



# *The 40-10*



## LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Journal of The Association of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

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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*

This year has been a story of careful endeavour. The Association adopted a new Constitution which provides for a single class of membership but within it for separate groups in Ireland and in Britain (including the ROW (or rest of the world)). These groups are encouraged to be largely self-administering though corporate responsibility for the actions, funds and external activities of the Association remain with the central General Committee. Its members are elected annually at the Association AGM. In addition, each of the national groups of members is entitled to provide two elected representatives to sit on the General Committee which is thus, in a sense, doubly representative. The AGM is held in the two countries in alternate years – this year in Ireland; next year, 2017, in Great Britain; and so on. The General Committee has met once this year; the next will be in Ireland. Our membership currently stands at 177 of whom 85 are resident in Ireland and 92 in Great Britain and overseas.

As I noted in the Editorial to the 2015 issue, part of the purpose for which we introduced the new Constitution was to encourage members of the group who separated from us to consider the merits of communicating with us. The Association is doing nothing but moving forward and delivering what it believes is valuable and useful to our members. The separated group is doing the same in the same field for the same object. We have no issue with that but we are concerned by the confusion which is being caused in the eyes of the Press and thus the public in Ireland. I appeal once again to the separated group to have a chat with us in the belief that, talking together, we can be reconciled and can go on to do so much more good together.

This issue of 40-10 begins with Part 1 of the story of an Irishman who rose from a humble beginning in

Dublin, through the ranks, to be very senior indeed in the British Army. He was neither the first nor indeed the last of his kind but his story is unique and inspiring. Then we have Part 2 of the article begun in the 2015 issue of 40-10 about the experiences of some of the 2nd Battalion dealing with a messy breakdown of order in a remote corner of South-west India called the Malabah. There are bulletins of news about people and places attracting our attention. Then some remarks about the power of Commemoration in the way that it has attracted the attention of relations and descendants. Finally there are six pages devoted to the life including the uniforms of the men who served in the Regiment just before the outbreak of war in 1914. The black and white pictures are, we hope, enhanced by the figure on the front cover of this issue of a soldier of the Regiment in his scarlet full dress around 1910. Soldiers of that time spent many hours in peacetime caring for their uniform – boots cleaned, trousers and tunics brushed and pressed, helmets too, and brasswork polished. This of course was to develop and maintain pride in person and in the Regiment – and pride was (and remains) one of the key ingredients of fighting spirit: battles are not won by soldiers who are well fed and well dressed: on top of good equipment and training they need the moral value of pride in their Regiment and themselves along with confidence in the leadership of their officers. Above and beyond that model are the winners of VCs who, over the last 150 years or so, have shown that they are in a military class of their own: the Leinsters had their share.

On page 18 we list the members of the Association who give their time to help lead and administer it – we are extremely grateful to them all. Their work is vital. But the list allows me to highlight one serious deficiency – there is still no Webmaster. In the absence of a volunteer we are considering the

employment of a professional. If we take one on there will be a cost and when we know how much, and have agreed the support we need, we will consider the matter again. It will not be helpful to say more at this stage except to appeal yet again for a volunteer: if you who read this would like to flex your IT skills and help us in this way please contact Denis Kirby in Ireland or Peter Walton in GB – see page 18 for email addresses. We could also do with another volunteer to help in England, twice a year with the taking of Minutes and their rapid production in fair copy. If this is your skill please help. Contacts as above. Lastly, I thank Tom Bolger for volunteering some time ago to help us with publicity only to go down with a serious medical condition. He has since resigned and I want to express my appreciation of his support in stepping forward. On behalf of us all I send him our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to full health.

This issue will reach you before Christmas and I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy holiday season, and the best of good fortune in the New Year 2017.

P S W

#### Front cover

A Sergeant and a Private soldier of the Leinster Regiment  
c 1908 (both wearing the two medals for the South Africa  
War 1899-1902)

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## Advertisement

The General Committee of the Association would be extremely grateful for the assistance twice a year (exceptionally three times) of a kind person to take Minutes of meetings. The requirement is to attend as advised in the calling notice, probably in London, to collect and record the names of members at the meeting, and to take minutes of what is said by whom; then to send the Chairman a fair copy of that record. This post is for a volunteer. Out of pocket expenses will be met. If this interests you, or someone you know, please contact Peter Walton by email or 01580 242855.



Lieutenant A E Nye MC  
*(image extracted from a group photograph taken at Colchester in 1922 shortly before the disbandment of The Leinster Regiment)*

# The Life of Archie Nye

(Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Edward Nye GCSI GCMG GCIE KCB KBE MC)

By Lieutenant Colonel Steven Saunderson and Lieutenant Colonel Nick Weekes<sup>1</sup>

## Part 1: 1895-1922

Archibald Edward Nye was born on 23 April 1895 at Ship Street Barracks, Dublin to Sergeant-Major<sup>2</sup> Charles Nye of the 1st Battalion The Oxfordshire Light Infantry<sup>3</sup> and his wife Mary. He was the fifth of six children (three boys and three girls). The young Archie was sent to be educated at The Duke of York's Royal Military School in 1904.<sup>4</sup>

He was a bright and hardworking student and he hoped to become a schoolmaster. However, the Great War started as Archie was leaving school and he joined the Army in the ranks on 7 October 1914,<sup>5</sup> being posted to the British Expeditionary Force on 1 April 1915. Details of Nye's service in the ranks (including the regiment or corps in which he first enlisted) have not been sighted but it is clear from *The London Gazette* that when Nye received a field commission in December 1915 he was serving as a Serjeant in the Corps of Army Schoolmasters. His commission as a Second Lieutenant in The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) took effect from 5 December 1915.

Nye was assigned to the 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment; this battalion had been serving in France and Flanders since September 1914 and was to remain on the Western Front until the Armistice in 1918. It seems that Nye was wounded and evacuated to the UK in May 1916. He was promoted to Lieutenant effective 5 September 1916 and rejoined the 2nd Battalion at the beginning of December 1916. He was then wounded again and was evacuated to the UK at the beginning of January 1917.

By March 1917 Nye was sufficiently recovered to be appointed Adjutant of the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion The Leinster Regiment,<sup>6</sup> then based at Queenstown in Ireland. Nye relinquished this appointment in November 1917, at which time the battalion had just relocated from Ireland to Portsmouth. Details of Nye's employment (presumably in the UK) from November 1917 to June 1918 have not been sighted.

Lieutenant Nye rejoined the 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment in June 1918 at a most critical time in the war.



The battalion at this time formed part of Brigadier-General Bernard Freyberg's 88th Brigade within the 29th Division. Following the battalion's success in capturing Hill 63 (north of Armentières) on 4 September 1918, the Leinsters became the 'shock troops' for the 88th Brigade, leading the attacks at the Menin Road, Gheluvelt, Ledegem, the crossing of the River Lys, Stacegham and the crossing of the River Scheldt at Bossuyt.

The battalion suffered serious casualties during this period – at the River Lys it had an effective battle strength of 240 but still advanced three miles, capturing all of its objectives but suffering a further 81 casualties. The intensity of the action faced by the 2nd Battalion from 4 September to 11 November 1918 is highlighted in the number of gallantry awards made during this period – two Victoria Crosses, two Distinguished Service Orders, thirteen Military Crosses, six Distinguished Conduct Medals, thirty-nine Military Medals and three bars to the Military Medal. It was during the final month of the war that Lieutenant Nye was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. His citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 20th October, 1918, near Esscher. He made a reconnaissance, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire of the forward positions along the whole battalion front, adjusting a portion on his own initiative to complete the line. He was of great assistance to his commanding officer throughout the week's fighting.

When the war ended on 11 November 1918, the battalion was in hot pursuit of the enemy near Lessines, Belgium. After the Armistice it was assigned to the Allied occupation force in the Rhineland, arriving in Cologne on 13 December 1918. Nye filled the appointment of Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion (in the rank of acting Captain) from January 1919 until January 1922.

The wartime achievements of the 2nd Battalion were formally marked by a special parade at Colchester<sup>7</sup> on 6 February 1920. HRH the Prince of Wales (Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment and subsequently HM King Edward VIII) presented decorations and medals to a large number of officers and men.<sup>8</sup> The programme for this event contains an excellent wartime history of the battalion which testifies to the gallantry and sacrifices of the men who served within its ranks – a total of 337 individual awards (including three Victoria Crosses) were made to members of the battalion but 10,409 officers and men of the battalion were listed as killed, wounded, prisoners of war or as missing in action. As Adjutant, Nye was on parade on 6 February and must have been involved in the compilation of the programme.

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) was one of five Irish infantry regiments that were disbanded in 1922. Lieutenant Nye then secured a transfer to The Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was given a regular commission.

*It is intended to publish the second and third parts of this article in future editions of 40-10.*

#### Endnotes:

1. Steven Saunderson is the Vice-Principal (Recruitment and Military) at The Duke of York's Royal Military School and commands the School's contingent of the Combined Cadet Force. Nick Weekes has been a member of the Leinster Regiment Association since 2009.
2. At this time an infantry battalion included only one Sergeant-Major. The senior non-commissioned rank in each of the subordinate companies was Colour-Sergeant.
3. The designation was changed to The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1908.
4. The School was in Chelsea in 1904 but relocated to newly-built premises at Dover in 1909.
5. Former students of The Duke of York's Royal Military School and The Royal Hibernian Military School were classified as trained soldiers and were sent directly to a first-line unit of their regiment or corps.
6. From 3 August until 20 November 1917 Nye also held the acting rank of Captain.
7. The 2nd Battalion had returned to the UK from the Rhineland in 1919, being reconstituted on a peacetime basis at Colchester.
8. Fifty-four 1914 Stars were presented to individuals who had served in the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and who had survived the war.

## Wreath-laying Ceremony at Crinkill – September 2016

The third anniversary of the unveiling on 21 September 2013 of the Memorial to the Regiment beside the gateway to the Depot Barracks was marked in a moving ceremony organised by the Association's Ireland Chairman, Denis Kirby. A wreath on behalf of the Leinster Regiment Association was laid at the foot of the obelisk Memorial, and other wreaths and tributes were laid by many of the 25 people present. Afterwards the group made their way to the Crinkill Military Cemetery to view the Boer War Memorial and to pay their respects to the Leinsters laid to rest there.

In his address, Denis said that the Act of Remembrance

at the Memorial marked not only the anniversary of the Unveiling but also the sacrifice of soldiers during the Somme offensive of 100 years ago. He added that "Guillemont and Ginchy featured the 2nd and 7th Battalions who suffered a horrific casualty rate with hundreds killed and hundreds more injured. The Battalions gave a first class account of themselves. (At Guillemont Lt John Holland from Athy won the VC on 3rd September 1916). Later on, at Vimy Ridge Cpl John Cunningham from Thurles won the VC on 12th April 1917; and at Ledegem on 14th October 1918, Private Martin Moffat from Sligo and Sergeant Jon O'Neill from North Lanarkshire also both won the VC.)

## Looking back - The War record of the Regiment

In a recent paper, Tony Hayden noted that 2016 has been a year of reflection and commemoration. Members will have noted the centenary of the Easter Rising and remembered the thousands of Irishmen who perished at the Somme in one of the bloodiest battles in military history. One hundred years ago scores of families in Birr and the surrounding country worried for the safety of their loved-ones. Some who had received the dreaded telegram mourned the passing of a father, brother or son. Behind the walls of Crinkill Barracks, the Depot of a Regiment drawn mainly though

not exclusively from five Counties – Offaly, Laois, Meath, Westmeath and Longford – kept abreast of deployments, successes, setbacks, casualties and of course got on with the business of supporting war. During the whole war 1914-1918, 1,980 men of the Regiment died and thousands more were injured. No fewer than thirty two battle honours adorn the Regimental Colours: this was commemorated with the unveiling of a stained glass window in St Brendan's Roman Catholic Church in 1964 on the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of war.

## Looking forward – Telling the Story of the Regiment

Work is now in hand to establish a Regimental historical display in Birr Library. The Leinsters were undoubtedly one of the finest Regiments in the British Army and the display of records and relics in its home town will help to keep its memory alive. We understand that Offaly County Council will devote valuable space and provide a display cabinet together with history panels. A number of artefacts have already been donated to the Library. Denis Kirby has appealed to anyone with historic items such as medals, badges, insignia, uniforms and written records including newspaper articles to get in touch with him, or with the Library direct, at:

Birr Library, Wilmer Road, Birr Co Offaly  
(Librarian: Joe Kinane)  
Email: [birrlibrary@offalycoco.ie](mailto:birrlibrary@offalycoco.ie) Tel: 057 912 4950

The Association is extremely grateful to the County Council for their effective support to this project which would not be advancing without their help. In addition to the value to be obtained by local residents with family connections to the men who served, the Association hopes that the historical displays will help to attract visitors to Birr from far and near. By visiting Birr at the centre of Ireland they will not only improve their geographical knowledge but also discover how a Regiment (very largely composed) of Irishmen played such an important and valiant part in the Great War of 1914-18: every man a hero.

*(The Editor is very grateful indeed for contributions by Denis Kirby and Ray Hayden which are the back bone of the article above.)*

## Remembrance and Commemoration in Flanders and France – 2016

The annual visit of representatives of the Association to the sites of the Battles of Premesques in 1914 and of Ledegem in 1918 took place in October 2016. The Chairman and Mrs Walton went first to Ledegem where they visited the Military Cemeteries near Dadizele and on the outskirts of Ledegem itself. The latter contains no Leinster Regiment burials; there are 15 Leinster Regiment burials at Dadizele, the majority from action on 14 October 1918. As is usual both cemeteries were beautifully kept and peaceful. As members will recall from 2008, the Regiment has its own memorial (in the form of a map showing the area

of the action led by the 2nd Bn to relieve Ledegem in 1918, called locally “The 40-10”) provided by the town of Ledegem. It is in a prominent position, and a wreath was laid there by the Chairman on Wednesday afternoon 19th October. He was accompanied by local representatives who laid a fine wreath on behalf of the inhabitants of Ledegem. Members of the Town Council and local organisations present are pictured below. Afterwards the Chairman and Mrs Walton were entertained to supper in the now well known nearby Daiseldaele hotel where they stayed the night.

### Our Hosts at Ledegem



Nick Soen  
Taskforce  
14-18

Hans Jacques  
Ledegem  
Historical  
Society

Bart Ryde  
Alderman

PW

Greta Vandeputte  
Alderman

Hubert Vanderomme-Lucien Seynhaeve  
Ledegem  
Historical  
Society

Luc Tangyhe  
Taskforce  
14-18

The following morning a visit was made to the village of Premesques where in 2014 the local authority erected a battlefield marker stone and organised a high profile inauguration of the stone combined with the laying of wreaths in remembrance of the dead of all nations involved in 1914. A Leinster Regiment wreath was laid;

afterwards members of the village council generously hosted a vin d'honneur and also, in conversation, opened discussion on the possibility of arranging a programme of exchange visits by children between Premesques and a village to be identified in Co Offaly. Col Walton undertook to convey this to the authorities in Ireland.



PW (holding the wreath) and Mrs Walton (far right) together with members of the Village Council (wearing tricolour sashes), the local Veterans' Standard Bearer, and to the left, M Jean-Paul Lomel, photographer, M Phillipe Hemmer, Historian and battlefield researcher.



# News in Brief



**Return of a Tricolour to Ireland** – The Irish Examiner reported last year a request by the Mayor of Limerick for the return to Ireland of an Irish tricolour flag which was captured in May 1916 by troops of 4th Bn The Leinster Regt while on operations, and which ended up in the Imperial War Museum in London. (Stop Press: After negotiations including obtaining the permission of The Queen, the flag has been sent to Limerick on long loan to the City. This is most unusual as items in State museums, let alone those, which like this one, are part of the Royal Collection, are not often allowed out on long loan. According to its website, Sinn Féin are delighted.)

(Editor)

**State Event at Grangegorman** – The Irish Government held a State Ceremonial Event at Grangegorman Military Cemetery on 26th May 2016 to remember British soldiers who died during the Easter Rising 1916. The President of Ireland was present together with The Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Charlie Flanagan TD. The British and Canadian Ambassadors were also present. The Association was represented by Vice-Chairman Mr Denis Kirby as the guest of the Irish Government. Bands of the Irish Defence Forces and the Royal Irish Regiment provided music. The proceedings were briefly interrupted when a protester intervened, apparently trying to approach the British Colour Party, only to be tackled by the Canadian Ambassador, Kevin Vickers. Mr Vickers was previously the Sergeant at Arms of the Canadian Parliament and in that capacity had earned praise a year ago by shooting an Islamist gunman who was in the act of attacking the seat of Canadian democracy.

(Editor)

**Irish Soldiers' Records** – A new Research resource has been posted on the website of the National Army Museum in London: <http://www.nam.ac.uk/soldiers-records/persons>. Members who are interested in using this site might like to start by putting 'Smith' into the search box and then clicking on the camera-type icon to the right of the listing of a Charles Henry Smith which is the penultimate entry on the first page of four pages listing hits for 'Smith'. When you click on the icon you will be able to see a summary of some key personal details and a scan of the complete original page that includes the full details of Charles Henry Smith. You will find that you are looking at the records of Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) C H Smith MC DCM (7177102) who was the last RSM of the 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment. (A major limitation is that the records relate to the period 1920-22 and thus do not include soldiers discharged etc earlier. But for those who were still serving in 1920-22, the records cover all previous service and include extensive personal data.

(Lt Col Nick Weekes)

**Dead but not War Dead.** In the last, 2015, issue of 40-10 we told the outline story of 30 soldiers who died on duty, though not on active service, in Silesia. Of these three were Leinsters. Unhappily these men along with 27 others have no marker and their graves, being untended for more than a century, may have disappeared. A researcher is pursuing this matter but has been unable to report any progress over the last 12 months. Our Association remains committed and progress reports will continue to be made in 40-10.

(Editor)

**An Unusual Career.** We have been told about the unusual military career of John Joseph Murphy. This man was reported as serving in the Leinsters as a Corporal around 1920-21 having previously served – before the War in the Royal Marines Light Infantry, during the War with the 8th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (Sergeant; awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal); with the 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (acting Captain and Company Commander; awarded the Military Cross and bar); after the War with the Royal Fusiliers in Russia in 1919 (Company Sergeant Major); and ultimately as an officer with the Defence Forces of the Irish Free State. We have been promised a biographical article and hope to publish it in the next issue of 40-10.

(Editor)



Premesques 1940. Our fascination with the village of Premesques in Northern France continues. Not only does it feature very specially in the history of the Leinsters as the scene of the 2nd Battalion's catastrophic first engagement in 1914 but also, Ian Lowe has lately learned, it played a small part in Allied preparations early in the Second World War. The centre of attention that time may have been the Chateau

which was probably used on 21st May 1940, perhaps only briefly, by General Lord Gort VC, Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, as his Headquarters. This may have contributed to the confusion that day as to the location of Gen Gort who was expected at an inter-Allied conference in the Town Hall in Ypres.

(Ian Lowe/Editor)

## The Moplah Rebellion or The Malabar Campaign of 1921-22 – Part 2

(Adapted and abbreviated with permission from an article originally published in Durbar (The Journal of the Indian Military Historical Society). Part 1 of this account appeared in the 40-10 for Autumn 2015. Note that it includes a map of the area which was originally published in 1901. Any member who wishes to have a copy of this issue of 40-10 has only to contact the Editor who has some spare copies to hand. )

The position in the Malabar by July 1921 was that rebellion continued to simmer. The garrison of Calicut was in the hands of Captain P McEnroy DSO MC, an Irish Guardsman who had won promotion in the War in Europe and received a commission in the Leinsters. He had with him most of C Company 1st Battalion and elements of B Company. There was in addition a force of Indian Police. When a large mob of rebels approached their position it was the Police who deployed initially to deal with them. Their action appeared to be successful only for it to be learned that another large group of insurgents was in the offing. The Police commander and a British officer of the Indian Army went to investigate and lost their lives in the ensuing scrimmage. The force withdrew with difficulty to Calicut where Captain McEnroy set about requisitioning all available local resources of help to his force. They included numbers of motor vehicles which were of great value in the subsequent withdrawal. The rebels continued to harass or attack the force, sometimes in very great numbers. Casualties were taken but the rebels were held off and eventually defeated.

Captain McEnroy received the thanks of the Government of India, and a bar to his DSO, for his outstanding work. The (2nd) Battalion was in due course ordered to concentrate at Madras for movement on change of station to Agra in the northwest of India. But it was not long before further orders arrived for the Battalion to return to the United Kingdom. Pausing only



Capt P McEnroy DSO MC

to be inspected at Madras by The Prince of Wales, lately appointed Colonel in Chief of The Leinsters, the 2nd Battalion moved on and in April 1922 embarked on the troopship Somali. Disembarking at Southampton on 28th April, the Battalion moved on to Chatham by rail there to prepare for one more move and, as was soon confirmed, for disbandment.

(Further reading: Nick Weekes has pointed out that other material is available to anyone who wishes to study further: Wikipedia has quite a large amount of information under the heading Malabar Rebellion. There is also a very comprehensive report entitled "Tamil Nadu Special Police" to be found via <https://archive.org/details/cu31924023929700>. This runs to 267 pages.)

*(The Editor records his thanks to Lt Col Nick Weekes and to Chris Kempton of the Indian Military Historical Society for their help and advice in putting this article together.)*

# Commemoration = Education

Much of this issue of 40-10 is concerned with Commemoration. In the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme this is hardly surprising. But this connection leads to another, the gaining of knowledge of one's family members who served all those years ago. The more we know about our forebears the more personal is Commemoration. To many people this is very important, and it is the reason why the Association is trying to collect and disseminate very publicly everything we can discover about the men who served in the Leinsters from 1881 to 1922, and even before in the old 100th and 109th. A good many serving in the Leinsters in its early years probably simply re-badged from the 100th to the 1st Battalion and from the 109th to the 2nd Battalion. But it seems likely that a good deal of recruiting also went on. By comparing Army Lists for 1881 (old Regiments) and 1884 (new Regiments) one can see that a small number of officers in the latter were also listed in the former. One of these was General Sir Richard Kelly, Colonel of the 109th and later Colonel of the Leinsters. But it seems that a good many officers came in from somewhere else. If this is sometimes a difficult research exercise to carry out for the officers, it is much harder for the soldiers. All the more reason to track the information down and our aim will be to do just that. Incidentally, it is interesting to note from the Army Lists mentioned above that in 1881 the title of the senior Regiment was *100th (Prince of Wales' Royal Canadian)*; three years later it was *The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)*, and so it has remained.

When it comes to commemoration, all our members will be familiar with the many activities arranged by the Irish State or by our Association or by local groups through the year in Ireland. Many of our members will also have attended the great events in London in the summer and in November each year, not to mention the visits to Flanders and/or France arranged by Ian Lowe. Their size in attendance is of course dwarfed by the vast events arranged by the Royal British Legion of which a massive and very moving example this year was the British/French event on the Somme at Thiepval in the summer. In two years' time the Legion is organising its Great Pilgrimage 90 to match, or even to exceed in size, the 1928 10th Anniversary Pilgrimage of 11,000 members, widows, mothers and sweethearts to the

Menin Gate at Ypres. That will be something. Our Committee will soon be considering what we should do, and I hope it will include at least one coach full from Ireland as well as another from GB. One of the places we would visit is the Cemetery at Dadizele in Belgium where 2nd Battalion casualties of the battle to bring the German occupation of Ledegem to an end were buried. I looked at all the graves on 20th October this year, each one meticulously tended as always by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Here are the names of those interred:

## **Died 14th October 2018**

5776 Private M Kelly (age 26)  
Lieutenant G W B Moore (age 20)  
18342 Private D Duff  
15426 Private J Myles (age 23)  
4133 Lance Corporal J Scott (age 20)  
5399 Private A C Hyett (age 33)  
7412 Corporal J McCulla (age 32)  
5623 Private D O'Rourke  
4184 Private D McCarthy (age 22)  
1229 Private M E Earle

## **Died 30th September 2018**

2nd Lieutenant E G A C Lone

## **Died 9th October 2018**

15482 Private J M C Bride

## **Died 10th October 2018**

5365 Private J Kelly (age 30)

The Military Cemetery nearby at Ledegem has no Leinster burials.

(Editor)



The British Military Cemetery at Dadizele on 20 Oct 16

# Birr Vintage Week Flower Festival

A magnificent and imaginative exhibit at this year's Flower Festival in St Brendan's Church of Ireland included a Register from Birr Garrison Chapel of Baptisms through 1864-1921 and Burials through 1871-1893. There were also sketches of six of the coins or tokens used in the Garrison Canteen. And just to emphasise that this was all to do with the Regiment, there was an Army Greatcoat topped by three immense feathers trumpeting out that this was indeed the The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment. Cascading down from the plumes were flowers in vivid colours of yellow, red, green, white, blue and purple. Large numbers of people from Ireland and overseas visited the interesting and colourful displays entitled "Let's Celebrate". The creative works to be seen in the Church won universal applause and much credit was due to Richard Haslam and his band of helpers.

Congratulations!

(Editor)



## The Empty Column

In the centre of Birr there is a 15 metre high, mid 18th Century, Doric column. It used to be surmounted with a statue of the Duke of Cumberland which had been erected to mark his victory over the Jacobite Scottish forces at Culloden in 1746; this had secured the Protestant monarchy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain (and Ireland).

In the early autumn of 1919 this unusual and unexpected memorial (for no other monument to Culloden exists beyond the battlefield itself) came under discussion in the town. By this time the statue of the Duke (popularly known as the "Butcher of Culloden" had been removed, ostensibly because it was in a dangerous condition, and only the pedestal remained. Looking to put up a war memorial, the Birr Comrades of the Great War applied to the Urban Council to use the site for this purpose. Simultaneously, and evidently as a response, the local branch of the Transport Union

applied for the site to be used for the erection of a statue of the late James Connolly, one of the leaders of the Easter Rising of 1916. Neither application succeeded. Nor has either a Great War memorial or a statue of James Connolly been erected in the town. This illustrates one theme which emerged in the years after 1918: the mutually challenging commemoration of those who might collectively be called the Irish war dead.

(This piece, the opening paragraphs of an article by Keith Jeffrey, was written around 2009. Since then a good deal of water has flowed under the proverbial bridge: the process of Reconciliation supported by the President of Ireland and his predecessor has advanced both knowledge and perceptions to the great benefit of all Irish people – wherever they live.)

So, what next for the empty column?

(Editor)



# Life in an Irish Regiment of the Old Army

This new section of 40-10 is planned to give members and readers generally some impression of life in the British Army before the outbreak of War in 1914. We have access to quite a number of photographs some of which follow. In making them available to you we hope that you will gain some idea of what everyone looked like in uniform. On pages 14 and 15 you will see groups of predominantly soldiers. Page 14 shows Sergeants of the 1st Battalion, probably photographed in Ireland around 1897. The front row, including the two gentlemen lying down, are all Staff Sergeants: this rank means that they held greater responsibility than plain Sergeants in the three rows behind them, and were all members of the Battalion Headquarters staff. In the centre of the front row are three key figures: in the middle is the Sergeant Major, the senior non-commissioned officer. Seated to the left is the Bandmaster, with three medals (more research needed to identify them, and the man's name); seated to the right is the Schoolmaster who is responsible for improving the education of the soldiers (who had to pass examinations to qualify for a step in rank). Next to the Schoolmaster is the Master at Arms, or senior physical training instructor; next again are two Sergeants of the Band (the senior titled the Band Sergeant). And at the end is a Sergeant of the Medical Staff (titled from 1898 the Royal Army Medical Corps). He is the only person in the photograph wearing a blue tunic: everyone else is wearing the full dress scarlet tunic with the blue collar and cuffs of a Royal Regiment. Moving about in Ireland, the 1st Battalion arrived in Birr in September 1897; in April 1898 it moved on to Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada), where it met briefly the 2nd Battalion (a very unusual occurrence). The 1st Battalion stayed in Halifax until April 1900 when it moved to take part in the war in South Africa.

The 1st Battalion returned to Ireland in October 1902 and for two years was stationed at Fermoy. In June 1904 it moved to England spending around two years each in Shorncliffe, Blackdown, and Devonport before moving in October 1911 to Bareilly in India. Here, in 1913, it received new Colours before moving in November to Fyzabad where it was photographed. One of the prints taken is reproduced on page 15. This shows members of the Corps of Drums and Pipers with two officers seated on either side of the Bass Drum (seen side-on).

On the left is the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel White and on the right is probably the Adjutant, Captain Weldon.

The function of the "drums" was to signal orders. At that time there was of course no radio, and flags were of limited use in battle except when attention could be drawn to them in advance - usually impossible. From ancient times, therefore, officers and soldiers in their Companies received specific tactical instructions in action by beat of drum. Such signals were, however, in a low key and did not carry well. So, from the early 19th century signals came to be transmitted increasingly by bugle which was high pitched and carried much better over distance and over the din of battle. Both instruments were carried and beaten or sounded (depending on whether you had drums or bugles) by boys who were recruited for this purpose. There would be around 20 in a Battalion, and they came under the command both for training and for active operations of the Sergeant Drummer (at various times called the Drum Major) who can be seen to the left of the Commanding Officer. In his right hand is his Staff. The Sergeant Drummer wears the same scarlet tunic as everyone else in the group but over it he wears "wings" on his shoulders (one of the signs of a musician), his red sash of a Sergeant over the right shoulder and his embroidered belt of office over the left shoulder. This belt like the drums carries the devices and badges of the Regiment. By the late 19th century the Corps of Drums consisted of boys or men equipped both with drums (by then chiefly for use on the march) and bugles (for executive calls). In many Irish Regiments (as in all Highland Scottish Regiments) some of the drummers were also trained as pipers, and their pipes are to be seen in this photograph. (There is a set of pipes played by the Leinster Regiment in the National Army Museum in London.)

In the 1890s it was customary to add to published group photographs only the names of officers. As a result, we often do not know the names of Sergeants who may appear. If you could recognise from family photos or other sources any of the latter, this would be a grand thing - can you help?

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On page 16 we move on to a group labelled as “Staff”. This in fact means those officers and soldiers who made up the staff of Battalion HQ. Here are the more senior officers and the Sergeants who were heads of department. Thus, beginning on the left of the rear rank standing, we have Mr Wilson who was a military Schoolmaster (not a soldier). His role was to educate the soldiers to gain education certificates and in an overseas station to teach the children of the Battalion’s soldiers. Next to him is Colour Sergeant Holden (ranking above a Sergeant) who was the Orderly Room Sergeant. It was his job to look after the Battalion Headquarters office and the paperwork of the Battalion’s administration. He was the Adjutant’s right hand man. Next again is the tall figure of Quartermaster Sergeant Ashdown wearing two medals: he was responsible with the (commissioned) Quartermaster for the procurement of stores, their distribution within the Battalion, their maintenance and repair or replacement. Then Sergeant Drummer Pettit (whom we have already met), and finally Sergeant Cook Winter who was responsible to the Commanding Officer for ensuring that the Company and Mess cooks produced good food in barracks and in the field. Looking now at the seated figures: first on the left is the Bandmaster, Mr Beechey. As a qualified and highly proficient musician himself, his role in charge of the Band was to train its members as musicians. It was also to choose, in discussion with the Adjutant and, as may have been the practice in the Battalion, with the Commanding Officer the music to be played on particular occasions. Long before radio, let alone TV, the Band was in great demand in barracks, and beyond, for entertainment.

Seated in the centre four positions are four officers. Their uniform is rather different from that of the others though all are in scarlet. The officers are wearing their best tunics, part of what is called Full Dress. Unlike the soldiers whose clothing was made in bulk and then fitted to the man, an officer’s uniform was made for him but, unfortunately for his pocket, at his expense. An officer’s rank was shown by badges on his shoulder straps which were in fact made of gold cord, and each has his sword; this too had to be bought privately. At the end on the right is the Regimental Sergeant Major, referred to by the officers as “Mr McDermott” and by everyone else

as “Sir”. Lastly, seated on the ground, is the very important Armourer Sergeant. As a member of the Army Ordnance Corps, his uniform is dark blue with scarlet facings on the collar and cuffs, and his role was to ensure the serviceability of the Battalion’s weapons. He carried out regular inspections of weapons and made any necessary adjustments or repairs. Some years before these photographs were taken the standard infantry soldier’s weapon was changed from the Lee-Metford to the short Lee-Enfield. Both were .303 bore and both incorporated a removable magazine. The Lee-Enfield was a distinct advance on its predecessor and was carried by all infantry and cavalry soldiers, as well as many others, throughout the Great War.

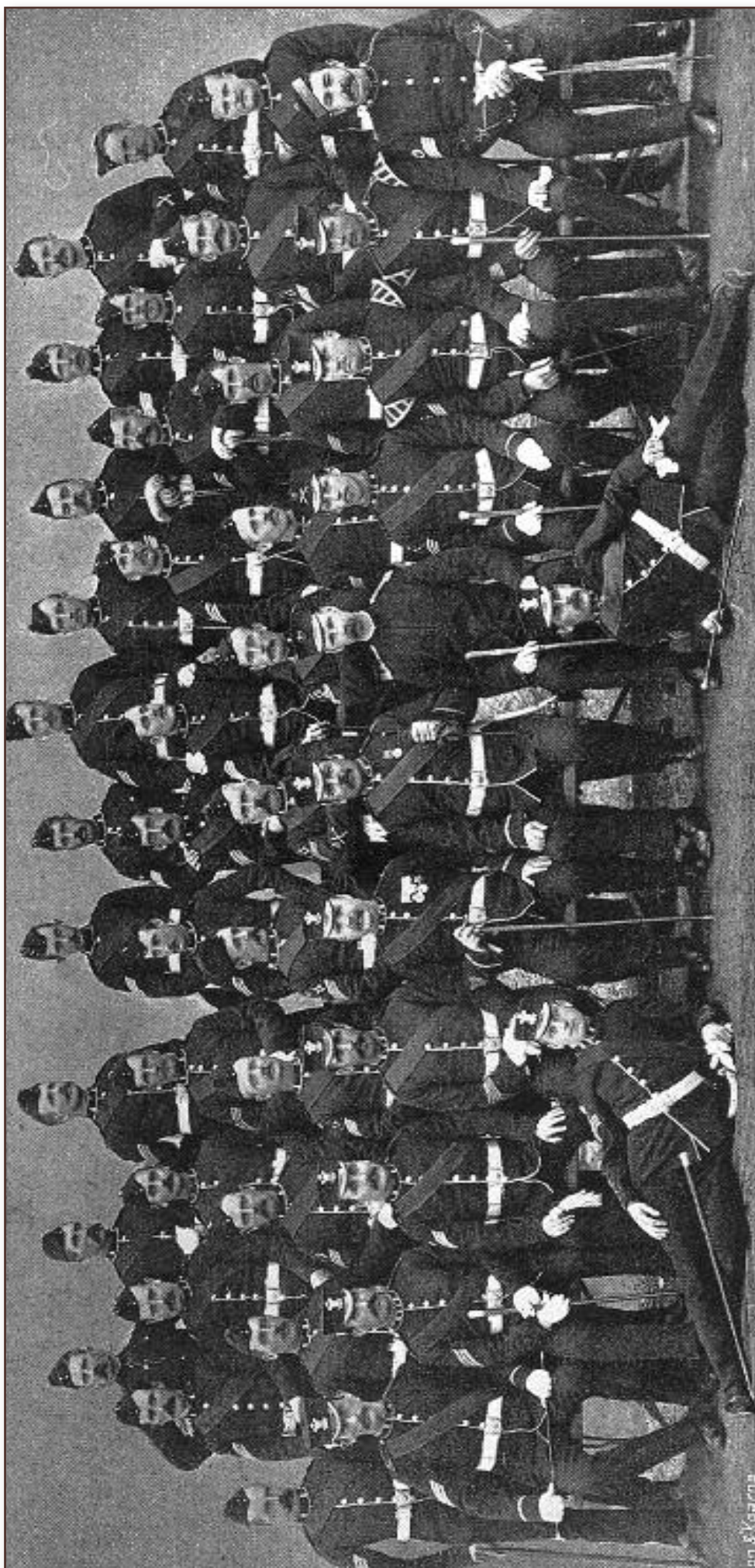
Lastly, on page 17 we are including a group photograph of C Company of the 2nd Battalion, taken in India in 1911. All are shown in their (sand-coloured) khaki drill uniform worn daily for nearly all purposes except a full dress parade: then, on grand occasions, they would have worn the scarlet “frocks” seen on pages 14 and 15, and described above. In the centre of the front row seated on chairs are two officers distinguished by their collar and tie along with the open neck cut of their coats. Of the two the officer on the left is likely to be Major G M Bullen-Smith, who had a distinguished record in the Great War, and the other may be Lieutenant W G H Bates. If you recognise a face, please do let us know. Our aim, eventually, is to construct a searchable database of all who served in the Regiment from 1881 to 1922 and to make it available on the new Website now being planned.

(Editor)



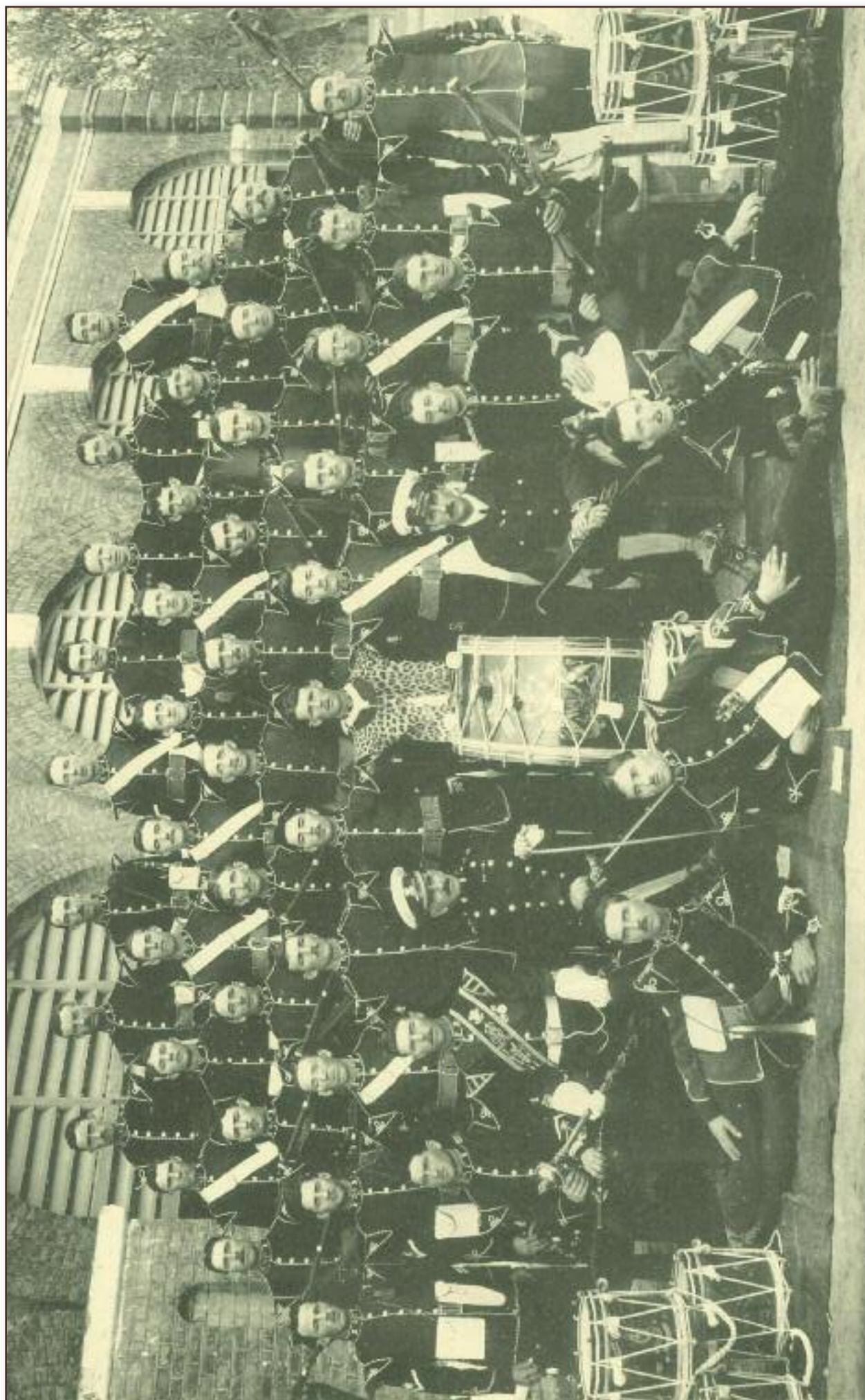
Crinkhill Barracks, Birr, Ireland about 1910. The home of The Prince of Wales’s Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)





The Sergeants of the 1st Battalion c 1897





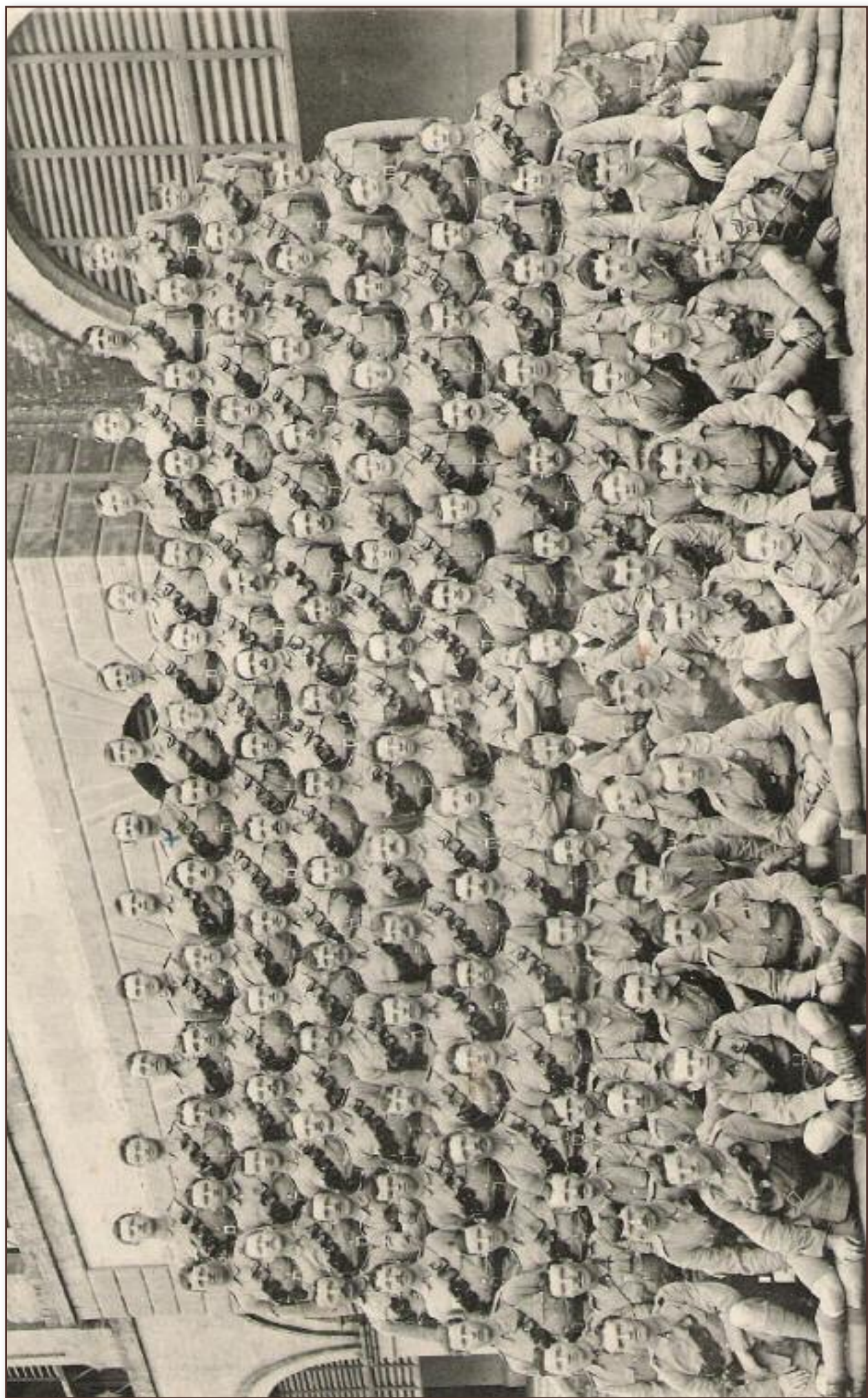
The Corps of Drums and Pipes of the 1st Battalion 1913





The Officers of the 1st Battalion 1913





C Company, 2nd Battalion 1911



# LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## The Committee and Post Holders (established by the Constitution adopted on 26 Nov 2015)

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

## The Officers (Members of the General Committee)

Chairman	Colonel Peter Walton	peterwalton590@btinternet.com
Vice-Chairman( Irish domicile)	Mr Denis Kirby	denis@dpk.ie
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Association Secretary	Mr David Ball	member@the-bunker.freemove.co.uk
Sixth Member (Membership Secretary)	Mr Robert Templeman	bob.templeman@btinternet.com
Seventh Member	(vacant)	

## Additional Post Holders not members of the Committee

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Minutes Secretary	(vacant)	

**Note:** The Rules provide for Regional Management. Members of the Association domiciled in Ireland may elect a Committee, and have done so; similarly, members domiciled outside Ireland may elect a Committee. These Regional Committees may each elect two members to serve as regional representatives on the General Committee. For a full account of the proper Governance of the Association it is important to refer to the text of the 2015 Constitution including the Rules. A certified copy is available from the Chairman. (This will appear on the Website when complete.)

## Officers of the Ireland Committee

Chairman	Mr Denis Kirby	denis@dpk.ie
Secretary and Treasurer	Mr Ray Hayden**	ray.hayden@anglewise.co.uk
Member	Mr Ken Geary**	kengeary@gmail.com
Member	Mr Tony Hayden	tony.hayden195@gmail.com

(Note: \*\* indicates Regional Representatives elected to serve on the General Committee)

# LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

40-10 Autumn 2016

## Future Events for Members – subject to confirmation

Sat 5 Nov 2016 1100 hrs	Wreath Laying (Western Front Assoc) Cenotaph, South Mall, Cork
Thu 10 Nov 2016 1030 hrs	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, London
Thu 10 Nov 2016 1400 hrs	Combined Irish Regiments Assoc Annual Remembrance Service, Westminster Cathedral, London
Sun 13 Nov 2016 1300 hrs	Remembrance Sunday Service, Cenotaph, South Mall, Cork
Sun 13 Nov 2016 1430 hrs	Remembrance Sunday Service, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
Sat 19 Nov 2016 1430 hrs	Lecture "The Leinsters, The Somme and a VC" by Ian Lowe, National Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin
Sun 20 Nov 2016 1230 hrs	Wreath Laying Ceremony, 4th Bn Leinster Regt Memorial, Millview, Portlaoise
Sat 18 Feb 2017 1430 hrs	Lecture "Lt Michael A Higgins Leinster Regt, a Family Reminiscence" by Denis Kirby. (Western Front Assoc meeting) National Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin
Sat 10 Jun 2017 1400 hrs	Leinster Regt Assoc AGM, Civil Service Club, Whitehall, London
Sun 11 Jun 2017 0945 hrs	Combined Irish Regts Cenotaph Parade, London
Sat 1 Jul 2017 1200 hrs(TBA)	Wreath Laying (Weldon Family Vault), St John's Cemetery Athy, on 100th Anniversary of death of Sir Anthony Weldon (Leinster Regt)
Sat 8 Jul 2017 1400 hrs(TBA) RBL	Day of Commemoration, Irish National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin
Sun 9 Jul 2017 1400 hrs(TBA)	Irish National Day of Commemoration, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin
Fri 4-11 Aug 2017 (TBA)	Birr Vintage Week, will include a Lecture on the Leinster Regt, and a Wreath Laying at the Regimental Memorial, Crinkill
Sun 27 Aug 2017 1430 hrs	Waterford WW1 Commemoration Ceremonies, Dungarvan

### Note:

Ordinary General Meetings of the Association will take place in the early summer of 2017 in both London and Dublin. For more information contact the Association Secretary in London or the Chairman of the Ireland Committee in Ireland (see page 18).

# 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*

