunk by a German submarine UC-66 off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917.

The SS Keeper Monument was unveiled in Clarecastle in June 2017.

**This Monument is dedicated to the memory of the four merchant seamen from Clare Castle who drowned when the SS Keeper was sunk off the northwest coast of Ireland by a German submarine on or about 10 June 1917 during World War I, 1914 – 1918**

**Captain William McCready Fireman Robert Cole Seaman Arthur Considine Fireman James McMahon**

Also remembered are all those who lost their lives in the River Fergus.
Fireman J McMahon: Lived in Clarecastle, died 10th June 1917 on the SS Keeper, Mercantile Mariner Unit, G/M in England. (TB) He is also remembered on the SS Keeper Monument in Clarecastle which was unveiled in 2017. (Eric Shaw)

Among those drowned (12), were three sailors from Clare Castle, A. Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship

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The SS Keeper Monument was unveiled in Clarecastle in June 2017.
Private James McMahon

James McMahon: Lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 15th May 1916 in the Hulluch Sector, Royal Munster Fusiliers 9th Bn 4625, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Anne McMahon, Craggaun, Clarecastle. (TB)

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

‘The next day (May 7th 1916) the 9th Battalion relieved the 8th Bn Royal Irish Fusiliers in the left half section of the Hulluch Sector.... On May 28th the Battalion was replaced in the 48th Brigade by the 1st Bn RMF...’

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

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

The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Servicemen who died after 16th August 1917 are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot. The MEMORIAL now bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
Lance Corporal Terence McMahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 5407 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 (15/2/1917 in RMF Book). This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ) His Service number 5407 was in the RMF History Book. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Killone Abbey.

Gallant Clare Soldier.

A local merchant this week received a letter from Lance-Cpl. T. McMahon, R.M.F., at present in hospital in Keighley, Yorkshire, from which we take the following extract—

"I have been in France since last Christmas, and my whole time has been taken up in the trenches. I am in hospital suffering from a bullet wound which I had in my last engagement at a place called Ginchy, where I was also recommended for the D.C.M., having already the Military Service Medal, and having had a parchment certificate from Colonel Montague Browne, for courageous conduct while under fire during a charge at Ginchy, the particulars of which I'll tell you in a letter later. As regards my wound, it is in the right leg. Of course the bullet has been removed, and I am now getting quite well, and hope to see you sometime before Christmas. The people here are very kind to us and bring us everything we want, so I have nothing to complain of. I have plenty of tales to tell when I see you."

Clare Journal Sept 1916

Russian Honour for Ennis Soldier.

A local merchant has given us a letter from Lance-Cpl. T. McMahon, of the Munsters, who hails from near Ennis, and recently was awarded the Russian military honour of the Cross of St George, equivalent to the British V.C. Writing from the War Hospital, at Keighley, Yorkshire, he says—

"... I am doing well, but very slow. My wound was a fracture of the bone, and it got bad again. ... I got the 'Free man' of the 12th inst., and looking over the report about the Irish Division, I was surprised to see my own name at the head of the list of honours. I got the Russian Honour of the Cross of St George, of the Second Class, which is equal to our V. C. We always have a lot of visitors here, and they are very kind, and are always bringing tobacco, cigarettes, fruit, eggs, cakes, etc., everything that's best. I have also got the parchment of the Military Medal..."

Clare Journal Oct 1916

‘The 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.’
Private Murphy (Grave/Memorial Unknown)


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

From the 21st October to the 12th November 1914 the 1st Irish Guards Battalion fought continuously in the first battle of Ypres, losing more than 700 men. From October 25th to the 26th, the focus of the German assaults came south. Attacking between Messines and Wytschaete, German forces succeeded in capturing both towns. The attack was ultimately halted on November 1 with help from French forces. After a pause, German forces made the last push against Ypres attacking along Menin Road. While German assaults continued for a few days, they were minor. Fighting flickered for five days before quieting down for the winter.

The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.
2nd Lieutenant Daniel Joseph O’Brien

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

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

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

Nov 1917 Sat Record

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

GALLANT CLARE OFFICER KILLED IN ACTION.

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

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

“I enclose a slip showing the disposition which has been made of his personal effects. If I can be of any use to you in giving you any information, or in any other way, I am sure you will be good enough to communicate me. With deepest sympathy, etc.”

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

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Private Cornelius O'Donoghue

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

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

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

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

John O’Donoghue: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. Wrote a letter from the front to the Clare Journal in May 1915. (CJ)

Interesting Letter From The Front

FROM CLARE CASTLE MAN.

“Pals” Not Divided In Death.

Brdr. John O’Donoghue, of the 61st Battery, R.F.A., who belongs to Clare Castle, has sent a letter to his mother in that place, the date being a very recent one, from which we extract the following:

“One of the cruellest incidents of the war happened yesterday. One of our gunners was sent back from the firing line to bring our letters from the supply depot. On his way back he was killed by a strapped shell. I was one of a party sent to bury him, and we had to take him to a cemetery near a big town. Just as we came near the gate four terrible big shells came tearing through the air and burst right in the burying ground, bursting open graves, and sending tombstones flying in the air. A civilian and his horse were killed, and several of our men were wounded. I dropped flat on the ground, with several others, and this saved us from the flying fragments of shell. We had hardly recovered from this shock when I could hear another shell coming tearing through the air. At this time I had hold of the stretcher with another man, and was trying to get under cover with the poor corpse when crash came the shell. This time I thought I must get hit as fragments flew all around. But God spoke before the Germans. He was protecting the bearers of the dead. They (the Germans) continued to shell the cemetery.

Clare Journal
May 1915

In January 1910 he was promoted to Major and in March 1915 to Lieutenant-Colonel. Actively employed in the Great War, he was successively Assistant Director of Medical Services, 2nd East African Division, East African Force, 23 February-31 March 1916; Assistant Director of Medical Services, Lines of Communications, East African Force, 10 December 1916-22 February 1918; Assistant Director of Medical Services, General Headquarters, East African Force, 23 February-31 May 1918 and Assistant Director of Medical Services, 18th Division, British Armies in France, 18 February 1919, and Acting Colonel. Having lost his Boer War medals, duplicates were issued on 14 April 1919. Colonel O’Gorman died on 11 May 1930. With copied research. O’Gorman, Lt.-Col. C.J., D.S.O., R.A.M.C. (LG 7th March 1918)

The Fighting in German East Africa.

LETTER FROM CLARE OFFICER

Mr T. A. O’Gorman, J.P., Cahercalla, Ennis, has just had a letter from his brother, Lt. Col. C. J. O’Gorman, R.A.M.C., D.S.O., who is with the British forces in German East Africa, from which we give an extract:

He writes—...I suppose you have seen in the papers about our general advance into German East Africa under General Smuts. Our advance started on the 7th March. On the 11th we had a big fight on the border of German East Africa, when we beat the Germans towards their own railway, Tanganyaki. We have Maschi now in our hands. My present headquarters are in B. E. A., near the border, but I was in G. E. A. today, making some medical arrangements for a brigade. I have to make arrangements to get all sick and wounded transported to the base from all brigades. The rains may stop active operations, but as soon as they are over, the pace will go on, as General Smuts is splendid. We all have great faith in him. We had 186 wounded on the 11th. Fighting started at 12 noon, and went on all the afternoon, and most of the night. All the work had to fall on one field ambulance until the morning of the 12th, when I got a second field ambulance up to assist. The field ambulance which had all the work was the one that I came out in command of from India in October, 1914. Some of my Field Ambulances I cannot move from want of transport, so I am carrying on with what I have, but will be pleased when they get their transport, as it is a very unhealthy country, and lots of sick, as well as the wounded. You will see more accounts of the war here now that General Smuts has got a move on. The great thing about General Smuts is that he says nothing and does a lot. ...
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.

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


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

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

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

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

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

Nov 1914 Clare Journal

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

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

By the end of ‘First Ypres’ on the 22 November 1914, the battalion had suffered over 700 casualties.
Bombardier Joseph Shank

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along Aubers ridge, reinforcing their positions with thick barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements.
Francis James Slattery: Darragh Ennis, died 9th Jan 1919, Royal Engineers Unit 8th Field Coy., G/M in Ballynacally (Kilchreest) Cemetery. Son of Thomas Slattery, of Fergus View, Darragh, Ennis. He was Mentioned in Despatches dated April 7th 1918 ‘for gallant and distinguished services in the field’. (TB) He contracted the Spanish Flu in London, while returning home, after being in a prisoner of war camp in Danholm for about nine months. His incarceration may have contributed to his death.

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

Sat Record Jan 1919
Lt. George Eric Guy Stacpoole DSO: Born in London Jan 1891, lived at Edenvale Ennis. Killed in action at St Eloi in Ypres 27th Jan 1915 age 23. Royal Irish Regiment 1st Bn, 27th Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB) A brother of R H Stacpoole MC. He was the great grandson of John de la Zouche Stacpoole (who fought at Waterloo). He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1915. (Joe Power)

Dickebusch Old Military Cemetery
Ypres (Ieper)
Arrondissement Ieper
West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
Plot: B. 10.

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

St Eloi: January 1915 was a month of rain, snow and floods, made worse for both sides by artillery-fire and sniping and the need for constant trench repairs. The British front was extended when the 27th Division and the 28th Division arrived in France and took over from the French XVI Corps. The British divisions had only 72 18-pounders between them and had to hold the front line with far more men to compensate, the French being able to defend an outpost line with 120 75 mm, 24 90 mm and six 120 mm guns.
Gunner James T Sullivan MM: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Medal for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 18\textsuperscript{th} July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dugout that was being shelled. (CJ) In a list published last week of men who were awarded the Military Medal appeared the name of Gunner J Sullivan RFA, a native of Clarecastle. Gunner Sullivan joined the Colours in Wales, and is attached to an English Regiment. He was awarded the medal for devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry while out repairing telephone poles on the 18\textsuperscript{th} July, near a place called Laventil. While an artillery observation post close by was being heavily shelled, he went to the rescue of a party who had been buried in a dug-out, and worked under continuous fire until he succeeded in rescuing those who were in danger. Gunner Sullivan was slightly wounded on this occasion, and the War Office authorities intimated to his people that though wounded, he remained on duty. Gunner Sullivan is to be congratulated on having so gallantly won the coveted distinction.’ Clare Champion Times Past Oct 28 2016.
Con Ahern: Born and lived in Ballyea. (Eric Shaw) Former RIC Constable in Newhall who served in WW1. (CJ)

Victor Edmund Arnold: Clarecastle. He was a Police Officer aged 29 when he enlisted in 1915 into the Grenadier Guards 32789. He had previously served with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. His wife was Mary Lynch from Clarecastle and they married in 1908. They had 4 children, Henry, Margaret, Patrick and Mary. They lived in Birmingham in 1914. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

John (Jack) Joseph Barrett: Clarecastle, killed in action 20th 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 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. He is buried in the Necrople Nationale of Le Bois du Puits, just off the D931 east of Reims. (TB)
BARRETT, JOHN JOSEPH. Rank: Caporal (Corporal.) Regiment or Service: 3e Regiment de Marche de la Regiment Etrangere. Date of Death: 20/04/1917. Age at Death: 27. Service No: 36421. Born in Ennis, County Clare. Enlisted in Dunkirk. Died for France (Genre de mort - Lit. killed by the enemy.) Supplementary information; Transferred in July 1915 to 2e Regiment de Marche de la 1er Regiment Etrangere in the Vosges mountains where he was to remain until September. Participated in the Battle of the Champagne, including the costly attack in the area of Navarin Farm on 28th September 1915. On 11th November 1915 (following the amalgamations), he transferred to the 1er battaillon 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 Auberville (20th April) along with 21 other ranks and 1 officer. Grave or Memorial Reference: The French soldiers who died in this engagement are buried in the Necrople Nationale of Le Bois du Puits, just off the D931 east of Reims. Tom Burnell

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.

Private Thomas Browne: Born in Clare Abbey Clarecastle, killed in action 22nd June 1916 near Loos, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn, G/M in Loos France. (TB) ‘Killed by a shell in the front trench.’ CJ The sad news of his having fallen on the field of battle, was conveyed to his sister, Mrs McMahon, of Ballygreene, Newmarket-on-Fergus, by Lieutenant Hugh M. V. O’Brien (Ballyalla) “I am extremely sorry to have to tell you of the death of your brother, Pte Thomas Browne, C Company, 8th R. M. F. he was killed by a German shell on the 22nd of this month in the front trench, and has been buried in a soldier’s graveyard. He was a very good boy, and we shall all miss him. Sergeant O’Connor, of Newcastle West, who was his platoon Sergeant, tells me he would sooner have lost a brother. He was killed instantly, and so suffered no pain. He was a credit to the county Clare, and the Munsters.” Tom Burnell
‘Whilst in the line (June 1916) the Battalion was employed on clearing the trenches, reinforcing the parapets, strengthening shelters, wiring etc. The drummers of the Battalion sounded the “Last Post” at the memorial service for the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum held.. on June 13th 1916...... Casualties whilst in the **Loos Sector, June 17th to July 3rd**: Killed – 36; Wounded – 130.’

**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) **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).

**Molly Callaghan:** Clarecastle. Her husband was killed while serving with the US Army in France. She remained a war widow for the rest of her life. **Joe Power**

**Private Michael Carrigg:** Clarecastle. New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Carrigg came home to Tiermaclane with shrapnel wounds and shell-shock and never worked again. Died and is buried in the family plot in Killone Abbey. He died on 10 Oct 1978 aged 84. (Eric Shaw) Born in Sept 1888. He was an Asylum Attendant 21976 (6’ 2”) when he enlisted in May 1916 into the Machine Gun Corps in Wellington. He was wounded in action in June 1917. His mother was Mrs Mary Carrigg Tiermaclane, Ennis. (WW1 Archives-New Zealand)

**William Carroll:** Born in Killaloe lived in Edenvale, killed in action 2nd May 1915 in the Second Battle of Ypres (22nd April – 28th May 1915) age 24. 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers Household Cavalry 3961. G/M in Menin Gate Ypres Belgium. (TB) Son of John and German born Mrs Augusta Carroll, Edenvale near Ennis. Mrs Carroll had to report weekly to the RIC.

‘It was on Sunday May 2nd, and we were preparing to be relieved from our trenches where we were reserved. At about 5.30 in the evening the enemy made an attack with poison gases (which no doubt you have heard about). Our infantry were overcome by the fumes, and we were ordered to advance to take their places. As we were advancing the shells fell very quick, and our squadrons happened to catch the brunt of the fire. Will was knocked over by one shell and was trying to rise when another came and killed him on the spot... It was impossible to get a message from him, as he was dead when we found him, but I know he had your photo with him...’ L/C Musgrave Clare Champion May 1915.
Mick Coffey: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Richard Cole: died June 1917 age 23 on the SS Keeper (owned by J Bannatyne Limerick), Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England. (TB) Among those drowned were three sailors from Clare Castle, A. Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, who was married to a woman from Clare Castle, Delia Murphy, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship the SS Keeper, carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, which was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917. (Dr Joe Power)

2nd Mate Robert Cole: Clarecastle Co Clare. Merchant Navy 95328 during 1915 on the Lavinia. Age 22. (http://1915crewlists.rmg.co.uk)

Private John Collins: Clarecastle. Transport Company, South Irish Horse in France. A brother of Patrick Collins. (British Army WW1 Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Patrick Collins: Clarecastle. He was aged 18 when he enlisted in 1917. South Irish Horse 2623. He was a brother of John Collins who also served in WW1. (British Army WW1 Service Records @ ancestry.com)

Arthur Considine: Clarecastle, died June 1917 on the SS Keeper (owned by J Bannatyne Limerick), Mercantile Marine Unit. G/M in England. (TB) Among those drowned were three sailors from Clare Castle, A. Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, who was married to a woman from Clare Castle, Delia Murphy, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship. The SS Keeper, carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, which was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917. (Joe Power)‘In a claim by Mrs Margaret Considine for the loss of her husband, £300 was lodged in Court, and his Honor remarked that nothing could be more fair, honourable, or generous than the way in which the applicants were met.’ Limerick Chronicle, October, 1917. (Tom Burnell)

**Margaret Cooke:** Born in Tipperary, had worked in Newhall Ballyea. She died after the sinking of the RMS Leinster on the 10th October 1918. *Margaret Cooke was born on 19 March 1885 in the townland of Marlhill in the parish of Ardfinnan, Co Tipperary. She was the third of thirteen children born to Walter Coote, a Labourer, and his wife Margaret Kiely. In 1911 Margaret Cooke was working in the McDonnell household in Newhall, Ennis, Co Clare, with her sister Hannah, Margaret as Parlour Maid and Hannah as Cook. When the Cooke sisters were at Newhall the Household consisted of the parents, five daughters and six servants, including a governess, numerous cats and, reputedly, a mermaid in the lake.*

The McDonnells left Newhall about 1915 and were living on Ailesbury Road in Dublin in 1918, where Margaret Cooke continued to be employed by the family as Parlour Maid. The Cork Examiner reported that Margaret was engaged to be married, the event to take place on the 15th of October in England. Having bought her trousseau, she was travelling on RMS Leinster on the 10th. Margaret survived the explosions and was rescued from the water and brought to hospital in Kingstown. Apparently she talked freely in the hospital about her experience, but, having suffered from exposure, she passed away within four hours. Margaret’s remains were brought by train to Cahir, with the cortege then continuing to Whitechurch for the burial. (Lucille Ellis – The RMS Leinster Commemoration 1918-2018)

Shortly before 9.00 am on 10 October 1918 the RMS Leinster left Carlisle Pier, Kingstown, bound for Holyhead carrying 697 passengers, 76 crew and 22 postal sorters from Dublin Post Office. Of the passengers there were more than 180 civilians and 495 military personnel, going on, or returning, from leave. Just before 10.00 am, having travelled about sixteen miles, a torpedo fired from the German submarine UB-123 struck the port side causing an explosion, before ripping out through the starboard side. There were 567 casualties and only 241 survived.

**Sapper Oliver Cusack:** Born in Thurles, lived in Clarecastle, he died of shrapnel wounds 28th June 1915 (possibly from the Battle Of Festurbet 15–25 May 1915) age 20 in Edmonton Hospital, Royal Engineers 11th Field Coy (2nd Div), G/M in England. (TB)

‘Our obituary columns to-day contain the announcement of the death of Sapper O Cusack, R. E., which took place in a London Hospital on Monday last as the result of wounds received whilst fighting “somewhere in France.” Deceased, who was only in his twentieth year, was, after leaving school, appointed as junior in the office of the Ordnance Survey Department in Ennis, and some time ago when changes were about to take place in that Department, young Cusack, with a number of his colleagues, joined the Corps of the R. E. Since the beginning of the war he has been practically at the front, and his letters home to his people were always most cheery, the last one received being from Edmonton Hospital in London, where he had just arrived, and in which he described the wounds he had received from the shrapnel of the Huns.’ Clare Journal, July-1915. Tom Burnell
The Battle of Festubert was an attack by the British army in the Artois region of France on the western front during World War I. The offensive formed part of a series of attacks by the French Tenth Army and the British First Army in the Second Battle of Artois (3 May – 18 June 1915).

Private Arthur Francis Desborough: Clarecastle. Australian Infantry. (Al) MA (Service number-5378 Eric Shaw) He was a Baker aged 38 when he enlisted in 1916 in Molong NSW into the 46th Bn. 5378. He was married to Kathleen Desborough Wiltshire England. He served in France.

Private James Fitzpatrick: Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded July 1916. (CJ) 8/4327 8th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. This Battalion landed in Le Harve on the 18th Dec 1915, and was disbanded on 23rd Nov 1916 and absorbed into the 1st Bn. (Eddie Lough & Eric Shaw)

Sergeant 1st Class Peter Fitzpatrick: Born in Clarecastle on the 21st June 1887. Lived in New York City. He was aged 31 when he enlisted on the 25th July 1918 into 152 Dep Brigade and later to Ref Pl Co 502 (4142716). He served abroad from Sept 1918 to Oct 1919. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919)


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

John Joe Frost: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

David Gallery: Ballybeg. A driver in the US Army in France. In Feb 1919 he was awarded the French Military Medal.

On June 9th 1918 he drove his ambulance to the entrance of a dressing station ‘in spite of the volleys of machine gun bullets fired from an advanced position, he loaded his ambulance with the regulation number of wounded (3), seated 3 at his side, and placed another on board the engine’. He drove away with ‘imperturbable calm’. Moments later the station was captured by the Germans. (SR) Died 1966 aged 78. ‘He was decorated three times, having received the Croix de Guerre twice, and having been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross.’ Clare Champion Aug 1919.

Private 1st Class David A Gallery: Section 552 U S Army Ambulance Service with the French Army 8549. He departed Brest, France on a journey to Holboken New Jersey on the 13th April 1919. His next of kin was his mother Minnie Gallery Ennis Co Clare. (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910-1939)

‘David Gallery from Ballybeg was my granduncle. His obit mentions he was decorated in the second world war. Clare Champion 23 July 1966: ‘Mr. David Gallery, who died at his home, 57 Avon Rd. Wellesley, Boston, USA, was a member of an old and respected County Clare family. He was aged 78 years and was the third son of the late Mr and Mrs David Gallery who farmed extensively at Ballybeg, Ennis. He was brother of the late George Gallery, who for years was Assistant Secretary of the Clare County Council. The late David Gallery left Ennis as a young man and was decorated for his services in the US Army during World War 1. He was a retired Police Officer and a member of Wellesley Post A.L. Mr. Gallery is survived by his wife Agnes (Shea) Gallery, widow, Wellesley, Boston; Mr Christopher Gallery, Doonogan, Mullagh, brother; Mrs Josephine Glynn and Miss Emily Gallery, Ennis, sisters; George Gallery MRCVS, Ennis, Christopher, Sean and Tony Glynn, Ennis and Christopher Gallery, Doonogan, nephews; Mrs Liam Clarke, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Mrs Donal Courtney, Killarney, Mrs Tim Flanagan, Ennis, Mrs Bill Barry, Tuam, Mrs C McCarthy, Mullagh, nieces. His death, which came suddenly, was a great shock to his many friends and relatives in Clare.’ (Margaret Gallery)

Private Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clare Commons Clarecastle, killed in action Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776 (1st Div). G/M in Thiepval France. 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; 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)
Corporal Francis Patrick Gordon DSC: Clarecastle, died of wounds 20th April 1918 (in the Battle of Seicheprey, April 20, 1918), US army, 103rd Field Artillery (26th Div), G/M in France. (TB) He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest awards from the French and US Governments. A rare honour to win both.

‘He lost his life when he went out to rescue a Stamford companion named Wilson who had both his legs blown off. Gordon went out to carry him in when a shell took off one of his arms and the two men dropped to the ground and died moments later’. When found Wilson still had his arm around Gordons neck. Gordon’s father worked in the Ordnance House in Ennis. (SR)

‘It will interest the many friends locally of the late Corporal Frank. P. Gordon to know that the Croix de Guerre, the highest prize within the gift of the French Government for heroic service, was posthumously conferred upon him, and also, that the United States Government conferred upon him the highest award for bravery in battle distinguished service cross. These two awards are unusual honours to be received by one man. Corporal Gordon voluntarily went to the succour of a wounded comrade and died in the act.’ Saturday Record, October-1918. Tom Burnell.

Battle of Seicheprey, April 20, 1918, US 26th Infantry Division: The American Expeditionary Force fought one of its earliest World War I engagements at the tiny hamlet of Seicheprey, France on April 20, 1918. It was a surprise battle, at least as far as the Americans were concerned. They weren’t expecting a fight when the Germans struck at them from the north in the wee hours of the morning. In front of the Germans was the US 26th Infantry Division. As the Germans moved south, their brunt of their attack fell on the 102nd Regiment largely constituted of brave young men from Connecticut. As the Stormtroopers flowed into and around Seicheprey, the Americans fell back in disarray, taking heavy casualties. The fighting became progressively fiercer and culminated in desperate hand to hand combat and grisly bayonet thrusts. From the 102nd Infantry Regiment, practically everyone got involved including the cooks and the marching band. Eventually the Americans counter-attacked and were able to regain Seicheprey by later in the afternoon. The reality was that the Stormtrooper tactics had carried the day, and that the Americans had been trounced and given a humiliating bloody nose. And the village was left in ruins with not a single building or tree left intact.

At least 80 Americans of the 102nd Infantry were buried in the village in the immediate aftermath of the battle.

John Pal Horan: Clarecastle. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers from Nov 1915 to Sept 1917. (4647). He took part in many engagements with the Germans, had numerous narrow escapes in the trenches and came through without any wounds. He won the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He ended the war on the ground staff of the Royal Flying Corps. He was then 44 years old. (Eric Shaw)
John Horan: Clarecastle. He was a labourer aged 38 when he enlisted in 1915 into the Labour Corps 368069 and later with the 8th RMF in May 1915 and the 1st RMF in Nov 1915. He rejoined the Labour Corps in Sept 1917. He was married to Ellen Horan and they had three children Michael, Margaret and Helen. (British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Daniel Howe: Clarecastle, died of wounds 11th Aug 1918 age 26, possibly from the Battle of Amiens Aug 1918, Tank Corps 6th Bn 3767, G/M in France. (TB) D Howe: Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Also wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ)(SR) Son of Mrs James Howe, Claremount, Clarecastle. ‘The War Office has just informed Mrs J Howe, Claremount, Clare Castle, of the death of her son, Daniel, son France. Reverend Bullock, C. F. , Chaplain, writes that the poor young man received the last Sacraments of Mother Church and all the rites of burial. His belongings were to be forwarded home. Reverent Captain M. J. Pickett, Chaplain, writes that he was a “good boy, a brave and courageous soldier—a boy to be proud of.” Saturday Record and Clare Journal, May, 1918 – Tom Burnell

The Battle of Amiens which began on 8 August 1918, was the opening phase of the Allied offensive later known as the Hundred Days Offensive that ultimately led to the end of the First World War. Allied forces advanced over 11 kilometres (7 mi) on the first day, one of the greatest advances of the war, with Henry Rawlinson's British Fourth Army playing the decisive role (due to their tanks). Amiens was one of the first major battles involving armoured warfare and marked the end of trench warfare on the Western Front; fighting becoming mobile once again until the armistice was signed on 11 November 1918. The battle began in dense fog at 4:20 am on 8 August 1918. Under Rawlinson's Fourth Army, the British III Corps attacked north of the Somme, the Australian Corps to the south of the river in the centre of Fourth Army's front, and the Canadian Corps to the south of the Australians. The French 1st Army under General Debeney opened its preliminary bombardment at the same time, and began its advance 45 minutes later, supported by a battalion of 72 Whippet tanks.

Thomas Howe: Claremount, Clarecastle. Lived in Ontario Canada. He was on the ill fated Lusitania. Local story says that he was on his way home to get married. Lost and not found as far as I can find out. (Eric Shaw) The sinking of the Lusitania enraged Americans and hastened the United States’ entrance into World War I. A total of 1,959 people were on board and, of those who died, 128 were Americans. All ships heading to Britain were instructed to be on the lookout for U-boats. However, Captain William Thomas Turner slowed the Lusitania down because of fog and travelled in a predictable line. The ocean liner was renowned for its luxurious accommodations and speed.

Lt Lane-Joynt: Carnelly, Clarecastle. He was cited for bravery. (Dr Joe Power)
Christopher Keane: Born in Clareabbey lived in Clarecastle, enlisted in Ennis, killed in action 4th June 1918, Highland Light Infantry 18th Battalion 43505, 35th Division, G/M in France. (TB)

The 35th Division was largely comprised of locally raised units known as “Bantams”, manned by troops who were under the normal regulation minimum height of 5 feet 3 inches. In late 1915 orders were received to kit for a move to Egypt but this was soon rescinded. On 28 January 1916 the Division began to cross the English Channel and by early on 6 February all units were concentrated east of St Omer. The Division then remained on the Western Front for the remainder of the war, including the The First Battle of Bapaume, a phase of the First Battles of the Somme in March 1918.

Private Peter Keane: Clarecastle & Ballyea. Irish Guards (11317). (Eric Shaw)

Thomas Keane: Born in Ennis, lived in Clarecastle, killed in action 23rd Nov 1914 age 25, 1st Bn. Connaught Rangers 8696, 3rd (Lahore) Division, G/M in France. Son of James and Bridget Keane, Clarecastle. (TB)

Connaught Rangers 1st Battalion: In August 1914 they were in Ferozepore, India. Part of the 7th (Ferozepore) Brigade in 3rd (Lahore) Division. They sailed from Karachi on 28 August 1914 as part of the Indian Corps and moved to France, landing at Marseilles on 26 September 1914. In the winter that followed, the sector of the Lys became a “forgotten front” where soldiers suffered in the badly organized trenches, with mediocre supplies. The threat of death hung over them from the bullets of expert marksmen, unexpected mines, heavy shelling and the murderous attacks they were ordered to carry out on the lines of the enemy. Among the first confrontations of the war of position were the defence of Festubert by Indian troops on 23-24 November.

John Patrick Kelly: Born in Claremont (Clarecastle) 19th April 1881. Royal Naval Reserve Service S4520. (UK Royal Naval Reserve Service Records Index, 1860 - 1955) There are over 148,000 records for this period. Predominantly these cover the First World War (1914-1918)- The National Archives.

Thomas Kelly: Clarecastle, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9373 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval, France. (TB) Was taken prisoner in Etreux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany. POW Dec 1915 (CJ)
'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...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.

Tell the Hynes in Ennis that their son is all right. A brother of Paddy Moroney’s that works at Howard’s in Ennis, is all right also. We are kept as prisoners of war by the Germans until the war is over. The German soldiers are very nice people. They are giving us all the privileges they can, and plenty to eat. I will be sorry to leave them, I think, when we are leaving.... But won’t I be delighted when I am on the boat for England again. Pray for my safe return, soon, and sound. You can imagine what it is to be a prisoner of war. I shall laugh when I’ll be telling ye by word of mouth.... I have a terrible story to tell ye when I get home, ...I can’t give ye any address, being a prisoner. Cheer up as I am as happy and cheerful as can be.” Clare Journal, November 1914. Tom Burnell

Willie Kelly: Ennis Road, Clare Abbey, Clarecastle. ‘A veteran of the Great War, who lived at Clare Castle until the 1960s.’ Joe Power

M Kinnane: Clarecastle. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4547. On the wounded list in May 1918. [SR] Only one M Kinnane in the RMF.[Listed as 8 Bn. and then 1 Bn.] On November 23rd 1916 the 8th Battalion amalgamated with the 1st Bn RMF. Eddie Lough

Tommy Kinnane: Clarecastle. He joined the Royal Engineers and for two years was stationed in France. On his return on furlough he was arrested by the R.I.C. on a charge of a breach of the regulations in existence at the time – possession of a Sinn Fein flag. For this “offence” he was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.
While in prison, he contacted some prominent members of the I.R.A. and immediately on his release joined that organisation and was appointed to one of the Flying Columns where he gave remarkable service. His life-long ambition was achieved – his contribution to the fight for a free and united Ireland. In the course of his activities, he suffered the loss of an eye, and having retired from the military and political arena, spent the remainder of his days in the village he loved so well, and with the people who respected him and looked upon him as a brave soldier. (Eric Shaw)

James Lahiffe: Islandavanna, Tiermaclane, Clarecastle. Brother of Patrick and Michael who died in 1915 and Patrick. (Eric Shaw)


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

Private Patrick Lahiffe: Islandavanna, Tiermaclane, Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Brother of Michael (2nd Bn) who died and James. Born in Killimer. (Eric Shaw) The only P Lahiffe is in the RFA. on MRI Cards. [Not found in RMF records]

Jim Long: Ballincollig, Cork. Royal Army Medical Corps. ‘Sgt Long served as a stretcher-bearer with the 37th and 5th Divisions in France and Belgium during the Great War, and was gassed at Douai in 1917.’ After the war he was a Garda Sergeant stationed in Clarecastle. Joe Power & Eric Shaw

Private Francis Benedict MacMaster: Clarecastle. Canadian Infantry. (Cl) (Eric Shaw) Francis Benedict MacMaster: Born 21/12/1892 in Clarecastle. He lived in Winnipeg. He was a Student when he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force 475274 in 1915.
His next of kin was his sister Mary Josephine Barry, Clarecastle. (Brother of Joseph Hassell MacMaster) (Canada, Soldiers of the First World War 1914-1918. Ancestry.com) Original overseas unit 4th University Company. Joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in the field December 31, 1916. Wounded April 9, 1917. Struck off strength April 14, 1917. Subsequently became a Cadet with the Royal Air Force. Though he survived the war the family has no further details of his life after 1918. (Francis Barry)


He was a Draper aged 35 when he enlisted in Dec 1916 in Brisbane into the 23rd Reinforcements 5th Light Horse Regiment. His sister was Mrs Gerty Barry Clarecastle. He served in the Middle East. (Brother of Francis Benedict MacMaster above)(UNSW) Discharged 18 July 1919. Cause of death 15/5/1924. Acute Alcoholism, Gastritus, Acetonaemia, Heart Failure at Dunelin Private Hospital, Moreton St., New Farm, Brisbane. Buried at Toowong Cemetery, Corner Fredrick St and Mount Coot-Thy-Road Brisbane. Grave Ref: UBD Ref; Map158 N13 Portion 7A Section 182 Grave No 19. Note: His mother was Ellen Hassett. Her sister was a matron in the County Home circa 1905. (Francis Barry)

2nd Lt George Wyndham Maunsell: Islandmagrath House, Clarecastle, died Feb 1917 age 28, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, G/M in Iraq. He was an Excecutive Engineer with the 2nd Queen Victoria’s Own Sappers and Miners. He died in Kut Mesopotamia. (TB)(CJ) Wyndham was killed in the Battle of the River Tigris.

‘Your son was killed on the morning of 23rd February whilst working with my company of Sappers (Royal Engineers) on the crossing of the Tigris River at Shamran bend. We were working the centre of three ferries under very heavy shell and machine-gun fire. Your son was out on an exposed beach with the men, and with my other subalterns (2nd Lieutenants), organising the Sapper rowing parties embarking men of the 9th Gurkhas in the pontoons doing splendid work, when he was hit through the heart and died instantly.’ From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.

2nd Lieutenant George Wyndham Mansell ‘The sad intelligence has been received that this young officer, 12th Company, Queen Victoria’s Own Sappers and Miners, Indian Army Reserve, was killed in action on the Tigris on February 23rd last aged 28 years. He was eldest and only surviving son of R Maunsell, Esq. The Island, Clarecastle, and cousin of Reverend J. R. Kellett, B. A, Carlow. He was educated at the Abbey School, Tipperary. Obtained his degree B. A. I. T. C. D. October, 1911. Was appointed to the position of Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, India, October 1913. Volunteered for Active Service 1914, obtained his Commission 1916, and after training was drafted to Mesopotamia.’ Carlow Sentinel, March, 1917. Tom Burnell
John McAllister: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Joseph McCarthy: Born in Co Clare (Clarecastle) lived in Nenagh, killed in action 21st April 1915 in the Battle of Hill 60 (17 April – 7 May 1915), Leinster Regiment 1st Bn 4195, 27th Division, G/M in Menin Gate Ypres Belgium. (TB)

The Leinster Regiment 1st Battalion arrived at Ypres on 2 April 1915, and took part in the Battle of Hill 60 (17 April – 7 May 1915) south of Ypres. It was captured by the British on the 17th April. The Germans maintained a heavy bombardment of the hill and on the 20th April, attacked again mainly with bombing parties, before infantry assaults were attempted at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. German attacks continued into 21 April, by when the hill had become a moonscape of overlapping shell-holes and mine craters. The divisions of II Corps and V Corps simulated attack preparations on 21 April but on 22 April, British attention was diverted further north, where the French 45th Division was struck by the first German gas attack of the Second Battle of Ypres.

William McCready: Born in Antrim, died 20th June 1917 age 31 on the SS Keeper, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England.She was sunk by a submarine.Husband of Delia Murphy from Clarecastle.(TB)

The SS Keeper, was on a voyage from Belfast to Limerick carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, when she was sunk by a German submarine UC-66 off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917. Among those drowned were three sailors from Clare Castle, A.Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship.

Firemen J McMahon: Lived in Clarecastle, died 10th June 1917 on the SS Keeper, Mercantile Mariner Unit, G/M in England. (TB)

The SS Keeper, was on a voyage from Belfast to Limerick carrying grain for Bannatyne’s of Limerick, when she was sunk by a German submarine UC-66 off the coast of Antrim on 10th June 1917. Among those drowned were three sailors from Clare Castle, A.Considine, R. Cole and J McMahon, along with the captain, William McCready, besides eight others aboard the merchant ship.
‘At the Ennis Quarter Session, before his Honour, Judge Bodkin, K.C., some cases were heard in which compensation was claimed for the loss of lives of men of the SS ‘Keeper,’ lost while on its way from Liverpool to Limerick in June last. The respondents in the several cases were the well known firm of Mr Bannatyne and Sons, Limerick, who were represented by Mr J S Gaffney, C.S, Limerick. Mrs Mary Anne McMahon, and her husband Michael claimed in respect of their son James. The evidence of Mrs McMahon was that deceased was for twelve months on the ‘Keeper.’ He was the chief support, as her husband was employed at 8s 6d a day for dry days only. There were eight children. His Honor awarded £200, and £2 2s costs.’ Limerick Chronicle, October, 1917. Tom Burnell

Jack McMahon: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

James McMahon: Clarecastle, killed in action 15th May 1916 in the Hulluch Sector, Royal Munster Fusiliers 9th, G/M in France. Son of Mrs Anne McMahon Craggaun Clarecastle. (TB) James McMahon: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

‘The next day (May 7th 1916) the 9th Battalion relieved the 8th Bn Royal Irish Fusiliers in the left half section of the Hulluch Sector…. On May 28th the Battalion was replaced in the 48th Brigade by the 1st Bn RMF…’

Sergeant John Joe McMahon: A village blacksmith in Clarecastle. He seems to have initially enlisted with the Munsters but transferred to the Royal Irish Regiment. He was 42 when he enlisted. He survived the war and lived on here until his death in 1960. I remember him as an old man with a flat cap. He served briefly with the Irish Army during the Emergency and got a medal from that. He got a Soldiers & Sailors house in Clarecastle. Eric Shaw

Corporal John Joseph McMahon: Clarecastle. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers (6472) (and also in the 1st RMF). He won the 1914-1915 Star. He survived the war. (Eric Shaw)

Michael McMahon: Born in Sixmilebridge, lived in Clarecastle, died of wounds 20th Aug 1917 age 25, Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1st Bn 40124, 29th Div, G/M in Belgium. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of Pat and Kate McMahon, and husband of Mary (Taylor) McMahon (she remained a war widow for the rest of her life), Main Street, Clarecastle. (TB)

‘For his good work he was made a Battalion gunner and stayed at Headquarters during our last tour. During a bombardment he was struck by a shell, and although he received medical aid at once, he died within an hour, and was buried at Headquarters.’ D P Wagner 2nd Lt. (Sat Record Sept 1917)
Clarecastle & Ballyea

Paddy McMahon: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Lance Corporal Terence McMahon MM: Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 16th Div. (5407 from the RMF Book) 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. (15/2/1917 in RMF Book) This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 pages 103 and 112.

‘The 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.’

Terry McMahon: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

1602 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 15 FEBRUARY, 1917

Medal of St. George, 2nd Class. 8/5407 Lance-Corporal Terence McMahon, Royal Munster Fusiliers.

When we were mounting the Great War exhibition during Heritage Week 2015, I was shown two medals from the Great War. The name T. McMahon appeared on the medals and there were also a Black & Tan Old IRA medal and 50th Old IRA Anniversary Medal 1921-1971 for Thomas McMahon. It was only afterwards I noticed that the Great War medals were from two different regiments. I have since discovered that one of the medals belonged to Terence McMahon, RMF 5407. The two McMahons, Terence and Tom, were not related but may have been friends. Terence predeceased Tom and perhaps left the medal to him. Terence McMahon was born in Tullassa on 8 August 1870. He joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers and was wounded at Ginchy in September 1916, where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the Military Service Medal and Parchment Certificate ‘for courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy’. In October 1916, he was also awarded The Russian Cross of St. George 2nd Class. This is one of the highest Russian honours and is the equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

After the War, Terence came to live in Barnageeha and died there on 8 November 1944, aged 73. His death was registered by his brother John, of Tullassa. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Killone Abbey. Fr O’Neill, the CC in Clarecastle, who attended the burial, carefully noted in the Parish Burial Register that Terence was a bachelor and put the note after the entry – C, De Guard, [ Croix de guerre?], M.C., D.S.O. (Eric Shaw)
L/Corporal McMahon is not listed as being a recipient of the Military Medal in the actual appendices to McCance but I see that at page 200 of Vol 2 of McCance it states that on the 7th August 1916 the Military medal was presented to L/Corp. McMahon by GOC 1st Corps and was one of 9 MM/s presented that day. The L.G. date is the date that the award is published and not the date of the event for which the Medal of St. George was awarded. It would occur at some considerable time before the gazetted date. Such awards often mirrored British gallantry awards and so it is most likely that he was awarded the Cross of St. George for the same action for which he was awarded the MM. The effect of being gazetted was that the recipient was entitled officially entitled both to accept and to wear the award.

**Corporal Thomas McMahon**: Clarecastle. Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers (480). (Eric Shaw) On the 5-point medal is clearly seen – 5407, Pte. T. McMahon, R. Muns. Fus. On the rim of the silver medal as far as I could read is: 480 CPL. T. McMahon R.In. Fus. The medals are supposed to belong to the same person, a man who survived the war. (Eric Shaw)

There were also a Black & Tan Old IRA medal and 50th Old IRA Anniversary Medal 1921-1971 for Thomas McMahon. It was only afterwards I noticed that the Great War medals were from two different regiments.

I have since discovered that one of the medals belonged to Terence McMahon, RMF 5407. The two McMahons, Terence and Tom, were not related but may have been friends. Terence predeceased Tom and perhaps left the medal to him. (Eric Shaw)

The medals for Thomas McMahon are a British War Medal 1914-1918, a Black & Tan Old IRA medal and a 50th Old IRA Anniversary Medal 1921-1971. (Eric Shaw)

**Thomas McMahon**: Ballyea. He drowned on August 15th 1915 on the SS Arabic. The 15,800 ton White Star liner S S Arabic was going from Liverpool to New York, when it was torpedoeed by the U-24 and sank off the Fastnet. It floated for only eleven minutes after the attack. Arabic was the first White Star Line ship to be lost in World War I. Forty-four lives were lost (3 were American) and 390 were saved. American reaction to the Arabic sinking was the proximate cause for Germany suspending unrestricted submarine warfare until 1917. Two bodies from the Arabic were washed ashore on the Clare coastline at Loophead in October 1915, a male and a female.
‘A young man, Mr Thomas McMahon was on board, and cannot be traced. He had a ticket by the Cunard Line, but changed to the White Star to accompany a friend. The name of the latter appears in the list of those saved. Miss Margaret Mulqueeny, whose name also appears in the list of survivors, belongs to the Newmarket on Fergus district. Mr J C Boland of Scariff is also safe.’ (Clare Champion Sept 2015). (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)

Francis B McMaster: Clarecastle. Canadian Army. (Eric Shaw)

Trooper Joseph H McMaster: Clarecastle. Australian Light Horse Regiment (3073). (Eric Shaw)

Paddy McNamara: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Gunner Patrick Mears: Kilnaboy Co Clare. He was a labourer aged 38 when he enlisted in 1914 with the Cork Royal Garrison Artillery 608. He served in France 1917-1918. He married Anna Daly (from Clare Abbey) in Jan 1911 and they had a daughter and 2 sons.(British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Gunner Patrick Meers: Kilmaley. He was Labourer aged 20 when he enlisted in Sept 1896 into the Royal Artillery 14879. He served in South Africa, Mauritius and India. He was discharged in 1908 and re-enlisted in Sept 1914. His father was Peter Meers Clarecastle. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Paddy Meere: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Peter Meere: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Walter Miller: Clarecastle. He was aged 14 when he enlisted in Sept 1888 in to the North Stafford Regiment 2587. He served in WW1 with the Leicestershire Regiment from 31st Aug 1914 to the 29th Oct 1914 (60 days). (British Army WW1 Pension Records)
Private Patrick Joseph Moloney: Skilled Mechanics, Quartermaster Corps QMC 255037. His mother was Mrs Michael Moloney, Clarecastle, Co Clare. He departed Hoboken New Jersey on the 23rd Jan 1918. (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910 – 1939)


Sergeant Michael (Mick) Moore: Barrack St. Clarecastle. A soldier in WW1. The Royal Irish Fusiliers 1st Bn. He was aged about 80 when he died in 1965 (born 1885). He was buried in Clarehill. His house is now part of the Antique Loft in Clarecastle. (Eric Shaw)

Jack Moroney: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

John J Murphy: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Mary Agnes Murphy: Knockinamana, Clarecastle, born 1894. Served with the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps. She came home suffering from shell-shock. (Eric Shaw)


Private Murphy: ‘News has reached Ennis that Pte John Copeland, Pte Michael Scully (Ballyea), Irish Guards; and Pte Murphy, Clarecastle, Irish Guards, have been killed in action’. Clare Journal Dec 1914. (TB)
Pte Murphy: Clarecastle, Irish Guards. RIC. (PMcN)

2nd Lt Daniel Joseph O’Brien: Clare Abbey House Clarecastle, killed in action 10th Nov 1917 age 33 in Passchendaele, during the attack on Tournant Farm. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Belgium. (TB) He was a member of Clare County Council (two other Councillor’s also enlisted: Mr John Joe Connolly and Mr P.E. Kenneally) and a leader of the Clarecastle National Volunteers. He was accidentally wounded in training in Oct 1915. (CJ) Son of Mrs Margaret O’Brien. (SR)

‘The barrage opened at 5.55 a.m., and zero hour was at 6 o’clock.... By 6.45 a.m. the whole of the objectives allotted to the Battalion were in our hands, and all ranks were in high fettle...the impatient Commanders ...decided to exploit their success and continue the advance. The order was received with a cheer. The main ridge, which overlooked the whole battle field was only 800 yards away, and the advance continued... About 7.30 a.m. the advance came to a standstill..

At 7.50 a.m. the enemy was observed preparing a counter-attack... On came the enemy, their attack being carried out by an entirely fresh unit just arrived smart and clean on the battlefield, the celebrated “Cockchafers”... News of the enemy’s success trickled back to Battalion Headquarters and a counter-attack was immediately organized by the few men left available...30 men attacked Tournant Farm about 9.30 a.m...after a sharp struggle the enemy gave up the task.... and the position was consolidated. The roll-call showed that of the 20 officers and 630 enlisted men who marched into action but 7 officers and 240 men remained...’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

‘Second Lieutenant Daniel Joseph O’Brien, Munsters, killed, son of Mrs O’Brien, Clare Abbey, Clare Castle, was one of the best known and most popular men in the Banner County. He served, while not yet 20 years of age, a term of three months imprisonment under the Coercian Act, was a member of the Clare County Council, Chairman of the Ennis District Council, member of the Committee of Management of Clare County Infirmary, and also held the position of Clerk to the National health Insurance Committee.’ Irish Independent. Tom Burnell

Gunner Francis O’Brien: Shehana, Clarecastle Co Clare. He was a Railway Porter aged 21 when he enlisted in Feb 1917 in the Royal Garrison Artillery 148493. He was honourably discharged in July 1917, and awarded the Silver War Badge. His father was Thomas O’Brien. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Pat O’Brien: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Tom O’Brien: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Cornelius O’Donoghue: Born in Kilkisheen, lived in Clarecastle. Killed in action in the woods near Klein Zillebeke in Ypres 12th Nov 1914 age 32, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in Ypres Belgium. Son of Mrs Catherine Murphy. (TB) The 2nd RMF saw action near Zillebeke, Belgium on 12 November and helped to defend against the last great German effort in the First Battle of Ypres. ‘At 6.30 (12th Nov 1914) in the morning the bombardment was resumed with redoubled vigour...It lasted two hours, and then a heavy attack followed; but the Munsters held on gamely, and threw back the enemy each time he renewed the attempt.’ (The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis)

John O’Donoghue: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. Wrote a letter from the front to the Clare Journal in May 1915. (CJ)


In January 1910 he was promoted to Major and in March 1915 to Lieutenant-Colonel. Actively employed in the Great War, he was successively Assistant Director of Medical Services, 2nd East African Division, East African Force, 23 February-31 March 1916; Assistant Director of Medical Services, Lines of Communications, East African Force, 10 December 1916-22 February 1918; Assistant Director of Medical Services, General Headquarters, East African Force, 23 February-31 May 1918 and Assistant Director of Medical Services, 18th Division, British Armies in France, 18 February 1919, and Acting Colonel. Having lost his Boer War medals, duplicates were issued on 14 April 1919. Colonel O’Gorman died on 11 May 1930. With copied research. O’Gorman, Lt.-Col.C.J., D.S.O., R.A.M.C. (LG 7th March 1918)

M O’Keefe: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)
**Private Denis J O'Shea**: Company M 332nd Infantry 2427566. He departed Marseille on the Canopic, on the 28th March 1919. His next of kin was his mother Marie O'Shea Darragh, Ennis Co Clare. (U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910-1939)

**Joseph Percy**: Clarecastle. He enlisted (aged 41) as a Driver in the Army Service Corps and served in France during the war. In 1919 he became a sapper with the Royal Engineers. **Eric Shaw**

**Lieutenant Thomas Lionel Pilkington (1896-1987)**: 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)*

**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. 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. 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’**.

**Private Timothy Power**: Clarecastle. Royal Army Medical Corps. He never recovered from ‘shell-shock’ suffered on the battlefields of the Western Front. He was a brother of John Power who died in 1916. His nephew is the historian **Joe Power who wrote ‘Clare and the Great War’**.
Private Daniel Quill: RIC Barracks Clarecastle Co Clare. He was a Clerk aged 19 when he enlisted in Jan 1916 in the South Irish Horse service no 1941. He was discharged in Feb 1916 as he was underage. His parents were David and Kate Quill. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Stephen Reynolds: Corrovorrin. Born in Ennis on 31 Dec 1890. He was a professional soldier who served with the British in India and who was brought back to Europe during WW1 and fought in France. He was wounded there but survived. He was given a soldier’s house in Killoo and died there in 1946 aged 56.

He was buried in Corrovorrin Cemetery. He was the son of James Reynolds and Margaret Quinlivan, and a brother of James Reynolds who died at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (Eric Shaw)

James Ryan: Clarecastle, died 28th July 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn, G/M in Limerick. He jumped into a river in Limerick on the way to the RMF Barracks in Tralee and drowned. He was home on leave due to wounds. (Probably in Loos Sector in June 1916) He left behind his wife M Ryan and eight helpless children, aged from 2 to 12, Clarecommons Clarecastle. (TB)(CJ)

‘Clare Soldier’s Sad End. A Fatal Plunge. The body of a private soldier, presumed to be the one reported to have jumped from Baal’s Bridge into the Abbey river late on Friday night, was recovered from the river early on Tuesday, and conveyed to the new Barracks, Limerick. The deceased is stated to be a young man named Ryan, a native of Clare Castle, and to have been passing through Limerick on his way to rejoin at Tralee the depot companies of the Munster Fusiliers, to which Regiment he belonged. Before taking what proved to be a final leap from the bridge, the soldier gave his khaki overcoat to some person about the place at the time, so it is said, and the statement seems to be borne out by the fact that the Mary St Police had a soldier’s overcoat handed in to them when the man did not return to claim it, as, it is reported, he said he would. There was very little water in the Abbey river at the time the soldier is stated to have jumped from the bridge.’ Saturday Journal, August, 1916. Tom Burnell

John Ryan: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Francis Saunders: Born in Clare Abbey, Clarecastle lived in Newmarket-on-Fergus. He died of wounds on the 19th Oct 1918 age 17, possibly from The Battle of Cambrai (8th – 10th Oct 1918). Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Bn 7357, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. G/M in England.Son of Robert and Mary Saunders(TB).
The Battle of Cambrai (8th – 10th Oct 1918) was a battle between troops of the British First, Third and Fourth Armies and German Empire forces during the Hundred Days Offensive. The battle took place in and around the French city of Cambrai. The battle incorporated many of the newer tactics of 1918, in particular tanks. The attack was an overwhelming success with light casualties in an extremely short amount of time.

Jerry Scanlan: From the parish of Clarecastle & Ballyea and who served in the Great War. (Eric Shaw)

Michael Scully: Born in Clarecastle, killed in action 1st Nov 1914 age 23, in the First Battle of Ypres, at Klein Zillebeke. Irish Guards 1st Bn 4460, 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 2nd Division. G/M in Ypres (Menin Gate) Belgium. Son of Patrick and Mary Scully, Tiermaclane Ennis. (TB) ‘He was a man of splendid physique and height, and went through the South African War, where he was wounded, having volunteered for service there out of the R I C which he had originally joined. He again volunteered for service with Lord Kitchener’s Expeditionary Force.’ From the Clare Journal 1914. (TB)

Klein Zillebeke: ‘Bombardment was renewed on the 1st November. The front trenches were drenched by field-guns, at close range, with spurts of heavy stuff at intervals; the rear by heavy artillery, while machine-gun fire filled the intervals....It was hopeless to send reinforcements; the machine-gun fire would have wiped them out moving and our artillery was not strong enough to silence any one sector of the enemy’s fire. In the afternoon the enemy attacked—with rifle-fire and a close-range small piece that broke up our two machine-guns—across some dead ground and occupied the wrecked trench, driving back the few remains of No. 3 Company….One platoon, however, of No. 1 Company, under Lieutenant N. Woodroffe (he had only left Eton a year), did not get the order to retire, and so held on in its trench till dark and “was certainly instrumental in checking the advance of the enemy.” The line was near breaking-point by then, but company after company delivered what blow it could, and fell back, shelled and machine-gunned at every step, to the fringe of Zillebeke Wood. Here the officers, every cook, orderly, and man who could stand, took rifle and fought; for they were all that stood there between the enemy and the Channel Ports. ......Yet the time was to come when three hundred and fifty casualties would be regarded as no extraordinary price to pay for ground won or held.’ The Irish Guards in the Great War Rudyard Kipling) By the end of 'First Ypres' on the 22 November, the battalion had suffered over 700 casualties.

Patrick Shanahan: Island Avana Tiermaclane Co Clare. He was a labourer aged 38 when he enlisted in Feb 1918 in the Cork Royal Garrison Artillery 285796. He had previously served with the Royal Engineers for 6 years up to May 1917. He was discharged in Dec 1918. His mother was Bridget Shanahan. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
**Joseph Shank:** Born in Ennis, killed in action 8th May 1915 age 27, in the Battle of Frezenburg (8-13th May 1915). Royal Field Artillery 62nd Battery 49252, 28th Division. G/M in the New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium. *(TB)* He is remembered on a gravestone in Tulla Cemetery that reads ‘Their only son Joseph P S Shank. Killed in action at the 2nd Battle of Ypres. 8 May 1915 Aged 27, and interred in Jean Cemetery Flanders.’ His parents were James and Susan Shank, Ivy Lodge, Clarecastle. **James Shank:** Clare. Royal Field Artillery. Died before Aug 1915 according to an article in the Clare Champion 21st Aug 1915 on the Soldiers & Sailors Families Association. Same person?

The 18/62 Battery RFA: At the outbreak of war, the Battetey joined the newly formed 28th Division. After a short period of training, the Bty was ordered to France and then Belgium, where it took part in many battles including Frezenburg - 8/13 May 1915 in the Second Battle of Ypres. During this battle the Germans moved field artillery forward, placing three army corps opposite the 27th and 28th Divisions on the Frezenberg Ridge. The German attack began on 8 May with a bombardment of the 83rd Brigade in trenches on the forward slope of the ridge, but the first and second infantry assaults were repelled by the survivors. However, the third German assault of the morning pushed the defenders back.

**Basil Claude Shaw:** Born in Clarecastle, lived in Newport Wales, died 4th June 1918, Monmouthshire Regiment 1st Bn 226237, 46th (North Midland) Division as G/M in Pernes, France. *(TB)* Brother of Charles below.

In September 1915 the Monmouthshire Regiment 1st Bn was assigned to the 46th (North Midland) Division as a pioneer battalion, where they remained for the rest of the war. In 1918 they fought in the Battle of the St Quentin canal, The Battle of the Beaurevoir Line, The Battle of Cambrai, The Battle of the Selle and The Battle of Sambre. They were at Avesnes (very close to Pernes where Basil Claude is buried) in northern France at the time of the Armistice of 11 November 1918.

**Charles Shaw:** Born in Clarecastle lived in Newport Wales, killed in action 13th March 1915 age 20, in The Battle of Neuve Chapelle (10–13 March 1915). Royal Welsh Fusiliers 1st Bn 10587, 22nd Brigade in 7th Division. G/M in France. *(TB)* Brother of Basil above.

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

Patrick Sheedy: Darragh, Ballyea. He died May 7th 1915 age 30, when the Lusitania was sunk off the south coast of Ireland, by a torpedo from the German U-Boat U-20. Of the 1,959 people on board, 1,198 died, including 128 Americans. The sinking of the Lusitania enraged the Americans. (Clare Champion) His body was recovered and he is buried in a mass grave in Cobh. (Eric Shaw)

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

Thomas Sheehan: Manus, Clarecastle, emigrated to the US and later joined the American Army during the Great War. Survived the War and came home to Clarecastle, suffering from shell-shock. (Eric Shaw)

Private Samuel Sivers: Clarecastle. He was a chimney sweep aged 40 when he enlisted in Aug 1914 into the 5th Royal Sussex Regiment 2096. He had previously served until 1907 for 17 years with the 2nd Royal Sussex in India. He was married with 5 boys and one girl. He was discharged after 2 days. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Francis James Slattery: Darragh, Ballyea, died 9th Jan 1919, Royal Engineers Unit 8th Field Coy., G/M in Ballynacally (Kilcreest) Cemetery. He became a prisoner of war in early 1918 and was released from Danholm in Dec 1918 and went to London where he fell a victim to influenza and died. His health had been impaired by the rigours of his treatment and confinement. His remains were brought back to Clarecastle Church. (SR) Son of Thomas Slattery, of Fergus View, Darragh, Ennis. He was Mentioned in Despatches dated April 7th 1918 ‘for gallant and distinguished services in the field’. (TB)

He contracted the Spanish Flu in London, while returning home after being in a prisoner of war camp for about nine months. His incarceration may have contributed to his death as he may have been in a weakened state after his prison experience. (Dr Joe Power)
‘The Late Captain Slattery, R. E. The remains of the above much lamented young officer, whose death we have already noticed, were removed from London for internment in the family burial place at Kilchreest, Ballynacally. They were removed from the train at Clare Castle, and were placed in the Parish Church on Friday night, 15th inst; and there was a Solemn Requiem Mass the following morning.’ Saturday Record, February-1919. Tom Burnell

Jack Slattery: Lismulbreeda, Ballyea who served in the Great War, along with three of his brothers. (Eric Shaw)

Jeremiah Slattery: Clarecastle. Born on the 11th May 1898. He was a Student aged 20, when he enlisted on the 21st Aug 1918 into the RAF 181996. (British RAF Airmen’s Service Records 1912-1939 at findmypast)

Malachy Slattery: Lismulbreeda, Ballyea and who served in the Great War, along with three of his brothers. (Eric Shaw)

Private Martin Slattery: Ballyea, Co Clare. He was a farmer aged 18 when he enlisted in March 1916 in the 10th Royal Munster Fusiliers and later the 11th Royal Dublin Fusiliers 726348. He was discharged in Sept 1916 for being only 16 when he enlisted. He had three brothers (Malachy, Thomas and Willie) serving in the War. His father was Thomas Slattery. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)

Thomas Slattery: Lismulbreeda, Ballyea who served in the Great War, along with three of his brothers. (Eric Shaw)

Willie Slattery: Lismulbreeda, Ballyea Ballyea and who served in the Great War, along with three of his brothers. (Eric Shaw)

Lt. George Eric Guy Stacpoole DSO: Born in London Jan 1891, lived at Edenvale Ballyea. Killed in action at St Eloi in Ypres 27th Jan 1915 age 23. Royal Irish Regiment 1st Bn, 82nd Brigade in the 27th Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB) A brother of R H Stacpoole MC. He was the great grandson of John de la Zouche Stacpoole (who fought at Waterloo). He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1915. (Joe Power)
St Eloi: January 1915 was a month of rain, snow and floods, made worse for both sides by artillery-fire and sniping and the need for constant trench repairs. The British front was extended when the 27th Division and the 28th Division arrived in France and took over from the French XVI Corps. The British divisions had only 72 18-pounders between them and had to hold the front line with far more men to compensate, the French being able to defend an outpost line with 120 75 mm, 24 90 mm and six 120 mm guns.

Lt R.H. Stacpoole MC: Edenvale Ballyea. Royal Field Artillery. Awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry. Lieut. R.H. Stacpoole, Royal Field Artillery, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. He is the son of Mrs. Stacpoole, Edenvale, Ennis, Co. Clare, and was educated at Cheltenham College, and in July, 1914, entered the Royal Marine College at Woolwich. He was gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery in February, 1915 and went to France in May, 1915.

Date of Publication: Friday, November 23, 1917. Our Heroes website. A brother of George Stacpoole. Lt Richard Hassard Stacpoole. 30389/19 Nov 1917;30590/22 Mar 1918(C). MC. Royal Field Artillery. (fold3.com) ‘There is a man buried in Kilnasoolagh cemetery, Richard Hasard Stacpoole. My aunt was his housekeeper for years in Castleconnell but he fought in WW1 as well. there is a nice history there.’ Fr Ger Fitzgerald

Gunner James T Sullivan MM: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Medal for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 18th July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dug out that was being shelled. (CJ) ‘In a list published last week of men who were awarded the Military Medal appeared the name of Gunner J Sullivan RFA, a native of Clarecastle. Gunner Sullivan joined the Colours in Wales, and is attached to an English Regiment. He was awarded the medal for devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry while out repairing telephone poles on the 18th July, near a place called Laventil. While an artillery observation post close by was being heavily shelled, he went to the rescue of a party who had been buried in a dug-out, and worked under continuous fire until he succeeded in rescuing those who were in danger. Gunner Sullivan was slightly wounded on this occasion, and the War Office authorities intimated to his people that though wounded, he remained on duty. Gunner Sullivan is to be congratulated on having so gallantly won the coveted distinction.’ Clare Champion Times Past Oct 28 2016.

Gunner John Sullivan: Clare Abbey, Clarecastle Co Clare. He enlisted in Jan 1915 with the Royal Field Artillery 633135 and was discharged in March 1919. He fought in France. He received a gun shot wound to his right leg in July 1917. He enlisted in 1919 in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps 9453. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Private John Sullivan: Clarecastle Co Clare. He was aged 26 when he enlisted in Oct 1919 into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps 10863. He had previously served with the RFA (62659) and the Labour Corps up to June 1918. He served in Southern Russia. He was discharged on the 15th Oct 1920. His next of kin was Mrs A Maloney Clareabbey. (British Army WW1 Pension Records fold3.com)

Sapper Joseph Tracey: Clarecastle. He was aged 38 when he enlisted in 1915, into the Royal Engineers 35118. He married Mary Flanagan in July 1901 and they had 3 sons and 3 daughters. He was a surveyor before the war, which he survived. (British Army WW1 Service Records @ ancestry.com)


George William Vincent: 1896-1978. Born in Dublin. The family lived in Clarecastle for a while and then moved to Dysart. He enlisted in the 4th Bn. Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment. He was a brother of Cecil Richard. (Eric Shaw)
These are the Killoo houses as you approach them from Clarecastle. 4F is the home of Stephen Moloney and the first house that you encounter as you come from Clarecastle. Adjoining that house is 4E, the home of Stephen Reynolds. The 3rd house, all on its own, is definitely a Sailors & Soldiers House (Eric shaw)

Killoo 4D

Killoo 4E & 4F

T Kelly’s House Ennis Road Clarecastle
Private Thomas Gleeson: Born and lived in Clare Commons Clarecastle, killed in action Aug 24th 1916 age 20 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6776 (1st Div). G/M in Thiepval France. Son of John and Mary Gleeson, Clare Abbey. (TB)

Sergeant John Joe McMahon’s House, 42 Fair Green Lane Clarecastle. A village blacksmith in Clarecastle. He survived the war and lived on here until his death in 1960. I remember him as an old man with a flat cap. He served briefly with the Irish Army during the Emergency and got a medal from that. He got a Soldiers & Sailors house in Clarecastle. (Eric Shaw)
Belgian refugees fleeing before the invading Germans were offered accommodation in Clare, and being Catholics they were particularly welcome. In 1914 a concert was held in Ennis to aid them and before long a number had been settled: eleven refugees were settled in Clarecastle by January 1915; Lord Inchiquin provided two houses in Newmarket on Fergus; a house was provided in Sixmilebridge.

Newhall House

The Ark Royal

‘Newhall was the birthplace of lieutenant commander Tobias Joshua Aloysius King Joyce – or Spike, as he was more commonly known to his wartime colleagues. Spike King Joyce was a derring-do British forces naval aviator whose flying skills with experimental aircraft would become essential in the development of the new British jet-era fighter aircraft of the post-war era. The energetic scion of the Newhall was typical of the adventurers that Ireland’s big country houses produced for the British armed forces.

During the war, he made his name flying sub-standard and cumbersome Blackburn Rocs off the decks of the Ark Royal aircraft carrier on dangerous cover duty for munitions destined for Malta. He survived the sinking of the carrier by a German U-boat 25 miles off Gibraltar but was soon back flying by the seat of his pants as a test pilot for top secret concept planes including those on the early British jet programme.

Spike King Joyce’s luck ran out as he was test piloting the concept version of the British Navy’s first ever jet fighter – the Supermarine Attacker. The tail collapsed causing him to crash and led to a complete redesign which enabled this fighter to be safely introduced to service the following month in time for the Cold War faceoff with the Soviets.’ (www.independent.ie)