



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 a n d C h a i r m a n ' s N o t e s

Most of this year so far has been taken up with absorbing the lesson presented to us by the announced intention of a group of individuals in Ireland who felt marginalised to get together on their own. In regard to the commemoration of Irishmen born and living before 1914 in Ireland, their feelings were reasonable but I am sorry they felt it necessary to consider splitting from the Association. Those leading this group had already demonstrated their devotion to the objects of the Association, and their determination, by undertaking and delivering the project to design, produce, erect and publicise the Memorial in place since 2013 outside the gateway of the Barracks in Crinkill. This was a considerable feat which attracted much attention. It has also, I believe, encouraged other groups to undertake the construction of other Memorials in other places, some mentioned in this issue. If everyone committed to the remembrance of those who served and died with the Leinsters could come together and put their angles on the table, I am sure that we can return to getting on together. To that end, a new Constitution of the Association has been drafted by a member on a format agreed by the Committee and it will be put to the Annual General Meeting in London on the 26th November. More on this comes to you in or with this issue.

Although I had not met Kevin Myers before I joined the Association, I believe that Irish people have to thank him above almost all people for making acceptable, even popular, the long overdue and growing recognition of the effort and sacrifice made by Irishmen and their families in the course of World War 1. Elsewhere in this issue of 40-10 you will find a review of Kevin's seminal book – *Ireland's Great War*. I also commend to you, again, Captain Hitchcock's *Diary of the Trenches "Stand To"*. In my opinion these two books tell you more than any other of the lives, the raw experiences, and the sacrifice of Irish soldiers, not least our forebears. Many are named. Lately we have turned more

attention to the men themselves and especially those who fell and were lost. Surprising numbers just disappeared and if you have been to France and Flanders you will have heard of the impossibility of recovering humanity from the results of intensive shellfire and deep soggy mud. But this was not the fate of all, and we are grateful to three of our members who have undertaken in their spare time to search for the Regiment's dead of Premesques in October 1914. In this cause we have the support of the Mayor of Premesques whom I briefed recently. First the job will be a matter of trawling records, both British and German, and then perhaps of acquiring scientific support to search where we think these men may lie. This will all take considerable time and perhaps may turn out to be impossible. But we are encouraged by a generous donation which will help us to meet our volunteers' out of pocket expenses. There will be a progress report on this in the next issue of 40-10.

Just lately we have been told about a different group of Leinster soldiers who, with others, were sent just after World War 1 to a disputed part of (now) Poland. During their stay on duty in that area, no less than 30 men died of whom 3 were Leinsters; no enemy was involved and they died of natural causes or as a result of accidents, or crime. All were buried locally – and then apparently forgotten. There was no effective civil power in the area at the time, nor did the British Government take any responsibility. The results of some 100 years of neglect are that the graves may now have disappeared. In this issue read the story so far (under the heading Dead but not War Dead) and, if it comes to an appeal to the UK Ministry of Defence, please be prepared to give your support. These men must be remembered.

Elsewhere in this issue we have a report from Dover of the Dedication of a Memorial Board at The Duke of York's Royal Military School to former students of The Royal Hibernian Military School

who lost their lives in the First World War. Did you know about this school in Dublin for soldiers' sons many of whom grew up to enlist themselves? And we have two historical articles, one about the 6th Battalion of the Regiment at Gallipoli, and the other Part 1 of an account of the little known doings of the 1st Battalion in Malabar (South West India) in 1921-22. For this latter we are grateful to my Aden colleague of 50 years ago, Chris Kempton.

I end by thanking on your behalf all those who have carried responsibility for the administration of the Association and especially Sheila Dickson who has been compelled by ill health to retire. We thank her warmly and wish her well. I draw your attention to the Annual General Meeting to take place on 26th November in London. This is very important because the Committee is, as noted above, recommending a new Constitution. Of course we hope that you, our members, will approve the changes. And we hope very much that new thoughts and new energy will be attracted from the membership to stand for office bringing much needed interest and fresh effort to the leadership and administration of our Association. By late November we will of course be in sight of Christmas and I sincerely wish every member and all your families a very happy holiday Season and all good fortune in the New Year 2016.

P S W

Front cover

A stained glass window given by Lady Lytton and displayed in the Military Chapel of St Michael and St George at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover. (See the article on page 4 about the dedication of a new Memorial Board to The Royal Hibernian Military School.)

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This is a postcard from a private collection showing - it says - Irish prisoners of war in 1917 at a camp in Cottbus, which is 125km south-east of Berlin.

Even under a glass it is hard to distinguish cap badges but there seem to be three Leinsters in the back row.

Let us know if you recognise anyone?



“ Fear God, Honour the King”

The Dedication of a new Memorial Board to the Royal Hibernian Military School

On Sunday 14th September 2014, a special service was held in the Military Chapel of St. Michael and St. George of The Duke of York's Royal Military School to mark the dedication of a memorial board commemorating the sacrifice made by students of The Royal Hibernian Military School during the Great War. Plaques in memory of two Victoria Cross winners were also dedicated – Corporal John Shaul VC from The Duke of York's Royal Military School and Corporal Frederick Edwards VC from The Royal Hibernian Military School.

The service was led by the School Chaplain, the Revd Nicholas Cook CF and the sermon was given by the Rt Revd Trevor Wilmot, the Bishop of Dover. The memorial board and plaques were unveiled by the principal guest, Brigadier Mike Hill OBE, a Cabinet member of Kent County Council.

The new memorial board commemorating the eighty-two fallen Hibernians is decorated with the cap badge of The Royal Hibernian Military School and is inscribed with the dedication “To the Glory of God and in loving memory of the old boys of the Royal Hibernian Military School who laid down their lives for King and Country in the Great War of 1914-1918” (words taken from the stone cross war memorial which still stands outside the old School in Dublin). Two members of the 2nd Battalion, The Leinster Regiment are listed on the memorial board – Drummer D Clarke who was killed in action on 7th November 1914 and is buried at Trois Arbres Cemetery; and Lieutenant A J Ward who was killed in action on 18th June 1918 and is buried at Cinq Rues British Cemetery, Hazebrouk.



The dedication of the memorial board and the two VC plaques on 14 September 2014
Mr Stephen King (Chapel Warden); Brigadier Mike Hill OBE;
The Rt Revd Trevor Wilmot, The Bishop of Dover; The Revd
Nicholas Cook CF; Lieutenant Colonel Steven Saunderson
CCF (Chapel Warden)

Courtesy of The Duke of York's Royal Military School



The Royal Hibernian Military School joined with The Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover in 1924. Until the installation of the new memorial board at The Duke of York's Royal Military School, the only memorial to the students of The Royal Hibernian Military School and their time in Dover was a small stained glass window (donated to The Royal Hibernian Military School in 1912 by Lady Lyttelton) which is displayed in the gallery of the Military Chapel of St. Michael and St. George.

Members of the Association may also wish to know that Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Edward Nye, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, KCB, KBE, MC was a "Dukie". Nye was born in Shipstreet Barracks, Dublin in 1895 whilst his father was serving as RSM of The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Following his father's death, Nye joined The Duke of York's Royal Military School (then based in Chelsea) and aspired to become a schoolmaster. However, the outbreak of war in 1914 caused him to "join up" ("Dukies" and "Hibs" were considered to be trained soldiers upon leaving their respective schools) and he saw service with the British Expeditionary Force. He was commissioned from the rank of Sergeant to Second Lieutenant in The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment on 5 December 1915. By the end of the war, he was a twice-wounded acting Captain who had been decorated with the Military Cross for gallant action (20th October 1918).

When The Leinster Regiment was disbanded in 1922, Nye was transferred to The Royal Warwickshire Regiment. During World War II, Nye was appointed Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff, working alongside the CIGS General Sir Alan Brooke. Upon retirement in 1946, Nye was made Governor of Madras (1947), High Commissioner to India (1948-1952) and finally High Commissioner to Canada (1952-1956). He was honoured with five knighthoods for his achievements.

S S Saunderson

Vice Principal (Boarding)

The Duke of York's Royal Military School

For information

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, now near Dover, is an academy with military traditions. It is a full boarding school with 452 students and is set to expand to 722 students in the future. The school has benefitted from a £24.9 million grant from the UK Department of Education to upgrade its already impressive site and buildings. The School has also been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

Successful old Dukies of the School include: James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool; Simon Daghli founder of the Walking with the Wounded Charity and Commercial Director of ITV; and the late Maurice Colclough, England International Rugby Union player.

Since becoming an academy, the school has welcomed an increasing number of students in all year groups. All students are subject to a 'suitability for boarding' interview.

Did the Leinsters flee during the Battle for Chunuk Bair

By Professor Jeff Kildea

Editor's Note: If the reader has not studied the Gallipoli Campaign using contemporary or modern large scale marked maps, the following account will be difficult to understand fully in relation to both the ground and the tactical objectives of the attacking forces. But if it is read in isolation it nonetheless stands as a testament to those who fought an all but impossible battle in an unforgiving terrain and a brutal climate, all with little training and very weak administrative and supply support. The small contemporary map here will help a little. We are very grateful to the author for explaining so well aspects of this desperate part of Regimental history.

In August 1915 the Allies attempted to break the stalemate at Gallipoli by a daring attack on the Sari Bair range above Anzac Cove including the high point of Chunuk Bair. The attempt failed and a few months later the Allies, admitting defeat, evacuated the peninsula. The action at Chunuk Bair mostly involved troops from New Zealand. But among the attacking forces there were also Irish battalions of the 10th (Irish) Division, including the 6th Battalion The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). New Zealand historian Christopher Pugsley, who described the battle in "Gallipoli: The New Zealand Story" (Auckland 1984; 5th edition 2014), refers briefly to the Leinsters, claiming that at a critical time they fled in the face of a Turkish counterattack. But contemporary accounts tell a different story. In this centenary year of the Gallipoli campaign the record should be set straight.

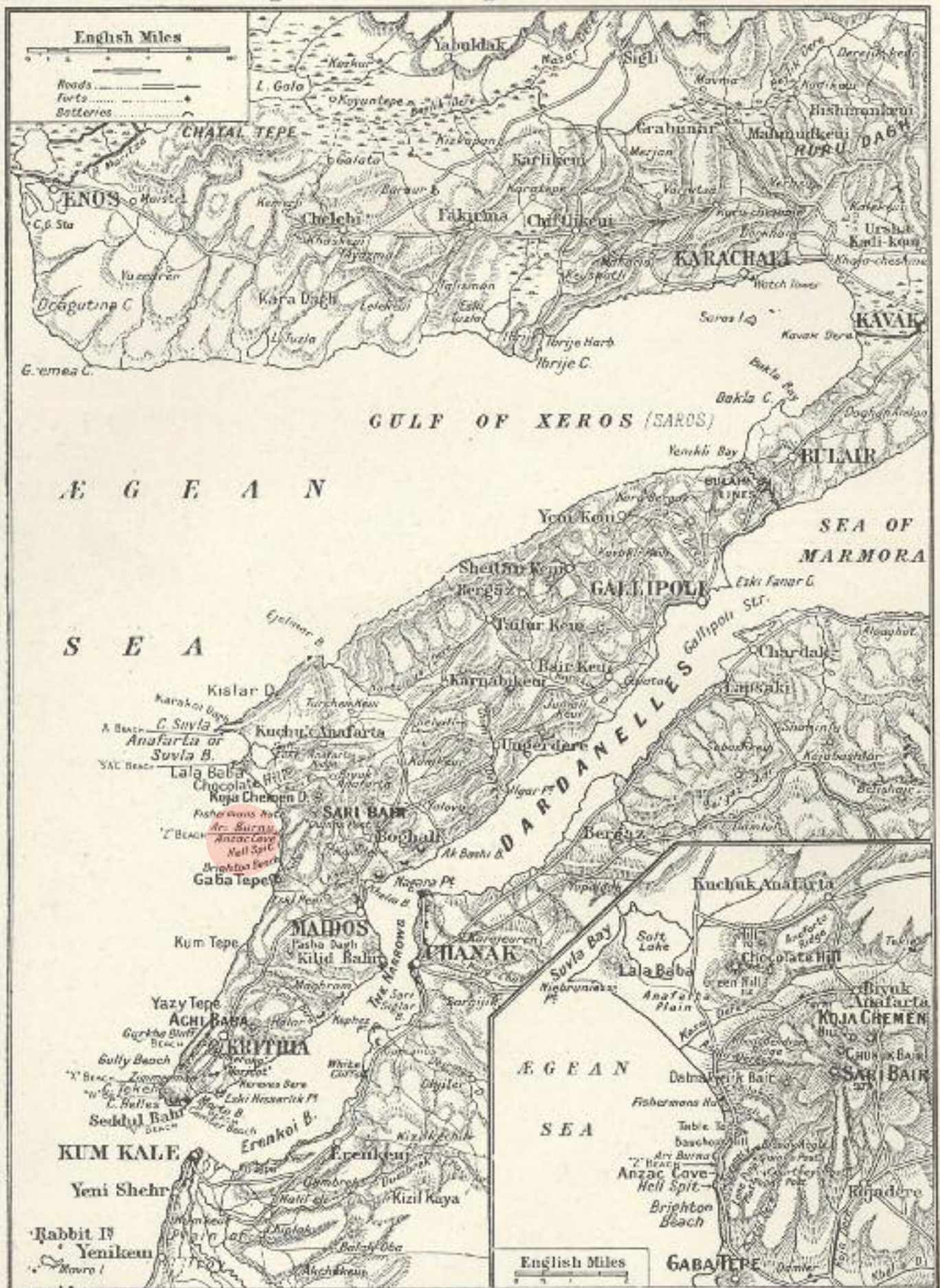
In the early hours of August 8th, 1915, New Zealanders of the Wellington Battalion seized the summit of Chunuk Bair. But theirs was a feeble foothold, for the Turks began to pour a withering fire onto the position and onto Rhododendron Ridge, a spur running from the crest towards the Aegean Sea. The companies of the Wellington Battalion clinging to the summit were soon wiped out, leaving their support companies holding a trench just below the crest. For a day and a half the New Zealanders held on until they were relieved by two English battalions on the night of August 9th-10th. The next morning the Turks counterattacked

in force, sweeping the Englishmen off the summit and rushing down Rhododendron Ridge scattering all before them into the gullies and ravines. The Leinsters, who were part of the 29th Brigade, 10th (Irish) Division, had been brought up in reserve during the night of August 9th. According to Pugsley, in the early hours of August 10th, the Leinsters relieved the Auckland Battalion at the Pinnacle, a feature on Rhododendron Ridge. The Pinnacle was marked by a line of shallow trenches two hundred metres in front of another feature called the Apex, which was the location of the New Zealand Brigade headquarters.

Describing the Turkish counterattack, Pugsley wrote: 'Any determined defence might have held, but the 6th Loyal North Lancashires did not resist but broke and ran, as did the Wiltshires below them. Only the New Zealanders forward showed any fight.' He then added: 'Panic spread and the Leinsters at the Pinnacle also fled.' But this statement contradicts the account of the battle given by Major Bryan Cooper in "The Tenth (Irish) Division in Gallipoli" (London, 1918). After describing the overwhelming of the Loyal North Lancashires and the Wiltshires, Cooper wrote: 'But on the right the Leinsters stood their ground. At last the moment had arrived to which they had so anxiously looked forward. Turk and Irishman, face to face, and hand to hand, could try which was the better man. ... In spite of the odds, the two companies in the front line succeeded in checking the attack, and at the crucial moment they were reinforced by "B" and "C" Companies from the support line. ... Shouting, they flung themselves into the fray, and drove the Turks back after a desperate struggle at close quarters.' Unfortunately, neither Pugsley nor Cooper cites a source for their account of the reaction of the Leinster Regiment to the Turkish counterattack, so it is not possible to identify definitively the evidence upon which each relied. It must also be said that each author has written from a particular, but different, perspective.

Cooper himself served with the 10th (Irish) Division at Gallipoli and his book was written during 1917. Thus, to some degree, his account might be considered self-serving and influenced by patriotic exigencies that would be irrelevant to a disinterested historian writing long

Detailed Map of Gallipoli and Dardanelles



In the summer of 1915, the focus of interest among the various fields of our Imperial struggle was unquestionably the Dardanelles. The German plan, obviously, was to break through to Constantinople, and it was, therefore, incumbent on the Allies to hold the enemy in the Balkans. It was regarded as probable, therefore, that the new war in the Balkans would modify to some extent the Gallipoli Expedition.

after the event. Cooper admits as much in the Preface: 'It is by no means easy for an Irishman to be impartial, but I have done my best.' Furthermore, Cooper was not present at Chunuk Bair and in writing his book relied on summaries provided by fellow officers of the division. Therefore, his account of the Leinsters does not carry the added weight that might be accorded to an eye witness. Like Pugsley, he has had to reconstruct the event from the testimony of others. Pugsley, on the other hand, is a New Zealander who was writing a national history of the Gallipoli campaign, as the title of his book indicates. He considers the battle for Chunuk Bair to be one of the outstanding feats of arms in his country's history and, in the conclusion to the chapter on the battle, he extols in quite fulsome and passionate terms the virtues of his countrymen who fought in it.

It is understandable, therefore, that Pugsley's primary research might not have extended to other nationalities and that his writing might not fully or accurately describe their activities. He has neither quoted nor cited Cooper's book and his bibliography suggests he did not consult the war diaries of the 6th Leinster Regiment or the diaries, correspondence and memoirs of its officers and men.

So, the question remains: did Pugsley misrepresent the reaction of the Leinsters? The Leinster's war diary does not indicate the battalion's precise location on Rhododendron Ridge. However, its account of the action on the morning of August 10th, 1915, gives no indication that the Leinsters fled: 'TURKS attacked about 06:00, several reaching crest of RHODODENDRON SPUR, a firing line was formed and rushed to the top of RHODODENDRON SPUR where they came under a hot fire. The line was withdrawn about 10 yards from the crest, a machine gun then enfiladed the line from the left inflicting several casualties, a sniper on our left also inflicted losses. Lt Figgis killed. Lt Col Craske wounded in left arm. Attack withdrew about 07:45 and firing line was retired to the trench.'

Although the war diary contains neither the detail nor the colour of Cooper's account of the action, it indicates that the Leinsters advanced and then withdrew under orders. The war diary also includes the following: 'On the 23/8/15 Maj Gen Sir A. Godley KCMG, CB sent for the C.O. and complimented him on the work of the BATTALION on the morning of 10/8/15. He also asked after Lt Col Craske (who was wounded) and said 'your Colonel has done good work.' This hardly suggests

that the Leinsters fled the scene. The Australian Official Historian Charles Bean in his account of the battle corroborates Cooper's account: 'That night the position at Chunuk Bair was entirely in the hands of the New Army battalions. Birdwood and Godley had by then given up the intention of renewing their assault on the following day, and the new garrison was for the moment to stand on the defensive. The Loyal North Lancashire held both the advanced foothold and the Auckland's old half-way position at the Pinnacle. The 6th Leinster occupied the Apex. In other words it was the Loyal North Lancashire and not the Leinsters who were at the Pinnacle when the Turks attacked. This is made clear by one of Bean's maps which shows the Pinnacle and the Apex on Rhododendron ridge occupied by the two units. Bean's account of the Turkish counter attack includes the following: 'Then the North Lancashire broke, both at Chunuk Bair and at the Pinnacle. ... When the 5th Wiltshire, who had been digging, saw the Turkish line descending upon their right, they also ran back, down the Sazli Dere. ... On Rhododendron small parties continued to trickle forward, and an hour later Turks even appeared close above General Johnston's headquarters at the Apex, where Captain Wallingford is said to have shot two with his revolver. The 6th Leinster and a company of Auckland infantry advanced with bayonets fixed, and relieved the Apex of any further threat.'

Bean's account in this regard is supported by that of the British Official History: 'At daybreak on the 10th August, therefore, the British line at the head of Rhododendron Spur was held by three companies of the Loyal North Lancashire (38th Brigade) in the forward trenches, and one company at the Pinnacle. To the right of and far below the Pinnacle were 2½ companies of the 5/Wiltshire (40th Brigade), while the Apex was held by the remnants of the Wellington Battalion, some of the 6/Leinster (29th Brigade) and the massed machine guns of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade ... Suddenly, at 4.45am, dense waves of Turks came pouring over the sky-line. ... [Soon] the Turks had captured the Pinnacle, but at that point their advance was stopped by annihilating fire from the New Zealand machine guns at the Apex. The Leinsters were rushed into line to hold the Apex position, and this they succeeded in doing for the rest of the day.'

Based on the Leinsters' war diary, the official histories and Cooper, Pugsley's assertion that the Leinsters fled the Pinnacle during the Turkish counter-attack is wrong.

Rather, they did their job in defending the Apex, enabling the New Zealand machine gunners to continue to inflict severe punishment on the Turkish forces, thus preventing them from forcing the British Empire troops off Rhododendron Ridge.

Afternote:

A Service was held in Lisburn Cathedral on Sunday 9th August to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign and to honour all who took part. Representatives of the Government of Ireland and of the Government of Northern Ireland were present together with the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand, and the Turkish Ambassador. The Leinster Regiment was represented by Mr Niall Leinster who laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Leinster Regiment Soldier's Grave Marked after 96 Years

By Stephen Callaghan



Ninety-six years after the death of Leinster Regiment soldier, serjeant Gordon McNeil Brooker, a permanent stone CWGC marker has been erected on his unmarked grave in Clonoghill cemetery, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Gordon was born in St. John's, Barbados in 1886, and was an engineer by trade. He enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers in August 1903, and was placed on home service until March 1905 when he was transferred to the Leinster Regiment¹. He saw service in Africa and then India with the 2nd battalion from 1907 to 1911. He was later put on home service with the 3rd Battalion and was stationed in the Leinster depot in Birr. Here he met and married a local women Alice Brennan, they married in St Brendan's RC church in Birr on 7 May 1913². They had two children; Mary Elizabeth who was born on 27 April 1914, and Elizabeth who was born on 8 March 1918. Mary is recorded as having attended Crinkill Female National School in April 1920³.

Brooker served in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force with the 2nd battalion, during the Great War, later being posted to the 6th (service) battalion and seeing action in Salonika. Returning home in May 1916 he was posted on home service for the rest of the War. During his home service he was appointed acting company quartermaster serjeant, but reverted back to serjeant at his own request. For his service in the War he was awarded a 1915 star trio. Brooker was discharged on 5 March 1919 at Portsmouth, due to King's Regulation paragraph 392; no longer physically fit for further service, he died just 6 days later on the 11 March 1919 at Queen Alexandria Hospital from pneumonia. He was brought home to Birr where he was interred on 17th March in the unmarked grave in Clonoghill cemetery⁴. Gordon's family disappear after 1920 with no trace of Alice or their two children. Gordon's brother, Frederick who had also served in the Leinster Regiment settled and raised a family in New York.

It wasn't until 2011, during the author's research of Clonoghill cemetery, a name in the interment register stood out, a 33 year old Leinster Regiment serjeant who died in March 1919. Contact with Commonwealth War

Grave Commission resulted in an application being put forward to the Ministry of Defence to determine whether serjeant Gordon McNeil Brooker was to be commemorated or not by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, as another casualty of the Great War. He was accepted and his name was added the CWGC database in August 2012. The author erected a temporary wooden memorial cross to mark the grave in January 2013, with a permanent stone CWGC memorial being erected sometime in late May or early

June 2015, marking the final resting place of this Leinster Regiment soldier, 96 years after his death.

Sources.

1. British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920
2. Ibid
3. Crinkill Female National School Register (Crinkill Nation School, Crinkill, Co. Offaly)
4. Register of Interments, Clonoghill Cemetery, Birr (Birr Municipal District Offices, Wilmer Road, Birr)

18 September 2014: Opening of Wicklow World War One Memorial, Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow

By Stephen Keeley



On Thursday 18 September 2014 Mr Charles Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs, officially opened a memorial park at Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, to commemorate natives and residents of Co. Wicklow who died as a result of the First World War.

The origins of the project date back to 2012, when the Wicklow War Memorial Committee was established with a view to developing a memorial to those from the county who died in the First World War, for completion in September 2014. The Committee decided that the memorial would display the names of natives and residents of county Wicklow who had lost their lives, either directly or indirectly, as a result of the

First World War. Mr Brendan Flynn of Wicklow produced a list of 1,192 names, based on all documentation currently available, though it is acknowledged that the list may not be definitive at this point in time. The names are listed on the 15 granite pillars that comprise the memorial. It is located alongside the old railway bridge on the river bank at Woodenbridge; the location for the speech made by **John Redmond MP on 20 September 1914**, in which he exhorted members of the Irish Volunteers to enlist in the British Army during the war, 'to go where ever the firing line extends, in defence of right, of freedom and of religion in this war'. It was agreed that Woodenbridge would be the most suitable site in the county given the association with Redmond's speech.



Left to right: Mr Andrew Doyle TD (Member for Co Wicklow); Mr Charlie Flanagan TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr Stephen Keeley, lately Association Assistant Treasurer in Ireland.

Book Review



Ireland's Great War by Kevin Myers, published by The Lilliput Press, Dublin pb 2014 reprinted 2015.

No member of the Association, no person with a family member who served in the Leinsters in the Great War, no-one who values truth, nor

everyone who believes and invests in reconciliation should fail to read this book. As the historian and

author Thomas Pakenham has written, Kevin Myers has “rescued 200,000 Irishmen from oblivion”. It was written from a mass of notes made by Kevin over a good many years while following a private determination to discover the truth of Irish deaths in the War. He used the same notes to compile his talk on the Regiment in St Brendan’s Church of Ireland in Birr on Friday 20th September 2013. If you have not read this book and think you know the story, well please think again. Go straight out and buy your own copy – and marvel.

P S W

The Waterford World War 1 Memorial Wall Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

By Denis Kirby

As from every county in Ireland, many thousand Waterford men took part in the 1st World War.

When the war broke out in August 1914 a total of 13 Regiments of the regular British army could be classified as "Irish". Eight of these, including the "Leinsters" had their Depot in Ireland, while the remainder were based in Britain. Over 200,000 Irishmen from all parts of the country joined the British forces, while the number who were in other Allied forces is unclear. Some 50,000 died.

For many years the war was not spoken about in Ireland and many returning soldiers were slow to speak about their service. Ireland's involvement in the war began to be forgotten, as if it was airbrushed out of Irish history, and events from the 1930s until relatively recently didn't help matters.

The Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which brought an end to the troubles in Northern Ireland, paved the way for change. In November 1998, Queen Elizabeth II, King Albert II of Belgium and Irish President Mary McAleese unveiled the Irish Peace Tower in the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines near Ypres. It is a memorial to soldiers from all parts of Ireland who died, were wounded or are missing from World War 1. The tower memorial is close to the site of the June 1917 battle for Messines Ridge and was chosen because that battle witnessed one of the occasions where Irishmen, regardless of religion fought side by side against a common enemy.

During her state visit to Ireland in 2011 Queen Elizabeth laid a wreath at Ireland's Garden of Remembrance which honours those who died for Irish freedom. The following day she laid a wreath at the National War Memorial gardens at Islandbridge dedicated to the memory of the 49,000 Irish soldiers who gave their lives in the Great War. In 2014 President Higgins, on his state visit to the UK, viewed the Colours of the 1922 Disbanded Irish Regiments, including the Leinsters, in Windsor Castle.

In September 2013, after many years of work and with the active involvement of Leinster Regiment Association members in the locality, the Leinsters' memorial was unveiled at the gateway to the Regiment's Depot at Crinkill Barracks in Birr. Since then many Cities and Counties have been looking at ways of honouring those from their own localities who participated in the war.

In Waterford in 2010, a committee of local people, under the Chairmanship of Waterford TD John Deasy, was formed to see how they might honour the men from Waterford. A website was set up dedicated to the financing and erection of an appropriate memorial. The initiative was organised with the assistance of some members of the Waterford County Museum Society. The committee's initial goal was to motivate people to get in contact so as to construct as accurate a record as is possible of those who were from Waterford. And space has been left on the monument to add any verifiable names that were not included. The memorial Committee had set a timeline of four years to complete the project, i.e. to have it completed by 2014, the 100th anniversary of the start to the Great War. However help was forthcoming from the Government's Board of Works as well as Waterford County and City Councils. As a result the memorial was formally unveiled in October 2013.

The monument, in the form of a simple polished black granite wall, inscribed with almost 1,100 names, was dedicated at a ceremony on the site beside King John's Castle, with Barry Andrews, CEO of the Irish relief agency GOAL, giving the oration and President of the Leinster Regiment Association, Maj Gen David O'Morchoe, reading from Robert Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen*.

The monument lists the fallen by village, town or city but gives no ranks, numbers or regiments. A wreath from the Leinster Regiment Association was laid at the annual commemoration ceremony in August 2015.

(Ed: We are very grateful to Denis Kirby for laying the wreath on behalf of the Association.)

The last Colonel of the Regiment Major-General Sir Gerald Boyd KCB CMG DSO DCM (1877-1930)

By Nick Weekes



For an infantry recruit to the British Army in the late 19th century to rise to the rank of Sergeant and win the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) in just over four years was highly unusual. For an infantry Sergeant to progress to the rank of Major-General over the period 1900-18 was even more unusual. These were some of the achievements of Gerald Boyd, who was Colonel of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) from 13 October 1919 until the Regiment's disbandment on 31 July 1922.

The 1921/22 Regimental Annual included a photograph of Major-General Boyd (probably taken in 1919) which is reproduced above. The account of his extraordinary military career which follows below draws on the same source.

Major General Gerald Farrell Boyd was born in 1877. Determined to short-circuit the usual path for an aspiring officer of attending Woolwich or Sandhurst, he instead took the Queen's shilling and enlisted in the Devonshire Regiment. In 1898, by now a Corporal in the 2nd Battalion serving in Aldershot, he was recommended for a commission. In 1899, the 2nd Devons sailed for South Africa to take part in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, and during the voyage he was promoted to Sergeant. Later that year at the Battle of Colenso he won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and on 5 May 1900 he was granted his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the East Yorkshire Regiment; with them he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his brilliant work in a Mounted Infantry action. It was

believed that at the time he was the only officer in the Army wearing the ribbons of both the DSO and the DSM. Promoted Lieutenant in April 1902, his excellent work with the Mounted Infantry in South Africa led to his appointment as Adjutant of the Mounted Infantry School at Aldershot – a high honour as the Mounted Infantry had proved immensely valuable in the South African War. Early in 1904 he was offered promotion to Captain on transfer to the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment. Accepting this, Captain Boyd returned to South Africa to join the 2nd Battalion The Leinsters, receiving command of the Mounted Infantry Company. After that two years were spent at the Depot in Birr, and he then returned to India to re-join the 2nd Battalion. In 1910 he passed into the Staff College at Quetta (in modern day Pakistan) and, after qualifying, returned to the 2nd Battalion by then serving in Cork. That year, 1912, he received his first Staff appointment as Brigade Major of the 11th Infantry Brigade ... and in 1913 he married.

With his Brigade which was a component of the 4th Division Boyd went to France in 1914 and was present at the Battle of Le Cateau on 26 August. He was wounded severely but recovered and in March 1915 was appointed to a grade 2 (major's) Staff appointment in HQ 1st Division. He also received promotion to Major and transferred to the (18th) Royal Irish Regiment. But before long he was drawn back to the Staff being made GSO 1 (Lt Col level) of the 6th Division in which the 2nd Battalion The Leinsters were serving. The post of Brigadier-General General Staff of the 5th Corps followed, and after a while came command of the 46th North Midland Division in 1918. In June 1919 he was promoted Major General and also appointed Colonel of the Leinster Regiment. At the end of the year he received the particularly onerous appointment of General Officer Commanding Dublin District which he held until 1922; his reward was a Knighthood in the New Year honours 1923. He then returned to Quetta where he had been a student but this time as Commandant of the Staff College. He returned to London in 1927 where he assumed the prestigious appointment of Military Secretary in the War Office..

But then his career was cut short by serious illness and he died in hospital on 12 April 1930, survived by his wife and their two sons. October 2013.

Dead, But Not War Dead

Three Forgotten Soldiers of 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment

By Nick Weekes

In a now derelict cemetery in Opole – a town in south-western Poland – rest the remains of three soldiers of 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment who died while on active duty in the area in 1921 and 1922. The remains are those of:

Lance-Corporal Alfred Edward Emons (7178715), died 26 November 1921

Private Patrick Barry (7178489), died 12 December 1921

Private James Light ((7178629), died 19 March 1922

There is no memorial, there are no headstones and even the exact location of the graves within the cemetery is in doubt. A search of the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will yield nothing on these three men. It is appropriate to ask what they were doing at the time of their deaths. It is even more appropriate to ask why their remains languish unmarked and forgotten, in stark contrast to the treatment accorded to the remains of members of the 2nd Battalion who fell in France and Flanders during the Great War.

The Treaty of Versailles – which came into force on 10 January 1920 – directed that the German-Polish frontier in Upper Silesia (hitherto part of Germany but with a significant Polish population) was to be determined by plebiscite. An inter-allied high commission accordingly assumed administrative responsibility for Upper Silesia and made preparations for the plebiscite. Twelve battalions of French troops and three battalions of Italian troops (some 13,000 men in all) were deployed to maintain law and order; these were joined in early March 1921 by four British battalions

The plebiscite was held on 20 March 1921 and the four British battalions were withdrawn in April. The plebiscite did not generate an obvious demarcation line between Poland and Germany and resulted in some serious fighting between Polish insurgents and German paramilitary forces with the Franco-Italian military contingent struggling to maintain the upper hand.

The British responded to French appeals for help by ordering the despatch of reinforcements to Upper Silesia.

The arrival of the British Upper Silesian Force in May and June 1921 (initially six battalions but later eight battalions) helped to restore allied authority but a state of siege in the area was not lifted until September 1921. The British Upper Silesian Force included 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment (deploying from Colchester) and four other Irish battalions.

The allied powers could not agree on the interpretation of the plebiscite results to arrive at a definitive international frontier and passed this challenge to the League of Nations. Although the League made its recommendations in October 1921, various complications delayed the division of the area between Germany and Poland and the final evacuation of allied troops until July 1922. The five Irish battalions had been ordered home for disbandment in March 1922, five English battalions deploying to take their places.

Forty-one members of the British Upper Silesian Force (including the three soldiers of The Leinster Regiment) died during the period 3 June 1921 to 6 July 1922. All of these were initially interred in a municipal cemetery at Oppeln (in that part of Upper Silesia that reverted to Germany in 1922).

The Imperial War Graves Commission exhumed the remains of eleven of these soldiers in February 1925 for re-interment in the Commission's Berlin South-Western (Stahnsdorf) Cemetery. The graves of these soldiers at Stahnsdorf are classified as war graves, have headstones and are treated in exactly the same way as the graves of those who fell on the Western Front.

Why were the remains of only eleven men relocated to Stahnsdorf, leaving the graves of thirty men at Oppeln? The answer is that the chartered responsibility of the Imperial War Graves Commission for war dead covered deaths during the period 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 inclusive. Men who died on or after 1 September 1921 were not war dead and the Commission had no responsibility for their graves. While this may seem bureaucratic, it was obviously necessary to establish a timeframe for the Commission's responsibilities.

The unfortunate result is that those who died during the first three months of the existence of the British Upper Silesian Force are war dead and are interred at Stahnsdorf (in the care of what is now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) whereas their comrades who died later in the Force's period of deployment are not war dead and remain interred at Oppeln (known as Opole since 1945, when the area passed under Polish administration) in the care of no one. When the Poles took over Opole, all the German graves in the cemetery were vandalised. The cemetery closed in 1968 and suffered serious flooding in 1997. Very few people – in Britain, in Ireland or even in Opole itself – know that this derelict cemetery is the resting place of thirty British soldiers. Eleven of these belonged to Irish regiments.

Our Chairman has recently been contacted by a relative of one of the soldiers interred at Opole, seeking his support for the commissioning of an appropriate memorial to the thirty soldiers who have been denied the respect and dignity accorded to their comrades who died on or before 31 August 1921. This individual is concurrently making contact with all the relevant regimental associations. Assuming that he gathers general support for his proposed initiative (already given by our Chairman), the next steps will involve consideration of the best location for a memorial and investigation of the possibility of official funding. We intend to use The 40-10 and our website to keep members informed of developments as this project gathers momentum.



Upper Silesia

The shaded area shows the territory that became part of Poland in 1922
The rest of Upper Silesia (including Oppeln) became part of Poland in 1945

The Moplah Rebellion or The Malabar Campaign of 1921-22 - Part 1

(Adapted and abbreviated with permission from an article originally published in *Durbar* (The Journal of the Indian Military Historical Society)

Background

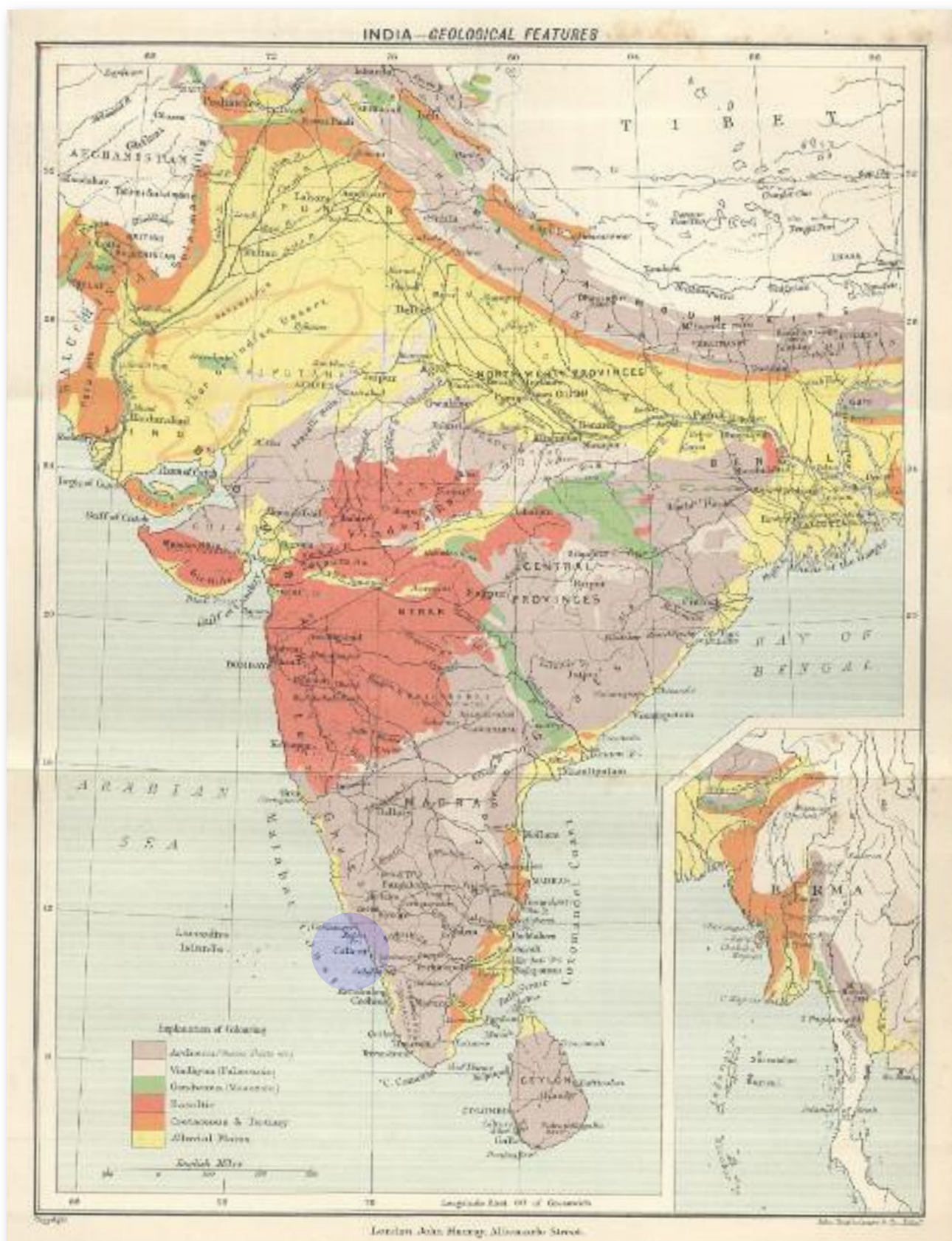
In 1919 India suffered political upheaval which continued in one form or another for the next twenty eight years. The Rowlatt Acts, which came into effect in early 1919 brought in severe anti-terrorist laws. These outraged Indian feelings; they also brought to the front a previously minor player, Mohandas Gandhi. Having practiced civil disobedience before in South Africa, Gandhi now introduced his campaign of *satyagraha* popularly described as passive resistance. Both Hindus and Muslims agreed to take part in the first action or hartal to be held in Delhi on 30th March. Unfortunately the 'passive' part of the campaign was not understood, or ignored, and the highly volatile crowds began serious rioting. Attacks were made on property whether European or local and were only brought to an end by armed police and elements of the Army. Such events continued in other places; then, the situation worsened when Gandhi was arrested on 10th April. The Punjab was particularly affected and the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, fearing a major insurrection, decided that the severest measures had to be taken to contain the situation. On the 11th April, O'Dwyer ordered Brigadier General Dyer to move his 45th Infantry Brigade to Amritsar where the riots on the previous day had developed into full scale attacks on Europeans.

Two days later, after ordering a curfew and banning processions or meetings, Dyer carried out the notorious massacre at the Jallianwalla Bagh, an enclosed space. His force of fifty Gurkha and Baluch troops fired 1,650 rounds in ten minutes causing 379 fatalities and some 1,500 wounded amongst a crowd of some fifteen to twenty thousand who were effectively trapped. This appalling act created a high level of sustained ill-feeling throughout India. The next month, May, saw the beginning of the 3rd Afghan War to deal with tribal uprisings on the North-west frontier. This in turn created considerable discontent among British troops whose post-War return to Britain and demobilisation were both delayed. An extreme if isolated example was the limited mutiny of elements of an Irish Battalion whose feelings had been whipped up by nationalists at

home. Meanwhile, Gandhi, horrified at the results of his campaign, had called off strikes. But popular action re-asserted itself in the form of a non-cooperative movement which continued its activities through 1920 and 1921. Through all this little publicity was given to an uprising in Malabar in the far south-west of India.

What was known as Malabar in 1921 consists now of a coastal part of North Kerala though most place names (except Calicut re-named Kozhikode) remain unchanged. The area was and remains prosperous though the climate can be oppressive with heavy monsoons in June and again in November. Roads however were good though rail access was very limited; uncultivated land was covered in dense jungle much of it virtually impenetrable bamboo. The local Moplah people, or Mapillas, were descended from arab traders who arrived during the ninth century, and who converted or married into the local population. Initially welcomed by the local Hindu rajahs as useful traders, the influence of the Moplahs was reduced by the arrival of Portugese, followed by competitive French, Dutch and English. Their move towards Islam and fanaticism began in the 16th century and then escalated. Some Hindus were murdered in the 18th century, and occasional attacks took place in the mid 19th century. Things got worse with the murder of the (English) District Magistrate in 1855 followed by more trouble in the 1880s and 1896. An actual uprising took place in 1915 and some Hindus were murdered in 1919. Political agitation was stoked by Gandhi and his associate Shaikat Ali, and probably assisted by Nehru (later Prime Minister of (independent) India) who had been instrumental in the creation of a local peasant organisation. This general unrest burst into serious trouble with violent attacks on Hindus by Moplahs culminating in a riot at Pukkottur in July 1921

It was now plain that something must be done. The General Officer Commanding Madras District reported to the Government that more troops were required and that they should be European. This was put into effect very rapidly with the arrival across Malabar of a Squadron of the Queen's Bays and elements of 2nd Battalion The Dorsets and of two Indian Battalions. But the work of securing Calicut and of counter-insurgent operations in the area was taken over by 1st Battalion the Leinsters, most of it falling on C Company. Despite some casualties, and in the face



of some determined action by insurgents, the matter was dealt with energetically and very successfully.

The story will be completed in more detail in Part 2 of this article to be published in the next edition of 40-10.

(Ed: For those who have not previously heard of the Indian Military Hisoprcal Society, it was formed in 1983 to bring together people interested in the military history of the Indian

subcontinent and to encourage research and the exchange of information. This covers everything from aspects of general military history to specific battles or campaigns, services units engaged in India both before and after Independence including details of uniforms, medals, badges, etc. The Society's journal *Durbar* is published four times a year. Further details are available from the Secretary, Mr Tony McClenaghan, 33 High Street, Tilbrook, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 0JP; email: imhs@mcclenaghan.waitrose.com website: www.imhs.org.uk).

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.co.uk

The Officers (The Committee)

Chairman	Colonel Peter Walton	peter@scarletgunner.com
Vice-Chairman	(vacant)	
Secretary	Mr David Ball	dave@the-bunker.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	(vacant) Address queries to the Chairman (above)	

Additional Postholders (to be elected to the Committee)

Editor of 40-10 (acting)	Colonel Peter Walton	peter@scarletgunner.com
Publicity Officer	(vacant)	
Researcher (Premesques)	Mr Andrew Overton (and team)	
Minutes Secretary	(vacant)	

Method of Working

Under its present (2010) 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 other individuals who may be elected by the AGM constitute the Committee of the Association which is domiciled and usually meets in Great Britain.

However, in 2015 the present Committee will commend to the Association at the AGM to be held in London on Thursday 26th November a new Constitution whose principal object is to involve members in both Ireland and Great Britain more in the role and work of the Association. In the process a new Committee will be formed and the procedure for this is set out in an enclosure with the current (Autumn 2015) edition of 40-10.

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

40-10 Autumn 2015

Future Events for Members – subject to confirmation

Thu 5 Nov 2015	Remembrance Sunday Church Service, Dublin
Thu 5 Nov 2015 1100 hrs	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, London
Thu 5 Nov 2015 1400 hrs	Combined Irish Regiments Association Service Remembrance, Westminster Cathedral, London
Thu 5 Nov 2015 1630 hrs	Lecture by Prof Partha Chatterjee “An Easter Rising in an Eastern Colony”, University College Dublin Dept of War Studies (tel (Dublin) 01716 8608)
Sun 8 Nov 2015 1100 hrs	Remembrance Sunday Parade, Whitehall, London
Sun 8 Nov 2015 1430 hrs	Ecumenical Service of Remembrance, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin
Wed 11 Nov 2015 1200 hrs	Annual Armistice Day Wreath Laying, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin (for confirmation of timing tel (Dublin) 01882 6550)
Thu 19 Nov 2015 1630 hrs	Lecture by Prof Keith Jeffery “The Other 1916 Risings”, University College Dublin Centre of War Studies (tel (Dublin) 01716 8608)
Thu 26 Nov 2015 1500 hrs	Association AGM, Civil Service Club, Whitehall, London
Thu 26 Nov 2015 1630 hrs	Lecture by Prof Bill Nasson “Unbalanced Emotionism: the 1916 Rising in South African Eyes” Newman House, St Stephen’s Green Dublin (University College Dublin Centre of War Studies (tel (Dublin) 01716 8608)
Thu 10 Dec 2015 1900 hrs	Lecture by Dr Timothy Bowman “The Ulster Division”, Public Record Office of N Ireland, Belfast (WFA Antrim Down)
Sat 12 Dec 2015 1400 hrs	Lecture “The Withdrawal from Gallipoli” by Foster Summerson Collins Bks, Dublin (WFA tel (Dublin) 01895 8831)
Fri 1 Jan 2016 TBA	Opening Event of the Irish State’s 1916 Commemoration, Dublin Castle (Dept of An Taoiseach (tel (Dublin) 01677 7444)
Mon 21 Jan 2016 1630 hrs	Lecture by Prof Jay Winter “1916 and the Great War” Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St, Dublin (University College Dublin Centre of War Studies (tel (Dublin) 01716 8608)
Sat ??? Jun 2016 TBA	Association OGM and Lunch or Supper
Sun ??? Jun 2016 TBA	Combined Irish Regiments Association Annual Parade and Service of Remembrance, Whitehall, London
??? Mid Jul 2016 TBA	Association AGM, Dublin (location and all details to be advised)
??? Sep 2016 TBA	Battlefield Visit to the Somme with the Somme Association

Important Note

The schedule above contains several (? Draft) events for which planning is needed.

If you are interested in any visit overseas, especially the Somme, please contact without delay Ian Lowe (ianlowe@marfordms1.demon.co.uk) to register your interest.

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*

