



# *The 40-10*



## The Prince of Wales's LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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# LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## E D I T O R I A L

2014 has been an extremely busy year for the Association, especially so in the last three months. In this issue of 40-10 you will find reports on our first formal visit to Premesques near Lille in France, the site of the 2nd Battalion's first major engagement in October 1914, and to Ledegem, the site of the Battalion's last major engagement in October 1918. At the back of the magazine you will find our working ideas on visits to be made in 2015 and 2016. In addition to those we are considering the possibilities for a visit to the Curragh for a programme of lectures, including, most importantly, an explanation of the practicalities of trench warfare. Subject to the agreement and support of the Defence Forces at the Curragh we hope to use a trench system which is there to try to bring to life the conditions of late 1914 to 1918.

We have a range of reports on commemorative events in Windsor, Belfast, Glasnevin, Whitehall and Birr - which only goes to show that people right across the two islands are united in the need to remember those who fell in the 1st World War. We also have a very interesting article on the Hitchcocks, Father and Son, who had interesting careers in the 1st and 2nd Wars respectively. But Lt Col Hitchcock, the Father, is of course well known as the author of his even better known book "Stand To" which chronicles his experiences in France, Ireland and Germany from 1915 to 1918. It is a mine of information on the events in which he took a part and, best of all, it mentions many officers and soldiers by name and often number as well. If you do not have a copy, I recommend it.

Writing now with my Chairman's hat on, I want to welcome in this issue David Ball on his election at the AGM to the Honorary and non-executive position of Vice-President. He was proposed for this from the floor by Patrick Murphy in recognition of his work to re-form our Association in 2003. The meeting gave its approval. To this I would add that David has been an effective Secretary for

the last eleven years, useful in print, but at his very best when audibly exhorting members from the floor.

Finally, on the back cover, you will find an Appeal in aid of the reconstruction of the Irish Infantry Regiments Grove at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. This is a special place which I hope you will visit when in that part of the world. The idea is for every member to subscribe £5 or 5 Euros: please will you do so. I have sent my donation.

And now I take this opportunity of wishing every member of the Association, and every member of your family, my warmest good wishes for a very Happy Christmas, and all good health and success in the New Year 2015.

*PSW*

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# Premesques 18th October 2014

by Peter Walton

It was in a sense ironic, or perhaps Irish, that the newly reformed Leinster Regiment Association began to commemorate the Regiment's battles of the Great War, where they took place, with the last of them: this was the Battle for Ledegem, in Belgium, in which the 2nd Battalion, supported by elements of 4th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment, ejected the Germans from that town on 14th October 1918. During that action three VCs were won – by Sergeant John O'Neill and Private Martin Moffatt of the Leinsters and Private Thomas Ricketts of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. So it was that the Association took part in a parade on 12th October 2008, received the Freedom of the Town of Ledegem, was present at the Unveiling and Dedication of a Memorial to the Regiment generously subscribed by the Town, and was royally entertained by the Town Council and the Historical Society. It was a wonderful day and from it has sprung not only strong bonds between Ledegem and the Association but also between Ledegem and Birr. These have been marked and strengthened by other events over the last six years, not least by the attendance of Civic representatives of Ledegem at the Combined Irish Regiments Annual Parade at the Cenotaph in London and at the Unveiling of the Regimental Memorial at Crinkill on 21st September 2013.

It was therefore with great pleasure that the Association learned of the intention of the French Civic Authorities in Premesques to honour the memory of the Regiment and the first engagement of the 2nd Battalion in France on 20th October 1914. We had it is true approached them some while before about the

possibility of placing a small memorial in the Village of Premesques to mark the fact of the Battle, and to remember those who had lost their lives. However, our timing was bad and we had to wait several years before the Mayor and Council were in a position to move. Through the Spring and Summer of this year meetings took place to help the Council to plan what



French Veterans' Standards



Leinsters on parade



Chairman with re-enactors

turned out to be a thoroughly successful day on 18th October 2014. A party of more than 30 members and families, supported by Piper Terry Goodman and the gallant Mick Bridge, RBL Bugler (who travelled down from Chesterfield very early indeed on 17th October to join the party at Victoria), came across by coach. More of us came by car and all stayed at the Lille Holiday Inn, Englos (not far from Armentieres). They did us well there. But the hotel will be for ever celebrated by our drivers for being cunningly hidden in a maze of minor roads without signage. For example,



in at least one case, it took a quietly indignant driver over half an hour one evening to find it from the motorway less than half a mile away though supported by two satnavs and three observant passengers!

18th October was a beautiful day. We arrived at Premesques in good time for a warm welcome by our two guardian angels, Deputy Mayor Mme Pascale Alliot and Mayor's Assistant Mme Delphine Cremieux.



VIPs - Mayor (3rd from right); Don Dickson behind

They had developed the plan for the day and were then present throughout guiding everyone from one venue to the next and indicating who was to do what and when: they were brilliant. After coffee and lots of chat, we moved to a spot outdoors where local re-enactors, presented by local Museum Director and French Foreign Legion Veteran Laurent Joie, demonstrated the uniforms, weapons and kit including medical arrangements of the British and German



Leinster re-enactor (right) and friends

forces of the day. While this went on, other guests were arriving and in due course we saw them being formed into a group in front of the Memorial to men of the Village killed in the War. We were much impressed by what happened next. A group of children were marshalled at the foot of the Memorial and each took it in turns to read out a



name. At once they all responded "Mort pour la France". In this way more than twenty deaths were commemorated and an age-group of children were educated

by taking a meaningful part in a moving ceremony. A wreath was laid by the Mayor, Monsieur Yvan



Children bring his wreath to Don Dickson

Hutchinson, and, as a special privilege, a poppy wreath was laid on our behalf by Don Dickson.

For the next part of the programme, the guests were asked to walk a short distance to another "place" or square in the Village where the "stele", or marker stone, for the Battle of 20 October 1914 had been



placed. Everyone formed up behind the Piper, and away we went. On arrival we found the marker stone at the edge of the square, a rostrum nearby and places for everyone to stand opposite. Following a speech given in French by the Mayor, the “stele” was unveiled to applause. Wreaths were laid by the Mayor and by the guests. More speeches in French were

delivered by the principal guests who were led by the Irish Ambassador to France, HE Mrs Byrne Nason, and some words of thanks in French followed by English, were given for the Leinsters by our Chairman. To conclude the ceremony an Act of Remembrance was led by the Leinsters beginning with the Exhortation given in French by Foreign Legion Veteran Laurent Joie and then in English by our Chairman. Last Post was sounded by Mick Bridge, a lament was played by Terry Goodman, and Reveille sounded by Mick Bridge concluded the formal proceedings. After this we were ushered away for a “Vin d’honneur” and a chance to mix and to exchange impressions. After that our Premesques hosts provided a delicious and generous lunch. And, later in the afternoon, there was a chance to see parts of the battlefield



Irish Ambassador speaks



Chairman speaks



Bugler Mick Bridge and Piper Terry Goodman



Maffett family members





British and German Military Advisers lay wreaths escorted by a local French historian. This was interesting if limited by the soggy state of the ground: it means that we must at some point in the future make another visit, with gum boots but without ceremony, to examine the crucial locations at our leisure. It turned out that quite a number of the party had family connections with members of the Leinsters in the 2nd Bn that day a century ago.



The Stele

The event was attended by a large number of villagers and other members of the public as well as by reporters for the local press – which the following day reported exuberantly and favourably on the proceedings. It is worth noting that the “stele” is probably, in its way, a first being an “ecumenical” record of the units of both sides engaged. It is neither an information panel nor a commemorative icon: it is simply a fine slab of granite engraved with the words “A la memoire des victimes civiles et militaires / Bataille de Premesques / 18-20 octobre 1914 / inaugure le 18 octobre 2014”. Beneath there are two columns of lettering: on the left a small Union flag in colour with, below: 1/East Yorkshire 1/North Staffordshire 2/Leinster 3/Rifle

Brigade; and, on the right a small modern German flag with, below: Inf-Rgt 107 Inf-Rgt 118 Inf-Rgt 139 Inf-Rgt 179.

That evening some of the party went to Ypres for the Last Post ceremony. This was very crowded indeed and while one could hear most of the proceedings, it was virtually impossible to see anything within the Menin Gate. But it is always moving and impressive, not least on this day. The following day,



Last Post at the Menin Gate

on the way to Ledegem for the planned events of the 19th, the opportunity was taken to visit the CWGC Cemetery at Houplines where a number of Leinsters are known to be buried and where it seems likely that a number of unidentified burials could well be Leinsters (though realistically we may never know). However, the Chairman took the opportunity to identify all this as an Association Research Project for the next few years. In the meantime, we take this opportunity of thanking our very efficient and unflappable tour organiser Ian Lowe for arranging and delivering a successful and very happy visit.



Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension



# The President views the Colours



As forecast in our last issue, the President of Ireland accompanied by Mrs Higgins viewed the Colours of the Disbanded Irish Infantry Regiments in Windsor Castle on 9th April during his State Visit. He was escorted by HRH The Duke of York and received a briefing on the Colours from Major David Rankin Hunt of The Royal Collection.

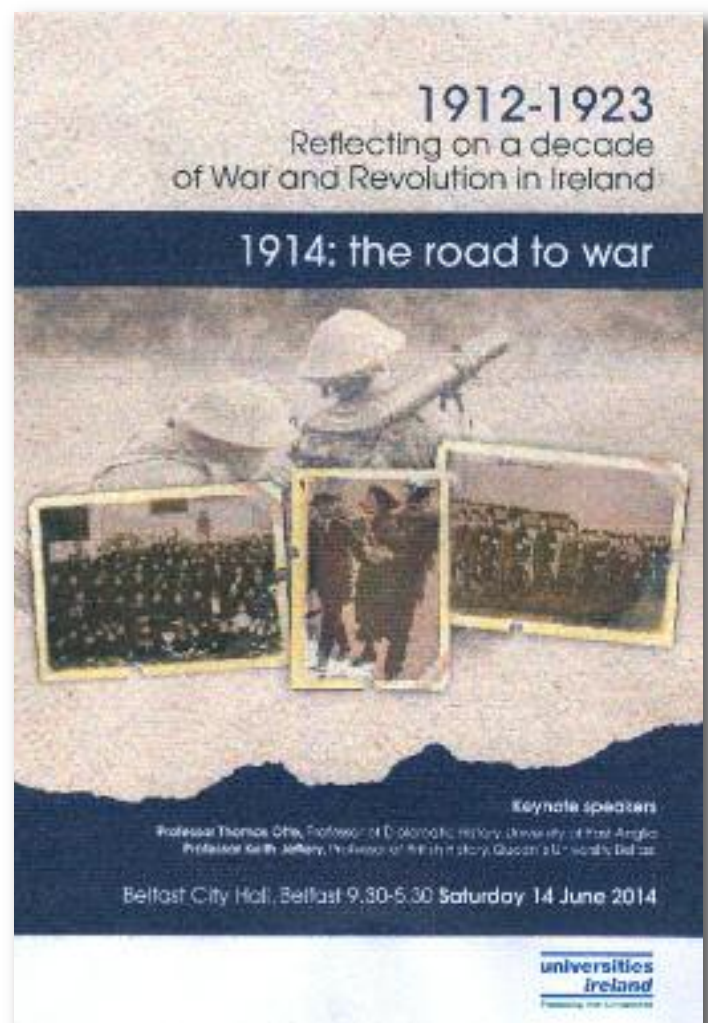


## The Leinsters in Belfast, 14 June 2014

Under the title “Reflecting on a decade of War and Revolution in Ireland 1912-1923: the Road to War” the third in a series of conferences to commemorate the centenary of key events in the history of modern Ireland took place in Belfast City Hall on 14th June. Sponsored by the network of university presidents and vice-chancellors on the island of Ireland, the event featured lectures by Professor Thomas Otte, Professor of Diplomatic History, University of East Anglia, Professor Keith Jeffery, Professor of British History, Queen’s University Belfast, our friend Professor Richard Grayson of Goldsmiths, University of London, and others. We were invited to attend and were represented by the husband and wife team of Ray and Nuala Hayden who, fortunately, live in Belfast. They took a stand placed appropriately below the stained glass window depicting the province of Leinster, and were soon in business. Copies of 40-10 were in strong demand and were snapped up by delegates keen to learn more about the Regiment and the Association. Ray reported that “before an audience in excess of 100 people we were able to sketch out the distinguished history of the Regiment and the role the Association plays today in keeping alive a rich and proud heritage of service”. He also reported that the Memorial at Crinkill attracted keen interest: “how it came about, the support we received to make it happen, and of course the wonderful day of its unveiling and the commemoration itself”.

(Ed: We are very grateful indeed to Ray and Nuala

for taking on this role, for making an eye-catching display, for giving their time, and for talking their heads off to very good effect!)



# Dedication of Cross of Sacrifice, Glasnevin Cemetery, 31 July 2014

Hosted by the Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, President Michael D. Higgins led a ceremony to dedicate the newly installed Cross of Sacrifice in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, on Thursday, 31 July 2014. HRH The Duke of Kent KG, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was present. The Cross of Sacrifice is a standard CWGC memorial, designed by Sir Kenneth Blomfield (1856-1942). Consisting of a stone cross embedded with a bronze sword with its blade pointing down, mounted on an octagonal base, the Cross is erected in CWGC cemeteries world-wide.

The foundation stone of the Cross, which is the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland, was laid on 31 March 2014 by Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and An Gaeltacht, and Ms Theresa Villiers MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The seven meter cross itself, consisting of blue limestone from Threecastles Quarry in County Kilkenny, was crafted by McKeon Stone of Stradbally in County Laois. The project was a cooperative venture between the Glasnevin Trust and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Glasnevin Cemetery contains 166 Commonwealth burials from the First World War, with another 41 burials from the Second World War. The Cross of Sacrifice was erected at Glasnevin's ceremonial plaza, close to two screen walls on which are carved the names of Irish people who died in both world wars while serving in British or Allied forces, and close also to the graves of renowned figures of Irish nationalism, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera.

Personnel of the Defence Forces and the Royal Irish Regiment of the British Army participated in the ceremony. A Defence Forces Ceremonial Guard of Honour was provided by the 2 Artillery Regiment. Two colour parties, drawn from the 12 Infantry Battalion and the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment were on parade. A massed band of musicians of the Irish Army No1 Band and the Band of the Royal Engineers, played appropriate music during the ceremony, including the Last Post,

Reveille and the National Anthems of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Dignitaries in attendance included the Lord Mayor of Dublin Mr Christy Burke and the Lord Mayor of Belfast Ms Nichola Mallon, the Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht Mrs Heather Humphreys TD, the Northern Ireland Secretary of State Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, His Excellency Dominick Chilcott, Ms Deirdre Mills Director UK Operations, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, ambassadors from several countries and representatives of the office of First and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

During his address, President Michael D Higgins said:

*"It is important that the First World War, and those whose lives it claimed, be not left as a blank space in Irish history. Today therefore is a significant day, as we dedicate this Cross of Sacrifice – the first such Cross to be erected in the Republic of Ireland.*

*On an occasion such as this we eliminate all the barriers that have stood between those Irish soldiers whose lives were taken in the war, whose remains for which we have responsibility, and whose memories we have a duty to respect.*

*Today, on the eve of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, we are invited to remember with authenticity and historical accuracy the sacrifice of so many Irish men and women who fought alongside soldiers from different nations, backgrounds and social circumstances.*

*Let us now, together, cultivate memory as a tool for the living and as a sure base for the future – memory employed in the task of building peace."*

The Duke of Kent said it was an important step in the continuing process of remembering those who died: *"It represents a lasting tribute to their sacrifice and it is my hope, in the years to come, that memorials such as these continue to inspire successive generations to remember."*



The CWGC maintains directly the graves of 1.7 million servicemen and women who died in both world wars at 23,000 locations in 153 countries and on all continents except Antarctica. In Ireland, some 3,000 Commonwealth war dead are buried at 670 locations,

with graves in many instances maintained in partnership between the Commission and the Office of Public Works.

The Cross of Sacrifice is a monument to them all.





# Combined Irish Regiments Association Annual Parade – Whitehall 15th June 2014



This year's Parade, and its integral short Service of Remembrance, took place as usual on the day after the Birthday Parade. As usual it happened because a very small team ensured that it had all the customary voluntary support. Planning and execution are both the role of the Chairman of the Combined Irish Regiments Association, Colonel David Maitland-Titterton. The team members, who seem ageless, are almost all Irish Riflemen, retired officers of Regular or Territorial Regiments. Those who help them to make it happen include the Reverend Father Christopher Tuckwell (Canon of Westminster Cathedral), the Band of the Royal Yeomanry, the Pipes and Drums of the London Irish Rifles (and also the guard on the Cenotaph), the Buglers of the Royal Fusiliers Association, David Ball (Hon Secretary of the Leinster Regt Association) who knows everyone and can fix pretty nearly anything, the First Aiders of The Countess of Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen, members of the Metropolitan Police, and of course the very large number of old soldiers who turn out from Ireland and Great Britain to take part. Without the latter there would of course be no Parade: each year they come and do their stuff and each year, at the end of the Parade, they stand a while longer to hear judgement. Apart from any remarks the Parade Commander may see fit to make, the focus turns now each year to the rostrum and the Inspecting Officers. This year, as has become customary, we had two: Major General Courage, late of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and Brigadier General Paul Pakenham, late of the Irish Defence Forces and now Chairman of the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust. Both officers in their turn complimented those

on parade for presenting themselves and for the standards they attained. General Pakenham went on to surprise the parade by emphasising his remarks in Irish, and his address included the following remarks:

"Ceremonial is a key element of the culture, traditions, legacy and ethos associated with the profession of arms. Ceremonial rightly plays an important role in the activities of Regimental Associations. In this context I would like to complement all personnel who planned and who are participating in this parade and service. The high standard which I have witnessed reflects the levels of leadership, loyalty, duty, respect and professionalism which I am sure pertained during your extensive military service."

"During the parade I have observed your obvious devotion to both your units and your Regimental Associations and in particular to the Irish Regiments disbanded in June 1922, and to those currently in service in the British Armed Forces. Mindful of the need to honour and respect the courage and loyalty of men and women who served and continue to serve in Irish Regiments, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice, and recognising the role of their supporting families, let us continue to honour and commemorate those soldiers in an inclusive and respectful manner and preserve their unique military heritage for future generations."

And so say all of us! The reputation for being the largest organised but unrehearsed annual parade in London rightly belongs to the Lord Mayor's Show – but the Combined Irish come a close second. We can only add that there is plenty of room for more to attend. Please put the date of the 2015 Parade (see the Future Events list elsewhere) in your diary and do your best to be there whether to take part or to support from the touchline – all are welcome.



Padre Tuckwell flanked by the Chairman and Cathy Bernice of the Irish Embassy



# 1st World War – Centenary Events in August 2014

As must have been expected, events to mark the outbreak of what became known as the Great War, later the First World War, came thick and fast this year. Among them we are able to report some of those of national significance.

In Dublin a Memorial Mass was celebrated on Sunday 3rd August in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral by the Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. The Government of Ireland was represented by Mr Charles Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Irish Defence Forces by Brigadier General Colm Campbell. Also present was our President, Major General David O'Morchoe in his capacity as President of the Royal British Legion in Ireland and as Director of the Military Heritage Trust of Ireland.

On the same day, 3rd August, a religious service was held in St Mungo's Cathedral, Glasgow attended by HRH The Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries including Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the Irish Government.

Also on the same day, a service of commemoration was held in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast in the presence of HRH Prince Andrew and the Northern Ireland First Minister. Taking the service the Archbishop of Armagh said that in "commemorating the outbreak of World War, one fuses sadness, pride and horror". Speaking before the event, Minister Heather Humphreys said that "it is only right that we come together to remember those people from across the two islands who gave their lives in the Great War. Bombs and bullets did not discriminate between British and Irish, Catholic and Protestant, Nationalist and Unionist: they fell side by side in incomprehensible numbers. Their families and loved ones shared a common bond as they were left to deal with their terrible losses. It is fitting that a century later, people of all shades of political opinion and none can come together in dignity and respect to remember those brave men."

On Monday 4th August, ceremonies took place at Liege and Mons in Belgium. The President of Ireland and Mrs Higgins were present at both. At Liege, which as a City was presented with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, a speech was made by

HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge in the presence of the King and Queen of the Belgians and the Heads of State of more than 60 other countries. Later the same day, in the twilight, many of the same dignitaries were present for a Commemorative Service in St Symphorien Military Cemetery, Mons. 513 soldiers of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Belgium and Germany are buried there including 27 who served in Irish Regiments.

Also on 4th August, and by no means least of the gatherings, a small group of Association members came together at Crinkill under the leadership of Ray Hayden. A wreath was laid at the Regimental Memorial by Patricia Brophy, Assistant Secretary in Ireland, and this was followed by a recital of the Lord's Prayer. Later in the day, more than 50 people attended a meeting organised by the Birr Historical Society and entitled a Commemoration of the Centenary of the Commencement of WW1. Proceedings were opened by the local TD, Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy, and talks were given by Brian Kennedy, Teresa Ryan-Feehan, Jimmy Shortt and Lord Rosse who spoke movingly of the injuries suffered by his ancestor the 5th Earl. Ray gave the reading from the Book of Wisdom.



Patricia Brophy

# Ledegem 2014

by Peter Walton

Members of the Association paid two group visits to Ledegem this year, all of course at the invitation of the Town Council and the Historical Society. The first was quite small in terms of numbers while the second, in October on the day after the Premesques visit, was bigger and in travel terms a natural sequel.

On the basis of our close friendship with Ledegem since 2008 we were invited to visit over the weekend 30 May – 1 June and, specifically, to present a small exhibition of aspects of the 1st World War. This emerged as essentially a two-dimensional display of maps, photographs and supporting images which gave an idea of the geographical spread of hostilities. Most of the work of producing maps and images was undertaken by Nick Weekes and with thanks to Mr Velcro's products was easily fixed on to white display boards provided by our hosts. A part of the Daiseldaele Restaurant had been earmarked for this purpose – which was very convenient as we were accommodated by Ledegem in the Hotel. This of course we know well from regular visits over the years. The exhibition was enriched by a collection of battlefield relics and a set of medals for which a glass covered display table was provided. We were also able to display a World War 1 uniform as worn by the Leinsters (borrowed from Chris Harman who had worn it on our Freedom Parade in 2008). The show was visited by around 80 people over its two days, and great interest was taken in the story of the War. Our team included Ross Glennon and his father from Ireland who very much improved the usual standard of gossip over a beer or three when we were not manning the stand!

Our second visit was on 19 October from mid-morning after the group had paid its respects at



Houplines CWGC Cemetery. We arrived at the Church in Ledegem and debussed to form a group near the Memorial on the Church wall to 18 local people who had been murdered by the German Army exactly 100 years before. The ceremony to remember this event then took place, introduced by Filip Jacques. As in France the day before, children played a key part. As each victim's name was called out a child came forward with a single bloom and laid it before



the Memorial plaque. At the end prayers were said by two priests and a blessing was given. Wreaths were laid, ours by Don Dickson, and shortly afterwards the gathering broke up and moved down the street to the 40-10 Memorial. Here we led an Act of Remembrance in the well known format, the calls sounded by Mick Bridge and the Lament played by Terry Goodman. Wreaths were laid for the Town by the Mayor Bart Dochy and for the Leinsters by Don Dickson. David



Ball was on parade with the Association Standard, and the standard of drill carried out by everyone was impeccable. Next item was (none too soon on a very warm day) a visit to a new bar created nearby and a very refreshing glass of local beer. By now the Chairman was into his second field day on the trot and paused proceedings to salute Mrs Sheila Dickson whose birthday it happened to be. A good time was had by all before moving to the Daiseldaele Restaurant for an excellent lunch at which we entertained Nick and Katrien Soen, and their daughter Fleur – who took a

very large number of photographs which (as I write) we look forward to seeing!

As ever, our thanks to the town of Ledegem, to the Historical Society, and particularly to Nick and Katrien for arranging a meaningful programme and accompanying hospitality. All the arrangements were excellent and we truly felt that we were relaxing among friends. We had a good time and as ever we look forward to the next occasion whether in London, in Birr or in Ledegem itself.



Chairman escorted by Nick and Fleur Soen



Terry Goodman with Mrs Goodman



Mayor of Ledegem (right) with friends



David George makes a point to Bob Templeman



Our coach driver, JP



Brian Hall and Chairman at birthday drink for Mrs Sheila Dickson



Chairman and his brother Simon with Mayor and Nick Soen

# The Hitchcocks – Father and Son

Lieutenant Colonel F C Hitchcock OBE MC and Major R K B Hitchcock MC

by Lt Col Nick Weekes



Major R K B Hitchcock MC died on 14 August 2014 aged 94. He was the son of Lieutenant Colonel F C Hitchcock OBE MC (1896-1962) whose diary of service in the trenches during the Great War with the 2nd Battalion of The Leinster Regiment was first published under the title “Stand To” in 1937. Most members of the Association and many others with an interest in the Great War have been enthralled by the accounts of trench warfare in “Stand To”. It thus



1937 First Edition

seems appropriate to mark the death of Major Hitchcock with a short summary of his military service and the service of his father.

Francis Clere Hitchcock (known as Frank) was born in Dublin on 15 March 1896. He was brought up in

Kinnitty near Birr in what is now Co Offaly where his father was the Church of Ireland rector. In 1911 his brother emigrated to the USA where he adopted the name Rex Ingram and achieved fame as a Hollywood director.

Frank Hitchcock was granted a temporary commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in January 1915 and served with the 2nd Battalion of The Leinster Regiment in France and Flanders from May to November 1915. He was then ordered back to England, relinquishing his commission and becoming a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was granted a permanent commission in The Leinster Regiment in April 1916 and rejoined the 2nd Battalion in July, serving with it until February 1917, and then from August 1918 until the Armistice and the subsequent occupation of the Rhineland. The award of the Military Cross for the leadership of a successful patrol action was gazetted in March 1917.

On the disbandment of The Leinster Regiment in 1922 Hitchcock transferred to the East Surrey Regiment. He was promoted to Captain in January 1924 but was placed on half pay three months later on account of ill health; he suffered from the effects of wartime gassings. Having spent five years on the half pay list he retired on account of ill health in April 1929. The 1930s saw the publication not only of “Stand To” but also of three books on equitation and stable management. Frank was an enthusiastic supporter of and participant in a wide range of equestrian activities.

The Second World War saw Hitchcock back in uniform as a re-employed officer in the Military Secretary's department at the War Office. He served in similar appointments in the headquarters of Home commands until 1947 achieving the temporary rank of Lieutenant Colonel and being appointed OBE in the 1947 Birthday Honours. His re-employment was terminated in December 1947 on account of disability. He was appointed a Military Knight of Windsor in January 1954 and spent the rest of his life in one of the apartments reserved for the Military Knights in Windsor Castle. He died on 6 July 1962.



Frank Hitchcock married Kitty Brasier in 1918 and their only child Reginald Kilner Brasier Hitchcock (known as Rex) was born in Greystones, Co Wicklow, on 29 September 1919. A few months after the birth, Kitty was appointed MBE in recognition of her wartime organisation of a free buffet for soldiers passing through Mallow railway station. Rex's parents separated when he was young and his mother brought him up in Ireland. He moved to London in 1937 to take up his first job (with the Shell oil company) and he enlisted in the Territorial Army in the same year. On the outbreak of war in 1939 Rex was sent to the Royal Armoured Corps Officer Cadet Training Unit



Major R K B Hitchcock MC

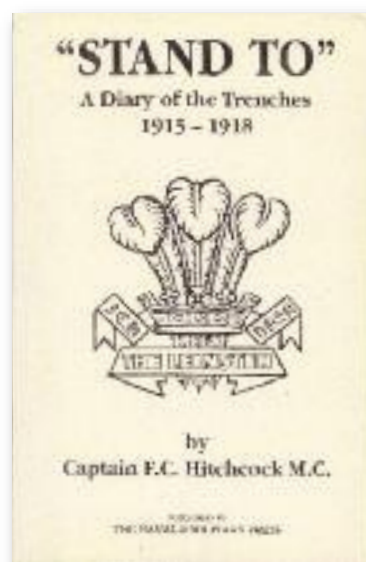
at Sandhurst, occupying the same room that had been allocated to his father twenty four years previously. He was granted an emergency commission in the Royal Armoured Corps in March 1940 and served briefly as a Liaison Officer with the British Expeditionary Force in France, being evacuated through Cherbourg. He deployed with the 1st Armoured Division to the Middle East at the end of 1941 and was soon involved in the fighting in Libya. In January 1942 he was in command of a troop of tanks that successfully repulsed a German attack on the divisional headquarters. The award of a Military Cross for this action was gazetted in April 1942. Rex joined the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers as a troop leader in September 1942 in time for the battle of El Alamein, and served as Adjutant of the 9th Lancers in 1943. He then took part in the Italian campaign.

Lieutenant Hitchcock remained in the Army after the War, being promoted to Captain and receiving a regular commission in the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers

in 1946. Promotion to Major followed in 1953 and from that year until 1956 he commanded the Boys' Squadron Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington. He subsequently served as Second in Command of the 9th Lancers and retired from the Army in May 1960. He then pursued a career with the Whitbread brewing company, managing its Squire's Gin label.

Rex married Joyce Ritchie on 14 February 1945. Joyce at this time was a 3rd Officer in the Women's Royal Naval Service serving as an air engineer in support of Seafires. In later life Joyce was an active supporter of the Mayfield Branch of the Royal British Legion. She died on 7 December 2009.

Rex Hitchcock died peacefully at his home in Braunton, Devon on 14 August 2014. He is survived by his two daughters - Rosemary (married to Major the Lord Bellew late Irish Guards) and Sally-Anne (married to Major David Hardy late The Blues and Royals). It is of passing interest that Lord Bellew's grandfather, who became the 6th Baron Bellew in 1975 and died in 1981, was a friend of Frank Hitchcock, served in the South Irish Horse in the Great War, and was awarded the Military Cross. He and Frank Hitchcock received their Military Crosses from His Majesty King George V at the same Buckingham Palace investiture in June 1917.



1988 Reprint by The Naval & Military Press

Lt Col Nick Weekes represented the Association at the service of thanksgiving for Rex that was held at St Brannock's Church, Braunton, 26 September 2014.

*(The Editor wishes to thank Mrs D T L Hardy (younger daughter of Major Rex Hitchcock) for invaluable assistance in the compilation of this article.)*

# Leinsters remembered in Londonderry ceremony

The Leinsters were remembered at the Guildhall in Londonderry in September when the re-dedication of First World War windows took place. The Lord Lieutenant of Londonderry performed the re-dedication ceremony and a plaque was unveiled to mark the occasion.

The windows honour all the Irish Regiments that took part in the War, and are a major attraction in the City centre. The event featured a Peace Pledge by local schools together with music by Hamilton Flute Band and local artists.

Military historian Richard Doherty gave an absorbing address. The Association was represented by Ray and Nuala Hayden who travelled from Belfast for the event. Afterwards they met Lieutenant Colonel Jean Trudel CD, Assistant Army Adviser on the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in London and talked about the ties between the Leinster Regiment and Canada.



L-R Ray Hayden,  
Lt Col Trudel and  
Robin McClay





# Book Review

## **(The Edwardian Army - Recruiting, Training and Deploying the British Army, 1902-1914**

By Timothy Bowman and Mark Connelly, OUP  
2012, ISBN 978 0 19 954278-9

This is a serious academic study of the British Army at the start of the 20th Century, in other words between the Boer War and the outbreak of the First World War. It makes particular use of the experiences of Irish Regiments and those who served in them – perhaps due to Dr Bowman's personal relationship with Co Down and in due course with Queen's University, Belfast, where he gained his first degree in 1995.

The book travels from an illuminating view of the Officer corps and the Other Ranks, followed by

Training and Doctrine, the use of Artillery, the Auxiliary Forces, then Media and Public Relations, past the Curragh Incident and finally on to the reason for maintaining the Army at its then level. Unsurprisingly the British Army's priority was imperial rather than continental.

Even at £63, this 243 page book is recommended as an invaluable reference for anyone interested in the period running up to the 1st World War.

**MW**

(Ed. There may even be lessons for today when politicians and journalists ask whether, after Afghanistan, Britain needs an Army at all but if it does for what purpose!)

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Photographs of Premesques and Ledegem events by Gilly Walton and Mike Edwards to whom we are very grateful.

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Guess who!

# LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## The Committee and Post Holders

President	Major General The O'Morchoe	omorchoe1@gmail.com
Vice-President	Mr David Ball	dave@the-bunker.freemove.co.uk

### The Officers (The Committee)

Chairman	Colonel Peter Walton	peter@scarletgunner.com
Vice-Chairman	(vacant)	
Secretary	Mr David Ball	dave@the-bunker.freemove.co.uk
Treasurer	Mr Ian Lowe	ianlowe@marfordms1.demon.co.uk

### Additional Post Holders elected or co-opted to the Committee

Webmaster	Mr Don Dickson	donald.dickson@firtrees.org.uk
Member of Committee	Lieutenant Colonel Nick Weekes	nickweekes@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary (actg)	Mr Don Dickson	donald.dickson@firtrees.org.uk

### Additional Postholders (to be elected to the Committee)

Editor of 40-10 (acting)	Colonel Peter Walton	peter@scarletgunner.com
Publicity Officer	(vacant)	
Researcher	(vacant)	
Minutes Secretary	(vacant)	

### Assistants to the Officers

Asst Secretary in Ireland	Ms Patricia Brophy	patriciabrophy@eircom.net
Asst Treasurer in Ireland	Mr Stephen Keeley	skandab@eircom.net

## Method of Working

Under its Constitution (that is the Memorandum of Association and the Bye Laws), the Association is formally governed by its Officers who are elected by the AGM for a term of two years. They may be assisted by other individuals who may be elected by the AGM for a term of two years. The officers and the other individuals elected by the AGM constitute the Committee of the Association which is domiciled and usually meets in the united Kingdom.

### Advertisement

The Leinster Regiment Association seeks a Volunteer to help the Committee as its **Public Information Officer**. Requirement is to generate material for the website and for the journal 40-10, which is consistent, accurate, timely and supportive of the Association's objects. Contact the Chairman (email address above).

### Advertisement

The Leinster Regiment Association would be interested to hear from any member who might be interested in the post of **Vice-Chairman**. Contact the Chairman (email address above).

### Advertisement

The Leinster Regiment Association seeks a Volunteer to help the Committee as **Minutes Secretary**. Requirement is to take Minutes of four meetings per year, 3 in London and 1 in Dublin. Fair copy required by the Secretary within one week of a meeting. Contact the Chairman (email address above).



# LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## Future Events for Members – subject to confirmation

(Jul 2014) - Jan 2015	Exhibition at The National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin on the War of the Professionals Jul 1914-Jan 1915
Sat 13 Dec 2014	Christmas Gathering, Civil Service Club, Whitehall (check with David Ball)
Mar 2015 – Jan 2016	Exhibition at The National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, on The Irish Soldier in Gallipoli, Mar 1915-Jan 1916
Sat 11 Apr 2015 London	Association Ordinary General Meeting, 12 midday at the Civil Service Club, Whitehall, London
Sat 13 Jun 2015	Association AGM followed by Annual Luncheon with Irish songs. Civil Service Club, Whitehall, London
Sun 14 Jun 2015	Combined Irish Regiments Association Annual Parade and Service of Remembrance in Whitehall, London
Sat Jul 2015	Association Ordinary General Meeting, UN Veterans Association Club, Arbour Hill, Dublin Royal British Legion Dublin Service of Remembrance and Wreath-Laying
Sun Jul 2015	National Day of Commemoration Ceremony, Kilmainham, Dublin
?? Aug 2015	Birr Vintage Week – Lecture Programme ???
?? Oct 2015	Battlefield Visit to France/Belgium (?St Eloi, Ypres and Hooge (?combined with brief Commemorative visits to Premesques and Ledegem?)
??? Nov 2015	Remembrance Sunday Church Service, Dublin Combined Irish Regiments Association Service of Remembrance, Westminster
??? Sep 2016	Battlefield visit to the Somme with Somme Association Or a visit to the Curragh, Co Kildare for a demonstration and lectures on trench warfare coupled with Regimental history.

## Important Notes

The schedule above contains several (? Draft) events for which planning is needed. If you are interested in any visit overseas please contact Ian Lowe (ianlowe@marfordms1.demon.co.uk) without delay to register your interest. Commitment is not required just yet but indications of possible numbers will greatly help us.

# The Irish Infantry Grove



Everyone has heard of the National Memorial Arboretum, and a good many of us have visited it and given it donations. It is of course near Lichfield in Staffordshire and directions to get to it can be found on the internet.

Back in 2000 there was established and dedicated The Irish Infantry Grove as a memorial to those who had served in any of the twelve Regiments which over the years since 1881 have been the Irish infantry. Since then the site has become rather unremarkable and visitors, we gather, rarely stop. This makes no sense. A project has therefore been developed to present the Grove so that it will be a truly a focus for all with a connection to the Irish Infantry Regiments of the Line. An artist's

impression of the new design is below. In a one acre plot, a paved map of Ireland is surrounded by trees and shrubs of Irish origin. To achieve this, a fund of £80,000 will be needed. If this is a large sum, and it is, the fact is that if every member of all the Irish Infantry Regimental Associations contributes £5, the bill can be paid. The Association supports this and commends it to every member. Please send a fiver, or more if you can, in either currency to (cheques in favour of Central Bank R Irish):

*Irish Infantry Grove Appeal  
Regimental Headquarters  
The Royal Irish Regiment  
Palace Barracks, Belfast BFPO 806*

